



UUJEC @GA: Programs & Actions

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AIW: EDUCATION: JUSTICE IS NEEDED

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AIW: SUPPORT FOR STARBUCKS WORKERS

Bring Labor Day celebrations into the twenty-first century. Starbucks workers and other workers are organizing labor unions. Congregations can be helpful. This AIW asks congregations to use the Labor Day weekend in support of working people. Educate your community about the importance of labor unions. New alliances that involve organized labor and organized religion are being created. Meet the moment.

AIW: ANTI-RACISM AND REPARATIONS VIA RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

This AIW will engage UU congregations in conversation and workshops to claim truth and promote healing of our past legacy in racism and chattel enslavement whose consciousness continues into this the 21st century. The core of this AIW is the power of Restorative Justice which is needed by Unitarian Universalists as accountability required by our humanity and expressed by some as the proposed 8th principle.

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ON DEMAND: FAITH CALLS US ON: FAITH, RELIGION, AND REPARATIONS

For Reparation to be successful, our society must understand its necessity, because the truth of Chattel Enslavement has not been told. Now, there are political forces emerging, to keep that truth hidden. The session will include information about UU collaboration projects with N'COBRA and Reparations work in Philadelphia, and Evanston, Illinois, and encourage similar projects elsewhere.

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ON DEMAND: ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION: EARTH, RELIGION, & THE HUMAN FUTURE

On a path to self-extinction, humans face a defining choice. Transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth, or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? What might be the role of religious institutions?

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AIW: CODE RED FOR HUMANITY: PROTECT THE LIVABLE CLIMATE WE LOVE—CLIMATE JUSTICE REQUIRES ADDRESSING MILITARY EMISSIONS

This AIW is calling on Unitarian Universalists and others to protect the future of life on this planet by acting with unprecedented urgency to use diplomacy and peace, not militarism and war, to meet climate goals.

The IPCC told us that advancing climate change must be considered **CODE RED** for Humanity and requires urgent action in order to keep global temperature rise at a livable 1.5°C by 2050. Governmental action at scale must be urged by UUs without delay, including the need to effectively address the fact the Department of Defense is the world's largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and that peace and diplomacy must outweigh the call to militarism and wars if we are to maintain a livable planet.

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AIW: STOP THE PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICARE

Of first-world countries, the U.S.A. has the lowest life expectancy and the highest infant mortality while spending \$11,000 per year per person, about double what other countries spend—and low-income people have limited access to health care.

We need a better system that can provide for everyone—inclusive of dental, vision, hearing, and mental health care.

Instead, we have a surreptitious, concerted effort to privatize Medicare. This started under Trump as DCE, but is continuing under Biden as ACO-REACH. Making profit conflicts with caring for people.

We urge UUs and our congregations to contact President Biden and the Secretary of Health and Human services urging an end to the ACO-REACH program in favor of a Medicare for All Program as introduced by Representative Jayapal and Senator Sanders.

AIW: ANTI-RACISM AND REPARATIONS VIA RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

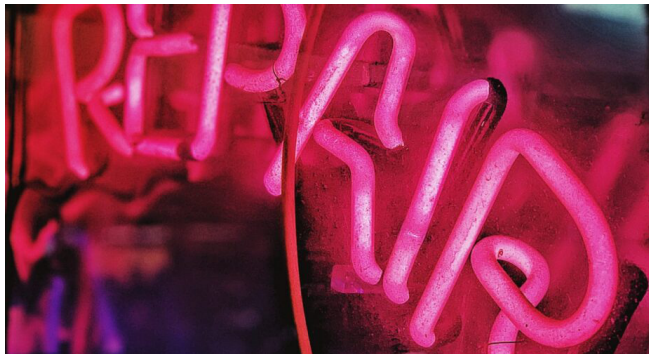


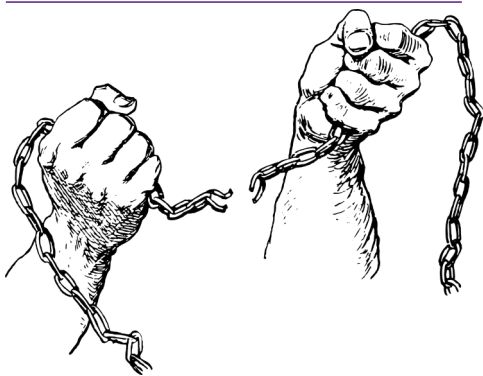
Photo by Jon Tyson, unsplash.com.

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H.R.40 establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40>

Image by Prettysleepy from Pixabay.



Graffiti on East Lake Street by Fibonacci Blue is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

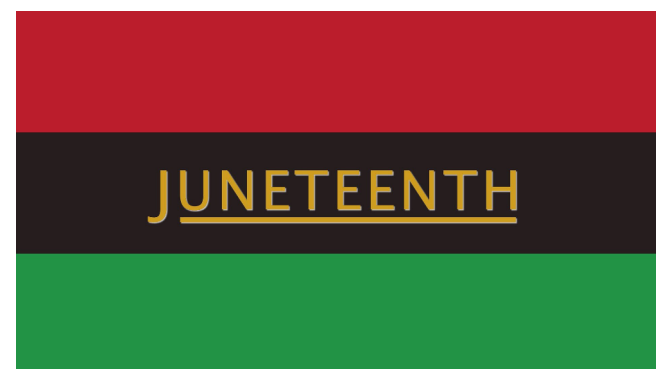


Image by Wynn Pointaux from Pixabay.



Image by Prettysleepy from Pixabay.

1 Create study groups in our UU Congregations, that embrace Restorative Justice. Our Congregations need to take the initiative, by embracing the principles of Restorative Justice and Reparations.



"Juneteenth reparations rally to demand reparations from the United States government" by Fibonacci Blue is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

- 2 Support diversity in leadership, teaching and in learning environments
- 3 Encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations to become advocates for reparations initiatives.
- 4 Respect the needs of teachers and other workers in education.

AIW: EDUCATION: JUSTICE IS NEEDED



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Make schools safe, healthy, and accessible for all students and employees.

Support early childhood development.



Students in a mid-20th-century classroom (Library of Congress photo).



Cheerful teacher greeting students (photo by Katerina Holmes).

Encourage education for all age groups.

Respect the needs of teachers and other workers in education.

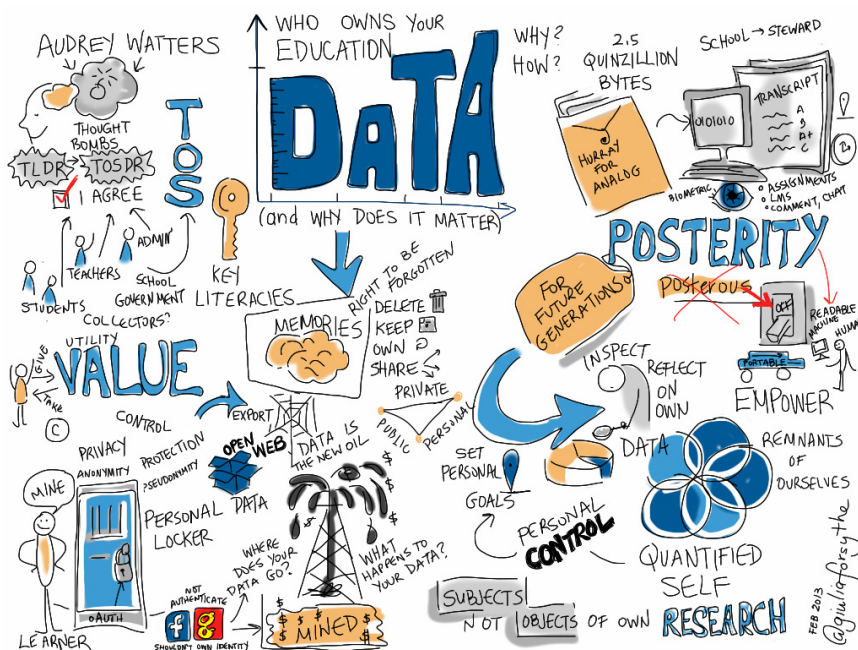


Teacher and class in frames from a mid-20th-century filmstrip (Library of Congress photo).



Image by Michal Jarmoluk from Pixabay.

Recognize that congregations are on the front lines in education.



Queensland Archives photo, 1980s (photo in public domain)..

ON DEMAND: FAITH CALLS US ON: FAITH, RELIGION, & REPARATIONS



Panelists from the on-demand workshop, clockwise from top left:
Carl McCargo, Rev. Connie Simon, Bruce Pollack-Johnson, and Jane Bannor..

50 years ago: The Empowerment Tragedy

- European American members of UU thought “integration” would solve racism
- African American members wanted their “lived” experience to be understood

Where are we today?

“Systemic racism” affects

Housing/wealth

Land was stolen from African Americans.

Federal policies increased segregated housing and limited the ability of African Americans to get home mortgages.

Urban renewal destroyed many African American commercial centers.

Education

Most schools financed by property tax, and African American kids penalized.

Advanced degrees most easily afforded by wealthy, and poor disadvantaged.

Mass incarceration of youth harms education.

Health disadvantages

African Americans have trouble accessing healthcare, including mental health treatment for trauma.

Water from lead pipes harm children's brains.

Exposure to air pollution and environmental toxins.

Life expectancy lower.

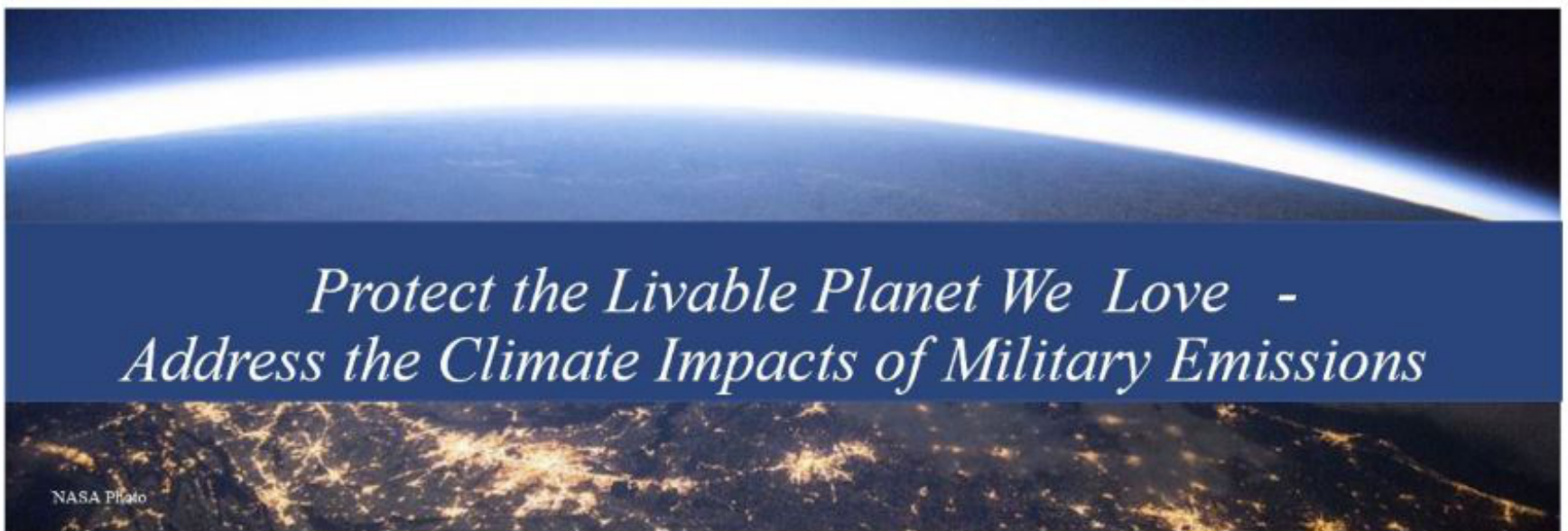
GI Bill for veterans of WWI

Few African American GIs were allowed access to privileges of GI bill: free college education, help with buying a house.

**In conclusion,
the economic impact of
“systemic racism” is widespread and serious.**

AIW: PROTECT THE LIVABLE CLIMATE WE LOVE—CLIMATE JUSTICE REQUIRES ADDRESSING MILITARY EMISSIONS

CODE RED for HUMANITY



Two years ago, United Nations General Assembly President, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, warned **“We are the LAST generation that can prevent irreparable damage to our planet.”** NOW, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has warned of **“an atlas of human suffering”**.

This AIW asks UUs to act urgently to keep global temperature rise at a livable 1.5°C by 2050. Governmental action at scale must be urged by UUs without delay, including the need to call for greater transparency by the Department of Defense which is the world's largest institutional contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Support this AIW towards maintaining a livable planet for the benefit of all.



[For questions or comments, e-mail Cindy Piester: climateworkerbees@gmail.com](mailto:climateworkerbees@gmail.com)

AIW: SUPPORT FOR STARBUCKS WORKERS

Bring Labor Day celebrations into the twenty-first century. Starbucks workers and other workers are organizing labor unions. Congregations can be helpful. This AIW asks congregations to use the Labor Day weekend in support of working people. Educate your community about the importance of labor unions. New alliances that involve organized labor and organized religion are being created. Meet the moment.



I'm worried about affording housing in the future. Boston is not a cheap place to live.

Juniper Fitzgerald, Barista,
Cleveland Circle & Brighton Village, Mass.



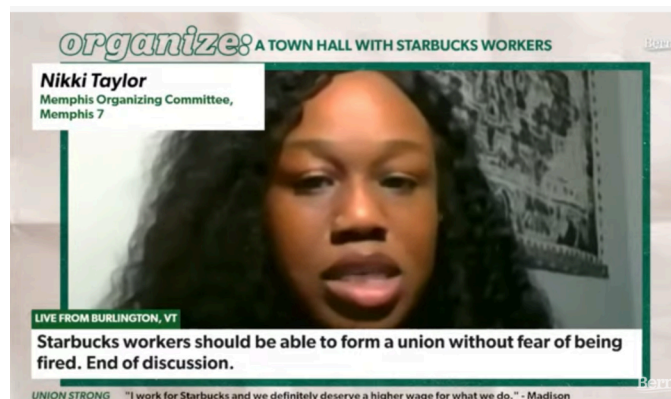
Starbucks, Ames, Iowa
(photo courtesy of Terry Lowman)

[After losing 10 hours and the luxury of flexible income]

All my money goes to rent.

Mo Chelan, Employee, Allston, Mass.

Screen shot from Sen. Bernie Sanders' Town Hall with striking Starbucks workers, 23 Feb. 2022..



When we're understaffed, we're overworked. I'm doing the work of two or three people, especially during closing shifts.

Jeff Bravo, Employee (3 years),
Cleveland Circle, Mass.



Cosponsored by UUs for Worker Justice and UUs of the DSA. Logo courtesy of UUs of the DSA.

Starbucks will do everything in their power to gaslight you, to intimidate you, and to ultimately dissuade you from voting yes on the union.

Kylah Clay, Barista, Allston, Mass.

Quotations from "The baristas' view: Inside Starbucks' alleged antiunion campaign" (Boston Globe), 27 April 2022

ON DEMAND: ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION: EARTH, RELIGION, AND THE HUMAN FUTURE



David Korten

On a path to self-extinction, humans face a defining choice: transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth, or bear the consequences.

- ◆ What might that future look like?
- ◆ What might be the role of religious institutions?



Aly Tharp, UU
Ministry for Earth

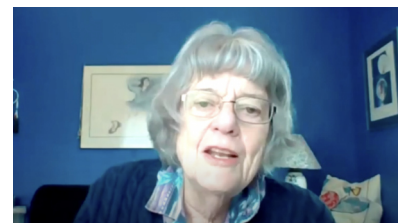


Michael Cox,
Cedars Church UU

Sacred Money and Markets

VS

Sacred Life and Living Earth



Lucy Hitchcock, UUs for a
Just Economic Community

Replacing our current guiding story, in which Earth is simply a source of raw materials, and inequality and environmental destruction are unfortunate but unavoidable, with one that aligns with our deepest understanding of the universe and our relationship to it, grounded in a cosmology that affirms **we are living beings born of a living Earth itself born of a living universe.**



**Join us for a follow-up discussion
on Thursday, July 14th, at 8:00 P.M. EDT (7/6/5 across the continent)**

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Healthcare-NOW! April 2022 Conference videos are available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/HealthcareNOW-Natnl>.

PNHP's key message:

DCE Is a Dangerously Flawed Model

- Radically transforms Medicare
- Undermines seniors' choices
- Incentivizes harmful restrictions on patient care
- Incentivizes fraudulent diagnostic coding
- Threatens to bankrupt Medicare
- Avoids Congress, undermining the democratic process



DCEs:
Handing
Traditional
Medicare
to Wall
Street



<https://bit.ly/3sbZJxS>



[JustCareUSA.org](https://www.JustCareUSA.org) is an excellent source of information, both on privatization and on navigating the Medicare system. Here is a recent article on the privatization scheme: <https://bit.ly/3M95NiD>



Overpayments in Medicare Advantage not only drive up costs for people in traditional Medicare, but threaten the Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund. Even though Medicare Advantage plans spend significantly less on enrollees' care than traditional Medicare, they are allowed to pocket huge profits at great cost to the Medicare Trust Fund as well as taxpayers. The Congressional letter explains that "Unless CMS addresses overpayments, public funds will continue to finance private profits at the expense of taxpayers, as well as older adults and disabled individuals on Medicare."

Traditional Medicare remains **more cost-effective than Medicare Advantage**. When launched, Medicare Advantage plans were expected to cost no more than 95 percent of traditional Medicare. "But Medicare Advantage has failed to achieve savings in any year since its inception,"

Clipped from a report on a letter signed by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Representatives Rose DeLauro (D-Calif.), Schakowsky (D-Ill.), and Katie Porter (D-Calif.), joined by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), and Cory Booker (D-N.J.), and Representatives Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.-02), Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.-07), Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.-03), Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-Fla.-20), Judy Chu (D-Calif.-27), Jesús G. "Chuy" García (D-Ill.-04), Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.-05), Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.-12), Cori Bush (D-Mo.-01), Mondaire Jones (D-N.Y.-17), and Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.-13).

This letter (<https://bit.ly/3FgHBbq>) has been endorsed by Social Security Works, Just Care USA, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Indivisible, Physicians for a National Health Plan, and Public Citizen.