

# ADVOCACY

## ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION MINISTRY (AIM)

We seek to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of members and guests with disabilities by improving the accessibility of our facilities and by promoting inclusion of all, regardless of enablement, in congregational life. AIM has ongoing projects to improve accessibility, and we engage in outreach to help all congregants learn about the challenges faced by those with disabilities. Contact [aim@uuaa.org](mailto:aim@uuaa.org) for more information.

## CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

We are committed to responding to the climate emergency and promoting learning and transformational change in our congregation and community. We partner with national, state, and local groups that focus on radically reducing carbon emissions to avoid the worst effects of a rapidly warming globe. We also support efforts that affirm and promote a just transition away from a fossil fuel economy toward a more regenerative and life affirming one. Contact [climate@uuaa.org](mailto:climate@uuaa.org).



## IMMIGRATION ACTION COALITION

The Immigration Action Coalition works to educate ourselves and others about migrant justice issues, advocates for immigration reform, and acts in support of our local immigrant community. UUAA volunteers partner with other social action groups in our community including the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (WICIR), Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary (WCS), the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), Co-secha, and Supporting Asylum Seekers (SAS), and Jewish Family Services (JFS).. Contact [IAC@uuaa.org](mailto:IAC@uuaa.org).

## KALEIDOSCOPE

Kaleidoscope works to build an intergenerational space where we can flourish in our QUEER + TRANS lives, and lead our congregation and the wider community to be more inclusive and expansive. Contact [kaleidoscope@uuaa.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@uuaa.org).

## JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We educate our community about the history and current situation in Israel/Palestine. We believe achieving peace, freedom, justice and equality for all requires ending military occupation, ethnic cleansing and colonization of the West Bank; recognizing refugee rights; and ending the siege/blockade and indiscriminate bombing of Gaza. We oppose U.S. military, diplomatic and financial support that perpetuates Israeli human rights abuses and war crimes. We support nonviolent resistance against oppression, including the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement. Contact [ujime@uuaa.org](mailto:ujime@uuaa.org).

## RACIAL JUSTICE ARC (RJA)

The RJA is an inclusive, affirming group where all are welcome. RJA is dedicated to pursuing racial justice and fighting oppressive cultural structures affecting people of color. RJA will partner with groups internal and external to our congregation in order to increase our effectiveness and to amplify our collective voices. Contact [racialjustice@uuaa.org](mailto:racialjustice@uuaa.org).

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Together with other faith and secular groups, Restorative Justice focuses on raising community awareness of the justice system in our community and works to train members in victim offender conferencing in the judicial system and schools. We work with the Dispute Resolution Center and in the prisons to promote justice, reparation, and resolution for victims, those who caused harm in the community. Contact [healingandjustice@uuaa.org](mailto:healingandjustice@uuaa.org).

## UUCIVS

Guided by UUAA's vision for social justice and our UU principles, UUCivs responds to current societal and political challenges. We sponsor, support, and advocate for non-partisan actions that UUAA and the wider community can take to engage in the democratic process. Examples include: sponsoring town halls and forums; aligning with other UU voting campaigns to support the right to vote; working to get out the vote; and supporting underserved citizens in overcoming barriers to voting. Contact [UUCivs@uuaa.org](mailto:UUCivs@uuaa.org).

## UUAA VETERANS FOR PEACE

We are UUAA members and allies of Veterans for Peace, a global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our military experience and lifting our voices. We seek to: increase public awareness of the costs of war, restrain our government from intervening in the affairs of other nations; reduce the arms race and eliminate nuclear weapons, and abolish war as an instrument of international policy. We inform the public of the true causes of war and its enormous costs, and our national obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Contact [vets4peace@uuaa.org](mailto:vets4peace@uuaa.org).

## FOOD & SHELTER

### ALPHA HOUSE—INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN)

Alpha House was founded by UUAA and other congregations over 25 years ago as a community response to family homelessness. Congregants work with IHN staff and others to support up to 6 families living there. For each Host Week (which happens four times a year), ~100 UUAA volunteers cook and serve dinner, supervise children's activities, make a hot breakfast on weekends, contact each day's volunteers, and donate money. Sign up during Social Hour in the month before we host in February, April, June and November. To learn more contact [AlphaHouse@uuaa.org](mailto:AlphaHouse@uuaa.org).



### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

UUAA is part of an interfaith group of 16 area congregations, the "Good News Group" that has been working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley since 1997. In that time, we have helped 33 families (with over 65 children) move into affordable, energy efficient homes, usually foreclosed homes purchased by Habitat for Humanity and renovated by a combination of skilled crews and volunteers. UUAA donates over \$7,000 toward construction costs and provides work site volunteers. We help families, neighborhoods, and the environment—and we laugh and have fun doing it. Contact [habitat@uuaa.org](mailto:habitat@uuaa.org) or visit our web page at [www.uuaa.org/h4h](http://www.uuaa.org/h4h).

### FOOD JUSTICE TEAM

The Food Justice Team (formerly Mindful Eating) advocates for human health and animal welfare while promoting equitable food systems that sustain the environment, alleviate hunger and support farm and food workers. Our goals are: 1) Environmental: Working toward zero-waste at congregational events; educating our congregation and the wider community; 2) Racial Justice: Meeting the county's people of color, discussing needs, assisting where needed; exploring treatment of food and farm workers. Our meetings are online and open to all. Contact [foodjustice@uuaa.org](mailto:foodjustice@uuaa.org).

### UUSC COFFEE PROJECT

The UUSC Coffee Project is an ongoing fundraiser for UUAA and for the UUSC Small Farmer Fund. This project embraces a vision of human rights by joining hands with small farming communities globally in securing economic, social, and environmental justice. Goods sold during Social Hour include authentic Fair Trade organic coffee, tea, chocolate, and olive oil from Equal Exchange, a democratic worker-owned cooperative who are in partnership with UUSC. Contact [coffee@uuaa.org](mailto:coffee@uuaa.org).



Social Justice Council  
[socialjustice@uuaa.org](mailto:socialjustice@uuaa.org)

For more information about our programs visit [uuaa.org/faith-in-action](http://uuaa.org/faith-in-action) and click on the individual program links

### Beyond our Congregation

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) is a community based interfaith organization whose mission is to empower people of faith and of conscience to act on their religious or moral values to build a better world. For more information visit [www.icpj.org](http://www.icpj.org).

Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) is a state-wide network of people, including representatives of Michigan UU churches and fellowships, who work together for justice. MUUSJN's mission is to foster the worth and dignity of people by promoting social justice and community activities. For more information visit [www.uujustice.org](http://www.uujustice.org).

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is an independent human rights organization that works to advance economic justice, promote environmental justice, defend civil liberties, and protect the rights of vulnerable people in humanitarian crises. Visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).



# Social Justice Involvement Opportunities

*Nurture your spirit.  
Change the world.*



First Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Ann Arbor  
4001 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103  
734.665.6158  
[uuaa.org](http://uuaa.org)

## OUTREACH

### JACKSON SOCIAL WELFARE FUND

Through a 1955 bequest from George L and Bessie Jackson, the congregation funds projects that advance the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or support peaceful means of conflict resolution. Annually, the Jackson Social Welfare Fund committee evaluates proposals and allocates funds to several local, regional, and national organizations. Recent awards have supported restorative justice, peace organizations, and freedom of religion and speech initiatives. For more information contact [JSWF@uuaa.org](mailto:JSWF@uuaa.org).

### KHASI HILLS OF INDIA

The Khasi Hills Sponsor-a-Student Program links donors from the Ann Arbor congregation with individual students (pre-school through Class V) at the Mawkisyiem Unitarian Lower Primary School in the Khasi Hills in northeast India. Each annual donation of \$50 helps the school by supplementing teacher salaries, helping to fund new infrastructure, assisting with book and uniform purchases, and providing a year-end gift for each student. Letters between sponsors and students are exchanged yearly. Contact [KhasiHills@uuaa.org](mailto:KhasiHills@uuaa.org) for more information.

### PRISON BOOKS PROGRAM

The Prison Books Team provides some Michigan prisons and the county jail with used books for adult education and recreation, working with the prison librarians. We also provide children's books to the jail and women's prison in collaboration with Washtenaw Literacy. We collect books from local libraries, organizations, and individual donations and deliver to the facilities. We have delivered between 10,000 and 15,000 books per year since 2006. Volunteers are needed to gather, sort, pack, and deliver books, using their own vehicles. Contact [PrisonBooks@uuaa.org](mailto:PrisonBooks@uuaa.org).

### PARTNER CHURCH IN ROMANIA

UUAA's partnership with the Unitarian Church of Kézdivásárhely, Romania (Transylvania) began in 1997. This partnership provides a spiritually stimulating, mutually respectful, culturally sensitive, personal, active, and long-term collaboration with a congregation which shares our values. We work together to identify ways to mutually support each other and learn each other's heritage and culture through visits, Facebook, and other means. We provide financial assistance for their church and its sister church in Szentivanlaborfalva, their mutual minister, and college students. Our relationship enhances understanding of Unitarian religious heritage and the people of another culture who share it with us. To learn more contact [PartnerChurch@uuaa.org](mailto:PartnerChurch@uuaa.org).

### SHARING THE COLLECTION

The first Sunday Service collection of each month is donated to a local non-profit community service organization which serves predominately disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, such as low income families and individuals, and people who have been targets of discrimination or are disabled or abused. For more information contact [sharecollection@uuaa.org](mailto:sharecollection@uuaa.org).

### SPONSOR A CHILD

Sponsor a Child partners with Community Action Network (CAN) to provide children from under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods with Holiday gifts. Congregants volunteer to purchase four presents for each child. Presents are secretly given to parents during a potluck at a community center a week before Christmas. To participate, contact [sponsorachild@uuaa.org](mailto:sponsorachild@uuaa.org).