

SPEAKING OF JUSTICE

faith in action



CLIMATE

JUSTICE

November-December 2018

Photo By Nikki Beezley

Dear Friends,

As we enter the darkest days of the year, it's time to take stock of our challenges and blessings, to give thanks and honor the sacred, and to ready ourselves for the important work ahead. The most daunting challenge that faces our planet is climate disruption. Effectively and morally addressing this global challenge requires a movement that centers the experience and leadership of those most impacted by the disruption. This is the focus of the November/December 2018 issue of *Speaking of Justice: Faith in Action*. We explore our evolving understanding of the inextricable nature of environmental, economic and racial justice, and the collaborative work required to achieve true climate justice.

In April of this year, Reverend Bill Sinkford gave an Earth Day sermon to highlight the necessary shift toward intersectional climate justice work. He lifted up the April “Frontline Communities and Climate Justice” event that centered this understanding. He said,

[T]he move now, from environmentalism – that natural wilderness in need of saving – to environmental justice, brings the concerns of marginalized communities into the conversation; marginalized communities that have always been the most impacted by our extractive, profit driven relationship with the earth.

The vision [the frontline climate activists] articulated was for a broad and just transition, a Great Turning... A turning *from* an extractive economy that exploits labor in order to concentrate wealth and power. A turning *to* a sustainable, regenerative economy, centered in cooperation, with the goal of ecological and social well-being.

The vision is grounded in deep democracy: a more meaningful participation for those most impacted in decision-making. And the vision is held in sacredness, as a spiritual endeavor, because we are spiritual beings not merely economic actors.

A Just Transition. It sounds like movement toward the Beloved Community to me.

Building the beloved community means doing our justice work *in relationship* with a diversity of perspectives. The values of justice, equity and compassion must root these relationships.

In this *Speaking of Justice* issue, we hope you will be inspired to continue the sacred movement-building necessary for climate justice. If you've not already done so and would like to receive *Speaking of Justice* as a once-a-month email, please [sign up here](#). Thank you for learning by our side.

The Speaking of Justice E-magazine Team

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Climate Justice Initiatives

At First Unitarian

By *Bryan Brumley*

The Community for Earth (CFE) at First Unitarian Portland, invites congregants to join us in opening our arms and our ears to those most vulnerable to environmental and climate injustice. CFE was formed decades ago and continues to evolve our strategies and understanding of climate justice.

Most recently, CFE united with Portland frontline communities – those hit first and hardest by the impacts of environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation – and climate activists to advocate and win passage of the Portland Clean Energy Initiative (PCEI) in November 2018. Author and activist, Van Jones, hailed the initiative as “the most important ballot measure in the country.” PCEI will raise \$30 million a year to take action on climate justice, including increased efficiency and solar power, job training to help low income workers train for well paying “green” jobs, and lower utility bills.

For decades, CFE has led First Unitarian in celebrating Earth Day, drawing spiritual strength from nature and our connection to it. In recent years, we’ve been at the forefront of Portland’s climate justice movement, taking active roles in the Climate Action Coalition and other groups. Our members have risked arrest to block off fossil fuel export facilities throughout the Pacific Northwest, and joined the “kayaktivists” who delayed the departure of an icebreaker bound for Arctic oil exploration in July 2015.

Community for Earth also led a movement to install solar panels to generate electricity for the church. Among our events this winter will be a forum on forestry, and continuing efforts to influence the Oregon state legislature to limit carbon emissions.

One of our main goals always has been to raise the congregation’s awareness of environmental issues, and more recently to spur members to action on climate justice. In April 2017, CFE held a well-attended All Church Dialogue on Climate Change featuring congregant Angus Duncan, who is president of the Portland-based Bonneville Environmental Foundation and chairman of the Oregon Global Warming Commission. He was joined by Jacqueline Dingfelder, former state senator and mayoral aide.

After that lively and enlightening discussion, CFE members focused attention on those most vulnerable to climate injustice, including people of color and poor and working class people. The devastating impact of climate disruption on these communities are well documented not just in the disappearing islands of Micronesia or low-lying countries like Bangladesh, but also here in Oregon. Our decision coincided with the organizing efforts of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA), a frontline coalition of base-building organizations including OPAL (Organizing People, Activating Leaders), APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon), the Portland Chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People), NAYA (Native American Youth and Family Center), and other climate justice groups including 350PDX and the local chapter of the Sierra Club. Members of Community For Earth were active in these groups, and began to organize events designed to lift environmental awareness to the next level.

With strong support from First Unitarian's Ministry and its Social Justice Program, CFE held an event in April led by the base-building groups themselves, spearheaded by María Hernandez Segoviano, community coordinator at OPAL and OJTA. The April event, called "Frontline Communities on Environmental and Climate Justice" was a forum to learn about why frontline communities are organizing for climate justice, why their perspective on climate activism should be centered, and to hear about what is meant by a "just transition." Please see the highlighted article about the OJTA to learn more about this.



Panelists at Frontline Communities and Climate Justice event

Panelists included María Hernandez of OPAL, NAACP President E.D. Mondainé, Khanh Pham of APANO, Cary Watters from NAYA. The panel was moderated by Jacqueline Keeler, a Native American activist and author. Each speaker shared a gripping story. Pastor Mondainé grew up in St. Louis under industrial smokestacks that spewed pollutants that worsened his asthma. Maria spoke of her childhood near Guanajuato, Mexico, and the difficult working conditions her family faced when they moved to Oregon.

Khanh spoke about her Vietnamese heritage and the challenges faced by her immigrant community. Jacqueline Keeler touched on the Dakota Access Pipeline and also the severe health problems caused by uranium mining on the Diné (Navajo) lands in New Mexico. Her heritage traces to both Diné & Dakota peoples. Cary spoke of the difficulties faced by her Tlingit people, the "People of the Tides" in the Pacific Northwest. María walked attendees through the plans of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance to move away from a fossil fuel economy to one defined by economic and environmental justice, as opposed to militarism or colonialism, a message that resonated across all groups in the Social Justice Council at First Church.

CFE followed up in October with a rousing celebration in the Eliot Chapel in support of the Portland Clean Energy Initiative. Pastor Mondainé helped us again, this time playing the piano and leading us in song. He was backed by the Portland Interfaith Gospel Choir, led by LaRhonda Steele. Pastor Mondainé explained how he came to be chief petitioner for PCEI. Tony DeFalco, deputy director of Verde and another PCEI petitioner, gave a detailed presentation on the movement. And Jessica Becket, PCEI field director, exhorted attendees to join phone banks or canvassing teams.

With so much community mobilizing and support, PCEI passed by a comfortable margin. CFE is shifting to other matters. We'll be working to block construction of a natural gas pipeline and export facility at Jordan Cove near Coos Bay. In this we join the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, Native American groups, and other members of the Climate Action Coalition.

We'll also address such basics as clean water and healthy forests. Members will be gearing up to meet with members of the Oregon legislature, who convene in late January 2019, to discuss legislation to reduce carbon emissions. In all of this, we will continue to build our relationships with frontline communities. We are taking this moment to pause, to celebrate the successes we have had working together and with others, to relish what we have learned, and to rejoice in this green earth, the animals, trees, flowers and all the living beings who call it home.

UU Testimony



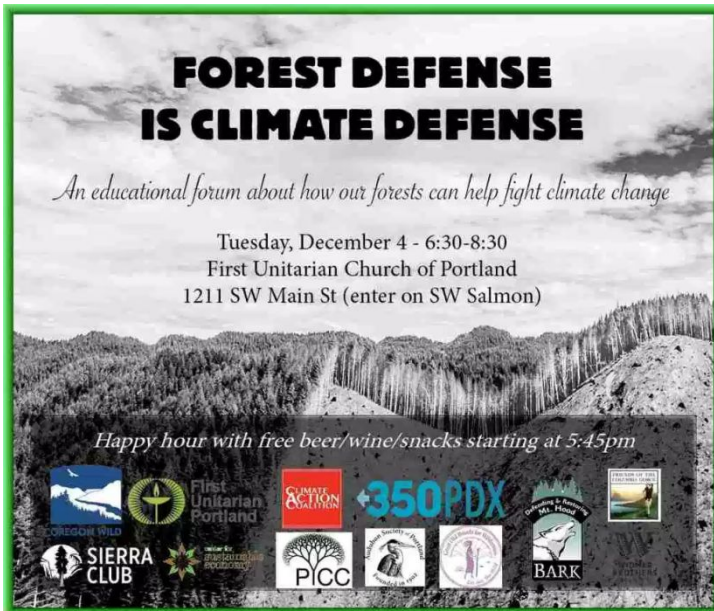
I was brought up with the Jewish concept of “tikkun olam,” the duty of every person to heal the world and make it a better place. And our world needs healing in so many ways: restoring the natural environment, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, ending war and injustice, and on and on.

Since coming to Portland six years ago, First Unitarian's Community For Earth (CFE) has provided a base for my focus on environmental justice. CFE's many community partnerships have given me the opportunity to work for justice in many ways, from legislative and legal advocacy, to campaigning for the Portland Clean Energy Initiative, to letter-writing and demonstrating to support local communities fighting for clean air and water.

One particularly moving experience was listening to tribal leaders bless those of us participating in the May 2016 “Break Free” event in Anacortes, WA to protest Shell's attempt to expand its oil facilities there. When Shell later canceled those plans, in part as a result of public resistance, it felt like through solidarity and collective action, we had a real impact.

When contemplating the damage humans have already done to our world and our fellow creatures, I grieve. Working with others to try to heal that damage is the best way I know how to deal with that grief. Working side by side with other CFE members for our common belief in the interconnected web of life gives me hope.

*~Nancy Harrison
First Unitarian Portland Congregant*



“I believe the world is beautiful
And that my veins don't end in me
but in the unanimous blood of those who struggle
for life, love, little things, landscape and bread,
the poetry of everyone.”

*~Quote from Como Ta Roque Dalton, poet of El Salvador,
translated by Jack Hirschman*

Get to Know Our Action Groups

A Highlight on Community for Earth & UU Animal Ministry

What is Community For Earth?

By Alisa Joaquin



**COMMUNITY
FOR EARTH**

The First Unitarian Community For Earth Social Justice Group grounds its work in the Seventh Principle of the UU Faith: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Our purpose is to inspire, support, and promote changes in consciousness and practices in the areas of environmental and climate justice for ourselves, our congregation and our society. We strive to unite our spiritual community through education, action and faith to protect the Earth for future generations and ourselves.

Community for Earth (CFE) members feel strongly that everything we do to on this planet affects us all. Climate change is a real problem that not only affects us locally, but globally. Bearing witness and taking action are two key elements of our work. CFE members participate in demonstrations, raise funds, visit city hall and the state capital, and host presentations. Among the other ways that CFE members live out their faith, they maintain:

* An Environmental Film Library (started in 2012) to educate congregants on issues related to climate and environmental justice. The library has over 80 titles, with about half of them checked out at any one time;

* A Google group to stay in touch with members, which posts meetings, minutes, and upcoming events at the church and in the larger community;

* A Facebook Page to communicate more widely.

More can be found on the Community For Earth web page under the church umbrella:

CFE also maintains a separate Website with a more complete explanation and record of our activities:

www.Commit2respondPDX.org. This site has a wealth of information, from past events to current legislative concerns.

Join us at CFE meetings on the second Sunday of the month in the Fireside room, from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., with social time from 9:00 - 9:30 or reach out by email for more



A View from the UU Animal Ministry

By Keith Iding

Our UU vision seeks a just and compassionate world where all beings merit respect as we build community to work together for the common good. This ideal is reflected in all of our Social Justice groups, including Animal Ministry. Our UU Animal Ministry is proud to have a seat at the Social Justice table, to promote understanding and awareness of animals as fellow sentient beings, in line with the 7th Principle. The mission of this group is to provide ministry, education, and support to interested members, and to the church community as a whole. There is no greater treasure than the community of life that has evolved in natural balance. We believe each person must weigh our obligations as humans, to be willing to change habits and assumptions for the good of all beings.

Our local group is part of the national organization once known as UUFETA, or UU's For the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Many assume that our focus is on helping companion animals like cats and dogs. Though we want to help there where we can, we are more concerned with the way other species are exploited in the name of human "exceptionalism," that is, the idea that humans merit dominance. We invite you to join us in promoting awareness and sustainability through our potlucks, presentations, and occasional trips to local farm sanctuaries.

UU Animal Ministry (UUAM) Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of each month at church. We meet for socializing around 12:30/12:45pm, with the meeting starting at 1pm. Room A303 (good to check the activities boards for info)! All are welcome to our meetings and events.

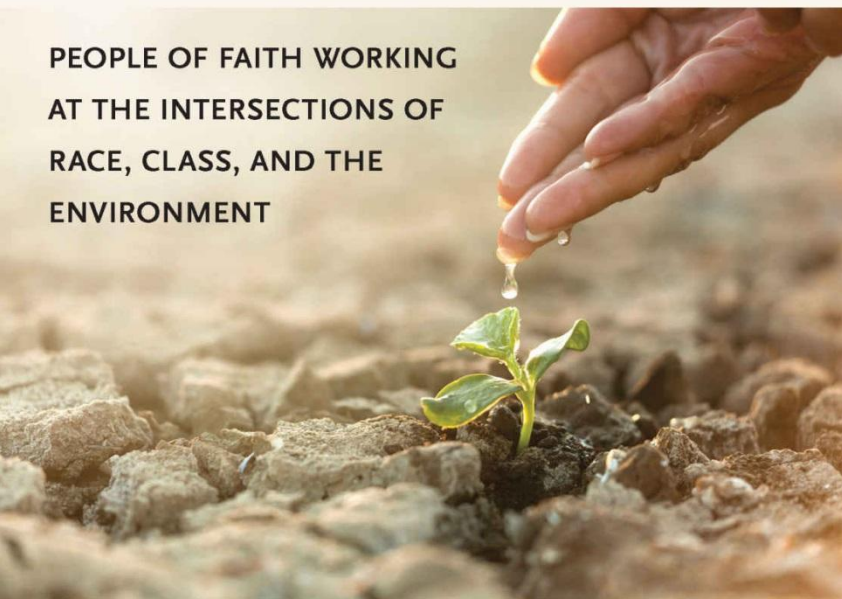
Book Review: Justice on Earth

By Linda Craig



JUSTICE ON EARTH

PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING
AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF
RACE, CLASS, AND THE
ENVIRONMENT



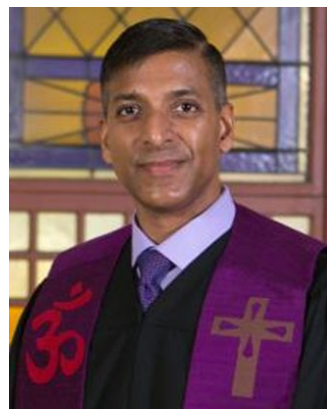
Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom
Editors

"A viable plan for transforming our culture will not come from the worldview or values that produced it."
Bill Plotkin in *Nature and the Human Soul: Cultivating Wholeness and Community in a Fragmented World*

Justice on Earth, the [2018-2019 UU Common Read](#), offers a compelling framework for understanding and addressing environmental and climate justice. In 2014, the UU Ministry for Earth organized a learning experience for UU leaders to reimagine the future of environmental work.

The group immersed itself in exploring issues and challenges of environmental racism facing communities of color in Detroit. To share what they learned, Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Senior Minister of the First Parish in Lincoln, MA, and Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee agreed to edit a book written by the participants.

The 12 essay compilation explores the intersection of racial, environmental and economic justice. The exploration of the theology and practice of environmental justice is meant to broaden and deepen UU engagement in this essential work.



Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti



Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

The first chapters build our understanding of “intersectionality,” that is the ways in which systems of power and oppression overlap and negatively impact communities disproportionately. Historically, the U.S. environmental movement, and other justice movements, have tended to be single-issue silos that don't account for overlapping or intersecting patterns of power. The result has been narrow understandings of the issues, ineffective solutions, and lack of inclusion and leadership of those most impacted.

We next learn about the growing field of “ecothology” and explore the powerful relationship between the inherent worth and dignity of the individual to the interconnected web of life – the First and Seventh Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Sofia Betancourt's essay asks essential questions. "What does it mean to be human in right relationship with the rest of the earth community? And how do we do that within the urgency of addressing climate disruption?"

She explains the U.S. environmental movement was built on a vision of a pristine landscape, untrammled and unpopulated. The movement fails to address the gross injustices suffered by both human and non-human beings as a result of dominant culture. The challenge of environmental justice is to repair environmental devastation while also addressing these injustices.

With the challenge clear, the next two chapters urge us to care for ourselves while doing the work. Adam Robersmith writes that we can avoid despair by making choices based on love, not fear. Kathleen McTigue asserts that justice work, while essential, is insufficient without spiritual practice, which grounds us in something bigger than ourselves.

The final chapters turn to enlisting UU congregations in environmental justice work. Pamela Sparr charges us to get out of our silos and become more counter-cultural. The necessary "Great Turning" involves nothing less than renouncing our complacency and addiction to Western Civilization. Four stories from congregations that have taken this charge offer useful examples of how we can make a difference.

The challenge of climate justice is daunting. How can we begin at First Unitarian Portland? Building an informed and shared understanding by reading *Justice on Earth* together is a good place to start. You can purchase a copy of *Justice on Earth* in the First Unitarian Bookstore.

Community for Earth will lead a book group in the Spring of 2019. Keep your eyes out for the announcement in the Front Steps, First Unitarian's weekly e-newsletter.

“The Earth does not belong to us.
We belong to the Earth. Whatever befalls the Earth
befalls the sons and the daughters of the Earth.
We did not weave the web of life,
we are merely strands in it.
Whatever we do to that web, we do to ourselves.”

*~Attributed to Si'ahl (Seattle), hereditary chief of the
Suquamish and Duwamish Nations in the Pacific Northwest*

Honoring of Land & People

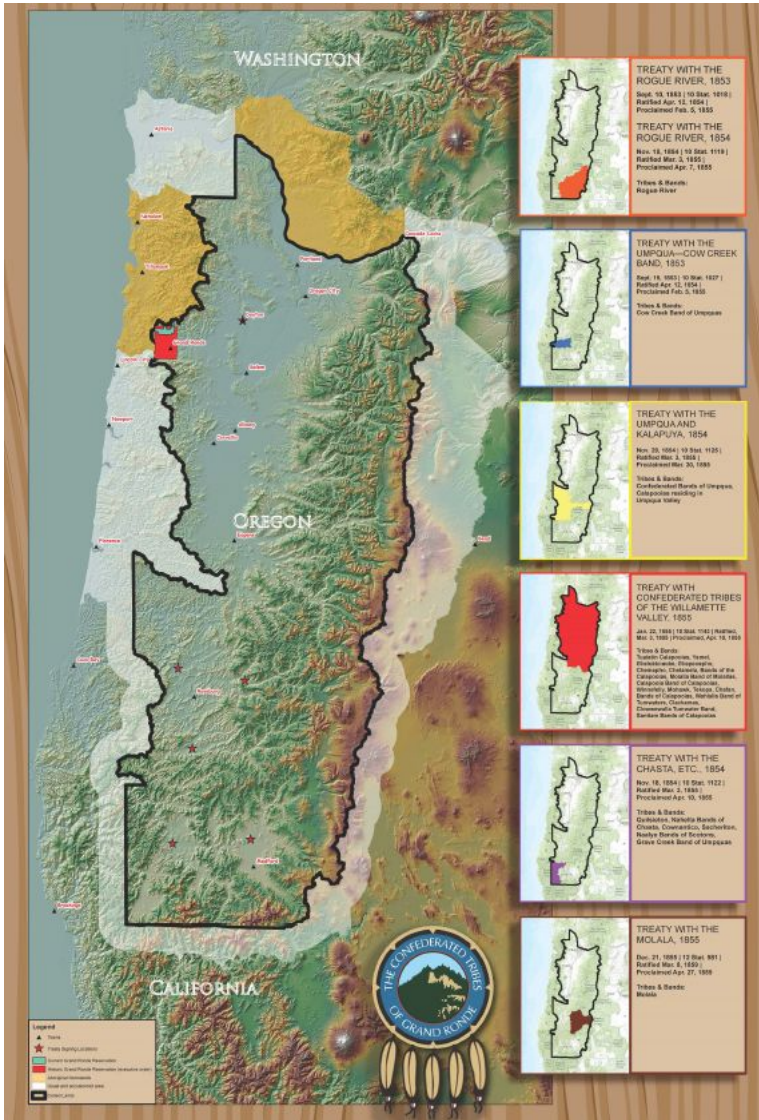
First Unitarian Church is located in the heart of downtown Portland. We honor the indigenous people on whose traditional and ancestral land we sit.

We recognize the Multnomah, Clackamas, Clowwewalla (or Willamette-Tumwater) and Cascades (or Watlala) bands of Chinookan peoples, and the Tualatin Band of Kalapuya.

These indigenous peoples signed the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855 and were later forcibly removed from their homelands to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation; their descendants live today as members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Many other indigenous nations of the Columbia River have connections to this place as well, and their descendants also live on.

We acknowledge the ancestors and survivors of this place and recognize that we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. We honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants who carry on Tribal traditions for present and future generations.

[Click here for a full-size map of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Homelands](#)



“We honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants who carry on Tribal traditions for present and future generations.”

“The mountains, streams, valleys, oceans, deserts, and all things are related to our thoughts and actions. All things are in relationship with each other.”

~Jasmine Wallace, a Tsalagi (Cherokee) medicine woman

Examples of Environmental Racism and Unequal Impact of Climate Disruption

- Black, Hispanic and Native American neighborhoods are [more vulnerable to wildfire](#).
- 85 percent of Navajo homes have uranium contamination. Navajos living near the mines have higher levels of uranium in their bones than 95 percent of the American population. Even infants have been found to have uranium in their urine. [Trump's Message to Tribes: Let Them Eat Yellowcake](#)
- People of color in the United States are consistently exposed to nearly 40% more transportation related air pollution than their white, non Hispanic peers, resulting in [more premature deaths](#) from heart disease.
- The risk of [lead poisoning falls disproportionately on minority children](#). Black children nearly three times more likely than white children to have elevated blood-lead levels. One [study](#) found “extraordinarily high rates of lead toxicity” in black and Hispanic neighborhoods with “prevalence rates topping 90% of the child population.”
- Lower income Americans are more likely to live in neighborhoods or buildings that suffer from storm shocks, partly from [substandard infrastructure](#). Hurricane Harvey also demonstrated that poor families are [more likely to live in flood prone zones](#), and they are more likely to live closer to industrial facilities, and thus more at risk from [chemical spills and toxic leaks](#) from storm damage.



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

January Shared Plate Recipient

[The Oregon Just Transition Alliance \(OJTA\)](#) is a movement of communities facing first and worst impacts of environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. We are on the frontlines of injustice and the frontlines of change. We bring together organizations committed to base-building in these frontline communities. We gather to create ownership over our collective future and move Oregon toward an economy that is rooted in our shared values – [the just transition principles](#).

OJTA is led by a steering committee of base-building, frontline groups. Base-building means “accountable to an organized group of people to join the movement.” Organizations have come together around the premise that organizing is how we’re going to win the world we need; one that does not exclude or leave anyone behind.

Our frontline communities have a long history of marginalization and white supremacist targeting. These communities are at the forefront of the ecological crisis facing our world. A just transition must create racial, social and economic justice.

Groups like these build power and leadership among the people they organize to win community-level victories that are connected at a local, national and global scale. Building unity between these groups is how we intend to win a Just Transition for Oregon.

Members of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance have a constituency that acutely experiences the crises of empire, ecology, and economy. Organizations whose staff and board is representative of the frontline communities served are crucial – those organizations are accountable to frontline leadership, and understand the value of authentic representation.

Who Supports Frontline Leadership? Anyone. If your organization doesn’t meet the criteria for membership, you can still be listed as an OJTA Supporter. These are organizations – base building and otherwise – who endorse the principles of a Just Transition, and who will show solidarity with OJTA.

You’ll have an opportunity to get to know OJTA at Seminary for a Day, January 26, 2019 in an afternoon workshop. Registration will be announced through First Unitarian Portland’s [Front Steps](#) weekly e-news.



Video: *How We Live a Just Transition*, by Kontent Films





Oregon Just Transition Alliance and members

POST ELECTION NOTE

From Oregon Just Transition Alliance Blog

We did it! A wave of frontline leadership made a strong statement [on Election Day] that as Oregonians we do not accept hate towards our communities and we have the right to build the new! It is the right thing to do, and we have every right to do it! We defeated Measure 105 and OJTA members in Portland passed the Portland Clean Energy Initiative. We showed that when frontline communities lead the way we have better results all across the board.

...The defeat of Measure 105 showed that despite the anti-immigrant rhetoric we hear on the news, the voices of those who stood against hate and with our immigrant communities were louder, mobilized others, and won.

This is a victory and we must celebrate, but we must also continue to work towards the decriminalization of our communities regardless of immigration status... There will be more attacks coming. We must take this victory, learn from our success, and be prepared for whatever comes next, always keeping in mind the safety of our immigrant communities.

In this election we... held strong to our vision of a more regenerative economy, one that uplifts those most impacted by climate change, economic exploitation and white supremacy. We changed the rules to build wealth and power for our communities.

A frontline-led coalition passed the Portland Clean Energy Initiative, which will generate \$30 million annually for green jobs, clean energy, and lower utility bills for our communities in Portland. The initiative was won through grassroots community organizing, including in communities that are often ignored by political campaigns.

Our communities organized and mobilized neighborhoods across Oregon and the country. We galvanized individuals who would have not voted otherwise if their native language was not spoken to them... Our state's frontline communities should be more than proud!

Seminary for a Day

Save the Date:
January 26, 2019



First Unitarian Portland will host keynote speaker Reverend Sofia Betancourt for our annual **Seminary for a Day**. Rev. Betancourt teaches UU Theologies and Ethics at Starr King School for the Ministry and is a contributor to *Justice on Earth*. The day will offer ample opportunity to delve into climate justice from frontline perspectives. Below are some highlights.

Morning Session

Keynote Address

From Liberal to Liberation: A Theological Response to Climate Disruption

Rev. Sofia Betancourt

Unitarian Universalism has long considered itself a living tradition, one that responds to the opportunities and challenges of its time. How are we called to reengage the largest questions of our living in the service of liberation? How do we discuss and invite others into faith work that can sustain and galvanize us in the face of collective moral questioning, allowing us to invest in greater justice in our world?

Afternoon Session A

Ecowomanism and Earth Justice

Rev. Sofia Betancourt

This workshop will explore Ecowomanism, environmental knowledge drawn from the lived experiences of women from the African diaspora. Through a wide variety of voices including those of activists, scholars, and grassroots organizers, we will engage what this approach asks of us in terms of earth justice and environmental degradation. What moral guidance can we learn from these perspectives? And how might we integrate such wisdom into the wider environmental canon?

Afternoon Session B

Toward a Just Transition: What the Heart Wants the Hands to Do

Members of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance.

Local frontline environmental and climate activists will lead a dynamic workshop on putting our UU faith into action. We'll learn how the "Just Transition" framework emphasizes defending the sacred, whether that is land, waterways, or the places where we work, live and worship. This framework focuses on dignifying people and their work and building new pathways to create a just economy which centers our shared earth, its people, and all living things. Engaging with Portland leaders from frontline communities -- i.e. those most impacted by climate change and economic injustice -- will move us from the liberation theories toward building the relationships necessary for achieving a just transition; a vision and practice that is fully aligned with our UU faith.

Keep your eye on [Front Steps](#) for upcoming workshops, information, and registration.



Photo by Nikki Beezley

If We Dare

By Taj James

Co-Director of Movement Strategy Center

We are the generation
of grief and mourning

Seeking the courage
to feel and experience
the losses

As the debts
of those ahead of us
come due
in the unraveling

If we dare
to feel it all

Letting the river
carry us

The water
will flow again
through the channels
of our hearts
broken open
beyond repair

Reconnecting us
to each other and
quenching the soil
of a new world

Life and renewal

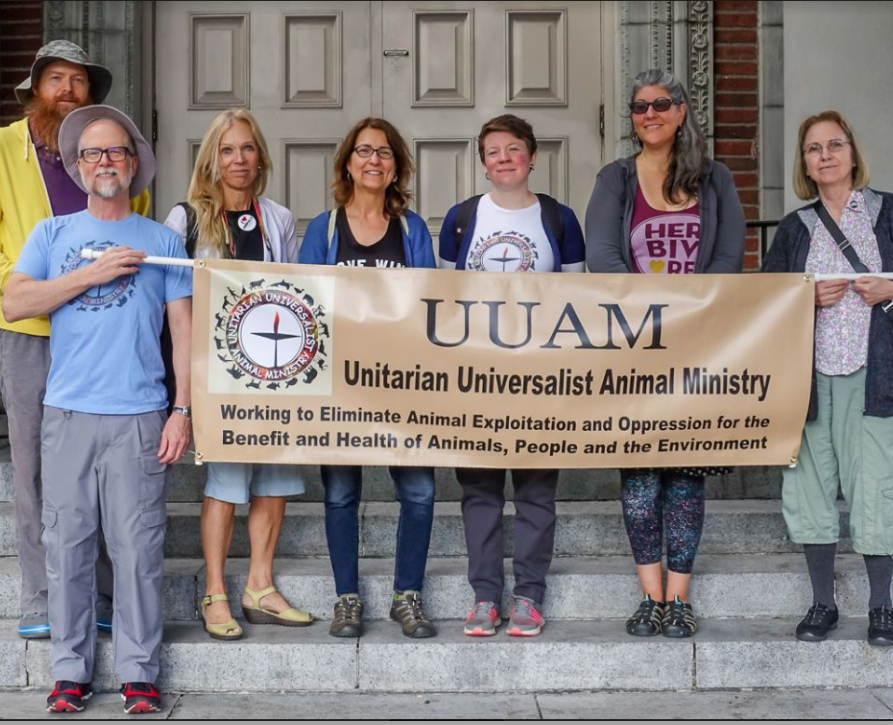
Excerpt from **Being Elemental**

By Ethel Gullette

Be like water,
balancing your tides
in response to the quality of light,
to the deepness of the dark.
Be buoyant for beings who need
to float and rest.
Content to be still,
be ready to ripple, even to roil,
on inevitable route toward the unifying ocean.
Do not waste your time on debris -
let it be irrelevant; push it to the side.
Gentle and resilient,
know to find ways
around, over, under, through
the barriers,
always willing to alter course.
Be sleek and soft as down,
prone to quiet,
but not incapable
of murmuring a warning,
of pounding out a roar,
strong enough to roll with rage,
cutting a gorge through mountains of injustice.
Flow with ease,
unresistant to change,
unperturbed by disturbance,
undaunted by obstacles,
clinging to nothing but freedom.
Be thankful for tears.



Photo by Nikki Beezley



Take Action!



UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

december

Forest Defense is Climate Defense!

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 from 6:30-8 PM, at the Buchan Reception

Hosted by: Community For Earth & Oregon Wild

An educational forum about how our forests can help fight climate change.

As the climate continues to change at a rapid pace, Oregonians are talking more about ways to reduce the carbon emissions from our energy and transportation sectors.

[Facebook Invite Link](#)

04

Rise Up For Refugees!

Friday, December 7, 2018 from 6-8:30 PM at the Buchan Reception

Hosted by: UU Justice in the Middle East & UNRWA

Join us for an educational benefit dinner for United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Palestinian refugees it serves.

6 pm: Reception, networking, and resources tabling

6:30 pm: Buffet dinner catered by Hoda's Middle-Eastern Cuisine

7 pm: Program begins, featuring a presentation by Mohammed Eid

[Get Tickets Here](#)

07

LGBTQIA Pride Holiday Party

Saturday, December 8, 6:00 PM-8 PM in Daisy Bingham

Hosted by: LGBTQIA Pride

Come to celebrate the holidays with us. We will have a potluck dinner and an optional white elephant gift exchange.

If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped new or gently used gift.

Contact Alison Richter: netslug@hotmail.com

08

A Celebration of Resilience & Transformation

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM in Daisy Bingham

Hosted by: Ending the New Jim Crow

Formerly incarcerated individuals will share their personal stories of turning their lives around, both inside and outside of prison, including how others assisted them on their journey from prison to reentry and beyond. Light seasonal refreshments will be served.

This event is FREE. Donations welcome!

11

january

All Church Dialogue: The Crisis of Mass Incarceration

Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 1 PM-3 PM in the Buchan Reception

We are living in an unprecedented era of mass incarceration. The U.S. accounts for about 5% of the world's population—but almost 25% of its prisoners. Communities of color, people living in poverty, and people who seek refuge within U.S. borders are disproportionately impacted by systems of injustice. First Unitarian's Ending the New Jim Crow, Stop Racist Policing, and Immigrant Justice Action Groups co-host this All Church Dialogue with community partners. Please join us to learn about why mass incarceration is an issue for all of us. We'll hear about some critical work being done in our community and ways that UUs can put our faith into action to address this growing crisis.

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For updated First Unitarian Portland events please subscribe to [Front Steps](#), our weekly e-Newsletter.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COVENANT



As the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church of Portland,
we are moved by the deep and transformative presence of Love.

Love calls us to the sacred work of seeking justice.

With courage and humility, we commit to seek together a justice through which we fulfill our longing to reshape fear, greed, oppression and violence into lives of caring, collective thriving, peace and mutual liberation – to create together a community that we can call beloved. To support and challenge each other in this work, we promise to:

Draw on the common spirit of this place on Earth, the First Peoples, and all beings who lived here before us and those who come after, recognizing that we are intertwined, shaping and being shaped by other beings and the land we inhabit.

Seek and follow the wisdom and direction of those who most directly experience oppression and injustice, understanding that our liberation is bound together.

Be unsettled and alert in the world, consistently seeking justice while knowing our actions will be imperfect and the work ongoing.

Be present to both the emotional challenge of justice work and to the unexpected moments of grace within it.

Embrace our multiple perspectives, spoken truthfully and heard respectfully, while remaining committed to working within and through friction, discomfort and difference.

Commit to learning about ourselves and one another with humility while seeking to dissolve harmful divisions among us. Treat ourselves and each other with love and kindness as we work for a common good.

When we fail in these promises to each other, we will offer ourselves and others forgiveness and begin again, rooted always in the spirit of compassion, faith and love.

CONNECT WITH FIRST UNITARIAN PORTLAND

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFICE

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**Contacts are updated as of 10/11/2018
& are subject to change.*

