



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego Social Justice Newsletter

Look for the Social Justice Newsletter every 2nd and 4th week.

Social Justice Executive Team News

What's happening with SJET?

- Lots of events coming up - be sure to check out all the opportunities!
- The Social Justice Executive Team continues to look for a new church member to join its team! Inquire or nominate someone at sjet@firstuusandiego.org
- Want to see what it looks like or talk about a social justice issue with our team? SJET meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. Email chris@firstuusandiego.org for more info, or pop into our Zoom meeting during the scheduled time [in our social justice Zoom room](#).

To contact the Committee: SJET@firstuusandiego.org

SJET is Laura Ball, Maren Outwater, James Long, Newt Ferris, Chris Chambers, and Rev. Omega Burckhardt.

Want to learn more? [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Upcoming Social Justice Events

UJMCMA Tijuana House Build - April 13th-16th

The UU Justice Ministry of California is organizing a four-day volunteer trip to Tijuana to build a home for a family in need. More info at the UJMCMA page

<https://ujmca.org/pilgrimage-to-the-border-house-build/>

Interested in visiting the project, but can't participate in the whole trip? We can take you for an afternoon! Contact First UU San Diego's Social Justice Coordinator at chris@firstuusandiego.org if you are interested in visiting the project in Tijuana between April 13 and 15, and learn about a group trip from FUUSD to Border Church on Sunday, April 16 below.

SOLACE Detainee Visitation Program Meeting – Thursday, April 13 5:00pm-6:00pm, [Zoom](#)

Our next monthly general meeting has been moved to this upcoming THURSDAY (instead of our usual Tuesday) to allow us to attend a virtual meeting with ICE personnel, Freedom for Immigrants, and other organizations in our advocacy network, regarding visitations before our monthly meeting. This way we can give you the most updated information regarding visitations and current restrictions. During this month's meeting, we will be doing a brief orientation for those interested in becoming visitation volunteers. Our visitation coordinator, Soledad, will be sharing her

experiences during her first visitations after the COVID visitation shutdown at Otay Mesa. Please join us to learn more about this volunteer opportunity. Feel free to share this invitation with friends and colleagues who might be interested. [Zoom link here.](#)

Climate Action: Carnival for Climate – Saturday, April 15 12pm-4pm

Celebrate Earth Month at the Carnival for Climate while enjoying music, activities, prizes and shows. Learn about ways to save our planet by playing fun carnival games. Enjoy the family friendly carnival Saturday, April 15, 12-4 pm. Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park at 2004 Park Blvd. Get your FREE tickets [HERE](#)

Day of Silence Altar – Sunday, April 16 11am-1pm.

Rainbow Action will be creating a small altar space on the patio on Sunday, April 16th to honor the Day of Silence of April 14th, "a national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country—and the world—take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools." (<https://www.glsen.org/dayofsilence>). We encourage community members to take a moment of silence at this altar to honor and remember LGBTQ+ persons lost to suicide.

Border Church Visit - Sunday, April 16th 12pm-3pm

"Every Sunday, friends from San Diego, Tijuana and around the world gather for our weekly celebration of binational communion at Friendship Park, the historic meeting place on the US-Mexico border" (from friendshippark.org/borderchurch). Let's go participate!

Social Justice Coordinator Chris Chambers will be organizing a small group of community members to visit Border Church on the Tijuana side and meet with UU volunteers from the Southern California area who will be concluding their house building trip (more info above). Sunday's group will be meeting first on the First UU patio at 11:15am after the service to check in and carpool, and then at the McDonald's at the San Ysidro Trolley Station at 12pm to cross into Tijuana. The group will be guided by Chris (a Tijuana resident of 11 years) back to the border at 3pm, and will be traveling in Uber to Border Church once in Mexico.

Climate Action: Celebrate Earth Day at Church - Sunday, April 23, 10am-11am

Attend a special Earth Day service, focusing on climate action and environmental equity, at First UU San Diego's Hillcrest Campus. Environmental Health Coalition director Franco Garcia will be sharing more about strategies based in community organizing to create effective and powerful climate justice movements and how your Generosity Offering donations support this work.

Earth, Water, Air, Fire: An Interfaith Service on the Climate Crisis - Saturday, April 29, 5pm-6pm

As the environmental crisis deepens, we must take action to heal the planet where we have wounded it. For persons of faith that action is rooted in our faith traditions and practices. So we will gather on Saturday, April 29 at 5-6 PM at the [Moreton Bay Fig Tree](#) arbor in Balboa Park for an interfaith, interactive and intergenerational service to connect with the Divine presence and build toward a thriving and diverse future (bring a lawn chair if you wish to sit). Following the service, we host a bring-your-own picnic for community and fellowship. All are invited to attend!! For more information, contact Phil Petrie—phil@icejsd.org.

This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Coalition for Earth Justice and partner faith communities. Rain date: TBD. Please register [here](#).

FUU Action Team News

Organizing 4 Justice

O4J organizers will be going with members of San Diego Organizing Project to the state capital for a meeting with representatives on April 20th, to talk about Affordable Housing on Faith Lands and the SB 567 Homeless Prevention Act, which place restrictions on evictions.

Climate Justice

Climate Action: Start Your Climate Victory Garden!

You can grow a climate victory garden as part of the solution to climate crisis by restoring soil health and drawing down carbon. Green America answers your questions for both beginning and seasoned gardeners. See the climate victory garden playlist and add your garden to the map, or find community and school gardens near you. Get started at [Climate Victory Gardens | Green America](#).

SOLACE Detainee Visitation Program

We are excited to inform you that IN-PERSON visitations are back at Otay Mesa Detention Center. These visitations are taking place during Saturday and/or Sunday on a weekly basis (with some restrictions). Our monthly meeting will be covering this subject. Next meeting is April 13th at 6pm, [Zoom link here](#).

Rainbow Action

Members of the Rainbow Action team will be facilitating the aforementioned altar for Day of Silence on Sunday, April 16th, as well as speaking with community members at their information table on the patio after the service. Stop by Sunday to learn more. Rainbow Action team holds their meetings on second Sundays of each month at 11:30am in Room 323 of the Welcome Center.

South Bay Food Pantry

The South Bay Food Pantry continues to see a steady increase in the number of families receiving quality, healthy food through its weekly free food distribution, held from 11:00am-12:30pm each Saturday. Recently, pantry volunteers have started holding meetings (hybrid in-person/Zoom) to discuss ways to adapt to the growing needs and remain true to the pantry's mission and values. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 15 from 1:30pm-2:30pm at our South Bay Campus. Join the [Zoom here](#).

The South Bay Food Pantry...

is located at 970 Broadway, Suite 101, Chula Vista 91911. It is open to the public Saturdays from 11 am - 12:30 pm and to congregants by appointment.

Contact: If you would like to volunteer at the pantry please contact Deirdre Lonergan at deirdre@deirdre.com. To reach the food pantry by phone call 619-271-5017.

How to Donate to the South Bay Food Pantry: Donate online at firstuusandiego.org/donations.html or make checks payable to FUUSD and write "SB Food Pantry" in the memo line. Mail checks to Robie Evans, FUUSD, 4190 Front St., San Diego, CA 92103.

Generosity Offerings

April 2023 Generosity Offering: Environmental Health Coalition

First UU San Diego is proud to be supporting the Environmental Health Coalition as this month's Generosity Offering recipient. The Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) works to protect public health and the environment by committing to addressing environmental and social injustices in low-income communities of color. The EHC focuses on several key issues, including air quality,

toxic pollution, land use, transportation, and climate justice. The organization works to empower residents to advocate for their health and environmental rights, and to promote policies and practices that support community health and wellbeing.

You can donate via our website at www.firstuusandiego.org/donations.html, under gift designation select "Generosity Offering" from the Gift Designation pulldown menu.

Generosity Offering Nominations

Do you know of a vital San Diego Social Justice organization that meets our criteria of being BIPOC-led and/or BIPOC-serving? If you would like the organization to be considered for Generosity Offering donations and an accountable partnership with us, fill out the [Nomination Form](#) . Read our statement on accountable partnerships [here](#).

Spread the Word!

How to submit to SJ eNews

Are there SJ events or actions you want the FUUSD Social Justice Community to know about, or a person/organization whose social justice work is worth highlighting? Contact the SJET team at sjet@firstuusandiego.org, or write First UU's Social Justice Coordinator at chris@firstuusandiego.org. Please send in submissions before SJET meetings (2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30pm) for inclusion in the next SJ eNews distribution.

Social Justice E-News

Creating justice and compassion in our community through spiritually-grounded action.

Have questions or need more information? Email The [Social Justice Executive Team](#)