

BACKPACK BUDDIES

On the third Saturday of each month during the school year volunteers meet at the Lowcountry Food Bank to prepare bags of nutritious food. Children aged 12 to 18 are welcome to help. Contact: Lisa Hajjar, hajjarlm@gmail.com; John Klintworth, klintworth@bellsouth.net

CHARLESTON AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

CAJM is a powerful network of 41+ diverse, local church congregations dedicated to negotiating with local officials for change on social justice issues. Member congregations choose issues based on community input, researches those issues, and defines best practices for solutions and how they can best be implemented. Contact: Matthew Cressler, mjccressler@gmail.com

COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT FUNDRAISING & MITCHELL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

This team facilitates a 20-year-long program to support children in poverty in the Lowcountry. Funds are generated through donations by the audience at monthly Gage Hall Coffeehouse Concerts, and a portion are used for academic enrichment activities at the Mitchell Elementary School (Title 1 school) in Charleston. These activities include enhanced math and science programs and field trips for the students. Contacts: Coffee House, Richard Hayes, rhayes73@aol.com; Mitchell School, John Narkunas, narkunas@bellsouth.net

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ADVOCACY

Promotes awareness and participation in actions that support marginalized populations in the Charleston area. Contact: Vacant

GREEN SANCTUARY & ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE JUSTICE

This team leads the church's effort to remain environmentally sustainable through capital improvements, education, and outreach. This team also works with partner organizations to support the area's marginalized communities with their efforts to address the uneven effects of environmental degradation, and take action to negate the effects of climate change and influence others to leverage that effort. Contact: Connie Hayes, crhayeshps@gmail.com

MINI-GRANT PROGRAMS: ENDOWMENT FUND (2023) AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH GIVING (2022)

These two programs, offered in alternate years, award mini-grants to local nonprofit organizations that are nominated by church members. Proposals are submitted to the church and reviewed by objective review teams. Contacts: Endowment: Amy Bradshaw, bradshad@musc.edu and COG: Maureen Porter, mlpmaureen@netscape.net

RACIAL JUSTICE

This team has programs to educate our church community about racism, make our church more welcoming to minorities, highlight racial justice issues in the Charleston area, and support actions to address local racial injustice. Our Congregation overwhelmingly supported the UU 8th Principle, and this team will support our Congregation in "actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Contacts: Richard Hayes, rhayes73@aol.com; Diane Narkunas, dmntou@yahoo.com

REFUGEE SUPPORT

The team supports enabling refugees to live independent, safe and comfortable lives working with our refugees to become productive members of the community. The team is currently working with an immigrant family seeking asylum, helping them become integrated into our community and achieve legal status. Contact: Nancy Hild, nancyannhild@gmail.com

SHARE THE PLATE

On the first Sunday of every month our offering plate is shared with a local non-profit organization whose mission aligns with our UU principles. Donations given to the "Share the Plate" option are split 50/50 with the church and the organization of the month. Contact: Richard Hayes, rhayes73@aol.com

SOUTH CAROLINA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST JUSTICE ALLIANCE

This alliance for statewide legislative advocacy acts for justice in partnerships that center the voices and authority of people experiencing injustice, especially BIPOC, LGBTQ, immigrant, and houseless people. Examples include Transgender Justice, Voter Rights & Access, Immigration & DACA, Education Justice, Environmental Justice and Medicaid Expansion. Contact: Rev. Nathan Woodliff-Stanley, nathan@scuuja.org

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

We are a certified UUA Welcoming Congregation. We welcome, affirm, and celebrate LGBTQ individuals and families in every area of church life. We advocate for LGBTQ justice and support related activities in the wider Queer community. Contact: Vacant