

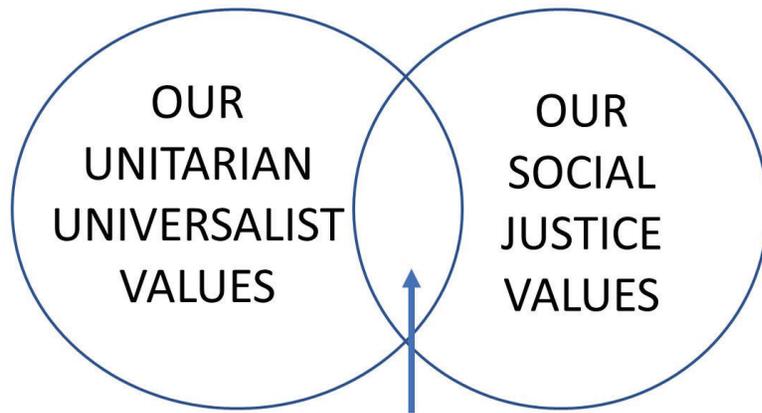
Social Justice Action

“What does it mean to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist? Ask this question of a dozen UUs and you get more than a dozen answers. But you can be pretty certain that most of those answers will have something to do with taking action on behalf of justice.” Kathleen McTigue

UUCSW Service Project

Social Justice *FAMILY* Event - Meal Packaging on Hold

The quote above is from the book “Justice On Earth” available at the UU Bookstore and on line (in fact, Google seems to serve up the whole book for free!) I don’t believe that quote! I can speak from first hand experience, having spent a good number of years not much involved with Social Justice, instead worrying about work, family, etc. If you agree or disagree with that quote, I would love to hear from you.



A THIN INTERSECTION

A second selection from the same book is titled “Transforming Unitarian Universalist Culture: Stepping Out of Our Silos and Selves” by Pamela Spark. It confronts exactly the issue portrayed in the graphic. How do we take our UU Values and apply them to Social Justice? For example, how is your approach to climate change any different from anyone else? How do your UU values work themselves into your actions? Spark describes several ways of intersecting:

Seeing the big picture. Being able to offer not only policy proposals, but an alternative world-view – one that is interdependent.

Be able to talk religiously. This means framing concerns and solutions in moral terms – being able to talk about what’s “right”. In addition, there’s “power with” those in need rather than “power over”.

Get out of our silos. All social justice issues are intertwined. We can go crazy worrying about too many issues, we try to concentrate – especially in those places we feel we can make an impact. But we must spare some energy to help other members of the congregation with their goals. Our passing the plate initiative is a good example of this. See William Barber and Moral Mondays as an example.

Relationship Building. Be able to talk with people not like us. Too often this Green Sheet is preaching to the choir. We have a long way to go to get outside our walls and our comfort zones. We opt for working inside our walls because it’s easier, but it diminishes what we can accomplish.

Going counterculture. When this pandemic is over, will we go back to consuming that way we did before. We’ve gotten used to going grocery shopping less often. There’s very little useful merchandise at the malls. The average American bought 65 articles of clothing last year. How can we be different?

April 24th Book Discussion

The title is *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. In a nutshell, DiAngelo coined the term “white fragility”; it is a reaction in which white people feel attacked or offended when the topic of racism arises. The book discusses many different aspects and manifestations of white fragility. We will hold our discussion via Zoom. Check out some reviews: [newyorker.com](https://www.newyorker.com), [slate.com](https://www.slate.com)

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