

Social Justice Ministry Meeting

September 21, 2023

Minutes

Opening Prayer "Take the Time" prayed by Sue McNamara

People Attending Sue McNamara; Bill Engels; Tim Paulitz; Bonita Lawhead; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Phil Nelson; Francy Pavlas Bose

Disciples in Dialogue:

- How to be an Antiracist following Ibram X Kendi's book by same name.
 - Bill Engels led the discussion about the plans for Disciple in Dialogue on Kendi's book following the format of previous session.
 - Fr. Steve suggested that we table the plans for an anti-racist session given that this topic was addressed in the recent past.
 - After considering the idea of inviting Dr. Kendi to come to Sacred Heart and lead us in dialogue this spring, the group decided to contact local speakers, such as Dr. Jeff Gilroy, who led a program at Sacred Heart about three years ago, instead.
 - Tim will contact Dr. Gilroy and other community leaders as potential speakers at this time to check on their availability.
 - Meanwhile, the group would keep working on the program.
 - A zoom presentation was discussed but it was determined to be too difficult without improved equipment.
 - Book resources at Neill Public Library and Bruised Books were also put on hold.
 - Please bring your suggestions to the next meeting.
- Fr. Steve and Cory Dixon are considering program on the SYNOD for Disciples in Dialogue on October 5; 12; 19

Community Congregational United Church of Christ will have a series "LGBTQIA+ Exploratory Discussion and Dinner." All are welcome. It is Sunday evenings at 5:30 on Oct 1, 8, and 15. Speakers are Johnny Taylor, trans member of UCC and Rev. Cathryn Cummings. Here is a link

<https://pullmanucc.org/event/lgbtqia-exploratory-discussion-dinner-a-series-of-growth-and-understanding-on-october-1-8-and-15/>

Refugee Resettlement Update:

Sacred Heart is not actively collecting anything at this time.

The Interfaith Leaders group (Fr. Steve - regular attendee, Francy, Sue, Linda Bradley are sporadic attendees of this group)

The Interfaith Leaders are taking the lead on this and members of Sacred Heart Parish will help with their plans for refugee assistance.

LAUDATO SI' DISCIPLES:

- Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington sent an open invitation to Laudato Si' Retreat
 - At Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
 - "Living Laudato Si' individually and as Church
 - October 28 from 8 am to 4 pm
 - Register at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center 509-448-1224 or kparker@ihrc.net
 - Carpools can be arranged.
 - See the attachment for more information

- <https://ihrc.net/events/laudato-si-day-of-prayer-and-action>

- A Parish Refresher of environmental ideas and how to get involved was suggested

Mass announcements to encourage parishioner involvement in three current recycling efforts at Sacred Heart.

- Bonita Lawhead at 4:30 pm;
- Bill Engels at 7:15 am and 8:30 am; and
- Sue McNamara at 11:00 am

The three programs to be presented are:

- TREX Plastic Recycling;
- Monthly Glass and Metal Lid Recycling ; and
- The new Button Battery and Rechargeable Battery collection.

Laudato Si Disciples: November 8

- Mark Wensnahan will be invited to direct a conversation around three related environmental concerns:
 - Climate change denial
 - Inaction since “it’s too late”; and
 - climate anxiety
- This will also be a place to “Refresh Ways” the parish and current parishioners are and can address issues of climate change

Tabled Possible Discussion include:

- Water Usage on the Palouse and how to improve- Sue
- Food Waste: pre and post consumer
- Presentations by: CCL; PJALs; Earth Ministry Bill

Neighbors in Dialogue:

- The fourth discussion in the series has been tabled until spring
- After some discussion, members decided that the next ‘Neighbors in Dialogue’ should be around Pullman community members from the Chinese, Korean and Japanese cultures. Tim will contact potential speakers.

Community Connection:

- For the Autumn season it was decided, to make multiple leaves on cardstock with a “seasonal greeting” to families/individuals living in Bishop Place; Circles of Caring; Regency; Avalon; Pioneer Square; and the Home Bound
- GREETING: Happy Autumn from Members of Sacred Heart Church
- Francy will contact Kat Harris for confirmation and numbers of cards needed.

Updates:

- Family Promise: Sacred Heart will host families on October 20 and 21.
 - Tim will place an ANNOUNCEMENT in the bulletin and Facebook requesting volunteers to help with
 - Evening meals and meal Hosts
 - Overnight host
- Action Alerts
 - Restore Act -End the SNAP Benefit Ban for people with drug-related felony convictions via USCCB
 - Execution Alerts: via CMN: 1 MO; 1FL; 1 AL; 2 OK;
 - USCCB Action for including SNAP program in the 2023 Farm Bill

- **TREX**
 - We are close to meeting our 500 pounds for another bench
 - The Pullman Landfill requested a bench as a way of advertising plastic recycling at the landfill location.
 - The bench would be placed on display with information about TREX Recycling
 - Bill said the next available bench could be donated to the land fill for these purposes at the site.
- **Helping Hands provided 15 days of meals post-surgery**
- **Family Promise current NEEDS:**
 - Pull-ups
 - Toilet paper
 - Paper towels
 - Kids shampoo (not baby)
 - Storage bags or Freezer bags (Quart and Gallon)
 - Dishwasher detergent
 - 13 gallon garbage bags
 - Size 4 diapers (Only size 4)
 - Liquid Hand Soap
 - Q tips
 - Rubber Gloves (for cleaning)
 - Men's Deodorant
 - 409 Cleaner
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- **Cougar Pantry: Considering a food drive on December 1.**
- **Community Action Center Thanksgiving Plans and Needs**
 - CAC is planning on serving around 550 families/1,200 individuals during the Thanksgiving distribution. To deal with this increased need, CAC would like to work at putting away a supply of food for that distribution. They still have a long way to go, even though they have been working toward this need for sometime.
 - The Thanksgiving Distribution is November 14 thru 17.
 - These are the needed items:
 - Sugar and Flour
 - Oil/Crisco
 - Stuffing mix
 - Gravy Packets
 - Instant Mash Potatoes
 - Olives
 - Dried Onion Mix
 - Vegetable or Chicken Broth
 - Canned Cream Soups
 - Pancake Mix
 - Syrup
 - Jam
 - Canned Fruit
 - Soups
 - Sacred Heart will start this Food Drive October 21/22 through November 11/12

- Bring your donations marked “Thanksgiving” or place them in the Thanksgiving box provided.
- To accompany these food donations, the ministry will purchase approximately \$500 worth of turkeys and hams.

VOTER REGISTRATION: .Would you like to help register people to vote?

- The League of Women Voters can help you to register voters.
- Contact Deb Olsen to volunteer
- olsonbones@aol.com or VOICEMAIL: 509-595-0333
- Deadline to register on-line: October 30
- In-person registration up to and including election day

Laudato Si Retreat: Saturday, October 28, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center from 8 am to 4pm; \$50
<https://ihrc.net/events/laudato-si-day-of-prayer-and-action>

Free the Snake River 2023 Campaign: @ Hells Gate State Park:

- Friday, 9/29 6:00 to 8 pm;
- Saturday: 9/30 ; 9am to 2 pm at

<https://earthministry.org/2023-all-our-relations-snake-river-campaign/?emci=8f32176d-d457-ee11-9937-00224832eb73&emdi=9981048e-e057-ee11-9937-00224832eb73&ceid=10166740>

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 25 at 7 pm in the Social Hall.

Closing Prayer: Prayer from Journey With Spirit; read by Sue McNamara