

Social Justice Ministry Meeting
Thursday, February 20 at 9:30 am
Minutes

Opening Prayer: *Hymn for the Hurting* by Amanda Gorman prayed by Sue McNamara

People Attending: Tim Paulitz; Bill Engels; Jessica Cassleman; Fr. Steve Dublinski; Sue McNamara; Fletcher Aukerman; Francy Pavlas Bose

Prayer Bread and Soup: Wednesday April 9

- Six Soups
 - 1. Sue McNamara 4.
 - 2. Francy Pavlas Bose 5.
 - 3. Fletcher Aukerman 6.
- Four Breads: by two people
 - 1. Tim Paulitz 2. Bill Engels
- Please contact Francy to volunteer to bring one of the soups still needed,

Current Direct Needs

- Community Action Center CAC: current needs include:
 - Canned Soups
 - Peanut Butter
 - Jam/Jelly
 - Canned Fruit
 - Canned Beans –all varieties
 - Dry Beans
 - Rice
 - Pasta
 - Francy will ask what CAC does for homeless individuals and/or families; as well an update on “point in time count” in January
- Family Promise of the Palouse
 - Still in Transition: have not announced a new location for the Day Center
 - Please contact Family Promise if you have a possible location for new center
- Parish Food Pantry: Budget/Critical needs/
 - Earlier this month the amount of food disappeared faster than expected
 - Fr. Steve reported that one person took four bags of food from the closet
 - This is not a food bank/Decided that food storage closet needs a lock
 - Raised the question: “Where do the homeless eat on a daily basis?”
 - Sue reported that current Food Pantry funds are currently \$2182.11
- Cougar Pantry: There was only a small amount donated the last two weeks for Cougar Pantry
- Pioneer Square:
 - Pioneer Square does not have a list of current needs while they look for new
- Mardi Gras Bras Collection Bin for ATPV:
 - Looks very successful so far,
 - Will continue to collect item until Ash Wednesday

NEIGHBORS IN DIALOGUE

- Tim reported that Neighbors in Dialogue will be with the LGBTQ community, planned for Fall, 2025

Refugee Resettlement Update: Update from Interfaith Connections

- Had a zoom meeting with Geoffrey Heeren, Immigration lawyer at U. of I., Know Your Rights
- Informative: Narrow band around what churches can do
- Lawyer for Catholic Charities in Tri Cities: word of the moment--- 'Know Your Rights'

LAUDATO SI' DISCIPLE: Bill

- Next Meeting: Currently there are no plans to address in the parish
- Except a June Event: "Bike to Church" is planned

Community Connections: No decision has been made regarding next Community Connection activity,

Rally for Ukraine at Cougar Plaza in Pullman on Saturday, February 22 from 11 am to 2 pm

Updates:

- Family Promise
 - Currently there are four families
 - April 4 and 5 Sacred Heart is hosting which means providing
 - Two meals
 - Two evening Hosts
 - Two Overnight Hosts
- Contact Tim Paulitz to volunteer to provide meals or host.
- Action Alerts:
- Washington State Catholic Conference Legislative Bulletins for Weeks 3 & 4
- Catholic Mobilizing Network – 2 executions (TX & FL) on February 13
- TREX:
 - Currently on schedule to meet goal of 1000 pounds of plastic in 2025
 - If reach goal before end of year, plan is to assist other groups to reach their goal.
- Helping Hands: There have been no requests for meals this month.
- Pullman Homeless Alliance:
 - Met last month
 - Meeting today; Point in Time Count. Meeting was postponed due to illnesses, will be scheduled for February 27. May have Hope Haven as a speaker.
 - Hope Haven is a Homeless Shelter that just opened in Colfax dedicated to provide:
 - Transitional Housing
 - Support services for individuals and families
 - Help for those facing homelessness in the area
 - Community supported safe living for families and single adults
 - Needs Donor Base/ 501.3C

- Also need help in fixing up the facility
- Pullman Homeless Alliance plan is to learn through assisting Hope Haven and then repeat the shelter in Pullman the next year possibly
- Prepares Diaper Drive: coming soon

Move-Out Pitch-In Update: any update on 2025 event?

- WSU cannot sponsor this year.
 - Bill has a contact whom he will talk to and give the information to Tim
 - After the meeting, Center for Civic Engagement emailed with an idea to just do College Hill, and have trucks from thrift stores parked in UCC parking lot. We are looking into this. Tim contacted Habitat for Humanity, CCE will contact Goodwill and Hope Center. More to come.
- How/what can we do to reinstate this RECYCLING PROGRAM AT WSU:? Ideas?

Earned Income Tax Credit:

- The federal earned income tax credit, which has been around for 50 years, is designed to give low-income wage earners a financial life through the tax system.
- In some cases, people who qualify for this Earned Income Tax Credit don't make enough money to pay taxes and therefore don't file a federal tax form
- Here is the Internal Revenue Service website for Earned Income Credit information and forms:
https://www.irs.gov/site-index/search?search=EIC&field_pup_historical_1=1&field_pup_historical=1

Support for DACA: Students: Update/ Tim Know Your Rights Workshop for Immigrants, Refugees and Allies. Thurs, March 6 at 6:30 at Community Congregational United Church of Christ. Will be in person and zoom. Sponsored by Sacred Heart and UCC. Will have Spanish translation if needed, thanks to Jessica Cassleman.

Staples improved recycling program continues.

- Sacred Heart ONLY collecting plastic (Trex), & cartridges get \$ rebate
- Batteries, all kinds will give a rebate to Sacred Heart. Please bring your batteries and deposit in collection boxes in the social hall where Trex Plastic is collected **NOW getting \$ rebate for those too**

<https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore> Flyers put in bulletins in June.

NEXT MEETING: March 20 at 9:30 am in the Social Hall

Closing Prayer: Litany of Non-Violence by Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the Woods Read by Sue