

## Social Justice Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

### NOTES

Opening Prayer: Sue McNamara

People Attending: Bill Engels, Bunnie Lawhead, Gladys Rice, Jessica Cassleman, Fr. Steve, Sue McNamara, Tim Paulitz

#### Current Direct Needs

- Community Action Center (CAC): Thanksgiving Food Drive – See orange fliers, bulletin or website
  - Food Drive has started: Oct. 18-Nov.16, usual publicity, items can be brought any time & placed in box
  - \$500 has already been donated, Francy Bose is purchasing & delivering turkeys & roasting chickens
  - Use QR code to donate money, write on checks “Thanksgiving Food Drive” on ‘For’ line
- Family Promise of the Palouse (FPofP):
  - Needs in bulletin, Place items in basket at Church Entry, Money donations as above. FPofP on line
  - Sue has noticed that items are being removed from the FPofP’s basket.
    - Jim Buscher is not taking those Items. He only takes CAC and ‘special drives’ items
    - ASK: Anyone with a key, whenever you are at Sacred Heart, please move items to the storeroom off of the St. Bernard room! (see clear plastic box on card table marked as FP)
- Parish Food Pantry: Budget/Critical needs UPDATE
  - Account= ~ \$1,108.05 Items are being picked up at a much faster rate! No SNAP benefits in November will make situation even worse!
  - Cannot use online ordering at Costco at this time
  - Thanks to Tim, Jessica, & Linda Bradley for recent shopping trips
  - Foods Always Needed: Proteins, fruits, beans, soups, vegetables, pasta sauces, peanut butter...
- Cougar Pantry: Just Completed from Sept. 13-Oct. 5 UPDATE on Food Drive
  - Total of 438 lbs. of food was collected!
  - Thanks to all who donated or helped in any way!
- Pioneer Square (PS): Current needs, Sue
  - During summer, Francy received request for items, and Francy & Sue bought & delivered items
  - No requests at this time
  - Francy & Sue will contact PS on a quarterly basis & fulfill those requests as funds allow
- Neighbors in Dialogue: November 19, 2025 with LGBTQ community (Live & via Zoom) Tim
  - 3 Panel speakers have committed, being held at Community Congregational (CCUCC) at 6:30 pm
  - The publicity, fliers, etc. will be done by CCUCC’s outreach person
  - More info. coming, talk to Tim to help or any questions

#### MLK in January: On-going discussion UPDATE- Tim, Fr. Steve

- Tim has talked/will talk with the group ‘Palouse EDJE’ and others (including WSU, IAC, Terry Buffington, ...)
- Goal is to organize an event involving as many groups as possible, probably at CCUCC, with a dinner
- He will talk with Tremaine Gaither, who works with WSU on the west- side
- Ideas included getting funding from Palouse EDJE, Initai Foundation and will NOT be held on MLK Day, small honorarium?, Gospel Singers, not too long...

**Refugee Resettlement Update:** Suggestions – **See notes from InterFaith October Meeting**

- Fr. was not able to attend, and the notes said there is A LOT of concern about refugees & immigrants in our houses of worship

**LAUDATO SI' DISCIPLE:** Bill

- Bill & \_\_\_?\_\_\_ put together a table display of the 10<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of LAUDATO SI (LSi) in conjunction with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
  - In Social Hall, Creation theme – ‘Message to the Planet’ with pictures, information, Books, ...
  - Must be taken down before Day of the Dead celebration on Nov. 1
  - Too many LSi books were ordered – contact Sue if you’d like to buy from the Church
  - Fr. Steve suggested doing this every year?
- Mass on Creation: Fr. Steve reported it has not been translated into English yet

**Community Connections:** Bunnie

- Currently working on hand-made Christmas cards to be distributed to local elderly & the homebound
- Jefferson School children will also contribute cards through parishioner/teacher Trisha Doumit
- There will NOT be supplies available at Church as per Carolyn Cress in conversation with Francy

**UPDATES FOR:**

- **Family Promise:** Tim. S.H. Hosting Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.
  - Has all volunteer slots filled except one overnight host
  - No families now-but expect there to be some people by then
- **Action Alerts:** Sue October
  - Action Alerts were sent from Catholic Mobilizing Network to stop 8 executions in 7 states (2 in FL)
  - Very discouraging because stays are rare and several Catholic governors support executions
- **TREX:** Bill
  - The goal of 1,000 lbs has been achieved! After weight is confirmed, a new Trex bench will be shipped
  - The remaining plastic will be given to David Nails at the Whitman County Landfill as they are collecting now, too
  - David Whelchel got the last bench; Discussion occurred and Bill and Jessica will decide who receives this bench.
- **Helping Hands:** Sue
  - Once again, we are providing a meal for a parish family, once a week for the duration
  - Meals may increase if the family requests it. Meals started on Oct. 8. Need meals for Nov. 19 & forward
- **Pullman Homeless Alliance:** Met Oct. 11 with consultants. Tim and Fr. Steve
  - Tim led the meeting. The contractor will submit a report to the Whitman County commissioners at the Courthouse on Nov. 10.
  - Community Action Center is paying for the consultants
  - Report must reflect A. What state wants & B. specific to Whitman Cty. All is unfunded
  - Another meeting of the Homeless Alliance will be scheduled for Tues. Nov. 11 at 2 PM at UCC church.
- **Move Out Pitch In** Ongoing Plans update- Tim

- Zoom meeting will be setup with the WSU office of Civic Engagement soon
- Contact Tim for more info. Or to become more involved
- Tim is trying to mobilize more groups in community, such as Intersectional Advocacy Coalition, other Faith groups, and others to foster more community response.
- **Braver Angels**
  - National organization that provides training on how to talk with people who disagree with you
  - Presentation at St. James Episcopal on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (same day as Neighbors in Dialogue unfortunately) led by group in Moscow
- **Staples improved recycling program continues.** Sacred Heart ONLY collecting plastic (Trex), cartridges, & batteries get \$ rebate. <https://www.staples.com/stores/recycling#whatcanberecycledinstore>
  - **Reminder of publicity? In January? Add writing implements and emphasis on batteries?**
  - **Who can work with Sue & staff to make this more visible to parishioners?**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday Nov. 11 @ 7pm – In the Holy Family Room,**

Closing Prayer: Sue McNamara