



SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

"Thus says the Lord GOD: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast." -Isaiah 58: 1

Week of September 14, 2025



PEACEMAKERS:

****Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – Saturday, September 27th**, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of **ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****

**** Monthly TAIZE Prayer for Peace – Friday, October 3rd -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave****



SEPTEMBER 21st – 47th Annual INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE (est. 1981)

Mark your calendar for the 2025 celebration of **Peace Day Chicago** in Daley Plaza on Monday, September 22nd, 11:30AM – 1PM. <https://www.peaceschool.org/peace-day>

Learn more, volunteer/join *THE PEACE SCHOOL CHICAGO*:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScCG_q8IEa_PO9Bt0_YkwI54KKVhGKTxz_phbKLte8gkKI-nQ/viewform



**FAITHFUL
AMERICA**

Love thy neighbor.
No exceptions.

Tell the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Join Pope Leo and demand an end to the "pandemic of arms". *The USCCB has not spoken up to end violence in our society since the Sandy Hook Elementary mass shooting in 2012.*

<https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/usccb-gun-violence-2025/?t=>



Tell Congress to pass the SAVING OUR VETERANS'S LIVES Act of 2025 (HR.1987 - S.926)

"From 2003 to 2022, more than **87,000** veterans died by gun suicide. Every single day, 13 veterans die by gun suicide... The bipartisan *Saving Our Veterans' Lives Act* would require the VA to offer gun lock boxes and secure storage information to veterans who request them. Providing free gun lock boxes is a simple and meaningful way to help prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths." <https://act.everytown.org/sign/Save-Vets/?akid=315111.5417268.ggFTPF&rd=1&refcode=emne>

<https://act.everytown.org/sign/Save-Vets/?akid=315111.5417268.ggFTPF&rd=1&refcode=emne>

(September is National Suicide Prevention Month- CALL 988 24/7)

TAKE ACTION:



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th - 12 Noon-3PM (26th street, from

Albany to Kostner.) Come and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Little Village, as they celebrate Mexican Independence Day!



PHONE BANK – SUNDAY, SEPT. 14th – 4-5:30pm CDT

Call voters in the 3 Republican congressional districts in Illinois to let them know that their GOP congressperson - Mike Bost (IL-12), Mary Miller (IL-15) and Darin LaHood (IL-16). - voted to make deep cuts to Medicaid, and what that would mean for them and their communities.

SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.mobilize.us/indivisibleil/event/834442/?emci=f83349a3-d788-f011-b484-6045bdeb>

INDIVISIBLE “Signs of Solidarity” Canvassing: “Sign up now to visit local businesses in your neighborhood. Ask the business owners or managers to post signs that declare their support for their immigrant neighbors and opposition to ICE as well as create a private area for employees that ICE cannot legally enter without a signed judicial warrant. These are simple steps that businesses can take to protect their employees from ICE and make all immigrants feel welcome in your community.” **SIGN UP HERE:**

<https://act.indivisible.org/signup/signs-solidarity-canvassing?>



Solidarity in Action Training Series

- [Creating Mutual Aid/Community Response Teams \(Part 1\), with Stephanie Rearick](#) -- September 15 at 7:00 pm ET/4pm PT
- [Creating Mutual Aid/Community Response Teams \(Part 2\), with Stephanie Rearick](#) -- September 29 at 7:00 pm ET/4pm PT
- [Understanding Systemic Oppression and Privilege, with Tim Wise](#) -- October 21 at 7:00 pm ET/4pm PT

https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/807964/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20250808

the Neighborhood



Become an Advocate at The Neighborhood Bridge!

We are recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates - trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection.

To learn more, we invite you to attend our next Bridge Breakfast on October 4 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall. Learn more at theneighborhoodbridge.org. or contact Jeanne Gallo at jeanne.gallo@theneighb.org.

FOOD and SHELTER:



Current Location: Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 607 Harvard Street. Donations are always welcome! Please consider picking up a few things next time you go shopping or if you are in need, take what you wish!

Monetary gifts can be sent to this link. Please denote community fridge on memo!

<https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/>



Housing Forward continues a 15-bed shelter in the former rectory of St. Catherine-St. Lucy. A **new** emergency overnight shelter with 40 beds will open in September at 112 S. Humphrey Avenue in Oak Park. **Volunteers are a key to the success of the emergency shelter.** Between the emergency overnight shelter and the Interim Housing Program, **we provide 1,260 meals every week!** Individuals and groups are welcome to be part of creating a safe and stable place for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

VOLUNTEER: Contact Cherrell Jackson at cjackson@housingforward.org or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201

GIVE HERE: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36148>



****IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM THE MIGRANT MINISTRY****

Until further notice, we will **pause donations on Monday, September 15.** Immigration and ESL will move across the street to Murphy Hall, and we are still seeking a location for the "free stores."

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING WINTER CLOTHING. HERE is our updated AMAZON WISH LIST.

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VKSYQWISEBOM>

To donate online through **GiveCentral** use this link: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36149> OR send donations to Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL 60302. Include a note that the donation is for the "*Migrant Ministry*".



SEPTEMBER IS
HUNGER ACTION
MONTH (H.A.M.)

Drop-Off hours at the Food Pantry: 848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL) 9am-4pm Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donatefood>

****MOST NEEDED ITEMS****

Bagged White Rice	Canned Pineapples (in natural Juice)
Canned Chicken	Gluten-Free Pasta
Canned Chicken Soup	Jelly (no glass)
Cheerios' Cereal (generic brand also)	Peanut Butter (small and medium size)
Canned Mixed Vegetables (low sodium)	Refried and Dry Beans (pinto and black)
Canned Peaches (in natural juice)	Tomato Paste
	Vegetable Oil (12 – 16 oz.)

CREATION CARE:



Oak Park Open Garden Walk - Sunday, September 14 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Oak Park Catholic Parishes, Temple Har Zion and Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion.

"Come visit us at our community congregational gardens where we grow fresh produce to support our local food pantries. Meet the gardeners who are happy to answer questions about this ministry."



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed eliminating the *Endangerment Finding*—the scientific and legal foundation that allows EPA to regulate climate pollution. It also seeks to roll back greenhouse gas standards for cars and trucks.

If enacted, this proposal would:

- **Allow toxic pollution from vehicles, power plants, and other sources to go unchecked**
- **Undermine life-saving public health protections**
- **Cause lasting harm to God's creation**

EPA is accepting public comments until **Monday, September 15, 2025.**

<https://franciscanactionnetwork.salsalabs.org/EPAEndangermentFinding/index.html>



SIERRA CLUB

ACT NOW! CLEAN ENERGY TAX CREDITS ARE EXPIRING SOON!

- EV Credits: Federal tax credits for eligible vehicles are available **through September 30, 2025**, with **up to \$7,500** for **new vehicles** and **\$4,000** for **used vehicles**.
- EV Charger Credit: Looking to install a home charger? Get up to **\$1,000** back on your taxes until **June 30, 2026**.
- Residential Clean Energy Credits: Claim **30% of the total cost** of solar panels, battery storage, and geothermal systems if you **buy by December 31, 2025**.
- Energy Efficient Home Upgrade Credits: Make home energy upgrades, like insulation, windows, or efficient electric appliances, by **December 31, 2025** to claim the credit.
 - Heat pump systems: up **to \$2,000** in credits for energy-efficient heating and cooling.
 - Insulation, air sealing, and weatherization: up to **\$1,200**.
 - Electrical panel upgrades: up **to \$600** to support electric appliances and EV chargers.
 - Home energy audits: up to **\$150** to help identify where you can save the most on energy costs.



Sunday, September 21 from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM on zoom

Learn all about community solar, how to pick a provider and sign up, and more at this free webinar! It's organized by Oak Park Climate Action Network on 9/21 in recognition of Sun Day, a national day of celebration of the power of the sun. REGISTER HERE: https://opcan.org/updates/sept-21-3pm-solar-is-for-everyone?mc_cid=a141b949a8&mc_eid=a3bbbebe66



Tell Congress to say NO to the "PERMIT ACT" - H.R.3898 would:

- **Allow corporate polluters to dump toxic "forever chemicals" like PFAs into our rivers and lakes.**
- **Strip states and Tribal Nations of the power to protect their water resources.**
- **Fast-track projects that worsen flooding, destroy our wetlands, and make our communities more vulnerable.**
- **Exclude millions of acres of our streams and wetlands from federal protections.**

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/permit-act-action-alert?source=direct link&link id](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/permit-act-action-alert?source=direct_link&link_id)



SEASON of CREATION – Sept. 1st–Oct. 4th 2025 theme: "Peace with Creation") Deepen your Season of Creation experience by taking advantage of these free resources.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/>



URGENT! Stop the USDA from rescinding the 2001 "Roadless Area Conservation Rule" –

"National forests are the heart of our public lands. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects over 58 million acres of some of the wildest forests we have left, forests that protect critical wildlife habitat and drinking water for millions. Revoking the Roadless Rule puts landscapes, wildlife, and communities at risk." **PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE OPEN NOW:**

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/National?actionId=AR0583872&id=701Po00001597VLIAY&data>

[The administration is specifically targeting 45 million acres in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, per Executive Order 14153 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential"]

<https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/08/27/secretary-rollins-opens-next-step-roadless-rule-rescission>

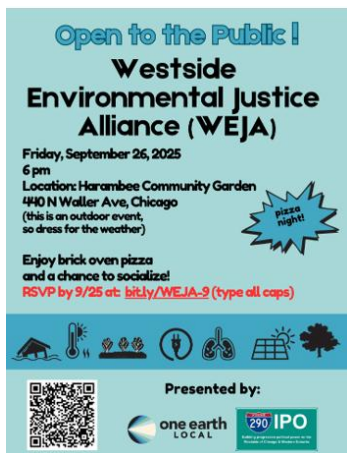
SAVE THESE DATES/SIGN UP NOW!



10th Annual AUSTIN POWER 5K Walk/Run - Saturday, Sept. 20th – Check in 7:30 AM

INFO, SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.austinpower5k.com/>

****VOLUNTEER with sponsor OAK PARK REGIONAL HOUSING CENTER:** <https://form.jotform.com/251734965918168>



Westside Environmental Justice Alliance (WEJA) – Friday 9/26, 6PM – 440 N. Waller (Chicago) – come have pizza & meet this dedicated group! RSVP: bit.ly/WEJA-9



"Strong & Supported" - Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit – (on line)

Session 1: Rev. Randy Woodley - September 29 / 11:30 am CT

Session 2: Dr. Carolyn Finney - September 29 / 6:30 pm CT

Session 3: Lyanda Lynn Haupt - September 30 / 11:30 am CT

Keynote Speaker: Robin Wall Kimmerer ("Braiding Sweetgrass") - September 30 / 6:30 pm CT

**** NOTE: There will be a WATCH PARTY at UNITY TEMPLE, OAK PARK! ****

REGISTER HERE: <https://aes-summit.org/register-2025?emci=78d898d6-d476-f011-8dc9-6045bda9d96b&emdi>



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the FALL 2025 cohort on Whiteness & Anti-Racism, designed for people who are white to deepen awareness of identity, privilege, positionality to power and more, then integrate learning into everyday life. It is important to attend all 4 sessions - they are designed to build upon one another.

Session 1 - Oct 19: 2pm-5pm - WHITENESS & SOCIALIZATION

Session 2 - Oct 26: 2pm-5pm - IDENTITY, PRIVILEGE & POWER

Session 3 - Nov 2: 2pm-5pm - SOLIDARITY & DISRUPTION

Session 4 - Nov 9: 2pm-5pm - SYSTEMS & MOVING FORWARD

https://raceconsciousdialogues.corsizio.com/event/6835e3e1d7f8deedee0d5eed?mc_cid=f6072b6322&mc_eid=a3bbbebe66

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Immigration Ministry: BEING BRIDGES FRIENDSHIP AMID GRIEF AND ANGUISH, JOY AND HOPE – Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025 | 7 p.m. Assumption Parish, 4323 West Illinois Street, Chicago, IL 60654 – Presenter: Steven Millies, Ph.D. Professor of Public Theology and Director of The Bernardin Center at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.



Time
Saturday, October 18
11am – 1pm CDT

Location
Chicago Bulk Mail Facility
7500 Roosevelt Rd
Forest Park, IL 60130

COMING: Saturday, October 18th – “NO KINGS” – Forest Park

LINK: rally sites, training, resources: https://www.nokings.org/?SQF_SOURCE=indivisible#map

AND...



Collective Action to Build Community (CA2BC) is sponsoring a variety of film showings of the film, ***A Binding Truth***, as well as a webinar featuring the film's director and two main characters. There are three showings scheduled in Oak Park.

- **Watch from home BEFORE 9/16 – FREE (We did - it's excellent-- FOUR *****)**
- **Sunday, September 28th, 3pm Interview Webinar via Zoom**

REGISTER HERE: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpAewFm_uagLtAdx-Yun2iiQVYTKHaOWYIdWE2LIft0u45Nw/viewform?pli=1



NEXT STOP: WEST SIDE - Community Trade Fair
Friday, October 24, 9am-3pm
BUILD 5800 W Harrison

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY TRADE FAIR – Friday, Oct. 24 – BUILD (5100 W Harrison) – REGISTER HERE:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hQuOgqbXf02g1JqW7hc8NirKMiraSLBNIAiMukak>

Morning Session: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Registration opens at 9:45 AM)

Afternoon Session: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Registration opens at 11:45 AM)

- ◇ Explore job, training, and education opportunities
- ◇ Connect with community organizations and resources
- ◇ Meet employers and leaders making a difference
- ◇ Take free professional headshots
- ◇ Join career readiness workshops
- ◇ Enter to win raffles and giveaways