



June 2017--- Events Calendar
Earth and Social Justice Ministry

HUNGER & HOMELESS COMMITTEE

THE ANNUAL PIE PARTY to benefit MANNA FoodBank is generally scheduled to occur on the last Sunday of the summer prior to going back to two services. Plans will soon be underway for this very popular fund-raiser. If you would like to help in the planning of this event, a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th at 11:00 'til 1:00 p.m. at 23 Edwin. Bring a sack lunch and your ideas for our 4th annual Pie Party. FMI contact Sally Carlson (sallycarlson111@gmail.com).

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM: The Summer Feeding Program is still in need of some volunteers to provide lunches at one of seven locations in Buncombe County. The program begins on June 14th and continues through August 8th except for July 4th. Buncombe County School System prepares and delivers hot lunches to the designated high poverty sites for volunteers to distribute free to children ages 2-18 and to the disabled. Even if you are unable to participate on a regular basis, volunteers are still needed to substitute periodically when the regular volunteers have doctor appointments, go on vacation, etc. For more information, please contact Judy Mattox (judymattox@sbcglobal.net; 615-584-4570) or Ann McLellan (annmclellan1@gmail.com; 828-350-9005).

LOVING FOOD RESOURCES: This organization helps patients with HIV/AIDS and Hospice Home Health Services by providing a food pantry, located at the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church. UUCA has been helping to stock this pantry for over 15 years. All non-perishable food can be dropped off in the large green bin in Sandburg Hall. For more information contact Joyce Sexton (joycesexton1@gmail.com).

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM NIGHT, Friday, June 16th, 7 PM, AN AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY BY Ava DuVernay

Synopsis of the film: "Powerful, infuriating and at times overwhelming, [Ava DuVernay's](#) documentary "13TH" will get your blood boiling and tear ducts leaking. It shakes you up, but it also challenges your ideas about the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States, subject matter that could not sound less cinematic. Yet Ms. DuVernay — best known for "Selma," and a filmmaker whose art has become increasingly inseparable from her activism — has made a movie that's as timely as the latest Black Lives Matter protests and the recent presidential election." – NYT.

Representatives from Building Bridges will facilitate a discussion following the film

Official Website & Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V66F3WU2CKk> runtime, 100 minutes. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, One Edwin Place, Asheville, NC 28801. There is no charge for viewing the film. Donations are welcome

EARTH COMMUNITY CIRCLE PICNIC, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 4PM (OFFSITE)

Please join us to socialize and celebrate the completion of a flurry of activity this spring. All are welcome! Get to know others wanting to create a sustainable environment. Please bring a potluck dish to share and your own place settings (plates/silverware) and drinks. In case of heavy rain, we'll postpone till July.

PLACE: Blue Ridge Parkway sheltered picnic grounds on Bull Mountain Rd. (near the VA Hospital on Riceville Rd.)

DIRECTIONS: I-240 to Exit 7, Go east on Tunnel Rd for 2 miles, Turn north on Riceville Rd. and go past the VA Hospital, Turn left on Bull Mountain Rd. The fenced-in, sheltered picnic area is on the left about ½ mile up the road.

FMI: Sunita Patterson/230-3347.

EARTH COMMUNITY CIRCLE MONTHLY MEETING, Wednesday, June 21, 6-8pm (RE 4)

Please join us on 3rd Wednesdays as we review projects in progress and plan upcoming efforts to support the congregation's environmental sustainability. We welcome ideas for activities you'd like to see in the future. FMI, contact [Sunita Patterson](mailto:Sunita.Patterson@unitarian.org)/230-3347 or [T. S. Pennington](mailto:T.S.Pennington@unitarian.org)/545-6888.

HOW WE CAN PREVENT A 3RD GAS POWERED ELECTRIC PLANT BY DUKE ENERGY -- June 7, 7 pm

An Update on the Energy Innovation Task Force

Join us on June 7 as we welcome Julie Mayfield of Asheville City Council, Brownie Newman of Buncombe County Commission, and Jason Walls of Duke Energy, who will provide an update on the County-City-Duke partnership to reduce energy use in Buncombe County and to avoid construction of a new natural gas peaking unit. Come hear the update, and be informed of how YOU can help.

Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, 1 Edwin Pl, corner of Charlotte & Edwin
Contact: Judy Mattox, judymattox@sbcglobal.net, 828-683-2176

NOTICE: NO SIERRA CLUB MEETING IN JULY; INSTEAD PICNIC SATURDAY JULY 22 NOON -4

PM. Potluck, badminton and horseshoes at Blue Ridge Parkway sheltered picnic grounds on Bull Mt Rd near the VA Hospital on Riceville Rd. in Asheville. Contact judymattox@sbcglobal.net, 828-683-2176

HIKES

Friday, June 16 - Buck Springs, 9:30 - 4 or 5:00 pm, easy/moderate 6 mile one-way downhill hike with shuttle at end, from Pisgah Inn on Parkway to NC 276. Several shallow water crossings; need sturdy shoes, water & lunch. Contact janelaping@sbcglobal.net, 828-772-0379

Saturday, June 17 - Splashing Waterfall Hike (Splashing is optional) John Rock area. 10:00 - 4:30, moderate/easy, 4 miles round trip with 2 waterfalls. Children with hiking experience OK with accompanying parent (with signed liability waiver), & well-behaved dogs OK. Optional steep & muddy base waterfall trails requiring sturdy shoes. Contact Lisa McWherter, lisamcw2@gmail.com, 828-713-4994

Wednesday, June 21 - Mackey Mountain, 9:00--5:00. rugged hike in potential wilderness. Experience required. Contact David Reid, daviddbreid@charter.net, 828-713-1607

Alert: contact Buncombe Ct Commissioners to support this year's budget for energy efficiency. Attend & speak Tues, June 6 at 5 pm (200 College St, 3rd floor), or email the following 7 commissioners:

brownie.newman@buncombecounty.org, jasmine.beach-ferrara@buncombecounty.org, alfred.whitesides@buncombecounty.org, ellen.frost@buncombecounty.org, joe.belcher@buncombecounty.org, mike.fryar@buncombecounty.org, robert.pressley@buncombecounty.org

TALKING POINTS:

We strongly support full funding of the local clean energy proposals by the Energy Innovation Task Force including recommendations for low-income weatherization, helping improve energy efficiency for non-profit and other community organizations, and exploring broader use of renewable energy on public buildings, including schools. The 2017/18 budget to fully implement these recommendations is \$560,000, with future yearly goals of \$500,000.

It would be great to have some people speak at the beginning of the Buncombe County Commission meeting about the importance of prioritizing clean energy at the community level. Each person has up to 3 minutes to comment.

Alert: Contact Tim Moore, NC House Speaker, or your Representative if outside Buncombe County, to oppose "Billboard Protection Act." Vote will be in the next few days.

Talking Points to be against:

The bill would allow as many as 10 digital billboards per mile; would take away local governments authority to regulate billboards; would make NC taxpayers pay more money to billboard companies for removals and relocations; would allow more cutting of trees around billboards.

If you live outside of Buncombe County, please contact your state house representatives (contact [your Representative](#)) and ask them to oppose House Bill 581 as soon as possible because it will be voted on in the next few days, and let them know that you don't want your city or area to look like Gatlinburg. If you live in Buncombe County contact House Speaker Tim Moore and ask him not to support HB 581, 919-733-3451, Tim.Moore@ncleg.net.

ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH ACTION AT THE YMI

Join us this **Thursday (June 1 at 6pm)** for ASURJ's monthly **Accountability through Action** meeting at the [YMI Cultural Center](#) at 39 South Market street in downtown Asheville! Accountability through Action nights are an opportunity to learn about a People of Color led effort in Asheville, ways to support that work, and take up a collection to help fund it. The YMI is "arguably one of the nation's oldest African American institutions in America." Begun by Isaac Dickson and Dr. Stephens in 1892 to serve the "social, cultural, business and religious" needs of the African American construction workers of the Biltmore estate, the YMI leadership bought the building from Mr. Vanderbilt in 1905. More than a century later, the YMI still stands in the midst of the Eagle-Market street area that once saw a thriving African American business community before the ravages of so-called "Urban Renewal."

This Thursday we'll begin with a **potluck at 6pm** (please bring a dish to share or just yourself). Programming generally begins around 6:30pm. This Thursday's program will include SURJ 101, a tour

and history of the YMI, information about the YMI's plans for involvement in the community and education about exciting future plans.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: Secretary needed for Stop the Violence Coalition & Ms. Bettie Council

The Stop the Violence Coalition meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6-8pm at the Arthur Edington Center on Livingston Street. Chaired by Ms. Bettie Council, the Coalition seeks to create and implement creative solutions to violence within the African American community of Asheville. You can find the FB page for the Coalition [here](#).

Ms. Bettie is in need of a volunteer to serve as secretary for the Coalition. Most members of the Coalition are leaders of local organizations and/or stakeholder representatives. Volunteer tasks would be:

- attend monthly meetings
- take notes

send notes to Ms. Bettie within 2-3 days for distribution to coalition members this is a great way to provide support to a People of Color led organization. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact [Elizabeth](#) asap!

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SANCTUARY? WANT TO HELP UUCA IN ITS JOURNEY TOWARDS PROVIDING SANCTUARY?

Based on our UU core values, the Sanctuary Working Group of the Earth & Social Justice Ministry believes that our congregation is uniquely positioned to provide physical sanctuary for immigrants at risk of deportation. We have developed an [Info Sheet](#) and a [Statement of Support](#) for your review. Members of the Sanctuary Working Group will be present at Coffee Hour to be in conversation with congregants about this. The Sanctuary Working Group will meet **tonight, May 31, 6:30pm at 23 Edwin** to begin breaking into subgroups and tackle the needed feasibility study required by the Board. If you'd like to add your effort to the Working Group, please join us!

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON SUNDAYS, JUNE 18 & JULY 9 AT 11:30AM

What have we done? What will we do?

ARG!a. Arg! is our response to the existence of Racism.

ARG!a = Anti-Racism Group ACTION!

ARG!a, UUCA's anti-racism group, is just about one year old now. We were asked by Rev. Lisa to write up a summary of work we've done over the 2016-17 year for the Annual meeting in June. We were surprised to find out we'd done so much. While at the same time feeling there is still so much to do. We'd like to have an in-person planning meeting before the summer is upon us. If you'd like to participate in this meeting, please [email Elizabeth](#) asap. You can read ARG!a's annual meeting report [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Showing Up can take many forms. You can "show up" by confronting racism within yourself, your family, community, faith group, work, and government. You can do this by educating yourself, or unlearning the lies you have learned, as well as by having difficult conversations and confronting long-held white supremacist beliefs and actions. You can also "show up" by being PRESENT and LISTENING for the non-white voices in the room and following their lead.

