



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator [www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org)

APRIL 2019

Dear Friends,

April brings spring flowers, green grass and the joyous message of Easter. As we celebrate the resurrection story, this excerpt from one of Brian Wren's hymns, speaks powerfully to me, "Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare..."

May we all dare to see what love can do, and may the love, hope and joy of Easter be with each of you!

Eloise

## **MFSA Spring Statewide Gathering:**

MFSA's Spring Statewide Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:45 AM, at St. Mark's UMC, 2675 E. Washington Street, in Iowa City.** The program, "**In the Midst of New Dimensions,**" will be information and conversation about the decisions made at the February 2019 General Conference on A Way Forward. It will be led and guided by **Rev. Sean McRoberts and Rev. Katie Dawson.** Lunch will be provided for a free will donation, and a short business meeting will follow lunch. At this critical time, please join us for sharing thoughts, feelings and plans for going forward together. Invite your friends, and bring a carload!

## **Seeking Delegates for General Conference 2020**

MFSA carries out its work for justice at the local, state, national, and global levels, and in our denomination as well. Decisions have been made in St. Louis that impact us all, and now it's time to prepare for the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis. To that end, MFSA is seeking lay and clergy delegates who will advance our mission and our goals.

*The mission of MFSA is "to mobilize, lead and sustain a progressive United Methodist movement, energizing people to be agents of God's justice, peace and reconciliation." Our goals include justice within the UMC (especially for LGBTQ people, women, and people of color), establishing peace among the nations and in society, defending civil liberties and ending discrimination, and ending poverty through such strategies as advocating for reproductive rights and a living wage.*

If you are willing to support these priorities as a General Conference delegate, please let us know so we can coordinate our efforts. Candidates may prepare a short statement about why the 2020 General Conference is important to you and your personal goals for justice, peace, and reconciliation. You can then send this statement along with your contact information to Eloise Cranke ([ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)). Note that nomination papers are due to the Conference Center by **April 15.**

## **Presumed Guilty: Islamophobia and Muslim Scapegoating in an Age of Terrorism – April 2:**

This lecture will be given by **Professor Todd Green on Tuesday, April 2, at 7:00 PM at Coe College, Kesler Auditorium/Hickok Hall, 1220 First Avenue NE, in Cedar Rapids.** Dr. Green is Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College. He will discuss why asking Muslims to condemn terrorism carried out in the name of Islam is problematic.

## **Eating Tomorrow: Timothy Wise to Speak – April 2:**

Few challenges are more daunting than feeding a global population projected to reach 9.7 billion in 2050, at a time when climate change is making it increasingly difficult to successfully grow crops. Timothy Wise will speak about his book, *Eating Tomorrow: the Battle for the Future of Food.* The event will be held **6:00 – 8:00 PM at Iowa CCI Headquarters, 2001 Forest Ave., Des Moines.** A book signing will follow. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Hugh Espey at: [hugh@iowacci.org](mailto:hugh@iowacci.org), or call 515-282-0484.



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## **Rev. Alexia Salvatierra to Speak in Iowa:**

The Clifford and Maxine Manning Annual Speaker Series will bring **Rev. Salvatierra** to **Iowa Wesleyan University** - **Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 5:30 PM** in the Chapel Auditorium, 601 North Main Street, in **Mt. Pleasant**. At this Forum she will address “Real Conversation: Migration in Your Community.” She will then be the guest speaker on **Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, at Walnut Hills UMC**, 12321 Hickman Rd., in **Urbandale**, where her topic will be “Immigration Justice: Faithful Responses to Migration.” MFSA is a co-sponsor of this event.

## **Laity Day with Bishop Laurie:**

This year’s Laity Day will be held on **Saturday, April 6, at Collegiate UMC**, 2622 Lincoln Way, in **Ames**. Registration begins at 9:00 AM, with the program starting at 9:45. Bishop Laurie’s sermon for morning worship is titled, “The Same But Different.” She will participate in a discussion of GC19, along with Phil Carver and other members of the Iowa delegation. The Missional Focus will be “Practicing Love with Women at the Well,” led by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott.

## **US/Mexico Border: Migration, Militarization & Human Rights Delegation:**

Global Exchange is partnering with Border Links to offer this trip **to Arizona April 7 - 13**. Participants will converse with community representatives, organizations and individuals on the frontlines of the border’s struggles. There are just a few spots, left, so if interested, please contact Drea Hightower, at: [drea@globalexchange.org](mailto:drea@globalexchange.org), or at 415-575-5527.

## **Children of Abraham Conversations:**

The event will be held on **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM**, in the Chapel at **Emmaus Bible College**, 2570 Asbury Road, in **Dubuque**. The topic is “Superheroes of Faith.”

## **Truth-Telling Along Iowa’s Freedom Trail:**

The Beloved Community Initiative and the African American Museum of Cedar Rapids invite you to make a Lenten pilgrimage of truth and reconciliation. The path follows part of the “Freedom Trail,” a section of the Underground Railroad used in the 1840s to transport escaped enslaved persons to the North, to freedom. The pilgrimage will be **April 13-14**. It will begin in **Iowa City, at Old Brick**, and then travel south and east to several sites of the Underground Railroad, hearing the stories of the abolitionists and the people they sought to protect. There will be one overnight as part of the journey, and it will end back in Iowa City on April 14. For more information, please visit: <https://becomingbelovedcommunity.org/calendar/2019/4/13/truth-telling-along-the-freedom-trail>

## **Children of Abraham Book Discussion Group:**

A five session book discussion group is being held on **Saturdays, at 10:00 AM, at Temple Beth-El**, 475 W. Locust, in **Dubuque**. The remaining date is: **April 13**. The book to be discussed is *The Sabbath*, by *Abraham Joshua Heschel*. The book offers profound insight and wisdom on our manner of living in the world. For more information, please contact Father Dustin Lyon at: [dustin.lyon@gmail.com](mailto:dustin.lyon@gmail.com)

## **Palm Sunday Procession and Service for Peace:**

This annual observance will be held on **Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. At **2:45 PM** we will gather at the south patio and lawn at **Central Presbyterian Church**, 3829 Grand Ave., in **Des Moines**. The Procession, led by two donkeys, will begin at 3:00 PM and proceed to **Plymouth Congregational UCC**, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., where the Service will be held at **3:30 PM**. **Matt Russell**, Executive Director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, will be the keynote speaker. The theme for the Service is “To Love and Defend our Sacred Earth.”



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## **Tax Day Observance:**

Watch your e-mail for a Statement about where our tax dollars should and should not be spent. If you agree, please sign it and share it with others to sign. Then on **Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM** you are invited to gather at the **Federal Building, 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines**. There will be a press conference, and the Statement with hundreds of signatures will be delivered to Grassley's and Ernst's offices.

## **Youth Against Gun Violence Film Contest:**

Violence Policy Center (VPC) is offering this contest as a way to create a platform for youth voices to be heard on gun violence and ways to prevent it, and to support participants' continuing education. Possible topics for submissions can include, but are not limited to: personal experiences with gun violence; gun violence in the individual's community; the ways in which gun violence affects our nation; or ways that we can work to prevent gun violence on local, state and national levels. Submissions are due **April 15**, and winners will be announced on May 15. 1<sup>st</sup> place: \$1,000 scholarship; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$500 scholarship; 3<sup>rd</sup> place: \$300 scholarship. For a complete set of contest rules and restrictions, visit: [www.vpc.org/contest](http://www.vpc.org/contest).

## **Road to the Green New Deal Tour Stop – Monday, April 22:**

This event will be a celebration and a call to action through musical performances, art and compelling speeches from political and movement leaders at the forefront of this bold environmental justice movement. It will be held at **7:00 PM, Sheslow Auditorium, Drake Campus, Des Moines**. [www.sunrisemovement.org/tour](http://www.sunrisemovement.org/tour).

## **Support Needed:**

The Iowa Sanctuary Movement (MFSA is a member) is helping to sponsor several asylum-seekers in the Des Moines Area, as well as to help DACA recipients and other immigrants impacted by ICE. Financial support is needed for all of those projects. Donations for asylum-seekers and DACA recipients can be made through First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines, 50315. (Indicate the project you are supporting on the memo line.). For families affected by Mt. Pleasant ICE raid, contact First Presbyterian Church, 902 S. Walnut St., Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641. For families in Des Moines separated by ICE, contact Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Rd., Urbandale, IA 50323-1810. For bail funds contact Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project, PO Box 3174, Iowa City, IA 52244-3174.

## **Moral Mondays:**

Moral Mondays Iowa is a collaborative project designed to inform and engage people on issues during the Iowa legislative session. MFSA is one of 25+ organizations supporting this effort. It is held **every Monday, 12:00-12:45**, in Room 304 at the State Capitol. A different issue is discussed each week by legislators and persons knowledgeable about that issue.

## **Save the Date:**

**July 21-23:** Mission U

## **Please Send Information:**

We want to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for the next month's E-Mail Memo. You can contact me at: [ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)

## **Membership and Contributions:**

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or by phone at: 563-263-1439, or by e-mail at: [wmbiklen@hotmail.com](mailto:wmbiklen@hotmail.com). Contributions can also be sent to Mike.