



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator Email: ecranke@mchsi.com
www.mfsaiowa.org Email: plumblin@mfsaiowa.org

Mid-Month Update MARCH 2019

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).

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.

Dr. James Zogby in Iowa:

Dr. Zogby is a co-founder of the Arab American Institute and author of "Arab Voices" and e-book "Looking at Iran." He will speak on Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 PM, at Des Moines Valley Friends, 4211 Grand Ave., in Des Moines, and on Thursday, March 14th, at 12:00 Noon, in Beems Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Avenue SE in Cedar Rapids.



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Don't Let Utilities Monopolize the Sun – IIPL Workshops

Iowa Power and Light (IPL) will present interfaith advocacy workshops on this topic to inform participants about public policies, ending the workshops with letters to the editor and to their state legislators. Dates and locations are as follows: Saturday, March 16, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, at Immanuel UMC, 2900 49th St., in Des Moines; Sunday, March 24, in Dubuque; Saturday, April 13 in Iowa City/Coralville. For more information, please contact Matt Russell at: director@iowipl.org, or call 515-689-1112.

Midwest Catholic Worker Retreat & Witness at Drone Command:

DM Catholic Work and Veterans for Peace will host this Retreat and Witness March 15 – 17. Friday at 7:30 speakers are: Sisters Carol Gilbert & Ardeth Platte; Saturday at 3:00 PM, Skype with 4 Catholic Worker Kings Bay Plowshares Activists; 7:00 PM speaker is Kathy Kelly, of Voices for Creative Nonviolence; Both events will be held at Trinity UMC, 1548 8th Street, in Des Moines. Sunday at 1:00 PM, St. Pat's Day Rally and Direct Action at the Iowa National Guard Drone Command Center, 3110 McKinley Ave., in Des Moines. For more information, please contact Gil Landolt at peacevet@hotmail.com or Frank Cordaro at: Frank.Cordaro@gmail.com

Alternative Discussion Group:

The group will meet on Tuesday, March 19 -7:00 PM, in the Dining Room at Hy-Vee, at the intersection of 32nd Street NE and Oakland Road NE in Cedar Rapids. They are reading *Eight Years We Were in Power*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, currently Chapter 5.

Civil and Human Rights Symposium:

The Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission will present the 33rd Annual Symposium on Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, at Des Moines University, 3200 Grand Ave., in Des Moines. The theme for this year is "Move Passion to Progress." For more information, please go to: www.humanrights.dmgov.org/symposium.

To kick off the symposium, two poverty simulations will be held on March 18, one at 2:00 and one at 5:30 PM. These will be held at East High School, 15 E. 13th Street in Des Moines. Register at: <http://bit.ly/Povertysim>, or contact Matthew Hoeg 515-283-4284, or at: www.humanrightsdsm.org

Children of Abraham Conversations:

The event will be held on Thursday, March 21 - 7:00 PM, at the Tri State Islamic Center, 4980 Radford Court, in Dubuque. The topic is "Death and Dying."

March for our Lives, Des Moines:

This March will be held on Sunday, March 24, at 1:00 PM, at the Iowa State Capitol, 1007 E. Grand Ave., in Des Moines. In the one year since the tragic shooting in Parkland, there has been nearly one mass shooting every single day. We must continue to speak out for common sense gun laws! The event is hosted by Progress Iowa, Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and March for our Lives, Iowa. You can register for the March at; <https://progia.us/march>.



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Lobby Day at the Capitol:

Thursday, March 21: Environmental Lobby Day

Bishop Dingman Peace Award:

Catholic Peace Ministry will hold this annual event on Saturday, March 30, food and fellowship at 6:00 PM; program, featuring Jeffry Biggers, at 7:30 PM. It will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2926 Beaver Ave., in Des Moines. Biggers is an award-winning historian, journalist and playwright, and founder of "Climate Narrative Project." Award recipient is Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker. Tickets are \$50.00. For more information, please call 515-803-1152, or e-mail: catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com

Everything You Treasure:

This Exhibit, along with several other illustrative artistic interpretations of the cost of the nuclear arsenal will be displayed in the Weeks Fine Arts Gallery, at the Drake University Fine Arts Building, in Des Moines, during the month of March. A reception will be held at the end of the show on March 31.

Presumed Guilty: Islamophobia and Muslim Scapegoating in an Age of Terrorism:

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, Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College.

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. Deadline to register is April 1st. For more information, please visit:

<https://becomingbelovedcommunity.org/calendar/2019/4/13/truth-telling-along-the-freedom-trail>

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.

Palm Sunday Procession and Service for Peace:

This annual observance will be held on Sunday, April 14th. At 2:45 PM we will gather at the south patio and lawn at Central Presbyterian Church at 3829 Grand Ave., Des Moines. The Procession



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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.

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 participant's 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. 1st place: \$1,000 scholarship; 2nd place: \$500 scholarship; 3rd place: \$300 scholarship. For a complete set of contest rules and restrictions, visit: www.vpc.org/contest.

Save the Dates:

April 13-14: Truth-Telling along Iowa's Freedom Trail /

July 21-23: Mission U

Please Send Information:

We want to publicize events around the state. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for the next month's Memo to ecranke@mchsi.com

Questions about Membership?

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. Contributions can also be sent to Mike.