



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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

MARCH 2020

## **MFSA Spring Statewide Gathering:**

We are excited that the presenter for our Spring Statewide Gathering will be **Bridget Cabrera, MFSA's Executive Director!** She will be leading the discussion on "**Intersectional Justice,**" and we will have the opportunity to become better acquainted with her. The Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2020, beginning at 9:45 AM, at Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Road, Urbandale.** Please put it on your calendars, and plan to join us. The program is in keeping with MFSA's theme for 2020: "In the Midst of New Dimensions."

## **Sign Up for Action Alerts:**

The Legislature is now in Session, so it's time to sign up for Action Alerts from our Advocacy Team. You'll receive timely information on issues that need a response from the faith community, and specifically those that our Legislative Advocacy Team have identified as concerns to be addressed this Session. To be added to the list, please contact Brian Carter at: [Briancar@dwx.com](mailto:Briancar@dwx.com).

## **Double Your Support for Legislative Advocacy Ministries!**

MFSA is offering to double your donation to the Legislative Advocacy Ministry up to \$5,000! We want to show our support for the volunteer Advocacy Team who works on our behalf to influence legislation on which the United Methodist Church has taken a position. The Legislative Advocacy Team has undergone a change in its funding. (The Team is made up of volunteers who receive an honorarium for their time, and a consultant lobbyist who helps the team be more effective). The funding is part of the apportionments and comes out of the Board of Church and Society budget. Previously it came directly from Conference Council on Ministries. This year boards and agencies are being asked to spend only about half of their budgets because of low apportionment payments. A new fund has been set up to accept donations to the Legislative Advocacy Team to make up the difference, and because of the critical importance of this work, MFSA wants to help. So, send your check, made out to MFSA, with Legislative Advocacy Ministry in the Memo line, to Mike Biklen, 515 East Eleventh Street, Muscatine, IA 52761. MFSA will match your donation up to \$5,000. Let's make our voices heard!

## **Lenten Gathering:**

Join UM Forward and others for a gathering **March 6-8 at the UMC of Preston Hollow in Dallas, 6315 Walnut Hill Lane, Dallas TX 75230 Trailblazing the Liberation Methodist Church.**

Liberations are forming a church where:

+ the marginalized are centered, + power is equitably distributed, and + we are free to act in solidarity with movements for justice. Information and to register, [Trailblazing Liberation](#)

## **Moral Mondays:**

During the Legislative Session, you are invited to attend **Moral Mondays from Noon – 1:00 PM in Room 304 at the Capitol.** This is an opportunity each week to learn about one of the issues being considered by the Legislature.

## **Prayerful Presence:**

After the Moral Mondays presentation, folks may gather at the top of the stairs on the second floor before circling the rotunda in **prayerful meditation.** Join in reverent companionship to practice unity in the face of division and hope in the face of harm. For more information, please contact Kay Kopatich at: 515-252-0714



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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

## Alternative Discussion Group:

The group meets **Tuesday, March 3rd, at 7:00 PM**, in the **Hy-Vee dining room**, at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NE and Oakland Road NE, **Cedar Rapids**. Reading *Storm Lake*, by Art McCullen, Chapters 1 through 5.

## Pronouns 101:

NEIPJX (North East Iowa Peace and Justice Center) is kicking off their Pronoun Education Project with a workshop on **Wednesday, March 4, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the Decorah Public Library, Public Meeting Room**, 292 Winnebago Street, in **Decorah**. Learning about pronouns and gender identity is one of the many ways we can be active allies for the gender minorities. The workshop is open to the public with the opportunity to make a free-will donation to NEIPJC supporting future programming and activities.

## Meet My Religious Neighbor:

This Open House will be held on **Sunday, March 8, 11:00 AM, at the Hindu Temple and Cultural Center**, 33916 155<sup>th</sup> Lane, in **Madrid**. This will be the celebration of Holi, which signifies the arrival of spring, the end of winter, and the beginning of a good spring harvest season. All are invited for fun, food and prayer, followed by music and dancing. Lunch will be served at 1:00 PM.

## Latino Day on the Hill:

The Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs invites you to the third Latino Day on the Hill. Learn about the legislative process, advocacy opportunities, running for office and more. The date is **Monday, March 9, 8:00 AM, at the Capitol**, 1007 E. Grand, in **Des Moines**.

## Mental Health Day at the Capitol:

This event will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, at 8:00 AM and again at 11:30 AM**. For each time slot, there will be a short training before going into conversations with legislators. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Connie McKeen at: [cmckeen@q.com](mailto:cmckeen@q.com).

## Iowa Environmental Council Environmental Lobby Day:

Join individuals and organizations from across Iowa on **Wednesday, March 11, 8:30-1:00, at the Iowa State Capitol** to advocate for Iowa's natural resources, including water quality, energy efficiency and more.

## Celebrating International Women's Day:

PEACE Iowa and the United National Association, Johnson County are sponsoring **"Night of 1,000 Dinners" on Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, at Robert A. Lee Recreation Center**, 220 S. Gilbert St., in **Iowa City**. This will be a community celebration featuring an international buffet dinner and honoring local organizations that promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door; students \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Order tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/night-of-1000-dinners-tickets>

## "The River and the Wall:"

There will be a screening of this film on **Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM, in Olin 102**, Luther College Campus, in **Decorah**. The two-hour film addresses the question: What will be the impact of a border wall in the Rio Grande Valley? The event is sponsored by NEIPJC (Northeast Iowa Peace & Justice Center) and the Luther College Center for Ethics and Public Engagement. A free will offering will be taken, though Luther Students are free with CAF.



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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

## "Hebron:"

This documentary by Palestinian filmmaker Yousef Natsheh will be shown on **Friday, March 13 at 7:00 PM, at Hillcrest Academy, 1421 540<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Kalona.** Accompanying Yousef on this tour is Rachel Joy; both have been serving with Christian Peacemaker Teams since 2013. A time of questions and answers will follow the film. Watch the trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-y4QgmyRko>. Sponsored by Just Peace Outreach Group (J-POG). For more information, contact: [wilmajane17@gmail.com](mailto:wilmajane17@gmail.com).

## Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Symposium:

The Symposium's goal is helping people focus on the real work and planning that needs to happen in order to reap the prize—a harvest of socio-economic advancement for all persons in the Greater Des Moines region. **Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 AM-4:45 PM, at Drake University's Olmsted Center, 2875 University Avenue.** Registration is \$20.00. Contact Des Moines Human Rights Symposium: [humanrights@dmgov.org](mailto:humanrights@dmgov.org).

## Children of Abraham:

Join the Children of Abraham on **Thursday, March 19th, 7:00 PM, at the Church of the Resurrection, 4300 Asbury, in Dubuque.** The topic is, "Reconciliation."

## "Zero Weeks: Putting Families First:"

The Grundy Center UMW will present this powerful film on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Grundy Center UMC.** The US is the only developed nation that does not provide paid family leave. This documentary tells the stories of families who lack paid leave and are struggling to be present for their loved ones while meeting work and financial obligations. RSVP to Linda Kemp at: [umcgrundy@gmail.com](mailto:umcgrundy@gmail.com) or call 319-825-5408.

## Palestine Advocacy Day:

Join a thousand activists and organizers from more than 32 states to lobby for Palestine and Palestinian human rights. There will be two full days of legislative advocacy and local advocacy training along with one full day of Capitol Hill meetings, and visits with legislators. The dates are **March 22 -24.** The registration fee of \$150.00 includes two nights hotel and meals. For a limited time, get 25% off your PAD ticket by applying code "25OFF" at checkout. For more information, please contact [advocacyday@ampalestine.org](mailto:advocacyday@ampalestine.org).

## Simpson Youth Academy Celebration:

Join high school students from the Simpson Youth Academy for their year-end party! Enjoy a free lunch and support youth as they share about mercy and justice projects they have implemented in their local communities. It's an easy way to support young leaders! **March 28, Noon-2:00PM, Simpson College in Indianola.** Contact director Eric Rucker at: [eric.rucker@simpson.edu](mailto:eric.rucker@simpson.edu) if you are interested in attending.

## Dingman Peace Award Dinner:

You are invited to the annual Dingman Peace Award Dinner, to be held on **Saturday, March 28, at 6:00 PM, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 2926 Beaver Avenue in Des Moines.** The speaker will be **Johnny Zokovitch**, the Executive Director of Pax Christi USA, and the award recipient will be long-time peace and justice activist and educator, **Carla Dawson.** Tickets are \$50.00. For more information, or to obtain tickets, please contact Patti McKee at: [catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com](mailto:catholicpeaceministry@gmail.com). or at: 515-803-1152.



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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

## **Foolish Church Events:**

Pastor Lee Schott will discuss her book, *Foolish Church: Messy, Raw, Real and Making Room*, in two events before Easter. The remaining event is on **Sunday, March 29, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, at Grace UMC, 200 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW, in Mason City.** It is hosted by Carol Kress, North Central District Superintendent, as part of the “All District READS” that has focused on *Foolish Church*. For more information, please contact Pastor Lee at: 515-360-3977 or at; [revlas333@gmail.com](mailto:revlas333@gmail.com).

## **Peace with Justice Scholarship Essay Contest Now Open:**

The Board of Church and Society is once again offering this essay contest to students who are high school juniors or seniors during the current school year. The applicant need not be a member of a United Methodist Church nor any other religious organization. Three \$500 scholarships will be awarded. The topic is, “In a society that is alarmingly divided, how can we promote justice, build understanding and acceptance of others, and promote systemic changes that will enable all people to live in freedom and peace?” For more information, or to submit an entry, please contact Laura Oliver at: [loliver19829@gmail.com](mailto:loliver19829@gmail.com). **Deadline for entries is April 1, 2020.**

## **Alternative Discussion Group:**

The group will meet **Tuesdays, May 1 and 15, at 7:00 PM,** in the **dining room of Hy-Vee,** at the intersection of 32<sup>nd</sup> Street NE and Oakland Road NE, in **Cedar Rapids.** The new book is *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, by Carson McCullers, reading Chapter 1 for May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Just Faith Course Offerings:**

The Center for Social Ministry is offering the following courses this winter/spring:

**Living Compassionately: Caring for the Poor:** in this eight-week program participants focus on poverty, consumerism and the Gospel call to care for the poor. **Tuesdays, 6 - 8 PM, February 18 – April 14,** at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 1020 24<sup>th</sup> Street in West Des Moines. Facilitator: Jamie Loggins-Evans. Cost \$80.

**Living Justly: Caring for Each Other:** This eight-week program will focus on issues of racial and economic justice. **Mondays 6:30 – 8:30 PM, January 30 – March 30,** at Grace Lutheran Church, 23932 Meadow Road, in Adel. Facilitators: Rev. Julie Higgs and Trish Radke. Cost \$80. **OR**

**Mondays 6 – 8 PM, March 9 – May 4** at Ss. John and Paul Catholic Church, 1401 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. South in Altoona. Facilitators: Joe Antonelli and Ruth Johnson. Cost \$80.

**Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege:** This eight-week program awakens small groups to economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. **Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM January 30 – March 26,** at Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart Catholic Church, 510 East First Street, in Ankeny. Facilitators: Jane Alderman and Dixie Webb. Cost \$80. **OR** **Wednesdays, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, February 12 – April 8** at Des Moines Valley Friends House, 4211 Grand Avenue, in Des Moines. Facilitator: Jamie Loggins-Evans. Cost \$80. **OR Mondays 6 – 8 PM, February 10 - April 6,** at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, 1240 66<sup>th</sup> Street in Windsor Heights. Facilitators: Julie Fugenschuh and Tony Wilson. Cost \$80

To register for any of these, please go to: [www.csm.coursestorm.com](http://www.csm.coursestorm.com)!



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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

## **MFSA Social Action Award:**

Nominations are still being accepted for MFSA's Social Action Award to be given on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Annual Conference. Send your questions and/or nominations to Eloise at:

[ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)

## **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.

- 1.) 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.).
- 2.) For families affected by Mt. Pleasant ICE raid, contact First Presbyterian Church, 902 S. Walnut St., Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.
- 3.) For families in Des Moines separated by ICE, contact Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Rd., Urbandale, IA 50323-1810.
- 4.) For bail funds contact Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project, PO Box 3174, Iowa City, IA 52244-3174.

## **SAVE THESE DATES:**

**April 5:** Palm Sunday Procession and Service for Peace, in Des Moines

**April 9:** "Surviving Hiroshima and the Struggle for a Nuclear-Free World" in Ames

**May 15:** "From West Point to Anti-Empire" in Des Moines

**May 16:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day Rally & Direct Action