



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

APRIL 2021

Spring Statewide Gathering! Saturday, April 24, 9:45 AM:

MFSA's Spring Statewide Zoom Gathering will feature **Matt Russell**, Executive Director for Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. His topic is **"From Climate Change to Climate Action."** Devotions will be led by SYA (Simpson Youth Academy). NOTE STARTING TIME CHANGE TO 9:45 AM.

Sign Up for Action Alerts:

The Legislature is still in Session, so there's still 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, email Brian Carter at: Briancar@dwx.com.

Care of Creation: Recycling Presentation:

Learn the new guidelines from Metro Waste Authority. Date: **Monday, April 19, 6:30- 7:30 PM**, via Zoom. Contact: dwebb4451@gmail.com

Beyond the Book:

The Center for Social Ministry is hosting this program to highlight the important works of social justice and those who live them out. Current book: ***Behold the Dreamers***, by Imbolo Mbue. **Tuesday, April 20, 6:30-8:30 PM**. For information, contact: director@centerforsocialministry.org

Center for Social Ministries Spring Webinars:

Faith & Racial Healing: Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration:

Sunday evenings, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, beginning **April 18**

Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege:

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30, beginning **April 20**

Faith and Racial Justice: Changing Systems and Structures:

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30, beginning **April 20**

For more information or to register, please contact: director@centerforsocialministry.org

Panel Discussion with Iowa Farmers – April 22, 7:00 PM:

Hear Iowa Farmers and experts who are leading the way in our transition to a regenerative agriculture system. Panelists are **Denise O'Brien**, Fruit and Vegetable Farmer; **Francis Thicke**, Dairy Farmer and Soil Scientist; **John Ikerd**, Sustainable Agriculture Economies Expert.

Info and registration at Sierra Club Iowa Chapter website.

Good Reading!

Rollin Howell is recommending *Animal, Vegetable, Junk*, by Mark Bittman. The book gives a history of food production and offers a model for alternate food production that is more sustainable, and environmentally friendly.

Letters to People Incarcerated:

Freedom for Immigrants is looking for people to write letters to people who are incarcerated. Contact: rev.emily@trinitylasamericas.org or 970-471-1595.



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Immigration Working Group:

A project of the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center (NEIPJC), the Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. They provide education, advocacy, accompaniment/transportation for Check-ins in Cedar Rapids, Omaha and Des Moines and food to food insecure families, as well as connecting with JFON, Catholic Charities, Private Attorneys and others working with immigrants. Contact: www.neipjc.org.

Join the Legislative Advocacy Team:

We are looking to add team members and advocates to the **Conference Legislative Advocacy Team**. Team members will meet (virtually or by phone) to discuss key bills and make declarations based on the Social Principals. You may also lobby on behalf of the Iowa UMC by phone and email and help coordinate events, trainings, and speakers. We need folks who can assist with email blasts and social media presence and anyone with a passion for social justice who can bring new ideas to the team! If you are interested just go to: Advocacy@iaumc.org. You do NOT need to be affiliated with a UMC to join.

Support the Team!

Support for our Legislative Advocacy Team is needed more than ever. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed to that fund. **With MFSA's match, over \$7,000 has been raised**, and there is still some match money available. You can send your financial support for the important work of Advocacy by sending a check, made out to MFSA, with Legislative Advocacy Team in the Memo line, to Mike Biklen, 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761. Or you can donate online, once again designating your contribution to the Legislative Advocacy Team. Thanks!

Pronouns 101:

NEIPJC's Pronoun Education Project offers these trainings. For information about cost, details and scheduling, contact: NEIPJC: www.neipjc.org

Black Lives Matter Signs:

Cost is \$20.00. Contact NEIPJC: www.neipjc.org

Peace Vigils & Walks – [information on recurring events on mfsaiowa.org/memo](http://www.mfsaiowa.org/memo)

Connect with National and Global MFSA

Subscribe to MFSAVoices at mfsaweb.org.

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

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.