



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

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HONORING THOSE LOST TO COVID-19 at Walnut Hills UMC – January 3

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, Urbandale, will be recognizing those Iowans who died from Covid-19 in 2020 with a “Reading of the Names” on Sunday, January 3, at 3:00 p.m. Using lists from the “Des Moines Register” and names submitted by Walnut Hills members, 483 names will be read. The event will be posted on [Walnut Hills Facebook](#) page or YouTube, on Sunday afternoon, January 3, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to watch and pay tribute to those lost to Covid-19 this past year.

Request:

If you know you will be “Temporarily Away” during January, February and March, please let us know so that we don’t have to pay extra postage when your SQB is returned. We can omit mailing to you for just those months. **OR**, you can choose to receive the SQB online and get it wherever you are during those months. Thanks!

Save the Date! MFSA’s Spring Statewide Gathering - Saturday, April 24

MFSA’s Spring Statewide Zoom Gathering will feature **Matt Russell**, Executive Director for Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Feast of the Holy Innocents Replay

“Weeping for Our Children” a Service hosted by Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace on December 27 can be viewed at: [Feast of the Holy Innocents.mp4 - Google Drive](#).

Virtual Advocacy Day – January 25

The 2021 Virtual Advocacy Day will be held on **Monday, January 25**. RSVP for updates and invite your friends: [Iowa United Methodist Advocacy Day | Facebook](#).

Join the Conference Legislative Advocacy Team:

We are seeking team members and advocates for the **Conference Legislative Advocacy Team**. Team members will meet (virtually or by phone) to discuss key bills and make declarations based on the Social Principles. 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. Anyone with a passion for social justice to share new ideas! If you are interested email: Advocacy@iaumc.org. You do NOT need to be affiliated with a UMC to be considered.

Iowa CURE Meeting - January 17:

Featured speaker on January 17 at 2:00 PM is **Wendy Wittrock**, talking about progress toward a hospitality house for families visiting loved ones in Anamosa. **Brian Carter** will also give an update on the Iowa Legislature. Watch for Zoom details.

Mental Health Advocacy Skills Training – January 21 :

Learn how to engage stakeholders about the importance of children’s crisis services, organize meetings with local decision makers and stakeholders. **Monday, January 21 at 5:30 PM** Register in advance for this meeting at: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqdOGtpz8jH9Ld_3CBCCBvmiENSK-ZPnC



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SURJ Book Club – January 20

Our SURJ book group will meet on Wednesday, January 20 via Zoom. We will be discussing chapters 4 and 5 of *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

To receive connection information, email info@becomingbelovedcommunity.org

<https://www.facebook.com/events/841460539945197>

SURJ Book Club – January 23:

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies by trauma specialist and author, Resmaa Menakem. Discuss Part 1 on **Saturday, January 23, 10:00 AM on Zoom**. Please consider buying the book from a DSM bookstore, Storyhouse Bookpub. All proceeds from these sales go to Des Moines BLM.

<https://bookshop.org/lists/showing-up-for-racial-justice-surj-des-moines-book-club-picks>

New Just Faith Programs:

The Center for Social Ministry offers a new series of 8-week programs on racism. For more information about this series or how to register, please contact: centerforsocialministry@gmail.com

—Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege:

Online on **Tuesday afternoons, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, starting January 26**

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

Online on **Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30, beginning January 19**

—Faith & Racial Justice: Changing Systems & Structures:

Online **Thursdays from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, starting January 21**

Note: As a **prerequisite** for this class participants **MUST** have completed either Faith & Racial Equity, or Faith & Racial Healing.

—Hunger: A Faith & Justice Response:

Online on **Tuesdays, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, starting January 19th.**

Called to Climate Action with Iowa Interfaith Power and Light: Please Sign!

Iowa Interfaith Power and Light invites all persons of faith and conscience to sign the “2020 Called to Climate Action” statement. IIPPL works on: clean energy, environmental equity, protect water, regenerative farming practices, among others. Sign as a concrete action to help realize these goals. Learn more and sign: [Iowa IPL Uphold and Uplift Statement](https://www.iowapl.org/2020-called-to-climate-action)

Black Stories at Des Moines Art Center through January 17

Black Stories features a collection of artwork co-curated by Mitchell Squire and Jordan Weber. **Take a virtual tour** and submit a story: <https://www.desmoinesartcenter.org/exhibitions/black-stories>

2020 Hunger Summit Addresses Racial Equity and COVID-19:

The Summit in October featured conversations on the importance of racial equity within our food systems, addressed the effects and long-term outcomes of COVID-19 on vulnerable and under-resourced populations, and sought to increase collaboration and united community development both during times of crisis, as well as during times of business as usual.” (from the Executive Summary) Access the many excellent resources: www.IowaHungerSummit.org/2020ResourceGuide.



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Applications Open for EYA Internships:

The Ethnic Young Adult Internship (EYA) program offered by the General Board of Church and Society is now accepting application for the Summer Program, **June 5 – July 31**. The program is for young justice seekers willing to unpack their faith and identity while working with an organization engaged in addressing social injustices. DYAs have the unique opportunity to learn about the role of Church and Society at the United Nations by visiting its UN office, and also visit a UMC historical site. Applications are **due March 1**. For more information, please contact Katie Monfortte at: kmonfortte@umjustice.org, or by phone at: 202-488-5650.

Children of Abraham:

Discussions continue virtually with timely topics. Each session begins with a structured interview of panelists, followed by the opportunity to talk with each other in large and small groups. More at www.cofabraham.org.

Refugee Admissions at Historic Low: Contact Legislators!

Church World Service (CWS) shares an urgent concern about the number of refugees to be admitted in the coming year. The Administration has set the number at 15,000, the lowest level in U.S. history. In addition, it is harmfully restricting refugee arrivals based on limited categories of persecution and country of origin, meaning even fewer than 15,000 refugees will actually be resettled. CWS is calling on all people of faith who care about refugees to **contact your legislators** immediately, urging them to speak out in support of refugee resettlement at 95,000, which has been the U.S.'s goal for nearly four decades, and to expand the categories of refugees who can be welcomed.

Looking for a Good Book?

Rollin Howell is recommending *Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide* by Erica Etelson. For other suggestions from Rollin, contact him at: rollink.howell29@gmail.com

Find recurring events and requests on www.mfsaiowa.org/memo.html