



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

SEPTEMBER 2021

Labor Day weekend has become a kind of “last fling” holiday, one last time to enjoy the great out-of-doors before colder weather and busier schedules kick in. It is also a time to honor workers and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of justice for workers everywhere, a cause that has been a core issue for MFSA since its beginning in 1907. For the past year and a half the pandemic has hit many workers very hard, giving even more urgency to the issue. So have a great holiday but remember to continue the struggle for dignity and justice for workers.

Happy Labor Day!
Eloise

MFSA Fall Statewide Gathering:

We are excited that the presenter for our Fall Statewide Gathering will be the **Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson!** Her keynote address is “**Stand Up and Speak Out: Moving from Silent Non-racist to Brave Anti-racist.**” The Gathering will be held on **Saturday, October 30 from 9:30 Am – Noon.** Social Action Awards will be presented at that time. The recipients are **Kate Milligan and the Rev. Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz.** There will also be election of officers for 2022. The Gathering will be held at **Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman, Urbandale.** A virtual option will also be available. Watch for a link in the Mid-Month Update and on our web page.

A Community Read with NEIJPC and Luther College in Decorah:

The reality of more severe weather events across the world is undeniable. Change is occurring at a rapid pace, and some changes are irreversible. The Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center (NEIJPC), in collaboration with Luther’s Center for Ethics and Public Engagement (CEPE) is providing a path to greater awareness of these issues. They are providing free copies of ***The Ministry for the Future, a novel by Kim Stanley Robinson*** that confronts the challenges of climate change with vision and strategies for a more just future. Copies of the book will be available at the Peace and Justice Center office, 119 Winnebago Street, in **Decorah on Saturday, September 4, 11:00 – 1:00 pm.** A book discussion will be scheduled by NEIJPC in late September, and other resources will be provided to explore questions raised by the book.

CARE Workshops Available:

Decorah’s Collective Action for Racial Equity (CARE) group is holding workshops to hone listening and persuasion skills. They will follow **Dr. David Camp’s workbook, “Compassion Transforms Contempt.”** The workshops are held at **Shelter #3 in Phelps Park, in Decorah, 6:00- 7:30 pm, September 2 and 16.** For more information, please contact: decorahcare@gmail.com.

Meeting in the Field: Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Framework

This webinar will be led by **Cory Lockhart**, teacher, artist, public speaker, and peacemaker. In a context in which messages of shame, blame, judgment, criticism, and punishment abound, nonviolent communication gives us a path to the field of connection. The date is **Thursday, September 9 at 6:00 PM CT.** For information, contact: centerforsocialministry@gmail.com
<https://justfaith.org/20th-anniversary-celebration/>



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Raise for Change:

This Fall Fundraiser is an opportunity to celebrate the Center for Social Ministries, its past, present, and future work by hearing from inspirational speakers and current day change makers. It will be held **virtually on Tuesday, September 14 at 6:30 PM** and will feature **Dr. Lewis Brogdon**, Research Professor of Preaching and Black Church Studies at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. In June 2021 he wrote an op-ed in the *Louisville Courier-Journal* entitled, **“America at the Crossroads: Conversations All Americans Need to Have in 2021,”** in which he addressed divisions in our nation and the need to recognize that we are citizens of one nation. To learn more and to donate to register: <https://centerforsocialministry.org/raise-for-change/>

“For the Turning of the World”

This is the theme of the 2021 Observance of International Day of Peace on **Tuesday, September 21, at 6:30, at the Peace Garden in Cowles Commons**, 221 Walnut Street, in **Des Moines**. The service will feature statements by young people who participated in DMARC’s Interfaith Summer Camp, with special music by Bridges 2 Harmony. It will express a position against war shared by all faith traditions. We will renew our commitment to be instruments of God’s peace.

Shut Down DM’s Drone Command Center:

Weekly vigils continue to be held on **Saturdays at 4:00 PM** at the **Air National Guard Drone Command Center**, 3100 McKinley Ave., Des Moines. Contact Ed Bloomer at 515-305-5591 or Frank Cordaro at: 515-490-2590 or: frank.cordaro@gmail.com

MLK Freedom Bus Tour 2021!

Plan ahead for this week-long journey exploring iconic human and civil rights spaces in Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. Dates are **November 8-12**, starting from Allen College in Waterloo where participants may leave their cars for the week. Cost is \$399, with checks or money orders to: MLK New Jerusalem and sent to: Waterloo Commission on Human Rights, 620 Mulberry Street, Waterloo, IA 50703. **Deadline for payment: October 15**. Contact Rev. Abraham Funchess: Abraham.funchess@waterloo-ia.org, or 319-291-4441. [Online flyer](#)

Immigration Working Group:

A project of the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center (NEIPJC), the Group meets the second and fourth 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 IMMJ, Catholic Charities, Private Attorneys and others working with immigrants. Contact: www.neipjc.org.

[Recurring events and notices are on mfsaiowa.org/memo](http://www.mfsaiowa.org/memo)

Donations and Membership

Contact [Mike Biklen](#) at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or call 563-263-1439. [Donate via PayPal](#) to MFSA Iowa. Thank you.