



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Maria Van Der Maaten, Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

NOVEMBER 2022

MFSA Iowa Fall Gathering - November 12 – Collegiate Wesley UMC, Ames

Join us at Collegiate Wesley UMC (2622 Lincoln Way, Ames) on Saturday, November 12 at 1:30pm to reminisce about our mission and vision and dream about the future of MFSA Iowa.

As a chapter, we are exploring where we have been and what our task is as we seek peace and justice in an ever-changing world (and denomination). Additionally, we hope that this space serves as an opportunity for some much-needed social time—meet up with friends before or after the gathering to break bread or share with one another what you are working on in your part of the state. We look forward to dreaming with you!

Iowa Public Measure 1 Information

In November, Iowa voters will vote on Public Measure 1 that would add a reckless gun amendment to Iowa's Constitution. The Reckless Gun Amendment is NOT the 2nd Amendment. It will place commonsense gun laws in danger and could prohibit reasonable safety measures from remaining or becoming law. Iowans, including responsible gun owners and law enforcement, overwhelmingly support commonsense gun laws. Last week the Progressive Voices United coalition launched the "What's Possible" Get Out the Vote campaign, featuring a new video to promote voter turnout across the state. Progressive Voices United, a collaborative effort by more than a dozen non-profit Iowa-based organizations, launched the campaign to help Iowans dream of what's possible in Iowa when we work together and when all of us vote. We know What's Possible (video link) when Iowans vote for the common good. (From Iowa Interfaith Alliance, 26 October 2022)

Note: At Annual Conference, Resolution #704 Gun Violence Resolution passed 439-234. The resolution asks Iowa United Methodists to "oppose and vote to defeat the 'Iowa Right to Keep and Bear Arms Amendment'." At the MFSA caucus that evening, MFSA members voted to join Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws. We stand opposed to the Iowa Gun Amendment.

Related:

CAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP & NON-PROFITS SPEAK OUT AGAINST A BALLOT MEASURE AND ASK FOLKS TO VOTE NO? The answer is YES! Ballot Measures are different than elections. Electioneering (promoting/opposing a candidate for public office) is illegal for houses of worship and other 501c3 non-profits. Opposing Public Measure 1: The Reckless Gun Amendment and other ballot measures is perfectly legal for houses of worship and other 501c3 non-profits. Learn more here from Interfaith Alliance of Iowa. To read the letter signed by faith leaders throughout the state in opposition of Public Measure 1, click here.

Vote NO on Public Measure 1 Yard Signs Available

In Des Moines: The Iowa Catholic Conference office, 530 42nd St, Des Moines, is the collection point. Call 515-243-6256 and arrange to pick up as many as you need. Rita Carter also has yard signs available. Email ritaac@mchsi.com or call 515-979-0605 for arrangements.

In Cedar Rapids: email mikewyrick@gmail.com for more information.

A donation is not required but it is appreciated (online or by check). Signs cost the coalition \$4/sign. For more information, click here.



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Intersections: Food Insecurity (virtual and in-person) – November 4

Food insecurity is all around us. Much of the time, food is the first item to be sacrificed when a household's resources are strained. On Friday, November 4 at 11:45 am, Mallory Stewart, Regional Partnership coordinator for Linn and Benton Counties at the Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) Food Reservoir, will share how the HACAP Food Reservoir works and provide an overview of food insecurity in the Linn County Area. In-person event will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids; [click here](#) for more information or to register for the event.

Interfaith Concert (in-person) – Sunday, November 6 in Clive

Musicians from Des Moines Metro's diverse faith communities will share their favorite songs of gratitude at 6:30pm on Sunday, November 6 at Faith Lutheran Church in Clive. In this season of giving thanks, many neighbors struggle to feed their families. Each year area food pantries see the highest number of visitors in November; this year there has been a dramatic increase overall in food insecurity in Central Iowa, meaning November will break some unfortunate records. A free will offering to benefit the DMARC Food Pantry network will be taken; bring case or in-date, unopened, non-perishable food items. [Facebook event](#)
For more information, contact Sarah Trone-Garriott at stronegarriott@dmarcunited.org.

10th Annual Inclusion Summit (in-person) – November 9

The 10th Annual Inclusion Summit will take place on Wednesday, November 9 at the FFA Enrichment Center at the Des Moines Area Community College Ankeny Campus from 8:30 am until 1 pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to discover tools and resources to build equity-centered practices, systems, and organizations. Click here for more information or to register (the event is free to attend, but registration is required).

Children of Abraham: Jealousy (in-person/virtual) - November 17

The next Children of Abraham conversation will be "Jealousy" at the University of Dubuque on November 17. In order to encourage as much in-person attendance as is possible and appropriate, the Zoom link will be available upon request (contact john.eby@loras.edu or tania.tauseef@loras.edu). We'd love to have you join us in-person or virtually.

Dreams, Hope, and Resilience: DM Diversity Chorus Fall Concert (in-person) – November 21

The Des Moines Diversity Chorus Fall Concert will be held on Monday, November 21 at 7 pm at Grace UMC in Des Moines. The concert will feature City Voices. [Facebook event](#)

National and Global MFSA

To connect with the larger MFSA community, subscribe to MFSAVoices at mfsaweb.org.

Peace Vigils and Walks: Information on recurring events available at mfsaiowa.org/memo

Questions about Membership?

Contact Mike Biklen at ymbiklen@hotmail.com, by phone at 563-263-1439 or at 515 E. 11th St., Muscatine, IA 52761. Contributions can also be sent to Mike at this address.