

June 2017

Upcoming Events

June 15

CCO Social Justice Film Viewing
"The Raising of America"
5:30-7:00 pm
The Family Conservancy
444 Minnesota Ave, KCK

June 19

Showing Up for Racial Justice Meeting
St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran
3800 Troost Ave.
7-8:30 pm

June 21

Ramadan Fast-Breaking Dinner
8:00 pm, SMUUCH
Bring a dish (see article on page 2 for details)

June 21

Unitarian Universalist Assn. General Assembly begins
New Orleans, LA

June 26

MOD Pizza JoCo Q-Space fundraiser
4:00 pm : MOD Pizza 153rd st.

Sewing Machines Needed!

Della Lamb is an organization teaching refugees to sew. On completion of their course, each woman is given a sewing machine, iron, ironing board, and fabric.

If you can donate a sewing machine, iron, or ironing board, please contact Bev Sherwood: sherwoodb@swbell.net



JoCo Q-Space Serves LGBTQ Teens

Lisa Lero, an advisor with JoCo Q-Space, Johnson County's first support group for LGBTQIA youth, joined SMUUCH for a Social Justice Council potluck this month and discussed ways our church can support the group. The group, which formed this spring, has seen a steady increase in members, particularly those who identify as transsexual.

JoCo Q-Space offers advocacy, resources, support – and a safe place – for LGBTQIA youth from 12 – 20 to learn, grow and get fact-based information. The meetings, held at St. Andrew's Christian Church in Olathe, are led by trained, and background checked adult advisors. Meetings, held twice monthly, typically include an educational component, followed by hangout time with the youth.

"We are the first and only Johnson County group dedicated to helping our LGBTQ youth," she said. "And we can't believe how much interest we've seen since starting.

While the meetings are for LGBTQIA youth only, the advisors welcome the opportunity to visit with allies and supportive groups.

The group welcomes financial support as well as food donations for meetings.

Join JoCo Q-Space on June 26 4 PM on at MOD Pizza in Olathe, 20152 W. 153rd Street, where they'll be on hand celebrating the anniversary of marriage equality. MOD Pizza is donating 20 percent of all purchases that evening to the group.

RSVP for the event on their facebook page - search JoCo Q-Space - or contact the group's founder Cassandra Peters at 913-210-2337 for more information.

Volunteer with the Interfaith Hospitality Network

Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that serves homeless families in Johnson County. Its mission is to unite and enable the faith community to provide homeless families with emergency shelter, meals and compassionate assistance with social services and relationships with caring people in the faith community.

SMUUCH serves as an IHN support church, meaning that once every two to three months, we host guest families for one week in partnership with other IHN churches. During our IHN week, SMUUCH volunteers help provide meals for families and stay with the families in the evening and overnight.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- * Provide a meal for families.
- * Help to set up the meal and eat with families.
- * Play with children in the evening.
- * Stay overnight when families stay at the church.
- * Drive the IHN Van
- * Plan or help with fundraising.
- * Volunteer at the IHN family center.

Some activities require volunteer training. If you are interested in any of the activities, please contact Jan or Todd Davis (913-485-3049).

SMUUCH to Host Ramadan Fast-Breaking Dinner

At 8:00 pm on June 21, the Dialogue Institute of Kansas City will join us at SMUUCH to break the Ramadan fast with a potluck meal. The Dialogue Institute expects to have about 50 people join us.

In Islam, the month Ramadan is observed as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad. This holy month is regarded as one of the five pillars of Islam. During this month, Islamic adherents will not eat from dawn until sunset and will often break the fast together.

The Dialogue Institute will provide the main dish, dessert (which will probably have nuts), salad, and rice. SMUUCH members can bring other dishes as long as they include no alcohol (including vanilla) and are kosher or halal.

We are honored to be part of this Ramadan observance as hosts to our friends at the Dialogue Institute.

SMUUCH Environmental Watch

Each month Connections: the Social Justice newsletter will try to keep our congregation aware of environmental issues at SMUUCH and in the community.

With the recent withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, it is more important than ever that we do what we can to be active and stay informed.

Coffee Mugs at SMUUCH

Immediately, at SMUUCH we have made a small step forward by using ceramic cups at coffee hour. It only requires a few minutes after coffee hour to run the cups through the dishwasher to sanitize and then replace them for next Sunday.

We need a few volunteers to keep this program running. Contact Joan Langmack, or Barbara Shepard if you are willing to help. We can train you to use the dishwasher and continue to keep Styrofoam out of the landfill.

Postcards to Legislators

We have had a good response to writing postcards to our legislators on environmental and other social justice issues. We will continue to have postcards available. If you have issues you feel need to be addressed to our legislators, feel free to continue to use the table under the "Write Your Legislator" banner.

Social Justice Council members

Adam Wathen · Nancy Mays
Yvonne Gibbons · Joan Langmack
Marcia Rinehart