



May 2017

Upcoming Events

May 1

Mobilize! Rally! March!
United We Stand KC
4-7 pm - 12th and Wyandotte

May 2

Voices for Choice 2017
9 am – 12 pm
Topeka State Capitol

May 6

Affordable Health Care for Everyone
Rally – 2:30-4:30 pm
Lenexa Community Center

May 10

March Forward KC Meeting
6 pm : SMUUCH

Climate Emergency Demands Action

On April 19th, Craig Wolfe, president of the Heartland Renewable Energy Society and co-founder of the KC Climate Coalition, spoke to a crowd at SMUUCH about the Climate Emergency.



Wolfe's presentation gave factual information about the negative effects of human activity on our climate and what we can do to make a difference.

Wolfe says we need to

1. Remove climate deniers from our government
2. Divest your financial investments from fossil fuel organizations
3. Take meaningful personal action in your everyday lives

What can you do in your everyday life?

- Change to renewable energy where possible – including buying photovoltaic
- Change your diet – especially reducing red meat consumption
- Make your home more energy efficient - www.Energy.gov/public-services/homes
- Make lifestyle changes to reduce your energy use and carbon footprint - <https://carbonfund.org/reduce/>
- Be an activist! - join an organization to work with others
- Spread the word – talk about your changes and the facts of climate change

If you would like to find out more, join Craig Wolfe at <http://heartlandrenewable.org/> or contact him at info@Soular.co (not .com)

Climate Change Facts:

- ☐ CO₂ levels have risen to 400 parts per million for the first time in Earth's history. Any level above 350 is unsustainable. (NASA)
- ☐ Global sea levels have risen 8 inches in the 20th century – and almost 4 inches in the 21st century so far. (NASA)
- ☐ The earth's has increased 2 degrees in temperature in the last 100 years. (NASA)
- ☐ Arctic sea ice has reduced from almost 8 million km of ice in 1980 to 4.6 million in 2016. (NASA)

Social Justice Council members

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

SMUUCH Hunger Team Seeks Pantry Volunteers

When we moved into our current building nearly five years ago, one of our dreams was to operate a food pantry for our Lenexa neighbors. Shortly after moving, however, we discovered that nearby Salem Lutheran Church was already doing a great job serving the food insecure in our neighborhood with their own pantry, so we began partnering with them.

Every week, we help Salem distribute pantry packs to about 40 families in our community. We also collect food and donations to help keep the pantry stocked. This year we will have a donate-the-plate for the pantry in June, and a food drive in October.

Volunteers help distribute pantry packs on Thursdays in the foyer of the church, which is just a few blocks away from SMUUCH. Two shifts are available: 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and 4:45 to 7 p.m.

The most critical need is for the evening shift. Our volunteers work alongside volunteers from the host church to help the families choose a food pack, fresh produce, and free books. To sign up for a shift, use the Sign Up Genius link on our church website: go to Living Your Faith — Hunger Team — Salem Pantry.

Contact Jane O'Neil, jgoneil@kc.surewest.net, for more information about our partnership and how to volunteer.

SMUUCH Member Advocates for Anti-Corruption at Overland Park Council Meeting

On April 19, Amy E. Harth, Resolution Manager for the Northeast Kansas Chapter of Represent Us, presented at a meeting of the Overland Park City Council's Finance, Administration and Economic Development Committee. She went to build goodwill with the council and to ask them to consider an anti-corruption resolution urging the state and federal government to work toward reforms.

Harth describes the main issue as unequal influence of big money at the state and national level. The problem is that candidates and elected leaders may be swayed by the power of big money rather than the best interests of those they represent. She says that the American Anti-Corruption Act addresses this issue and more and that the ultimate goal of Represent Us is to get this reform passed at the national level. They are starting with local support to make our voices heard. Starting with local legislation demonstrates our power and will help us make a difference in gaining support from state and national legislators.

You can join Amy Harth by liking and following the NE Kansas Chapter of Represent Us at <https://www.facebook.com/RepresentUSNEKS/>. Represent Us, the nation's largest grassroots anti-corruption group. Represent Us brings together conservatives, progressives and everyone in between to pass anti-corruption reform around the country.

White Supremacy, the UUA, and an 8th Principle

This month, many UU churches are participating in a "teach-in" to discuss how white supremacy systemically impacts our UUA culture and hiring practices.

The term "white supremacy" is more insidious than swastikas or hooded figures. It is important that UU members recognize that racism is not just bias – it is a power differential which is more adequately described in the term "white supremacy."

A more just society demands that we recognize our part in perpetuating a system which has oppressed peoples of color for the purpose of maintaining wealth, power, and privilege.

The UUA asks us to examine our reaction to and responsibility for white power. One way to do that is by "power mapping" – examining the way influence (money, power, and relationships) affect our community. See examples and resources at <https://movetoamend.org/toolkit/guide-power-mapping>

In addition, the Black Lives of UU group <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/> has developed an 8th Principle.

"...journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

As UUs, we should engage and own the phrase "white supremacy" – there is power in language, and avoiding this term means abdicating our responsibility in dealing with the impact of white supremacy on people of color.