

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT for NOVEMBER 5, 2020

A meeting of the Social Justice committee was held on ZOOM Nov. 5, 2020. Present were: Sonia D'Alarcao, Janet Dye, Betty Gilson, Susan Irish, and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. The bank balance is \$4,349.37 of which \$1,283.22 is for *Read to Me, Father* and \$131.00 is for RE scholarships.
2. BLM banner
 - a. Rachel will have Tom St. Thomas hang the banner as soon as possible. Then we will schedule a date for a small dedication service to be attended possibly by some SJC members and Rev. Paul. We will ask Tony to do a video of the dedication and show it at a church service.
 - b. We decided it was best to wait for a larger, more inclusive dedication. Sam Baumgarten suggested a list of those to be invited: representatives of BCCR, D.I.C.E., Stand up for Justice, Dr. Mary Grant and others of the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice, Town Manager Michael Dutton, Asst. Town Manager Kimberly Williams, Town Council, the Police Chief, the Enterprise and Bridgewater Cable.
 - c. After discussing various dates, Sonia suggested Juneteenth and that sounded perfect. We will plan for June 19, 2021.
 - d. We may possibly include words by Rev. Kenny Wiley which Rev. Rachel had found.
 - e. We will continue to make plans for this event.
3. BLM film series
 - a. Tues., Nov. 24 at 7:00 pm we will meet on ZOOM to discuss *The Uncomfortable Truth* which people will have watched earlier.
 - b. Mon., Dec. 28 at 7:00 pm will watch and discuss *True Justice*, about the work of Bryan Stevenson. (1 hr. 42 min.). We will be sending out information about joining this showing.
 - c. On Tues., Jan. 26, 2021 we will discuss *The Hate U Give* which was scheduled for March. Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds -- the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend. We will investigate viewing options. Betty will check the church SJC library shelf to see whether we have a DVD of the film for people to borrow. Sonia said that we could suggest that people could read the book if they can not access the film.
 - d. We are looking for suggestions of films for the rest of the year. If you have ideas, please send the information to Betty Gilson at gillyflower@verizon.net.
4. Share the Plate
 - a. The Parish Committee has decided due to low collections, from now on it will be the whole plate donation for the month.
 - b. Rev. Paul would like us to continue GAYT through Dec. We decided that we would do that and switch D.I.C.E./BCCR from Dec. to Feb.

- c. Janet Dye will write an article for the weekly messages about donations especially to be members of the UUSC and to get matching funds from Shelter Rock Church.
- 5. Church of the Larger Fellowship service for Jan. 10, 2021
 - a. Betty shared information and links received from Church of the Larger Fellowship, especially about their Prison Ministry, Worthy Now. They have no videos.
 - b. Included was a letter from a prisoner which we may use. Janet Dye will share this as a reading at the service
 - c. Rev. Rachel Tedesco will do a sermon referencing the CLF work, rather than just a lecture.
 - d. Sonia will prepare a reflection on the success story of one of our fathers from the *Read to Me, Father* program at the prison. It will not include any names.
 - e. We will ask Susan Holton to share her information about the holiday cards we have sent to CLF prisoners in the past and one of us will explain that information. Betty will also ask Susan H. about plans for cards for this year.
 - f. Betty Gilson and Susan Irish will also help with the plans.
- 6. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches will be regularly made on the first Thursday of the month. The current protocol will continue for now, making the lunches from home and leaving at Betty's house for delivery.
- 7. Rev. Rachel's report
 - a. Rev. Rachel worked with UU the Vote by making phone calls to swing states. She made voice contact with about 15 people. She also worked with Vote Forward by sending 60 letters to swing states.
 - b. Janet Dye all made calls, but was only able to leave messages. So she wrote letters for Vote Forward.

Next meeting of SJC is Thurs., Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm.