

Be sure to vote FOR the Second Chances Amendment 4 on the ballot in November!



Adam Eichen, co-author of *Daring Democracy* (UUA Common Read) called this ballot initiative the most important voter enfranchisement effort since the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Nearly 1.4 million formerly incarcerated people in Florida will become eligible to vote.

The leader of this petition effort, Desmond Meade, is an ex-felon who, after being released from prison became a lawyer and still unable to vote in Florida, began organizing returning citizens like him. Many members and friends of our congregation signed petitions to get this amendment on the ballot, and now we need to vote for it. UUA and our UUFVB Board support it.

Love Resists,

a Joint Campaign of the UUA and UUSC

Love Resists is a collaborative response to the criminalization of people on the basis of identity, particularly migrants, people of color, and LGBTQ people. The campaign activates people of faith and conscience to resist the harm inflicted by criminalization.

The Trump administration announced it will resettle at most 30,000 refugees — the lowest number ever set by a U.S. president. This is in spite of the fact that the world is experiencing the largest refugee crisis on record, with more than 68.5 million people displaced from their homes.

Right now, Congress is debating spending bills that would increase funds for detention and deportation, at a time when immigration enforcement in this country has shown itself to be increasingly reckless and abusive. Love Resists is joining the Faith Week of Action, starting September 23, led by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC). We have a simple message for Congress: **Not one more penny for family separation, “zero tolerance” prosecutions, and detention.** For more information and ways to get involved go to: www.uusc.org/resources/tools-for-taking-action/migrant-justice/take-action-oppose-family-separation-detention/

American Rivers Sponsors “Litter for All Seasons”

Litter for All Seasons is an opportunity to clean up our favorite river, trail, park, riverbank or neighborhood and share our achievement. Kids are definitely invited to help. It’s a great stewardship activity for all ages. We’ll be able to clean up our community, make a difference for rivers, and set an example for other stewards.

The challenge is to find discarded plastic of any kind (bottles, straws, bags, cutlery, packaging, caps/lids, etc.). Once we find plastic litter, take a picture of it and post it to our personal Instagram or Twitter account with the hashtags #MakeAPactPackItOut and #RiverCleanup, making sure our accounts are public.

Plastic is one of the most heavily littered items and can take hundreds of years or longer to break down. Plastic breaks down into smaller pieces called microplastics. Alternatives exist for most single-use plastics.

American Rivers organization encourages us to adopt a mindset of reusing, refilling, and repurposing to reduce our plastic footprint. From the garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean to plastic water bottles and straws on a roadside, plastic litter surrounds us and threatens our pets, wildlife and waterways.

[from: <https://www.americanrivers.org/2018/09/litter-for-all-seasons-the-hunt-is-on/> by Erin Fitzgerald]

What You Can Do for Birds

1. All birds need clean water, food, and cover. When you hang a feeder, build a brush pile, create a birdbath, or fill your garden with native plants, birds get their necessities.
2. Speak up for birds! Join Audubon’s advocacy efforts at their online Action Center.
3. Keep cats inside. It’s estimated that up to 3.7 million birds a year are killed by America’s outdoor cats. Keep your cat indoors, where she can watch wildlife safely from a windowsill — not only is it better for the birds, your cat will stay safer, too.



[from: National Audubon Society, Sept. 23, 2018]

Love that Fair Trade Chocolate

Low prices and volatile markets mean that cocoa farmers are struggling to survive. Child labor also remains a huge issue on cocoa farms. Fair trade guarantees minimum prices plus development premiums that can help stave off the growing crisis in chocolate.

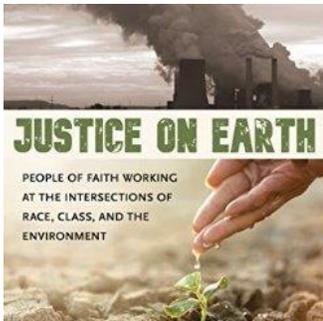
Nearly 70% of fair trade cocoa farmers' crops can't find a fair trade buyer. As one of the largest private label cocoa buyers in the country, Costco can change that. Shifting their purchases to fair trade certified purchases could make a big difference in farmers' livelihoods. That's why Fair World Project is calling on Costco to make a commitment to adapt their sourcing standards to prioritize fair trade.

[From: fairworldproject.org e-mail, Sept. 18, 2018]

Be sure to buy your chocolate - including your Hallowe'en candy-- in our own UU Fair Trade Corner!

The 2019 UUA Common Read is "*Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*"

Synopsis: Fourteen UU ministers and lay leaders examine the environmental crisis, showing how systems of oppression active in our country today (such as capitalism, white supremacy, and patriarchy) contribute to ecological devastation. Climate change, racism, classism (and other systems of oppression) affect marginalized communities in disproportionate ways. "Justice on Earth," brings these problems to light and encourages us to work with these intersections. The book also explores how spiritual practices, congregational organizing, and progressive theology can inform faith-based justice work in the twenty-first century. Revealing new approaches and opportunities for more holistic, accountable,



and connected justice efforts, each essay is accompanied by suggested ways to take the next steps for further learning and action.

[from : UU Ministry for Earth, August 16, 2018]

Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments



At least 60% of Florida voters must support these proposals in order for them to be adopted into our State Constitution. As voters, it is our civic duty to responsibly educate ourselves on

important changes to the Florida Constitution. The proposed constitutional amendments that you will see on the November ballot originated from either the Florida Legislature, the citizens of Florida or the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC).

The CRC placed eight proposals on this year's ballot, seven of which have been legally challenged. The Florida Supreme Court has ruled that Amendments 6, 10 and 13 will remain on the November ballot. However, the Court ordered the removal of Amendment 8 (regarding school board term limits and duties), upholding a previous court decision that found that the amendment was "misleading to voters." Proposed Constitutional Amendments 7, 9 and 11 are currently awaiting review by the Florida Supreme Court after a lower court ordered them off the ballot because they "combined ideas that should have been separated for voters." Counties are now printing the vote-by-mail ballots. If the court rules to remove the amendments, there will be signs posted at voting precincts that proposals 7, 9 or 11 are not to be considered as Amendments to our constitution. [from: The Mayfield Minute, Sept. 23, 2018]

What To Do with Your Unused Prescriptions

Unused pills should not be flushed down the toilet because they can contaminate surface and drinking water supplies. You can take them to Walgreen's at US 1 and 17th Street. Another place to take them is HALO No-Kill Rescue Shelter, 710 Jackson Street, in Sebastian.

The 3 R's Are Now the 5 R's

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle have been enlarged to **REFUSE** things you don't need, **REDUCE** things you have, **REUSE** everything, **RECYCLE** what can't be used, and put the rest in the compost bin – **ROT**. Visit <https://zerowastehome.com/> for lots of ideas to reduce personal trash and plastic packaging.