

September 19, 2023

Beloveds,

It's no secret that fall is a season of transition - a time that is ripe with possibility and potential while also calling us inwards toward deep spiritual grounding as we prepare for the year ahead. MUUSJA, too, has been in a season of transition as I ease into the role of Executive Director and we welcome two wonderful new organizers to our staff team: Dallas Rising and Rev. Leslie Mills. I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, Karen Wills, for her guidance and support through this transition and to our Regional Organizer, Allison Wyeth, for her generous spirit and creative collaboration.

As we move into our next chapter, we hope to support you, your congregation, and your justice work in meaningful, creative, and transformative ways as we co-create pathways and practices to bring healing, joy, and liberation into the world.

Our fall offerings focus on connection, community, and commitment. We hope you'll join us for some (or all!) of these opportunities to build the Beloved Community, ground yourself firmly in your UU faith values, and protect the people and places you love as we recommit ourselves time and time again to the work of justice.

As we move into the year ahead, I'd love to hear from you about ways that MUUSJA can be helpful to you and the causes you hold close to your heart. [Drop me a note](#) and let me know your thoughts, suggestions, and feedback! I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be in community with you and wish you every blessing in this fall season.

Towards justice with love,

Katie Kline
Executive Director

P.S. Be sure to check out our freshly updated [website](#) regularly for the latest MUUSJA news, happenings, and opportunities for engagement!

MUUSJA FALL OFFERINGS

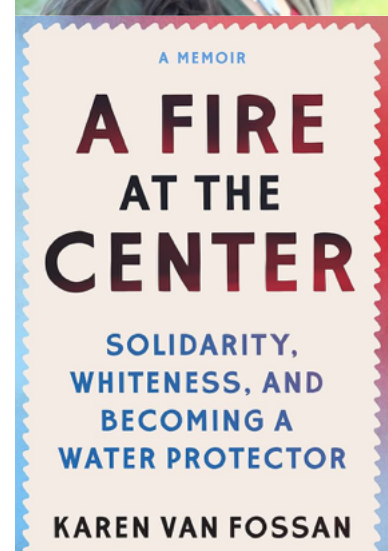
Conversations in Community



Book Launch and Conversation With Karen Van Fossan

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 - 8pm CST



All are welcome to join MUUSJA in conversation with Rev. Karen Van Fossan, an abolitionist, minister, professional counselor, street chaplain, and former defendant in the Line 3 pipeline resistance. This special program will also celebrate the release of her new book, *A Fire at the Center: Solidarity, Whiteness, & Becoming a Water Protector*. The book takes readers from behind the scenes of the Dakota Access Pipeline conflict, to penitentiaries where prisoners of war have carried the movement onward, to the jail cell where Karen was held for protesting Line 3, to a reimagining of decolonized family constellations, and to moments of collective hope and strength.

[Click here to join this special event.](#)

Spiritual Care



Spiritual Centering for Justice-Seekers

Second Sundays of the Month from 7 - 8pm

Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10

How do we create sustainable practices in this age of burnout and compassion fatigue? Join us the second Sunday of each month for a virtual hour of spiritual nourishment and let us feed your spirit as we offer faith-based spiritual practices to fuel your justice work. Led by Rev. Leslie Mills. [Click here to join.](#)

Extended Learning Opportunities



Six-Session Course Trans Inclusion in Congregations

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8pm

Oct 11 - Nov 15

Is your congregation ready to take your welcome to the next level? Developed by Rev. Mykal Slack and Zr. Alex Kapitan, this course is for individuals, groups, and congregational teams who want to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and how to create congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over six sessions you will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community, and gain the grounding, context, and skills to transform yourself and your congregation. Join us in building sanctuaries for trans people & families within our congregations and beloved communities. *Congregational teams are encouraged. Limit of 3 people per congregation.* Facilitated by Seth Anderson-Matz, MUUSJA Executive Director, Katie Kline, and MUUSJA Board Member Lynn Degerstrom. [Click here to register.](#)

Seth Anderson-Matz is an interfaith & non-denominational faith leader, and a seminarian in the M.Div. in Religion & Theology program at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Seth is currently serving as Interim Minister of First Presbyterian Church of Mankato, and previously served as Program Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis. He is also a member of the 2022-23 National Trans Seminarian Leadership Cohort.

Congregational Support Workshops



Beyond the Land Acknowledgment

Thursday, October 12 from 10 - 11:30am

How do you, or your congregation, move from the sharing of a land acknowledgment towards action, interaction, and accountability? Let's gather to reaffirm our commitment to right relationship and to explore what steps are needed to move towards real repair as we work to create the conditions that make collective liberation possible. [Click here to register.](#)



Rooted in Care

Thursday, November 2 from 10 - 11:30am

Join us for a discussion about how community care among congregants can build a foundation for powerful action and organizing beyond church. We'll look at some of the common reasons folks do not participate in calls to action and how mutual aid within congregations strengthens and enhances our ability to show up as a community when we're needed. Facilitated by MUUSJA organizer and community activist, Dallas Rising. [Click here to register.](#)

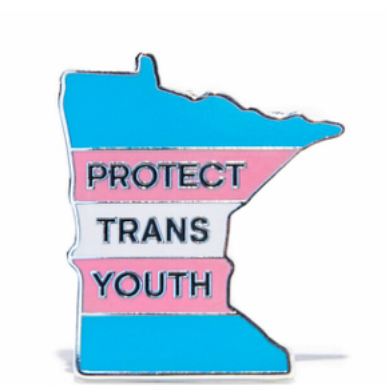


Multigenerational Organizing

Thursday, December 7 from 10 - 11:30 am

Join this workshop to learn effective strategies and techniques for engaging folks of all ages and stages in your justice work. We'll hear from Minnesota UU youth activists as well as community elders on creative, joyful, and meaningful ways to organize and connect across the generations. [Click here to register.](#)

Regional Issue Forums



Supporting Transgender Relocation to Minnesota

Monday, October 23 from 6:30 - 8pm

Minnesota is increasingly becoming a refuge state for our trans siblings looking to relocate from hostile environments. But moving across the country is no easy task and the financial costs can be prohibitive. Join this forum to learn how you or your congregation can support the relocation efforts of individuals who identify as transgender, non-binary, and gender-non-conforming to the state of Minnesota. [Click here to register.](#)



Combating Hate in Minnesota

Monday, November 13 from 6:30 - 8pm

Incidents of antisemitism, white nationalism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism are on the rise in Minnesota. In response, MUUSJA has joined an interfaith coalition called Communities Combating Hate that is advocating for policy changes and educating communities about the role these forms of hatred play in our current political environment. Join this important forum to learn how you or your congregation can mobilize to make Minnesota safe for everyone - no exceptions. Facilitated by former MUUSJA Executive Director, Karen Wills. [Click here to register.](#)



Reproductive Justice: The Work Goes On

Monday, December 11 from 6:30 - 8pm

In a single, historic legislative session, Minnesota dismantled five decades of anti-abortion restrictions, enshrining the right to abortion in Minnesota law. And we've made our state a safe haven for everyone who needs, provides, or helps someone get abortion care. But significant barriers to abortion and reproductive health care access remain. Join this forum to learn how you and your congregation can help to clear them away. [Click here to register.](#)

Actions for All Ages



Chalk the Vote!

Sunday, November 5 (Anytime)

Street art has long been used as a tool for communication in times of social movement and change. We're mobilizing UU congregations throughout Minnesota to get the word out about the importance of voting in a fun, creative way - with chalk! Before or after your worship service, gather your community members of all ages to decorate the sidewalks or walking paths around your building with positive messages reminding folks that democracy is not a spectator sport! Don't forget to take photos of your chalk art and post them to your social media pages with the hashtag #uuchalkthevote. Reach out to [Katie](#) with any questions or for inspo pics!

Additional Opportunities to Engage

Know Your Rights Workshop
Wednesday, Sept 20 at 6:30pm.
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka will host an in-person *Know Your Rights* workshop presented by Lupita Herrera of the Legal Rights Center of Minneapolis. There will be Somali and Spanish interpreters available. This event is free and open to the public.

Columbia Heights Pride
Saturday, September 23
Kordiac Park
The Michael Servetus Unitarian Society and MUUSJA invite you to show up to the Columbia Heights Pride Festival joyfully and visibly!

Walk for Peace and Justice
Saturday, September 30 at 10am
Brackett Park
Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka invite you to join Friends for a Nonviolent World (FNWV), in collaboration with Twin Cities Nonviolent (TCNV) and many other peace and justice groups are organizing a Walk for Peace and Justice on September 30, 2023. They are calling on all Minnesotans to come out and participate in this walkathon to promote a peaceful and equitable Minnesota. The walk is from Brackett Park in Minneapolis to the Lake Street Bridge.

Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training: Building Capacity to Dismantle Systemic Racism
Friday, October 20 from 6 - 9pm
Saturday, October 21 from 9am - 8pm
Sunday, October 22 from 12 - 6:30pm
Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? This 2-1/2 day online workshop is open to anyone who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism and nurturing a multicultural future. Led by Paula Cole-Jones with experienced UU trainers, Dr. Leon Spencer and Lutricia Callair. [Click here to register.](#)

To submit an event to be included in MUUSJA's newsletter, [send us a note!](#)

Further Ways to Engage: A Deep Dive

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