

# UUSMC Social Justice Minutes, Oct. 1, 2017

**Members present:** Manisha Antani, John LaFerla, Susan LaFerla, Chitra Vaidy and Roberta Headley

\*Empty Bowl dinner on October 24th, at St. Stephens Lutheran Church on Broom St. This is a benefit for Family Promise, which we support. We will be providing desserts and Manisha will make a sign up sheet for this to bring next Sunday. Roberta will ask the worship associate to announce this next Sunday. So far we have desserts offered from Chitra, Ivonne, Susan and Roberta. We also encourage members to go to the dinner. Someone from the church will pick up our desserts here at church and we will find out what time.

\*Family Promise hosting at St. Mark's week of Dec. 3rd. We need food for Tuesday and Thursday nights plus desserts. We will also collect food for breakfasts and lunches. Lauri made a collection box before and we hope she can do it again. We explained Family Promise to the LaFerlas. John asked about the Food Bank. We explained that we collect in a box in the hall during the year, and Chitra takes it to the Kirkwood Library (she needs help doing this, so Manisha and Roberta offered to help). We also told them we have a money raiser in February on Souper Bowl Sunday for the Food Bank of Delaware.

\*We also discussed Share our Warmth and Chitra explained this. She takes these items to Premier Charities who feed the homeless downtown in Wilmington near the train station every Sunday. Manisha will make a poster for Share our Warmth too. We collect warm socks, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats.

\*Roberta hopes to get cardboard boxes again from Pam Roberts at Calvert Farms in PA, and will have a list of non-perishable food suggestions for donation to Share our Bounty. She hopes to start this food drive on October 15th and end on Nov. 12th. Half of the food goes to the Food Pantry of Kennett Square and half to the YWCA Homelife in downtown Wilmington. We hope Lauri can take the half to Kennett and Roberta will take the other half to Wilmington YWCA which houses women.

\*John asked about helping undocumented immigrants. This was discussed. Chitra also explained our past Black Lives Matter workshop and the New Jim Crow meetings that occur once a month. We suggested he talk to Jack Guerin. John LaFerla sent us this site: <http://uucsj.org/immigration-justice-resources/>

\*Chitra explained the book drive. She takes the books to Nemours at Jessup St. Clinic, and they give a book to every child at every visit. Chitra hopes we can fund purchase of books such as the Crayon story Greg told for the Story for all Ages. These could be given to our children and others.

\*Chitra suggested we sent a copy of our minutes to Terry Vodery, our new DRE, since she might want to coordinate some things with us and the children and youth. I have included her in the Social Justice group for emails.

\*Tuesday addition from Chitra: The Solar Panel Project is reaching the final stage. We have \$10,000 in pledges and this in addition with some of the money from Anne and Frank should be enough for us to sign the contract for installation shortly.

Respectfully submitted, Roberta Headley