March 2023

Dear Friends,

Our lives are rich with different experiences, times of connection with people and nature, moments of surprise and curiosity, periods of heartbreak and challenge, and feelings of peace and joy.

We encourage being present in all of those experiences and add to that richness with MIP!

Consider joining in our different ways of service and community organizing. By coming together with others, you will have connecting conversations and tangibly feel how you are part of positive change.

Read below for updates and opportunities to engage with MIP. These include updates on our housing advocacy, the Community Breakfast program, an upcoming interfaith Seder, Monadnock Covenant Church Food Drive, and events at the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies.

So much goodness happening in our community!

Meeting Tonight March 13!



As part of zoning changes throughout the City of Keene, there is consideration of changing the minimum lot size from 5 acres to 2 acres in the rural district. This will lay the groundwork for more housing to be built, while taking into account open space and conservation needs. There will be a public hearing on March 13th at 6:30pm in the City Hall Chambers. We encourage people to come out to share their support.

Supporting Affordable Housing

Many MIP leaders came out to a Zoning Board meeting on March 6th to show support for Keene Housing's plan to develop the former Roosevelt School at 438 Washington Street into a multifamily housing property with 60 units. All three of their petitions were granted, which clears the way for the project to

move to the Planning Board. Community support was important to get the Board's approval. Showing up and speaking out is having an impact on our region!

Housing Development Fund

MIP leaders continue to work with local stakeholders moving forward the development of a local Housing Development Fund. These Funds provide important resources, whether through low interest loans or grants, to housing developers to create affordable housing. It is an important tool as we seek to expand housing options in our region.

Making it Happen Interfaith Community Breakfast Program Raises \$750 in February!

Last month we highlighted three of the community Breakfast Teams who very week, Monday through Friday, make and deliver a hot breakfast to the Hundred Nights Resource Center. Local people facing housing insecurity receive a nutritious meal to start the day! Three more teams are featured below!

We asked for donations to defray expenses and keep the eggs, muffins, and sausages coming. You responded by contributing \$750 in February, thank you! There's still time to help "Make It Happen" by writing a check to Keene Unitarian Universalist Church with Community Breakfast in the memo line, mailed to KUUC 69 Washington St., Keene, NH.





Keene Unitarian Universalist, St. Bernard's Roman Catholic, & You Are Not Alone Teams



Parish of the Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus Council #5414 Team

Save the Date! MIP Interfaith Seder, April 27 Stay tuned for details



Monadnock Covenant Church Food Collection Drive for The Community Kitchen



During the pandemic, families and individuals received additional Food Stamp assistance, which Congress ended in February. As a result, The Community Kitchen expects to see increased need for food assistance.

One of the traditional Lenten disciplines is almsgiving. The Monadnock Covenant Church (MCC) Outreach Team invites you to join with them in donating food to The Community Kitchen during the Lenten season.

While any unexpired, non-perishable food is appreciated, at this time The Community Kitchen is asking for some items to supplement children's meals and snacks, and the pre-Easter pantry.

Their wish list includes	Their	wish	list	incl	lud	es:
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- ☐ Shelf-stable yogurt (e.g. GoGo Squeez Yogurtz)
- ☐ Shelf stable milk
- ☐ Canned meals for kids, especially ones with meat
- ☐ Juice boxes
- ☐ Granola bars
- ☐ Jello mix
- ☐ Pudding mix
- ☐ Maple syrup (any kind)
- ☐ Canned pineapple
- □ Canned chicken
- ☐ Coffee (ground)
- ☐ Cooking oil

Donations may be made at MCC, 90 Base Hill Rd, Keene, in the blue bin at the Connect Center near the door of the ministry center, Mondays 11-1, Tuesday/Thursday 10-2.





Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



2023 Genocide Awareness Lecture (with Omar Ndizeye) will take place on Wednesday, April 12, from 5:30-6:30pm. The title for this year's talk is "Memory, Culture, and Emotional Expression in Post-Genocide Rwanda" and attendees can either come in person or watch via Zoom webinar. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. More info and link to registration: https://giving.keene.edu/2023-

genocide-awareness-lecture/

As a follow-up to Omar's lecture, the Cohen Center is partnering with a number of local groups and organizations to offer an event called "Becoming a Restorative Community" on Thursday, April 13, from 11am-1:30pm. The event will focus on Omar's experiences with restorative justice in Rwanda and will also provide attendees with the chance to see community building circles in action. This event is free and open to all, but there are only 75 seats available. Registration is required. More info and link to registration available here: https://tinyurl.com/33e7c5bn

Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

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