



# Ministering Together

News and Interfaith Events for the  
Religious Community of Contra Costa County

Winter 2021

## ICARE UPDATE

In its brief time on this planet, ICARE and YOU are making a difference in our county. Since August, through ICARE you have donated and assembled:

- 1,500 hygiene kits to people experiencing homelessness through the Contra Costa County Housing, Homeless and Health department. Financing of 1,000 of the kits was made by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Congregational cosponsors who teamed up on these projects were: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (two different stakes), United Methodist Church of San Ramon and Temple Isaiah. Plus, our pilot project team was Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church and Sufism Reoriented.
- 600+ breakfast bags for Trinity Center, thanks largely to Neighbor to Neighbor interfaith women's circles.
- Huge donations of turkeys and Thanksgiving fixings to Monument Crisis Center, thanks to the generosity of Unity Church of Walnut Creek and the Islamic Center of Walnut Creek. Thank you to Tarek El-Dardiri and Khalid Saleh of the Islamic Center of Walnut Creek and John Rexroat, Kristin Powell and Tyler Snortum of the Unity Church of Walnut Creek. This was a last-minute project and they pulled it off with great generosity and calm.
- 15 gift cards and clothing and perhaps more, to adults and children staying at Shelter Inc. Thank you to many individuals and to a generous donation of 14 gifts from Kanwar Singh and the Bay Point Sikh Temple.

### Future Projects Needing Volunteers:

- **Opportunity Junction**—There are two projects in January/February:
  - **Interviewing skills practice**
  - **Informational interview fair**

This project just received two congregational cosponsors, thanks to the diligent, committed and generous efforts of Dave Longhurst, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who sought out and found a cosponsor in Pat Black with St. Isadore Catholic

## I4C PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you and all your loved ones.

As we take our first steps into 2021, let's take a moment to pause with a prayer.

It is my prayer that God can bless each of us to dive deep into our compassionate self and awaken our loving hearts to reach out and help the less fortunate, create peace from within ourselves and take any action necessary to bring peace to others, take one step forward to end man-created divisions, and find a way to save the planet earth.



I look forward to joining in your next steps (hopefully in person) towards our important goal of uniting for the service, love, and care of humanity.

### *Introducing Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County's New President, Dr. Erica Bains*

I am commonly known as Professor Bains, although I am really a student. No matter how much I feel I have learned, I know extraordinarily little. While I have taught at Saint Mary's College and occasionally a few courses at other local Universities since 2002, I have spent most of that time serving on various charitable organizations, including school boards, a diversified group of non-profit organizations and Interfaith groups. I am most committed to my role as the Chairperson for the East West Association of Sikh Women for World Peace (EWASWWP). EWASWWP is an international organization with tens of thousands of Sikh women participants from every single country in this world and works to fulfill the UN's World Religion for Peace Council mission of praying for world peace.

I also serve as President of The Friends of Wagner Ranch (a non-profit group in Orinda that supports the conservation of a Historical Nature site and supports nature and wildlife education), and the CFO of Standing Straight (an International medical mission group that provides life-saving pediatric spine deformity surgeries to extremely impoverished children and

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

I never thought I would see the day when our National Capitol Building would be sieged by fellow citizens of our country – let alone at the encouragement of the President of our country. The divisions within our nation are very concerning, both for us and for the world.



It's not just that we have become polarized. That has been occurring for some time. What worries me most is that we are living in radically different media and news universes than our neighbors, and it seems to have become worse. We have seen two new media outlets attempt to take away market share from Fox News, the nation's most popular cable news channel. But in attempting to steal market share, they have become voices for our President's lies regardless of the costs to our democracy. The only thing that seems to have brought some of their messaging back to earth was the threat of defamation lawsuits from one of the election machine companies whose reputation had been lied about steadily since the election.

Ever since the 'Fairness Doctrine' was repealed during the Reagan Administration, we have had various media outlets seeking the lowest common denominator in order to gain more viewers. Some have become entertainment rather than news outlets, while others have become mouthpieces for the President, even his talking points. Still, others have continued to expound the lies even when they have been exposed as untrue.

We have watched the rise of right-wing, authoritarian leaders around the world over the last few years. It seems as if many of them are also the ones who have responded least to the needs of the poor in their countries during the pandemic. But they've figured out how to co-opt the public conversations in their country, despite the economic and cultural pain they have supported.

We aren't used to having this much political instability in our own country. It seems to be something we expect to see elsewhere but consider ourselves immune to. Sometimes we yearn for the days of Walter Cronkite, when it seemed that our nation accepted the same news from the same source. But even though those days seem long gone, they weren't the days of national unity and accord as we remember. Ask a Black or Indigenous person what life was like for them then. Ask a Transgender, Gay, Lesbian, or Queer person.

As we listen to news reports of potential violence at every State Capitol Building in the coming days, after watching a citizen's insurrection at our Nation's

Capitol Building, we rightly fear for the worst. We pray for our country – not with a Pollyanna-ish prayer for a false unity – but for a greater spiritual maturity for her citizens and a grander acceptance of the diversity we know has been here all along. I also pray for the protection of those people that such movements are organized to suppress.

It is no mistake that the most violent responses we see today have come with accusations of voter fraud in a time when Black, Brown and Indigenous voters have been included, protected and counted in the highest numbers in our national history of elections. Those who have become used to preserving their privilege at the voters box expected to be able to keep those voices from being included in our national expression of democracy every four years. Sadly, this is who we are as a country. And, we have the opportunity to move into a day where the needs and protections of all American citizens are included in the national ethos. Yes, this is our opportunity to grow up as an adolescent nation.

*"Envisioning a World of Interfaith Peace."*

~ Reverend Will McGarvey

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

enhances spine deformity education to local medical professionals in underserved areas). Since 2007, at Saint Mary's college I joined and led various Interfaith Council missions, including adding to the "exploring faith and spirituality" mission, uniting for humanitarian causes, and actively addressing neighborhood injustices such as food insecurity. During the last 20 years, I have most enjoyed working with local food programs that address hunger and other basic human right injustices. Since 2018 I have actively worked with Food for Thought (a West Contra Costa County winter school holiday food program started at Temple Beth Hillel that addresses childhood hunger in the Richmond Elementary School District), and Sojourner Truth in Richmond (that provides food and other basic needs to the Richmond impoverished community and West Contra Costa Community College Students).

For mindful activity I enjoy organic farming and finding sustainable solutions to produce food responsibly and ethically.

As a Sikh, I believe that serving all of God's creations, including all life forms and the environment, is my first call to duty.

I am looking forward to the time, which I pray will be very soon, that I can meet each member of the Interfaith Council of the Contra Costa County in person.

~ Professor Erica Bains

# Interfaith Council of Rossmoor: “Big Questions” Forum

## 2020 Question: “What is the relationship between Science and Religion in this age?”



The Interfaith Council of Rossmoor (ICR) is a member of I4C and has a mission of “Honoring Differences, Cultivating Understanding, and Serving the Human Spirit”. We are

grateful to Susie Kohl, ICR president, for the support and sponsorship. One program that was developed by a committee that formed over 4 years ago is the “The Big Questions” Forum. This program allows for the exploration of different religions across an interfaith landscape discussing one Big Question a year. The idea of this Forum is to explore some of the big questions facing humanity and hear from many different faith traditions as to their history and approach to the questions. For a senior community like Rossmoor there are many curious people to attend, eager to hear what each speaker has to say. This offers a unique opportunity to learn about the many faith traditions, to ask questions and to dialogue with others while increasing awareness and understanding. Each year a big question is selected by the committee, Sara Blackstock, coordinator - with members Gloria Sunshine, Ruth Ahearn and Rev. Channing Miller. Speakers from many different faiths come throughout the year to speak to a Rossmoor audience about how different faiths approach each question. The big questions over the last 4 years have been:

*2017 - Why is there suffering?*

*2018 - Is there life and/or consciousness after death?*

*2019 - What, Who, and Where is God?*

*2020 - What is the relationship between Science and Religion for this modern age?*

Speakers are clergy or scholars who give about a 30 minute presentation, followed by Questions and Answers and then small group dialogues. In 2020 we heard from Rosicrucian, Baha’i, Progressive Protestant, Sufism Reoriented, Pentecostal, Urantia, Islam and Sikhism on the question for 2020, “What is the relationship between Science and Religion in this age?” In past years we have heard from Catholicism, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, Ananda, Paganism, Native American, Center for Spiritual Living, Unity, Mystical Islam, and Quaker. Two of our speakers in 2020 were from I4C - Rev Will McGarvey/Progressive Protestant, and Rev. Julius Van Hook/Pentecostal. In learning more about each religion, we see what they have in common – we look for the Golden Threads

that run through all religions, as well as how they are different. We have also seen that we cannot group religions into one category. There are many ways of belief within Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. Learning these differences helps us to see the things in common as well as the areas of difference. This helps us to grow in knowledge, understanding and respect across the interfaith religious landscape, developing interfaith CARING, DIVERSITY and COM-PASSION.

We are currently working on the question for 2021 and then will invite our guest speakers. We try to mix things up each year, so we hear from many of the religions of the world. People are curious and love the opportunity to hear speakers of many faiths speak about a single Big Question. The evaluations throughout the last four years have been very positive from those who have attended. The evaluation also asks for how we might improve - many inputs have helped us to make the program more successful over the last four years. At the end of the year we asked our audience what suggestions they have for our next annual Big Question as well as suggestions from the Interfaith Council of Rossmoor.

If you would like to attend the Big Questions Forum in 2021, please email Will McGarvey, I4C executive director, at [eye4cee@gmail.com](mailto:eye4cee@gmail.com) for the program details, including the zoom invitation.

~ Reverend Channing Miller





Church in Danville. **Volunteers are needed.** Look at the opportunities on Sign Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ea5ab28abff2-operation>

• **Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless (CCCH3) Food Kits**—This is a NEW project and we are looking for congregational cosponsors and volunteers and donations. Here’s a summary of the project:

- Total number of kits: 250 consisting of non-perishable food items and large plastic bags to hold items
- One or both congregational co-sponsors buy all items and then ask for donations to reimburse. ICARE will also have a “donate” button for reimbursement.
- Cosponsors can determine date of project but hoping for end of January/early February
- Given number of items and smaller number of final kits, suggest bulk purchase of items and designate a day for outdoor assembly: six long, double wide tables/assembly lines; 4 people opposite each other assembling items. Doing this in Jan/Feb could present weather issues, so other possibility is individuals assembling in homes but this could be more cumbersome.

• **Habitat for Humanity coming in March**—This is an exciting project involving the building of low and moderate income housing in Walnut Creek. We need two congregational cosponsors. Please go to Sign Up Genius and consider sponsoring this exciting and much needed project. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ea5ab28abff2-habitat>

If anyone is interested in these future projects, please contact Greg Kremenliev at [interfaith-gregk@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith-gregk@gmail.com) or Terri Moss at [terri-moss55@gmail.com](mailto:terri-moss55@gmail.com)

**Other Important News:**

We are extremely grateful to Carolyn McKenzie who applied for and received a \$10,000 grant for ICARE from the San Francisco Foundation! Thanks to this grant, we will be able to continue to employ Greg

Kremenliev, who is doing some wonderful outreach work to let our members know about these wonderful opportunities to serve.

Sadly, the needs will continue as we navigate this pandemic and its economic fallout. We hope that all of our members can join together in service, which is a value all of our faith traditions share. Our county needs us now more than ever. Not only can we have a greater impact when we serve together, we strengthen our interfaith bonds throughout our county; something we all need now and in the future. Thank you for your generosity of spirit.

*~ Submitted by Terri Moss, Vice-Chair*



Gender Preferences Subconscious  
Cognition Unconscious Judgement  
**IMPLICIT BIAS**  
Stereotypes Behavior Disrespect  
Prejudice Race Research Decisions  
Unfair Ethnicity Psychologist  
Reaction Beliefs People Groups  
Social Hidden Subtle Train

**Anti-Racism Series:**  
**ICCCC Implicit Bias Training**  
*Open to all*  
ICCCC’s Elected Council invites others to join us online for an extended **Implicit Bias Training** with Fresh “Lev” White.

*Save the date!*  
**Sunday, January 31st,**  
**2:30 to 5:00 pm online.**  
*Registration and more information to come.*



## Chaplain's Corner *By Rev. Julius Van Hook*



Here we are in the last weeks of the year 2020. Who could have imagined what kind of year we have had? The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a horrible toll in terms of death, illness, and economic insecurity.

We have observed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on people of color at the same time as the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and too many others have reminded us of the deadly effects of systemic racism in our society.

My view of the destructive forces at work in the past months has been tempered by engagement with many people who stepped up to provide care to those whose lives have been damaged. This includes all of my chaplaincy colleagues who have been on the front lines during this pandemic. Whether you are a front line worker or not, I think we can all agree that the world is still in uproar. Between the election that just passed and talks of this pandemic getting worse, we don't know exactly what to expect. As I take inventory of all that the world has given me in 2020, I continue to constantly check in with myself concerning my thoughts and emotions. As the supposed "strong friend", I have to be more aware of my well-being than most. I have not always realized this, as I am used to going until I burn out. I've had to ask myself during this pandemic, 'How is your mental health and your emotional wellbeing? Are you OK? Asking for help is not one of my strongest qualities, but I've learned in my field of work that mental, emotional and spiritual health is something that we tend to ignore until it is too late.

As this new year begins, I would like to give you some tips on ways to hold space for your family and friends.

- Instead of asking 'How are you doing?' ask, "Is there any way I can offer a hand? It is a much more direct question and your friend may be more comfortable sharing with you.
- Take some time to educate yourself on signs of mental illness and emotional distressed that some of your friends or family may be dealing with. You may be able to help in time of crisis
- If your loved one's mental or emotional health situation tends to overtake them, brainstorm a plan of action to provide assistance.
- Don't ignore the signs! If you are the one who is usually the stronger one, learn to make adjustments and start saying "NO" to commitments and begin with clearing your schedule to take care of yourself.
- Consider seeing a therapist, or even a Chaplain in the first quarter of the 2021. Therapy, whether provided by a mental health practitioner or spiritual care practitioner, is a great way to check in with yourself with professional guidance.

Let's finish this year strong. Be encouraged.

~ **Reverend Julius X. Van Hook**

Ministering Together

## SOJA (Social Justice Alliance)

### Update

SOJA members participated in and attended the I4C Thanksgiving Service on November 22. The service was well-attended and all found it inspirational.

We continue to monitor the Naval Weapons situation. A new developer will be chosen in the new year, which hopefully will mean some progress.

November was Homeless Awareness Month and SOJA will continue to work to increase the reach of our "adopt a family" program.

We continue to work with the Miles Hall Foundation to make sure that racial profiling and police brutality never happen again in our County.

Several SOJA members are going to attend the planning meeting for the new County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. We expect to be active participants in the process.

The plans for the MLK Day Celebration on January 18<sup>th</sup> are continuing. The program is set with Rev. Julius Van Hook as the keynote speaker. There will be some choral groups which will provide the gospel music. We have begun to make plans for the marketing to faith communities in the Country.

**[The next SOJA Meeting via Zoom is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.](#)**

**SOJA meets the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm.**

**\*\*All meetings now on Zoom due to COVID-19\*\***

WHAT WE DO:

- Speak out collectively on issues of conscience
- Advocate for social justice at the policy-making level
- Act when speaking out and advocacy fails
- Organize community forums to address critical issues
- Arrange time for interfaith worship, dialog, community and understanding

***All are welcome***

**Zoom Link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94533838950?pwd=WEEwZGNVcFpobS9qazNlbG5EYS9EZz09>**

Meeting ID: 945 3383 8950 / Password: 5878423  
One tap mobile:  
+16699009128,,94533838950#,,1#,5878423#



## An Interfaith Council Response to the Political Violence in our Nation's Capitol Building

*Monday, Jan. 18, 2021*

The Governing Board of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and our Social Justice Alliance grieve the violence, loss of life, and the loss of our sense of security as a nation after the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> in our Nation's Capitol Building. Our hearts grieve with the families of those who were hurt or killed. Our eyes and minds grieve at the memory of Americans turning on their elected leaders inside the Capitol Building with violence and vandalism. And our souls grieve that the politics of white grievance, egged on by falsehoods and outright lies, have become expressed in violent insurrection. On the day after the election of the first Black and Jewish persons as Senators in the state of Georgia there was an insurrection against our elected leaders inside our Capitol Building.

Many of us watched in helpless horror as the events occurred on our television screens. This attempt to stop the counting of the votes of all Americans certified by each and every state is an act of sedition and treason against all of our rights as Americans to have our votes counted each election. There are still elected leaders that support this insurrection. The history of peaceful transitions of power between elected Presidents of our representative Republic has been torn apart for the first time since our Constitution was instituted in 1789. Some fear that such actions may become normalized, but we must ensure that this aberration of American tradition remains just that.

The acts we watched reaffirmed the centrality of our need for truth in public discourse. We have seen how lies about election results have been used to turn Americans against each other. We watched as some of the security forces of our own Capitol Building gave deference to white people in very different ways than we saw them approach Black and Brown protesters just last spring – taking pictures with them, even allowing them to force their way past security to ransack offices, steal mail and shoot firearms near our nation's elected leaders.

We call on all forms of media and social media forums to diligently present the fullest forms of reporting that are true to the best of their knowledge. For those areas of conflict, we call on our elected officials to restore the 'fairness doctrine' passed by Congress in 1949 (and revoked in 1987) to ensure the press addressed contrasting views of an issue to help teach us how we can hold the differing views of our neighbors with care and correction.

The violence of the few reminds us of the vision of the many. We have learned some things:

- The right to vote and free exercise thereof insures our future as a free people. The stranglehold of prejudice is breaking as more and more people are exercising their right and duty to vote.
- We are realizing how important it is to elect people with some sense of integrity. Never again can we elect a President whose rhetoric is inflammatory and whose behavior is threatening to the well-being of so many described as "minorities." Decency, humility, and dedication to a cause greater than the self are crucial.
- No matter the political differences, we have a responsibility to recognize the dignity of everyone. We can no longer tolerate prejudice, inequality, and governmental indifference when peoples' rights and dignity are compromised by self-seeking, greedy, insensitive governmental leaders.
- Finally, those charged with governmental power have a duty to act justly in the interest of all people. Political office should not and cannot be seen as a personal privilege for selfish and expedient advancement.

As America prepares for a new Administration, we pause to reflect on how precarious our American experiment is. Religious, cultural, and political leaders must always have the courage to speak out against the maleficence we have witnessed the last four years. This must never happen again. We pledge to move forward in our quest for a more just and equitable society.

## Winter Events . . .



### \* ICARE Volunteer Opportunity

**Saturday, January 30** — Christ the King and First Christian Church need volunteers to help with the assembly of 250 food kits for the CCC Housing, Health and Homeless Department. To volunteer or make a financial donation, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ea5ab28abff2-food>.

**Thank you!**

### \* Anti-Racism Series: Implicit Bias Training, Sunday, January 31, 2:30 pm, Fresh

“Lev” White, Speaker <https://www.interfaithccc.org/event/anti-racism-series-implicit-bias-training/>

### \* Upcoming Elected Council Meetings

— You are invited to participate on the 2nd Thursday mornings each month: **Feb. 11th, March 11th, April 8, May 13, and June 10, at 8:30 am.**

Register in advance for the meeting's zoom link, unique to you at [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uJYtcOmoqz8vFM5r6AG5BIDR8Z\\_91i-kig](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uJYtcOmoqz8vFM5r6AG5BIDR8Z_91i-kig). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### \* Interfaith Harmony Week

**Each year from February 1 to 7**

Join others around the world in creating, leading or participating in Interfaith programs or service projects. This year, given the increased needs of the hungry among us, we are asking our congregations and members to come together to help our many Food Distribution Ministries around the county. If you'd like, you can do a special Food Drive to benefit one of the many Food Bank distribution sites. <https://www.interfaithccc.org/event/world-interfaith-harmony-week/>

### \* International Women's Day Inter-faith Panel Conversation

**Monday, March 8th at 7:00 pm.**

Online in an interactive zoom meeting. Celebrating the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. **All are welcome!** For women and the men that love them. Special Music from Diane Maltester, Diablo Vista Chorus. <https://www.interfaithccc.org/event/international-womens-day-interfaith-panel-conversation/>

## ICAN Corner

• Regular monthly meetings are on third Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in Rm 16 at Hillcrest Congregational UCC.



February ICAN meeting will be on Zoom February 18 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm [Link](#)

## ICCCC YouTube Channel



Be sure to watch new videos, including the **Big Questions videos on Science and Religion**, at the ICCCC YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCghSWmM76ihEAd3rZw9dBxQ/featured>

## Meaningful Mondays

an ICCCC Online Chat and Check-in Mondays @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Free

The Interfaith Council will host open Zoom Chat for an hour on Mondays [at noon](#).

For those that are able to join we can share some best practices, support one another, and share the needs of the community together.

**Topic: ICCCC Meaningful Mondays**

**Time: [12:00 PM Pacific Time](#)**

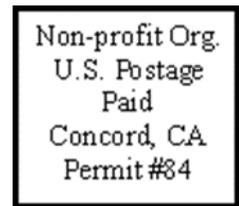
Every week on Monday from noon to 1:00 pm. Bring a prayer or short reading from your tradition(s) to share. **Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdOmprijlHd0upoM17uzGXXnmgljyDqr>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. That link will work on any future meetings, so save the link, which will be unique to you.

# The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

404 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
www.interfaithccc.org



Chair.....Dr. Erica Bains  
Vice-chair.....Terri Moss  
Treasurer.....Mary Ann Cropper, CPA CGMA  
Executive Director.....Rev. Will McGarvey  
Juv. Det. Chaplain.....Rev. Julius Van Hook  
Singing Messengers.....Marjorie Musante  
Office Manager.....Charlotte Ginn  
Bookkeeper.....Christina Shih

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**To request a paperless newsletter and to receive our bi-weekly E-Blasts,  
E-mail Charlotte Ginn at [eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com)**

The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County depends on contributions from member congregations and individuals who support our mission of promoting interfaith understanding. To make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check to I4C or Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and mail it to our office at our new address!  
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For credit card donations, visit our website: [interfaithccc.org](http://interfaithccc.org). Thank you!

**We Have Moved! Update your records!**  
Many thanks to Walnut Creek United Methodist Church for the decades we were able to office there. We needed more office space for our growing Winter Nights staff and other programs.  
**Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County**  
**404 Gregory Lane**  
**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**  
**Office: 925.822.3744 [interfaithccc.org](http://interfaithccc.org)**  
**Mobile: 925.933.6030**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR... (in our rotating circle of prayer):**  
St Peter Martyr Catholic Church, Pittsburg • Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Sikh Temple, Pittsburg • Stewart Memorial CME, Pittsburg • Interfaith Peach Project, Pittsburg • Baha'i Assembly of Orinda, Church of Santa Maria, Orinda • First Church of Christ, Scientist, Orinda • Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda • St Mark's United Methodist Church, Orinda • For those that experience Islamophobia or Anti-Semitism • Black Lives Matter leaders around the country • Congregations going through clergy transition. • The volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels • Those seeking employment • Those living without shelter • Those who are ill • Families separated at the border or with members detained in the US • Those detained during COVID-19.