

## January Social Justice Newsletter:

January 2023



Happy New Year! This is one of my favorite times of year. I can sit down with a book, a cup of cocoa and a warm puppy. It seems my mind is in a place of introspection - where I am more open to learning.

I'm waking up to climate and racial injustice. I appreciate the rich resources I'm finding within our church and the larger Methodist community and will share some of those with you below.

One of the things I'm learning is that social justice is about our habits and we can all have an impact. You can certainly do big things, but doing small things with love great can make a big difference too. I hope this newsletter helps you to find a small thing to do (or a big thing) to care for God's creation.

Blessings to you,  
Ari

### **Join us for a Webinar on Climate Change:**

The first Mountain Sky Conference Creation Justice webinar of 2023 is coming up on **Sunday, January 22 at 6:30 pm**. You can learn more about the webinar [HERE](#), and the link to register is [HERE](#). From the description, "We will share an overview of the top climate issues and provide a roadmap to the legislative process in your state."

### **Understanding our Genderqueer and Transgender Siblings in Christ:**

NextGen & Inclusiveness Ministries will be reading "How to Understand Your Gender: A practical guide for exploring who you are" by Alex Iantaffi and Meg-John Barker alongside the devotional series "Transfigured: A 40-day journey through scripture for genderqueer and transgender people" by Suzanne DeWitt Hall. You're invited to join as we begin to embrace and understand this complex issue. The study begins Monday, February 20th, from 6 to 7:30pm via Zoom and runs for 8 Mondays. [You can register for this study now](#) For more information/questions, please visit [mtnskyumc.org/nextgen](https://mtnskyumc.org/nextgen) or email Court VonLindern at [nextgen@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:nextgen@mtnskyumc.org).

## The Legacy of MLK, Jr.

January 16th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day and he still has so much to teach us. To learn more about his life and message, check out these resources.

[United Methodist Communications/Resource UMC](#) - In this video series, we meet some of the United Methodists who walked with Dr. King and share his dream. Transcripts included with each video.

[Making the 'Dream' a reality: The legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

[Discipleship Ministries of the UMC: Praying for Change: Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism](#) (read and subscribe)



From the General Commission on Religion and Race.

- [What Is Beloved Community?](#) - A recent addition to our "What Is?" series
- [25 Traits of Beloved Community](#) - A continued reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s beloved community
- ["Raising Antiracist Kids"](#) - This new episode of our Expanding the Table podcast will release on Tuesday, January 17th.

## Creation Care at Broomfield UMC:

Cody shared that the Creation Care team are focusing on three areas. If you'd like to get involved or have ideas, consider reaching out and jumping in. They'd like to move away from disposable coffee cups and are asking for volunteers to run cups through our high efficiency washer each Sunday. Second, they'd like to find volunteers to help with composting and need a leader who knows more about how to get started and sustain the practice. Finally, five volunteers have come forward to help write grants which is a blessing. If you have experience in writing grants and would like to flex those muscles, they could use more help. If you'd like to help in these three areas or in helping to move us towards more xeriscaping at the church, please reach out to Cody Schulte. His email is: [codyschulte80@yahoo.com](mailto:codyschulte80@yahoo.com)

*James Balwin tells us, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." God, please let our eyes be opened to injustice and help us to eliminate it - with love, with mercy, and with your Grace."*