



February 2023 Social Justice News

We are in the thick of winter but soon the crocus will come through the snow. As we consider what we'd like to plant, consider your local food bank. You might give them a call to ask if they take produce and what they need. You'll not only be helping neighbors feed their families, but you'll also be helping the environment too. Food grown locally helps us reduce our footprint on the planet.

Speaking of plants: Resource Central provides "garden in a box" a couple times each year. They provide a myriad of options for a reduced price. The plants and flowers offered are water-wise, beautiful, and sell out quickly. If interested, sign up for their monthly newsletter and jump when boxes go on sale. Here's more information if you'd like to check it out: <https://resourcecentral.org/gardens-2/shop/>

Good News:

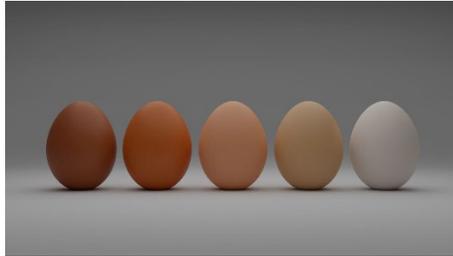
Changing the Name of Mount Evans:

Governor Evans was the man most responsible for the Sand Creek Massacre and not someone we want to honor. The Mestaa'ehehe Coalition, led by the Southern Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes and the Wilderness Society have proposed renaming Mt. Evans Mount Blue Sky, a name that honors the cultures and traditions of both the Cheyenne and Arapaho. Renaming is currently being considered by the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, Changing the name of this mountain is a step in the right direction towards healing. <https://coloradosun.com/2022/11/18/renaming-mount-evans-2/>

Ditch the plastic: As I've been out shopping, I've noticed stores asking if I want to buy bags or if I brought my own. This is really great news for the environment. Plastic bags are a big problem and by bringing your own bag, you really are helping to make a difference.

As an aside, I have a friend who is gifted at sewing and she's making cloth fabric bags like mad. The foodbanks really appreciate them and if you're so inclined to help in this way, they could use more.

Kindness to animals: The price of eggs is soaring due to bird flu, but there is some good news for the chickens. Rep. Dylan Roberts and Sen. Kerry Donovan sponsored a bill that was passed into law. It requires chickens have the ability to stretch their wings and that hens are cage-free. We have about six million chickens who are happier and healthier.



Action Items: If you're wondering how you can make a difference with such enormous challenges in the world, it's not a matter of doing something massive and devoting your entire life to social justice - although that's okay too! It's finding one consistent habit you can establish and then adding another.

I love this article about living racial justice. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/living-the-racial-justice-charter>

One of the ideas in the article is to support businesses run by people of color. I found a comprehensive list online and want to check some of these out myself. It's a fun way to make your voice heard:

<https://www.colorado.com/articles/shop-local-show-some-love-colorado-black-owned-restaurants-shops>

In the climate justice department, you can calculate your carbon footprint online. As you're taking the test, they also provide a list of ideas to help you reduce your footprint. <https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>



A prayer for you:

Ever loving, ever loyal, everlasting God, You are the source of all our loving, you are indescribable beauty, you are life itself. Drawing close to you, we are fed, drawing close to you, we are shown what love really is, drawing close to you, we are given food to feed others. May we draw ever closer to you, the source, with joy, with energy, with intent, for only by experiencing your love can we love your creation, only by touching your heart can we find heart for others, only by feeling your closeness can we draw close to those who are lost. In the security of your love, enable us to love this broken world. -

Amen

(Sally Jones, probationer presbyter, South Warwickshire Circuit)