

## Blessings to you as we move into a new year of United Women in Faith



Social & Climate Justice ~ August 15, 2024

### What do you want to bring to the table?

I was at a meeting the other day where we were asked to ponder something. Whenever we interact with others, they look forward to something about us. Just like a potluck friends know who makes the best casserole or deviled eggs or fudge! You bring a gift to each interaction your smile, the way you tell stories, your warmth or joy.

We are living through some very divided times but having that awareness of what we love in one another shifts our perspective. It's like we see the God in everyone. I believe as Christians we are called to be good stewards of the planet and one another.

During this divided time, I believe Jesus calls us to inspire unity. I think God invites us to invite others to the table, to break bread together, and to find common ground.

Whenever I feel frustrated by an interaction, I share it with my friend Matthew who invariably asks me the same question, "What good do you have behind?"

This fall, I invite you to consider that question and decide what you want to bring to the table- and what good you want to leave behind.

- Ari

## Climate Justice



It was just announced that \$20 million in environmental and climate justice community change grants are being distributed for Texas organizations. The Investing in America program is the largest single environmental justice investment in America. The grants will fund programs to help disadvantaged communities reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity.

## Social Justice

You've likely heard me talk about feeding children. It's a simple thing we can do that has a massive return on investment. By simply providing meals at school, we can reduce behavioral issues, increase the capacity to learn, reduce family discord, and solve issues now and later. I'm grateful to see these programs beginning to take root.

Another issue I hadn't considered, but have just learned about is listening to less privileged communities about what we can do to make getting from one place to another easier. I found this article about how the needs of disadvantaged bicyclists vary from the needs of wealthy, white cyclists. It's an interesting read. (As an aside, I went to go find a photo of a POC on a bicycle on my copyright free resource and could not find one.)

<https://www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/bike-friendly-cities-for-everyone>

### **A prayer for you:**

**Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.**

**Amen**