



United  
Women  
in Faith

## February 2025 Social Justice News

### **The Good News:**

Our social justice work is shifting due to the current political climate. I'm often asked how we can respond as Jesus would and I believe He would come from fierce love. I believe He would pull people together and encourage us to reach out and help. I believe He would suggest that we "be the change" rather than focusing on the fear.

We're seeing small hopeful groups coming together to offer help. It's happening in neighborhoods where people are creating networks to care for the most vulnerable. And it's happening in United Women in Faith groups - as we put together fire & flood buckets, hygiene kits, & more.

When you feel like throwing up your hands & saying, "What can I do?" start with knowing you **can** make a tremendous difference. We are brought together in community to be the hands and heart of God. This is *joyful* work.

Growing up, I always heard "Think globally, act locally." It still applies. Start in your own community by identifying what really matters to you. What do you care about most? Feeding the hungry? Ensuring our grandchildren will have clean water? Education? There are so many ways to help.

Then tap into your God-given gifts and talents and passions. What do you love doing? Are you an artist or writer? Do you like working with children or being outdoors? Do you want to write a newsletter? Paint an inspiring mural? When you're passionate about what you do and you find others who feel the same, you can make a powerful difference.

Remember the NAMES quilt which celebrated the lives of those we lost to AIDS? It brought together grieving people from all over the planet. And it kept the crisis front and center so the work on a treatment continued.

Think about the Colorado Healthy School Meals for All (HSMA) program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students in participating public schools. The program began in the 2023-2024 school year.

It was the result of a 2022 statewide ballot initiative, Proposition FF, that was passed by 56.75% of voters. The initiative was spearheaded by Hunger Free Colorado, an organization that works to address food insecurity in our state.

You can likely find your people within an organization, so you don't need to reinvent the wheel. Reach out to friends, neighbors, people in organizations you're a part of if you're not sure where to start. Post something on Facebook or NextDoor or at your church. Run for city council or the school board.

Finally, start small. You don't have to do great big things all alone. We're having a fundraiser for Hope House on UWF Sunday in March. I used to run a candy company with my son, so I'll make a few big batches of fudge and we'll sell it before and after service. The money raised will go to help teen moms. Fun, easy, and really yummy! And it helps a small non-profit feel loved and supported - as well as buying diapers and formula!

**Good Tip:** I've been attending Mission U - which is a fantastic program running on Sunday afternoon through February. As we were discussing water conservation, someone in the group suggested reaching out to your city for watering guidance. Most people over-water which is bad for your lawn and your pocketbook. If you want to learn more, Broomfield has provided some good guidelines: <https://www.broomfield.org/439/Landscape-Watering-Tips>



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!!**

Join United Women in Faith for a special screening of PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. The film screening will be followed by a small group discussion open to all and an information-sharing session for those interested in offering a similar program in their local context.

Learn more and register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Z1416slYSwWGA28jFRBT-w#/registration>



### *Beet Salad - 1 serving*

Handful of baby spinach

8 grape tomatoes

1 medium Beet - boiled until tender

1 navel orange

Balsamic glaze

½ c. Edamame or chick peas

2 T. toasted nuts or seeds

Crunchy salt (Maldon) and pepper

Prepare Edamame by package directions. Once cooked and cooled enough to handle, shell them. Tear or cut baby spinach into bite sized pieces. Drizzle in a bit of balsamic glaze. Add grape tomatoes, sliced beets, sections of navel orange and drizzle with more balsamic glaze. Add shelled edamame or chickpeas and some tasted nuts or seeds. Finish with Maldon salt and pepper to taste.



### **Winter Reading:**

When it's snowy and cold outside, there's nothing better than a hot cup of tea and an excellent book. I recently got the audio book [How We Learn to be Brave](#),

by Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. So many great insights and instruction enveloped in a fascinating story.



**My Prayer for You:**

I'd like to quote Episcopal Bishop Budde and encourage that we meditate on her question - "The God I serve is on the side of justice. Jesus calls his followers to emulate his example of sacrificial love and to build what he called the Kingdom of God on earth. What would the sacrificial love of Jesus look like now?"