

Justice & Outreach

Mission:

At AHCC, our faith urges us to serve our neighbors in our Asylum Hill community and beyond to create a better world for all of us. We build personal relationships within our congregation and with our neighbors to better understand each other's lives and how we can help each of us succeed. There are many ways to serve, from volunteering at our weekly community meals, to advocating for social justice, to promoting actions to preserve our environment. The groups currently working in our Justice and Outreach Ministry Team are:

At AHCC's weekly Community Meals we both serve and visit with our neighbors from across the city. We purchase food and supplies from local small businesses and nonprofits, and often provide space for agencies to offer additional benefits such as blood pressure screenings, children's activities, or agencies' staff to help access other social services.

Contact: Mary Way mway@ahcc.org

Reflecting AHCC's long tradition of service to the community, the church provides annual grant funding to organizations that have historically served our neighbors in Asylum Hill, Hartford, and internationally. The members of the Outreach Committee have reviewed grant applications, performed site visits, and recommended these grants.

Contact: Betsy Hopkins, betsybrownhop@aol.com

AHCC's Core Leadership team of GHIAA (Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance) engages members to build a relationship-based culture, within AHCC and with other congregations organizing on justice issues. Recent campaigns include promoting legislative or problem resolution in educational equity, gun violence prevention, housing reform and affordability, environmental justice, and criminal justice reform. GHIAA's staff at the Center for Leadership and Justice also provides training in skills for leadership, community organizing, and racial equity. Contact: Sandy Wood Forand swoodforand@gmail.com

For ten years, the work of Justice in Action (JIA) has been centered on education and advocacy about racial justice and ending gun violence. It now coordinates with GHIAA on its issues, but it can also organize around other justice issues brought forward by our ministers and members, such as LGBTQ rights, homelessness, citizens returning after incarceration, refugee resettlement, voting rights, and economic justice for all.

Contact: Jane Torrey torrey.jane@gmail.com or Nancy Kirchmyer nkirchmyer@hotmail.com

Motivated by our faith to preserve God's Earth, the Climate Action Team formed in 2022 to engage the congregation and neighborhood in thought and action to make our world more environmentally friendly. Using the Southern New England United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) Green Congregation Challenge as a guide, we have promoted energy efficiency and food composting, presented educational films and speakers, supported pollinating gardens, and are working toward installing solar panels at AHCC.

Contact: Laura Baird bairdbetter@gmail.com or Pieter Werner paw2454@rit.edu

ConnectiKids is a youth development organization founded by and housed at AHCC. AHCC members serve as volunteer mentors to third-grade students from West Middle School. Mentors meet with their assigned student once a week for 75 minutes, using training and study materials provided by ConnectiKids Contact: Kiera Steele ksteele@ct-kids.org