



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

## The Poor People's Campaign is Making a Difference in Our Community

By Renee Herrell

How is it that, in one of the richest countries in the world, one in six children in America lived in poverty in 2018? "The youngest children are the poorest and nearly 73% of poor children in America are children of color." ([Children's Defense Fund, the State of America's Children 2020](#))

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has taken up the initial campaign that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. started in 1968 to address economic inequality and poverty. There are local groups in approximately 40 states that are working to "impact policies and elections at every level of government and build lasting power for poor and impacted people." ([Poor People's Campaign](#))

In late January 2020, Adrienne and AJ Young facilitated the launch of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC)-Shenandoah Valley Group at the UUFW. The Social Justice Team wanted to let you know more about the movement and how you can be involved. Linda Shallash and Linda Revis, who are part of the leadership of this group, provided information about it.

According to Linda Shallash, the PPC works on practical solutions for the injustices of racism, poverty, and environmental

devastation. She stated that the PPC-Shenandoah Valley Group has been engaged in registering people to vote and using social media to instruct people on voting early or using mail-in ballots. They also will be providing transportation to get people to the polls on election day which is part of the PPC mandate to Mobilize, Organize, Register, and Educate (MORE). Linda Revis noted that they steer folks to where they can get information on candidates and encourage them to vote.



After the election, they will be putting pressure on elected officials to make changes that will improve the lives of low-wealth folks. She also said that in 2017 the national PPC got together policy makers and economists and came up with a plan to balance the budget so there

would be financial equity and health care for all, which would require a change in the funding priorities of the government.

The PPC-Shenandoah Valley Group is currently sponsoring Table Talks, an open, fluid platform for people to discuss issues in a safe and welcoming environment on Zoom on Saturdays from 10am-noon (the Zoom link is posted on Facebook on Friday nights). The clothing drive is collecting new or gently used coats, scarves, gloves, hats and socks to benefit WARM (Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry) and the Valley Mission. There are two designated dates and locations for drop off: November 20th and December 4th at the Waynesboro Park and Ride from 5-6pm. As local sponsors, AJ and Adrienne will coordinate other times from now until the end of the drive to receive items from individuals.

If you are not on Facebook, you can email Linda Shallash ([lshallash@hotmail.com](mailto:lshallash@hotmail.com)) who will forward the Zoom link for Table Talks to you. Also, Linda Revis offered to email news or calls to action that can be shared with the Fellowship through weekly updates as needed.

### Disciples' Kitchen Update

There will be some changes coming up with our monthly support of the [Disciples' Kitchen](#) ministry to feed the hungry in Waynesboro. The Disciples' Kitchen will be going back to preparing hot meals in November. Our next turn is on November 17. Dave Magnone will continue to handle the scheduling, and Pat Donovan will be taking over responsibility for meal preparation from Latane Long and Laura Hiatt. If you are interested in helping out send an email to Dave at [discipleskitchen@uufw.org](mailto:discipleskitchen@uufw.org).



*Our intrepid clean-up crew making our world more beautiful at the annual Adopt-a-Highway event.*

### Covid-19 Child

We watched on TV while you held your son,  
 A bouncing, healthy 8 ½ pound boy;  
 Parents in masks which you were bound to don,  
 Above which gladdened eyes expressed your joy.  
 N-95 masks sheltered smiles of hope.  
 Hope, that thing we struggle to employ;  
 Hope, that thing we crave, that we may cope.

For every child we wish a world of gold,  
 A world where all we dreamed is in the scope  
 Of possibility, where life may hold  
 The dreams for those to come which we have had,  
 That light to us from darkness may unfold.  
 Though trading death for life won't make us glad,  
 We celebrate with hope our newborn lad.

*Joe Good*

