



## Church Team Spotlight

### FRIENDS FOR JUSTICE TEAM

The Friends for Justice Team is a group of individual church members from our congregation who come together around issues of justice. The group speaks to, but not for, the First Congregational Church of Port Washington. Friends for Justice (formerly The Justice Team) began its discussions of justice work in 2018. With support of a Catalyst grant from the Wisconsin Conference UCC in November 2018, the group collaborated with four other UCC congregations (2 urban and 2 suburban) to implement a 5-part Lenten Speaker Series in 2019, titled "WOKE! A Community Conversation about Racial Justice". Friends for Justice then re-organized in Summer 2020, creating a Justice page on the Church website with racial justice resources and the following guiding statement:

*But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24).  
Responding to God's will, expressed in the prophet Amos' words and Jesus' call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we seek to encourage and facilitate learning and action in our congregation that furthers a just society and world.*

Beginning this year, the group has been focusing on the possibility of an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement statement. The group has been gathering resources, studying, and discussing the topic of Indigenous Land Acknowledgement thanks to the research work of Louise Mollinger and the input from team members. After much discussion, the group concluded that making a land acknowledgement statement related to FCC's land would be hollow without commitment to additional meaningful justice actions. In order to promote further consideration of meaningful justice actions, the group held two Learning Sessions last month on May 10 and 24 for all interested church members. The group will be meeting again on Wednesday morning, June 7, at 10:00 here at church to discuss further information and insights gathered at the Learning Sessions. Please take a look at the links below. There are slides from the two presentations, as well as a third document that has a wealth of resource information. Please view to learn more about land acknowledgement, the Doctrine of Discovery, and our Native Tribes.

[Slideshow](#) of Learning Session held on May 10

[Slideshow](#) of Learning Session held on May 21

[Resources](#) for both Learning Sessions