

**JUSTICE PEACE AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**  
**JUSTICE NEWS THE WEEK OF August 18, 2025**

**Ongoing:**

League of Women Voters: Help register college aged voters locally. [Sign up here](#).  
Important elections are happening across the country, and many election administrators are already recruiting poll workers for the 2026 midterms.  
[Become a poll worker](#) and an election hero who ensures our polls — and democracy — are accessible to all.  
League of Women Voters [article](#) on young voters.

**EPPN Action Alert**

**Protect Disaster AID**

In 2024, the United States faced 27 separate natural disasters that caused more than \$1 billion each in damages and claimed hundreds of lives. Climate change is making such disasters even more frequent and severe. Recent cuts across the federal government threaten to undermine our nation's ability to prepare for and respond to these crises. This year, critical agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—have lost key personnel responsible for informing, coordinating, and funding disaster relief nationwide and have experienced budget cuts or had resources for disaster response diverted. In this urgent moment, we invite you to join us in calling on Congress to safeguard disaster aid.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

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**Immigration**

**Episcopal Church Immigration Updates**

**Tuesday, August 19, 1:00-2:00pm**

This weekly call hosted by Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Government Relations **will include a 30-minute segment with special guests** from the Episcopal dioceses of New York and Western Louisiana. The panelists will share how their dioceses connected to provide pastoral care and support to two parishioners from New York who were recently detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and transferred to a detention center in Louisiana. Spanish interpretation is available. [Register here](#).

**Volunteers continue to gather at Delaney Hall, the detention center at 451 Doremus Ave., Newark, on Saturdays and Sundays, from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.** Bring signs protesting mass apprehensions, detention and deportations, and bring materials to support family members waiting for hours in the hot sun:

bottled water; granola bars or other snacks; bubbles, sidewalk chalk, yo-yos, or other toys for young children.

Planning is underway for a regular Episcopal Presence on Sunday afternoons. Stay tuned or email Nancy Meyer [macdonald623@aol.com](mailto:macdonald623@aol.com) to get involved in the planning.

### **Help Businesses organize to support immigrants**

When businesses and communities stand together, we send a powerful message: immigrants are essential and welcome here. This guide will help you organize locally, engage business owners, and build visible, united resistance. Follow [THIS LINK](#) to receive a Toolkit with everything you need!

Share this important contact for [DIRE](#) is Deportation & Immigration Response Equipo, a non-profit organization in NJ that supports undocumented immigrants and their families. Call this toll-free emergency number **1-888-DIRE-SOS (1-888-347-3767)** to report I.C.E. activity in your community.

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**Tuesday, August 19, 7:30 PM ET**

### **Everyday actions: How You Can Fight Climate Change**

We are seeing the realities of climate change all around us. Are you wondering what you can do to make a difference? Join Red, Wine and Blue to explore the everyday steps you can take to fight climate change and how to inspire others to join you. From the food we eat to how we travel, shop, and vote, climate action is woven into every part of our lives. This event will highlight everyday actions you can take and how small changes can have a big impact when we act together. Whether you are just starting your journey or looking for new ways to make a difference, you will leave ready to take action. [Sign up here.](#)

**Wednesday, August 20, 1 -2 PM**

### ***"Contemplation as Liberation: Black Spiritual Practices for Survival, Healing, and Prophetic Imagination"***

EDS brings together theologians, contemplative leaders, and justice-rooted practitioners, in this webinar to explore contemplation as a liberating and justice-rooted spiritual practice that emerges from communities historically shaped by struggle, resilience, and sacred imagination. Grounded in the Center for Spiritual Imagination's call for *Contemplation for Black Liberation*, this gathering reflects on how practices of silence, stillness, and communal spiritual care have sustained people facing systems of oppression—and how these same practices can guide all of us toward deeper healing, resistance, and transformation. [Register here.](#)

**Wednesday, August 20, 2 – 2:45 PM**

Join the Office of Government Relations for a webinar [In conversation with: The Rev. Beth McKee-Huger on Affordable Housing](#). Rev. Huger a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of North

Carolina and chair of the Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing will speak to her experience serving on this committee, overseeing the process of building affordable housing through her parish, and how other dioceses and parishes can be involved in the work. We will also share Office of Government Relations updates on our federal housing advocacy and how you can stay involved.

**Thursday, August 21, 10-10:30 a.m.**

Churches for Middle East Peace weekly calls on conflict

Join weekly briefings on the Israel-Hamas war hosted by Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), of which The Episcopal Church is a founding member and active on the board. CMEP mobilizes Christians in the United States to advocate for equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East. Register [here](#).

Read [Presiding Bishop Sean Rows letter](#) about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

**August 21 (and every Thursday) 1-1:30 p.m. ET**

**[Episcopal Public Policy Network/Office of Government Relations weekly calls](#)**

Join these 30-minute conversations each Thursday with Office of Government Relations staff members, who share an overview of the political environment and legislative outlook, offer advocacy tips, and answer questions. [Register here](#).

**Thursday, Aug 21, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM**

Join Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center for a review of their annual report – **State of the Climate: New Jersey 2024** – a summary of current scientific information on climate trends and projections in New Jersey. The report provides an overview of outstanding 2024 weather events, followed by an in-depth analysis of historical climate data and future projections for New Jersey. This virtual event is free and open to the public. [Registration is required](#). Presented by: James Shope, Extension Specialist in Climate Services, David Robinson, New Jersey State Climatologist Anthony Broccoli, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science Efthymios Nikolopoulos, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rutgers University

**Thursday, August 21, 7:30PM ET**

**RALLY TOGETHER: HOW WE FIGHT BACK AND WIN IN 2025**

Join Red Wine & Blue to learn why stopping extremism starts in our own backyards and why local elections are where we have the power. **Friend to friend organizing is one of our most powerful tools and we will share how you can use it to win important races in your community.** We will give you the training and resources you need to make a huge impact in your local races while building power for the future. [Sign up here](#).

**Tuesday, August 26, 8:00 PM**

**GreenFaith will host a Welcome Call for Faiths 4 Climate Justice**

This 60-minute call will ground you in the vision for Sun Day, walk through organizing steps, share ready-to-use materials, and answer your questions. This is your chance to connect with other faith-rooted leaders and prepare for a powerful, united action this September. [Register here](#) **SAVE THE DATE SEPT. 19-21 Sun Day**

**National Campaign Weekend to celebrate clean energy and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.** Hot Off the Press: Greenfaith releases OUR TIME TO RISE: Religious Resources for Sun Day - Faiths 4 Climate Justice, a 15 page document designed to equip religious leaders to preach, teach or speak publicly about the current state of the climate crisis, the US response, and the role of faith leaders to inspire and mobilize communities to act. [Read More Here](#).

Episcopalians and all interfaith partners are invited to join a fall program year launch event for Sacred Ground, the church's 11-part film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Sacred Ground circles have grown exponentially in dioceses across the country since the program began in 2019.

**Tuesday, September 2, 1-2:30 PM Learn about Sacred Ground and the work of racial reconciliation?**

Join on Zoom for a virtual conversation with **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe** about the spiritual dimension of Sacred Ground. Hear what makes the program compelling and why the series continues to challenge participants to do the deep work of racial healing, reconciliation, and justice—in their own lives, within their ministries, and in society.

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