

September 19, 2014

Dear Faith Leader,

October, 2014, promises an unparalleled opportunity to educate and motivate our communities to stand up and say "No more!" to mass incarceration, police terror, and the criminalization of a generation. As you review Rev. McCorry's letter from the Stop Mass Incarceration Network (attached), we hope you are willing to join with us in preaching a service that highlights these issues and invokes our values to stand up for those who are not able to fight an unfair system alone.

Michelle Alexander, in her book, The New Jim Crow, calls for nothing less than a movement to overturn the destructive policies of the War on Drugs in our country. Puncture the Silence is a local group that has affiliated with the national Stop Mass Incarceration Network, co-founded by Carl Dix and Cornel West, **stopmassincarceration.net**, and hopes to foster the local response to the national call.

Specifically we are asking that you:

-- Preach a service the first Sunday in October on this issue (or later in the month). Attached is the letter from Rev. McCorry and sample litany for you to consider.

-- Tie an orange ribbon around your congregation's most visible sign for the month of October.

-- In September engage in educational/motivational activities. Puncture the Silence has 2 copies of "Broken on All Sides", (its focus is on Philadelphia, but it is national in scope) a 68-minute documentary on this issue that can be loaned to you and, if the logistics work, provide a discussion facilitator from that group.

Puncture the Silence, email: **puncturethesilenceCLE@gmail.com**, can be found on Meetup.com, Facebook.

We welcome your suggestions to make October in Cleveland as powerful as possible.

Sincerely,

Rev. Daniel Budd
First Unitarian Church of Cleveland

The Rev. Kelly Burd
Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Rev. Larry Harris
Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
President, United Pastors in Mission