

Holding Ground



by
Rev. Joan Sabatino, Director

Summer will officially arrive this month (June 21), our annual UU General Assembly will gather UUs from around the country and the globe (virtually) the last week of June (23rd-28th), and the PA General Assembly has until June 30 (by law) to pass a budget.

Pennsylvania Capital Star headline Friday, June 4 "Congress has done its part to get Pennsylvanians the help they need. Now it's up to the legislature not to screw it up. What could possibly go wrong?"

Pennsylvania received 7 billion dollars from the US Congress for Covid relief (the American Rescue Plan). Our leaders in PA have hidden the money away until they decide what to do with it. No surprise, some PA elected officials want to save the money or pay back debt (this is not an approved use of the funds by Congress),

In addition, according to the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, PA will have a surplus of \$2.5-3 billion dollars at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2021). It is time to invest in the people of PA. Several PA legislators are supporting The People's Budget. Click here to read more. https://www.pahouse.com/files/Documents/2021-02-08_041621__Peoples%20Budget%20pdf.pdf

The PA Budget is a covenant between the people and the government and should express the voters' priorities, not what will keep certain legislators in power. Investing in the people of PA would produce more justice for generations to come.

PA's budget is traditionally the topic of the legislature in June. However, this year an additional twist. I recently learned both the House and Senate Republicans are planning to pass through approximately 25 election bills that would suppress the vote in PA. This tactic, attaching election bills to the budget, could make it harder for Wolf to veto the bills.

For a General Assembly that was very quiet and non-productive most of this legislative session, things are moving quickly this month. UUJusticePA will send out extra News Alerts and Action Alerts throughout the month to keep you informed and engaged.

I am keeping my eye on July when this chaos is over, (at least for this year), and grandbabies arrive.

Holding ground in our faith and moving justice forward in PA,

Rev. joan