

### SEPTEMBER IS BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH!

# September 13th -- JASON LYDON "Homecoming Sunday"

After a summer vacation from formal Sunday services we will come back together to celebrate and share in new beginnings. Please bring water from your journeys or from your faucet at home so we can tell stories of our personal growth and change over the summer. As we are focusing this September, again, on issues around education Jason's talk will examine some alternatives to standard education such as unschooling, vocational programs, and homeschooling. Learning does not have to happen the same for everyone. Education is a political and spiritual practice that leads us to becoming more whole beings. We will use this month to reflect on this.

## September 20th -- PRESS PASS TV "Standardized Failure"

Press Pass TV is a youth adult partnership organization whose mission is to produce socially responsible video journalism, which promotes a more diverse media, empowers communities and increases civic engagement. They work with middle and high school students to create news stories that tell of community power and connect issues in our community to root causes. By providing an alternative to the repetitive one-sidedness of mainstream media, they connect community members to pathways for action.



In *Standardized Failure*, Press Pass TV partnered with the City School to go inside the dangerous affects that the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System has on youth and schools. They also just created a discussion and action guide to accompany the video. They will use both to discuss solutions and next steps.

### September 27th -- MARTINA M. CRUZ "Working Families and the Economic Crisis"

Martina Cruz is a member of the Lawrence School Committee and active with Latinos United for Justice. She is an endorser of Welcoming Massachusetts, a pro-immigrant organization working toward just and humane immigration policies. In 2006, she was one of eleven Latino elected officials from the U.S. chosen as international observers during the presidential election in Venezuela.

Since she came to the U.S. nearly 25 years ago, Martina has led a life of activism based on Liberation Theology. Because of her efforts organizing for the rights of immigrants, women & workers and against war, she was asked to run for School Committee. She won and now continues her social justice work there and "in the streets", where she assists indigent families in crisis to access services for children with mental health issues. Martina's talk will focus on Lawrence, the only majority Latino city in New England, and on jobs, services & education.



#### Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

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Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$3 on Sunday until 1:30 with a special sticker available from the church. By public transportation, Community Church is minutes from the Back Bay station (Orange line) or Copley (Green line).