

Woodside World

CHURCH NEWS of CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. Deborah DeMars Conrad, Pastor

THIS WEEK AT WOODSIDE 9/18 - 9/24

- SUN: 9/18** 9:30 am Faith Formation Classes
11 am Worship followed by coffee hour
11 am Faith Exploration for children
- MON: 9/19** Office Closed
- Tue: 9/20** 7 pm Safe Church Training Class
- WED: 9/21** 10 am Mott Rally Day
5:30 pm Board Meeting

ADULT FORUMS

ADULT SUNDAY FORUMS Sundays, at 9:30 am.

✦ Jay Cummings is leading the discussion of the book, *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation* by Jennifer Harvey. (*She'll be speaking here Oct 14-15 at the UCC annual meeting.*) This group meets in the parlor.

✦ Laura Eufinger and Leslie Cummings sit in for Pastor Deb this week in a discussion of *Manna and Mercy: a brief history of God's unfolding promise to mend the entire universe* by Daniel Erlander. This is a deeply engaging look at scripture, for beginners and re-beginners, helping us see the bible as one large story. Plus it is written in sort-of comic book style, with a clever gopher hanging around the margins. This group will meet in the library. No weekly pre-reading is involved.

Copies of both of these books are provided at no cost. You can pick up *Dear White Christians* in the church office; one copy of *Manna & Mercy* is available for review; copies will be distributed during class.

NEW TO WOODSIDE?

THE NEWCOMERS' GATHERING is 7 pm **TONIGHT**, Thur, Sept 15. There's still time to join in. We'll gather at Karen Eaton's house. No pressure to join, just conversation and light refreshments. Call the office by 5 pm if you need child care.

AN INQUIRERS' CLASS will be held after worship for 3 weeks, beginning on Sun, Sept 25 (12:30-2 pm).

If you are interested in membership at Woodside, or just want a refresher about who we are and what we're about, this is for you! (Attending doesn't commit you to join, just prepares you and helps you decide.) Gatherings include lunch and childcare. Please sign up or leave a note in the church office, so we can count on lunch quantities and childcare helpers.

BOARD NOTES

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS will be away for our annual visioning retreat Sept 16-18, Friday dinner until Sunday lunch.

We'll gather at 5:30 pm Fri, at Crystal Lake Retreat Center in Frankfort, a camp of our partner denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Don't forget to bring your book, *Beyond Resistance*, by UCC President John Dorhauer, which has important implications for Woodside, and will help shape our conversations.

SAFE CHURCH

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING. Woodside is committed to providing a safe place for all the folks who gather.

Among other things, this means we require training for anyone interested in working or volunteering with our children.

There will be a seminar 7-9 pm Tue, Sept 20, after which we will perform a state background check on each potential teacher, helper or nursery sitter.

Even if you've been through this training someplace else or you've been a school teacher for 9 decades, you are required to participate.

If you've done this training at Woodside, but more than a year ago, we ask that you come take part as a refresher, and to be updated on our safe church practices.

Childcare is provided, but you must sign-up so we know how to plan.

SAFE WATER UPDATE

OUR WATER FILLING STATIONS ARE COMPLETE! and we even had a ribbon-cutting during worship on Sunday.

The idea has been that we would provide a "safe water source," so that anyone who wanted could come and fill their own bottles at no cost. Through gifts from across the country, we've done that!

Plus, we're working with 3 other partners in the city to provide 3 more locations, accessible to a lot of Flint residents in need.

Our new drinking fountains have a spout to fill regular sized water bottles; the sinks in the main level kitchenette and the downstairs kitchen now have commercial-strength filter systems with higher volume faucets. The water has been tested and it is lead-free.

Now, we can care for the earth by filling and refilling 1-, 2- and even 5-gallon bottles! We have a few bottles available at no cost, and will be gathering more. Feel free to bring your own. And please, tell your friends! And remember: it's totally free to all!

UCC ANNUAL MEETING

The UCC 2016 Michigan Conference Annual Meeting is Fri - Sat, Oct 14 -15, here at Woodside. Registration is open - get registered Today! The theme is: *A New Covenant*, somehow always timely. Keynote speaker is Professor Jennifer Harvey, author of *Dear White Christians*. Pastor Deb will preach for the opening worship, 4:30 pm Friday. For more info and get registered click here.

SHARE YOUR STORY

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is seeking written testimony on what, if any, role **race** may have played in creating and / or responding to the Flint water contamination crisis. Written testimony may be submitted by an individual or an organization, and will be accepted until September 30, 2016, via e-mail to MDCRDiretor@Michigan.gov. All testimony will be considered by the Commission in preparation of the final report and recommendations it will issue in Dec 2016. To be considered, testimony must include personal contact information for the person who is offering it.