

Woodside World

NEWS of CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

*Woodside Church is a progressive Christian community
committed to nurturing freedom, honesty and diversity,
where members and friends live Jesus' way of social justice.*

a Congregation of the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the American Baptist Churches

WOODSIDE PILGRIMAGE

About 20 Woodsiders traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, last weekend, to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, also known as the National Lynching Museum. Joe, Karen and Laura have shared reflections this time; next week, others will, as well.

from Joe Eufinger —

Our tours of the Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace And Justice really brought home the enormity of the terror people of color in this nation have been subjected to since Europeans imposed themselves on the Western Hemisphere. At the National Memorial you are confronted with metal cubes representing counties in this nation where lynchings have occurred. On each cube are the names, when known, of the human beings who were lynched. The way the Memorial is constructed you are confronted by wave after wave of cubes. The first group is overwhelming enough and then you make a turn and, "oh my God", there are more.. and more.. and more! And then they confront you with the insane reasons for some of the lynchings. Walking through the Memorial was a sobering and enlightening experience. At the Legacy Museum you are brought face to face with the human cost of our racist society. We met through video a man wrongly sent to death row who we had read about in Brian Stephenson's book "Just Mercy". Both museums really hammered home the utter brutality, stupidity, inhumanity, and waste of institutional racism in America.

from Karen Eaton —

The fun and companionship was warm and wonderful on the loooong, exhausting trip in the van on the way down.

Up early to go to the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham. Excellent displays of events in the 1950's- 60's civil rights fights.

I remembered many of those events, but didn't know or remember many of the particulars, especially the names of so many of the people involved. Another thing that struck me was how young Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was at that time.

Next was a quick lunch on the way to Montgomery and the Legacy Museum. The impressive museum made the connection clear between the brutality and horror of slavery, lynching, civil rights abuses and mass incarceration. The pictures, videos and stories were powerful. I thought about all we had read and discussed at Woodside, and things I had experienced in my own journey, to try to understand the devastating impact of white privilege and power.

Then we entered the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. I don't have words for my experience. I only know that the assurance and certainty I knew *in my head* about the pervasive, destructive nature of white privilege moved to my gut. I'll never again question the power of white privilege and its impact on

others. I know in my whole being it is overwhelming. I still have much to learn about how and in what ways discrimination works and what actions I need to take. After this trip, I know I need to do something now.

from Laura Eufinger —

At the National Memorial for Peace and Justice ... also called the Lynching Museum, there are large rusted metal coffin-like boxes hanging from the roof. Each coffin is engraved with the names of people, and the dates they were lynched in a particular county and state.

You start out with the coffins at eye level then as you walk through them you start going down until they are high over your head, as if someone is hanging there. There are so many coffins, so many names. You get to the bottom, and there is maybe a moment of "Thank God I'm at the end" ...

... then you walk around the corner. There are more. Now they are on the ground laid out like coffins. Many more states, many more counties, many many more names. More than 4,000 African American men, women and children.

We come from this.

Thanks to you all; we are enriched by your witness. — ed.



IN OUR CONGREGATION

THANKSGIVING AT SCHMIDTS. Adam and Jamie Schmidt, are inviting folks to their home who don't have a place to be for Thanksgiving. *If you can't get out, and would like Thanksgiving delivered, they'll figure that out, too.* Call the church office ASAP! Thanksgiving is Nov 22.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS. Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, begins Dec 1 this year. If you would like a booklet of daily Advent devotions, or an advent calendar for your family, call the church office. We'll order as many as we need. *(As with all that we share, there is no cost to you.)*

SEXUAL TRAUMA SUPPORT. The national conversation lately has been a painful trigger for a lot of people. If you might be interested in a sexual trauma support group, send a private message to [Pr. Deb](#). We can form one, or find one.

"WOODSIDE NIGHTS," our new time of fun and fellowship, is Nov 7 at our new place — 503 Garland St. We'll have **crafts** (like wax paper "stained glass" for our new garage doors), **games** (like tossing quarters into the offering plate), and **prizes** (like a ticket to be a reader in worship! or fold bulletins on Fridays!). Join the fun, Wednesday, Nov 7, 6-8 pm.

NOW STREAMING! Still a bug or two, but we're going to keep at it. When you can't make it to worship, you can watch, even comment, live on Facebook: woodside church of flint.

"WOODSIDE'S WORTH IT."

STEWARDSHIP SEASON continues Sunday as we build toward a celebration Nov 4. This week, Linda Rose Lee will share why Woodside's Worth it. Sunday's theme is What about Tomorrow?

Then, Nov 4, we will gather for a special morning worship ("Where Hearts Lie") 11 am, in our new space, 503 Garland. We'll welcome new members, and share a potluck dinner and special activities. That day, you'll receive a pledge card, a time for you to indicate your support for Woodside in 2019. *(We'll receive completed pledge cards in worship Nov 18.)*

Bill Smith is coordinating the potluck, so, if you haven't already, check in with him about what to bring.

IN TRANSITION

RE-IMAGINING takes all our senses. Our stewardship dinner, Nov 4, will be our chance to feel the space — tangibly, as well as spiritually. Please plan to join in.

NEXT WEEK AT WOODSIDE

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| SUN | 9:30 am | New members, board room |
| | 11 am | Worship, then fellowship. |
| | 12:30 pm | Personnel |
| MON | 2 pm | Stewardship Team |
| TUES | 3:30 pm | Space Design Team |
| | 5:30 pm | Board of Directors |
| TUE-FRI | 10 am-2 pm | Office open |
| TUES | 8 am-6 pm | Wildroot |

COMMUNITY NEWS

WOODSIDE AND NORTH END SOUP KITCHEN. As in previous year's, Woodside will plan to provide Christmas gifts for NESK client families. We'll purchase and wrap gifts for children, and plan to purchase gift cards for the parents. Watch this space. Laura Eufinger will coordinate, and will shortly tell us more.

MICAH'S TABLE — ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE.

UCC EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WITNESS, the Rev. Traci Blackmon, will speak at 1:30 pm Sunday at the Peoples Church, 200 W Grand River, East Lansing. (She will also preach at their morning worship, but we'd rather you were here.) Pr Blackmon, formerly of Christ the King UCC in Florissant MO, became active in the "Black Lives Matter" movement after the extrajudicial killing of Michael Brown.

MICHIGAN FAITH IN ACTION FLINT meets Thursday, tonight!, at St. Peter C.M.E. Church, 771 E. Pierson Road, with a light meal at 5:30 and business from 6-7:30. If you're interested in representing Woodside, let Jay or Pr Deb know.

WE SCREWED UP.

Yeah, the time change is Nov 4. *But please fall backward instead of forward. Else you'll be 3 hours late. Or 2 hours early. Or something other than on time.*

WOODSIDE AT "BE NOT AFRAID" CONFERENCE

Oct 12-13, Michigan Conference UCC gathered for its annual meeting under the theme "Be Not Afraid." These are notes from Helena Singer:

The first day I arrived, I was very anxious because I was the oldest youth and only youth there from Woodside. All that aside, the ten of us all bonded pretty quickly with no effort at all.

At the end of the first night there, we made an even deeper bond when we were asked about our lives and experiences as teenagers. We all had a lot to say, even the youngest who was 11 years old. Our discussion was mostly about the cliques and groups at school, and how we know more than most generations did because of the technology we have at our fingertips. We all knew it was very overwhelming.

The next day was had a very beautiful service and a workshop with Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt. It was long discussion about racism and sexism, and other things the youth in my group had to deal with. The discussion was long, and it was raw and emotional. It was a very enlightening experience just being able to meet kids my age who go through what I do and have the same beliefs as I do. I would do it all over again if I could.

(Helena has been elected to the Michigan Conference delegation to the national General Synod in 2021. If you heard her remarks in our worship last week, you know she will serve us well. — ed.)