

Woodside World

NEWS of CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

Joyfully Defiant for the Sake of a Just World

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

IN OUR CONGREGATION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, APRIL 14. Immediately following worship service on Sunday, April 14, a congregational meeting will be held for the consideration of a proposal relating to renovation financing. We hope that you will be able to join us.

COACHING RESCHEDULED. To better accommodate the many people who are interested in learning more about how best to write to and connect with our incarcerated friends, we have decided to postpone our coaching session with our community partner, Leon El-Alamin of the M.A.D.E. Institute, until after Easter. The new date will be announced soon. Thanks!

THE WAYS WE HELP. Woodside's "minister's discretionary fund" allows us to assist folks at tenuous times in their lives—with rent, water or heat, medical expenses, transportation and things we can't predict. The fund is low. If you are able to make a special gift, just mark it "discretionary" and drop it by the office or in the offering and know that it does a world of good.

WOODSIDE WORLD HAS SHIFTED DESKS. Hunter has now taken over Woodside World production. Please submit notices to him [directly](#), using the subject line "woodside world." Thanks!

OBSERVING LENT

LENTEN DEVOTION MATERIALS from the UCC are available for your personal use. The theme is *Take Nothing With You*, as we ponder what an unencumbered journey might look like. Check the back table; if we run out, we'll order more. No cost to you.

INTROSPECTION ABOUT RACISM FOR WHITE PEOPLE. Last Sunday, Jamie, Leslie, and Robin began a series of reflections on their participation in a program for white people called "Doing Our Own Work." It was important and good conversation with about 15 Woodsiders participating. Part II is this Sunday, March 31, 12:30–1:30 pm. Plan to linger over soup and snacks for good conversation. Just to help with food planning, please RSVP to [Hunter](#) in the church office.

DOING A LENTEN THING? If you're willing to share, drop a note to Pastor Deb and we'll print it in a subsequent issue of Woodside World. We're in it together.

PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

READERS' THEATRE FOR PALM SUNDAY: Tom is organizing a reading of the Passion Story for our worship April 14. If you'd like to be part of this, talk to Tom!

A BANNER FOR EASTER: Starting this Sunday, we'll work together to paint a new banner. We'll have Tyvek, brushes and Easter paint colors on hand, set up in the worship area, on the table by the water machine. Join us and leave your mark on this new abstract worship addition. Thanks, Jamie, for organizing.

THINKING OF SUMMER

SUMMER CAMP AT TALAH! This UCC-related camp near Howell holds a lot of memories for Woodsiders and others, and we're always happy to help families make it possible. There are week-long camps for grades 3-12, mini-camps (3 nights) for K-3 grades, weekend camps for young adults, transgender teens and their families, plus family camp. See Karen for more information.

TRANSITION NEWS

EXTERIOR CHANGES: The Flint Historic District Commission has approved exterior lettering which is being installed today (check Facebook for photos). The Commission also approved addition of an exterior door facing Second Avenue, required by code.

STYLE TEAM: The Executive Committee has appointed a team to decide finishes and paint colors (which must mean we are getting close!). Members are Linda Angus, Eileen Button, Dale Emery, Laura Eufinger and Adam Schmidt. Thanks!

TIMELINE: The renovations site manager has reported that we'll be ready to move in "in a few weeks." June 1 seems a safe bet, perhaps even mid-May. This is happening!

GREENING OUR LIVES

Our Creation Justice Team is initiating the UCC's program called 52 Ways to Care for Creation; they'll include one idea each week here in Woodside World.

THIS WEEK: CONTEMPLATING AND SHARING ON EARTH HOUR

Observe Earth Hour this Saturday, March 30, 8:30-9:30pm. This Earth Hour, join millions around the world to turn off the lights and speak up about why nature matters. You could host a candle-lit dinner, go stargazing, or simply switch off your lights for an hour. Nature not only provides us with all the things we need to live—from the air we breathe to the water we drink, and from the shelter we need to the economy we rely on—but also makes our lives better. However, its growing loss puts this all under threat. To learn more, go to <https://www.earthhour.org/>. If you are curious which countries and groups are participating around the world, go [here](#) and click on the symbols. Maybe next year Woodside will be on the map! For now, let's take an hour to turn off the lights and tell someone why.

LAST CHANCE FOR BAGS! Don't forget to let us know if you would like some environmentally-friendly cloth grocery bags, repurposed from our old muslin curtains and stenciled with a striking Woodside design! Tell us how many you'd like on the sign-in sheets in church or talk to Jamie, Leslie, Karen, Kendall, Liz, or Carla.

