

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

SHARING COMPASSION. We desire to stay in touch with our incarcerated friends, but writing to strangers can be awkward at best, and even moreso when we don't understand their situation. Thankfully, we are not alone. Following worship this Sunday, April 28, we will be joined by our community partners, Leon El-Alamin, Tim Abdul-Matin, and attorney Tiffany Huges of the M.A.D.E. Institute, who will walk us through how best to write to and connect with our incarcerated friends. Compassionate connection can make a difference, so join us.

CIVIL RIGHTS FIELD TRIP RESCHEDULING. The trip to the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State must be rescheduled due to a conflict with the museum. If we keep the trip on a Saturday, the next available opportunity is June 29. An alternative is to schedule for a weekday or a later date. We will meet briefly to discuss preferences after church this Sunday, April 28.

COMMUNITY COOKOUT. For some time now, a diverse field of churches have been sponsoring a monthly community cookout on the banks of the Flint River for all to enjoy. This month, the organizers asked if Woodside would host. Of course, we said yes! This Saturday, April 27, from 1 pm - 4 pm, we will come together with folks across the county in the parking lot and yard of 503 Garland Street. No need to RSVP or bring anything! Just come and enjoy good food and friendship.

IN OUR DENOMINATION

ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS. Deb is traveling to Washington, D.C., today to represent Woodside at the 2019 Alliance of Baptists' Annual Gathering. This year's theme: "What is Liberty Without Liberation?"

IN OUR COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN FAITH & ACTION ON CAPITOL HILL. On Tuesday, April 30, from 10 am - 1:30 pm, Woodsiders who are able are encouraged to join others in urging members of the Michigan House to pass the Raise The Age bill package. We will be trained before heading out so whether you're an old hand or a first-timer, have no fear. We will ride together to Lansing, meeting at the church at 8:45 am. RSVP with Jay: (517) 392-0209.

THE SEASON OF EASTER

EASTER ISN'T ONE SUNDAY of white lilies and painted eggs. The season of Easter encompasses the next seven weeks and takes us, day by day, to the fires of Pentecost on June 9. This Sunday, Jay preaches, "Shut My Mouth." On May 5, Tom preaches, "A Sitcom or Scripture?" And on May 12, Deb preaches, "Really?" Join us as we celebrate 50 days of Easter.

TRANSITION UPDATE

PREPARING TO MOVE. Yes, it's really happening! Though we haven't cemented the date, we are fast approaching the start of our move. We will be calling around for strapping volunteers soon so don't stray too far from your phone. Our goal remains, worship at Garland in June, and together, we can do just that.

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: EXPLORE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

In 2003, the Flint River Watershed Coalition and the UM-Flint Center for Applied Environmental Research collaborated to form Greenlinks. Their [report](#) of needs concluded:

In the next 30 years, Michigan's Genesee region is predicted to experience unprecedented growth and land use change. Even though the population in its communities has remained stable, growth continues to convert this region's landscape into a developed environment.

This rapid land consumption and the fragmented open spaces that result are the primary conservation challenges facing the nation, the state, and the Genesee and Shiawassee regions.

The conversion of natural areas has resulted in more fragmented habitats, a reduction in wildlife populations, a disruption of natural landscapes, and the decline of air and water quality.

The social consequences are equally serious. When a grove of trees is bulldozed, a farm is developed or an opportunity for a trail connection is lost, the community loosens its link with nature – and with its neighbors. Learn more about Greenlinks and about how caring for the environment is essential to the earth's and our lives by following the link below.

A well planned, managed, and maintained green infrastructure network provides many ecological, social, and economic benefits: enriched habitats and biodiversity; maintenance of natural landscape processes; cleaner air and water; improved health; better connections to nature and better sense-of-place; increased property values; lower public infrastructure costs; space for outdoor recreation; connection between people and nature; guided growth and development.

Kendall Brown, contributor

