



Michigan Interfaith Power & Light



Thanks to our recent
donor congregations!
Welcome new members!



Counter-clockwise from top left: Edgewood United Church UCC (E. Lansing), Islamic Organization of North America (Warren), Central United Methodist Church (Detroit), Unity Church of Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Church (E. Lansing).

Greetings friends,

April 22 is nigh! How will you be a better, more faithful steward of the Earth

this Earth Day, April 22?

Here are 5 things you can do for Earth Day:

1. Be a Citizen Lobbyist for a Day

It is an utter disgrace that our state-- surrounded by 20% of the world's fresh water-- fails to ensure access to clean water for all of its residents.

That's one reason that citizen oversight of air, land, and water protection is so vital. EVERY individual should have a voice in this process.



On Wednesday, April 11, we will join members of the Sierra Club in Lansing to advocate for citizen involvement in environmental regulation.

Specifically, we will meet with our elected leaders and ask them to:

- oppose Senate Bills 652-654, which would create panels of industry representatives to review all rule-making and permit decisions of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- support House Bills 4200-4202 and Senate Bills 154/156, which restore citizen oversight to the Departments of Environmental Quality

and Natural Resources

If you've never met with lawmakers before, don't fear! The day begins with a lobby training and introduction to the issues, and we'll be meeting with our legislators in small groups. **Carpooling is available!**

[See details here \(including background on the legislation\) and register by Friday, April 6.](#)

Let's have a strong faith contingent on April 11. Questions? Contact Leah: outreach@miipl.org, 248-376-4603.

2. Celebrate Earth Day in your Congregation and Earn Fame*

If the person on the bima, or at the pulpit, or on the meditation cushion at the front of the room isn't talking about the Earth and our urgent need to care for her, it's not really on the map as an important spiritual issue, right?

What difference could we make if all of Michigan's 10,000 faith communities acknowledged our shared responsibility to care for Creation?

To help realize this dream, we're encouraging YOUR congregation to include Earth Day themes in an upcoming service.



This year, we are seeking submissions for:

- best Earth Day sermon
- best Earth Day worship service (the full program of prayers, songs, decorations, activities, etc.)

[See the contest guidelines and find links to resources on our](#)

[website.](#)

Send your materials to outreach@miipl.org by Friday, April 13.

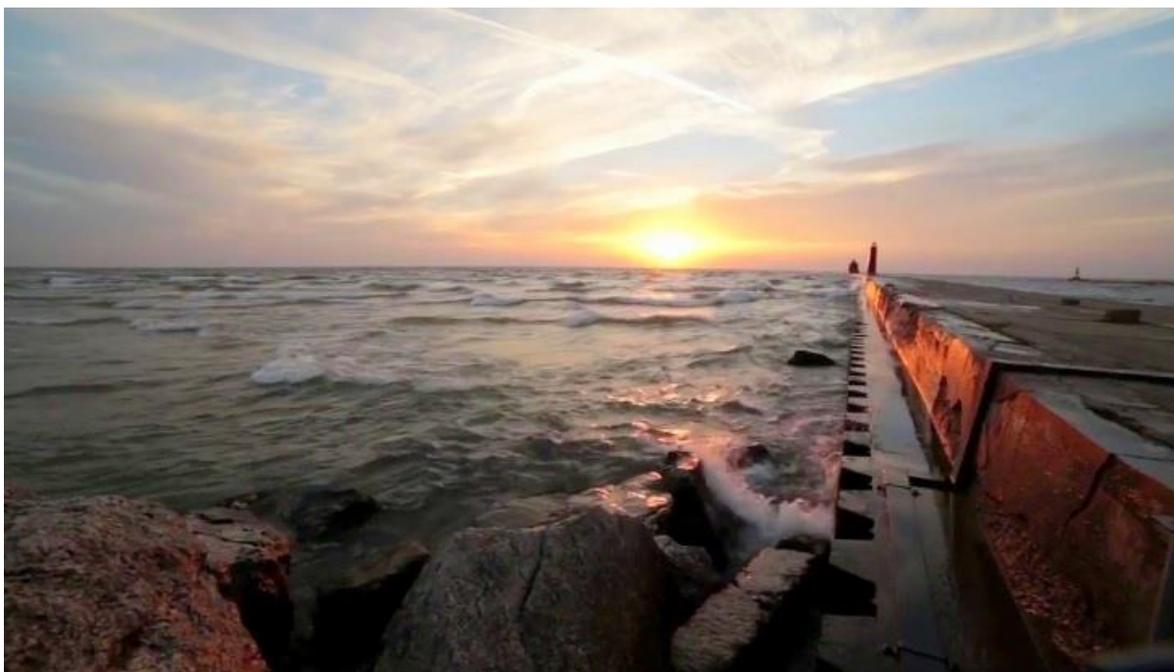
We will announce the winners and share their materials with all of you on Friday, April 20.

*We do not promise Beyoncé-level fame, but contest winners *will* receive a virtual high five from the Michigan IPL staff. Winners may also earn the admiration of several newsletter subscribers and, at a minimum, be gratified by the knowledge that they are The Best.

3. Sign our Interfaith Letter to Shut Down Line 5

Line 5, which runs through the entire state of Michigan and under the Mackinac Straits, turns 65 on April 23.

There have already been [29 documented leaks from Line 5](#), spilling over 1,100,000 gallons of Tar Sands oil in Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas and in Wisconsin.



Enbridge, which was also responsible for the catastrophic oil spill into the Kalamazoo River in 2010 (from a younger pipeline, no less), maintains that leaks are the result of "normal wear and tear." Inevitable, you might say.

The looming threat of an underwater spill in the Mackinac Straits might be acceptable to Enbridge. It is NOT acceptable to us.

[Sign our letter to demand the immediate shutdown of Line 5. Then ask a friend of two to sign it :\)](#)

Our goal is 500 signatures!

Faith leaders will hand deliver this letter to the Governor's Office on Monday, April 23.

You can also host or attend a Line 5 Retirement Party near you! [See Oil & Water Don't Mix for details.](#)

4. Come to the "Just Water" Conference on Saturday, April 21 in Detroit

As many of you know, houses of worship getting their water from Detroit Water and Sewer Dept. are now being charged drainage fees based on the size of their parking lots-- these could be up to \$661 per paved acre.

This is an issue for faith communities for 2 reasons:

1. Drainage fees will be a significant strain on the budgets of many houses of worship. This means less money for mission.
2. The water run-off itself is a strain on the environment. High concentrations of impervious surfaces (parking lots, roads, sidewalks) puts toxic pollutants into our water and leaves our streets flooded.

Introducing green infrastructure-- like rain barrels and rain gardens-- helps on both of these fronts.

Just Water: A Daylong Conference on Building Better Faith-Based Approaches to Storm Water Runoff



Saturday, April 21, 2018
Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
18700 James Couzens Fwy.,
Detroit, MI 48235
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Breakfast & lunch served
Cost: \$25

The Just Water conference is here to help! In this full-day program, you'll learn:

- about the relationship between water and multiple faith traditions
- how to minimize your drainage fee through transition and green infrastructure credits
- how to access matching funds (up to \$5 million a year)
- how to mobilize your community around issues of environmental stewardship and justice

[\\$25 Advance Registration is required.](#) Click the link to register and get info about scholarships!

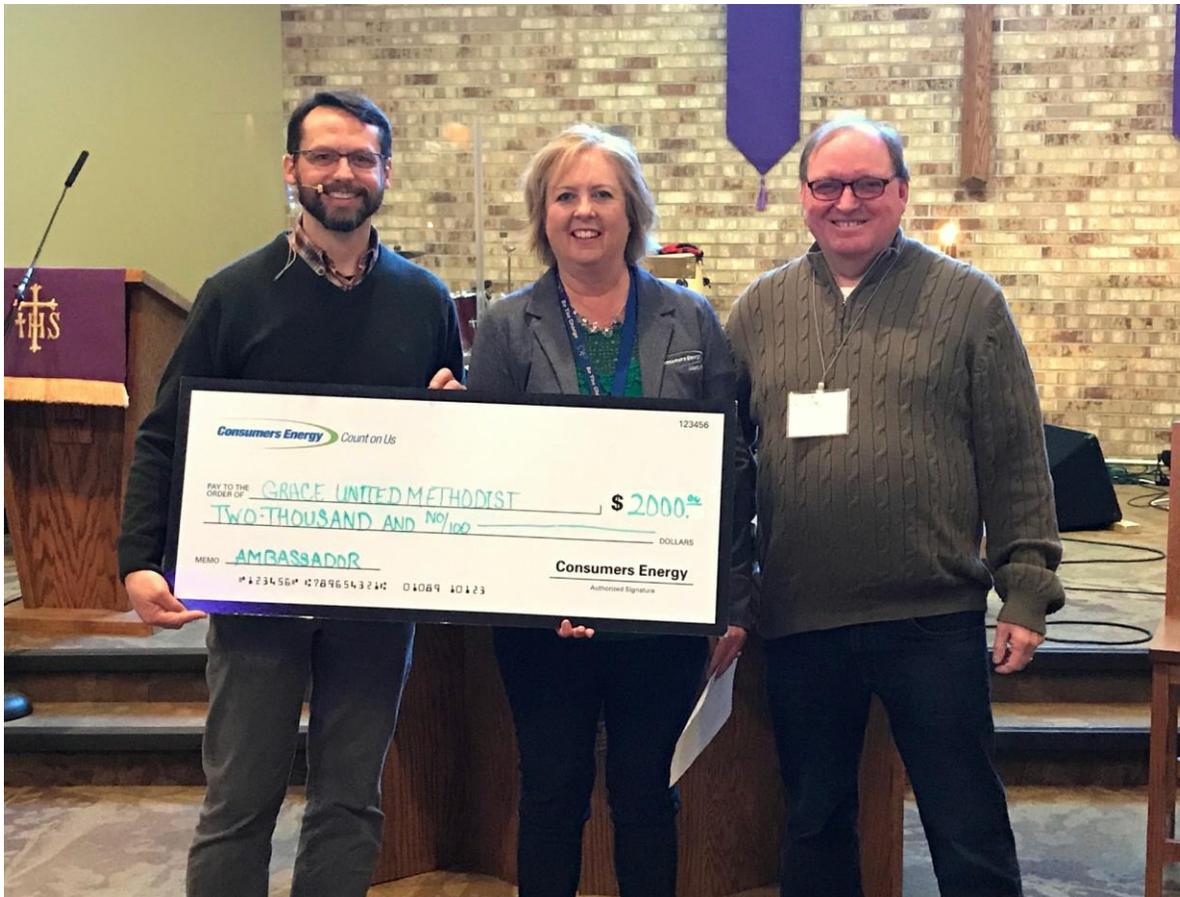
5. Evangelize about Energy Efficiency and Earn Money for your Congregation

In March, Pastor Eric Kieb and the Grace United Methodist Church of Bay City congregation earned \$2,000 through Consumers Energy's [House of Worship Rewards program](#).

By getting members and friends to sign up for free home energy

assessments, Grace Church also prevented 69.1 metric tons of CO₂ from being released into the atmosphere. That's equivalent to the CO₂ emissions that would be created by burning 75,602 pounds of coal.

Way to go, Grace!



Your congregation can do it, too! Here's how:

1. Sign up and host an energy efficiency workshop for your congregation (led and sponsored by Consumers Energy).
2. Promote the benefits of energy efficiency at home and encourage congregants and friends to schedule a free home energy analysis with Consumers Energy. They provide a unique code (something easy like "Grace Church BC") so that your house of worship gets credit for the referral.
3. Earn up to \$2,000 for your congregation, based on the number of sign

ups!

Eligibility: Your house of worship DOES NOT need to be a Consumers Energy customer to participate. Those signing up for residential energy efficiency services with Consumers Energy DO need to be Consumers Energy customers.

To sign up, contact Jennifer Young: projectmanager@miipl.org, 248-463-8811.

We are looking for summer interns!

Michigan IPL is currently seeking summer interns to create web content, plan events, coordinate sustainability projects and more. The internships are unpaid with flexible timing. [Find the job descriptions on our website and apply by Friday, April 13.](#)



Free Energy Audits Available for Houses of Worship in Grand Rapids

The US Green Building Council West Michigan Chapter is offering a limited number of FREE building audits to small businesses and non-profits to help them save energy and save money. [Apply here.](#)



Ocean plastic is horrifying. Don't be part of the problem!

12,000,000 tons of plastic-- especially single use plastic items like food containers, cutlery, and bags-- enter our oceans each year. But biodegradable, affordable options are available! **Michigan IPL member congregations receive an 8% discount at [MI Green Safe](#)**, which sells eco-friendly alternatives to disposable plastic (petroleum-based) products. Just mention that you're a member when you place your order for 8% off.



Extra Rebates Available to Congregations for LED Lighting

The Michigan Agency for Energy is providing rebates of up to \$10,000 for non-profits-- including houses of worship-- who are upgrading to LED lighting (interior/exterior). Program ends May 1. [Learn more here.](#)



LiTES Program: Rebates & Training on Advanced Lighting Controls

[Next Energy's Lighting Technology Energy Solutions \(LiTES\) program](#) aims to reduce the energy footprint in small and medium commercial buildings by accelerating the adoption of advanced lighting controls. Program participants:

- Can take advantage of LiTES exclusive utility incentives for advanced lighting controls
- Will receive training on advanced lighting controls



Upcoming Events

4/3/18: [Supporting Your Muslim Neighbor event](#), Islamic Center of America (Dearborn), 6:30-9pm.

4/11/18: [Sierra Club Citizen Lobby Day](#), meet at Central United Methodist Church (Lansing), 8:45am-afternoon. Register by April 6.

4/12/18: Wege Foundation Speaker Series: "On Being a Rare Bird: Coloring the Conservation Conversation," Aquinas College (Grand Rapids), 4-5:30. [RSVP required by 4/5/18.](#)

4/21/18: Conference: "Just Water: A Daylong Conference on Building Better Faith-Based Approaches to Storm Water Runoff," Hartford Memorial Baptist Church (Detroit), 9am-4pm. [Register here.](#)

4/21/18: [Kalamazoo Earth Day Festival](#), Bronson Park, 1-7pm.

4/23/18: [Line 5 Retirement Party](#) near you, evening!

4/28/18: "Let's Catch the Sun" solar presentation at the Islamic Center of East Lansing, noon.

5/18/18: [Annual Rouge Rescue River Cleanup Day](#), various sites in metro Detroit (check the website for details).

5/23/18: Solar for Churches Workshop, Church of the Servant (Grand Rapids), 6-8pm.

Do you have an event other members of the Michigan IPL community might be interested in? Let us know: admin@miipl.org, 248-537-9175.

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