



Michigan Interfaith Power & Light



Three Faces of Patience

In perhaps all major faith traditions the exercise of patience in times of heightened chaos and uncertainty is a precious value, a priceless gift, the prized fruit of a faithful life.

I suspect those who often worry, as I do, about the capacity of the Earth to be renewed, to be a cleaner, healthier, more just home for all of its inhabitants, worry even more these days in light of recent governmental policy decisions. It is hard to be patient and hopeful in our life-long calling to steadfastly take care of our home, to treat the Earth with kindness, moderation, and respect in the face of powerful influences pressing for short-term economic gain, at Earth's expense.

As an antidote to worry, I share with you three thoughts about patience my spiritual director shared with me as I wrestled with my own impatience in the face of these troubling pressures and decisions.

1. **Patience with others is love.** In our present context, I think that means we do not demonize or disparage those who seem indifferent to the plight of the Earth. Rather it means we speak respectfully to them and about them regarding our concerns. It means that, to the best of our ability, our words to them and about them are based on both broad scientific consensus and our religious convictions about love for all that God has made.
2. **Patience with ourselves is hope.** I think that means we recognize our own complicity in the brokenness and imperiled state of our world (none of us is pure) and simultaneously recognize we are made in the image of God. Patience with ourselves then is about both humility and boldness. As human beings, as fallen creatures of the earth, we cause pain and suffering. As offspring of God, we rise above our destructive nature. To embrace both aspects of our humanity is to be a bearer of hope.
3. **Patience with God is faith.** Michigan Interfaith Power and Light is a growing community of people of faith. Interfaith means that while we have different understandings of the holy, of our relationship to the divine Other, we believe that we are all called to be stewards and lovers of each other and of the Earth, our home. Patience with God means to trust that God is always working in us and through us and beyond our timetables and programs. Put another way, it means to trust that the well-being of this Earth and of its viability for our descendents will come to pass both through us and in ways beyond our doing, our timing, our wisdom.

I wish you a blessed New Year, filled with this three-fold patience.



Rev. John Schleicher
Michigan IPL Board Chair

Michigan IPL welcomes two new Board members

William Antoun is a chaplain and Assistant Outreach Director for the Islamic Organization of North America mosque, based in Warren.

Rev. Deb Hansen is based in northern Michigan, where she created the Concerned Citizens of Cheboygan and Emmet County network-- a group that builds

public awareness about local energy and environmental issues.

William and Deb, we are excited to have you as part of our team and look forward to working with you!

WEBINAR: "Energy Bill Assistance: Connecting Congregants with Community Resources"

Tuesday, 1/23/18, 12-1pm

Especially with these sub-zero temperatures, your congregation is likely fielding calls from folks who need help paying their heating bills.

Even if you can't offer direct assistance, you don't have to turn anyone away empty-handed! Learn about what utility assistance resources are available on this webinar, co-presented by Consumers Energy. [Click here to register](#) and/or receive the recording.



Light the Way 2018 Sign-Ups Open!

Not to brag (jk, totally, unabashedly bragging), but we've done A LOT in the last 3 years:

- \$400,000 worth of energy upgrades have been installed for FREE
- 430 congregations have been served
- 40 faith traditions and denominations have been included

[If your congregation has Consumers Energy service, sign up for Light the Way](#) or call Jennifer for more info: 248-463-8811.



"Would you rather pay \$17k for energy or provide more food to kids in need?"

*Rev. Nathan Allen
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Grand Blanc*

**More money = more mission
Sign up for Light the Way!**

The image shows a man, Rev. Nathan Allen, standing in the doorway of a church. He is wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt and light-colored trousers. He is smiling and has his right hand on the door handle. The church sign behind him reads "Holy Spirit Lutheran Church", "Office Hours Monday-Friday", "Tel. 810.424.6", and "Please Ring Bell". There is also a fire extinguisher on the wall inside the doorway.

Upcoming Events

1/18/18: [Film Screening + Discussion + Action: "Troubled Water,"](#) a film about regional water issues in Southeast Michigan, at Congregation Shir Tikvah (Troy), 7pm.

1/23/18: Webinar: "Energy Bill Assistance: Connecting Congregants with Community Resources," co-presented with Consumers Energy, 12-1pm. [Click here to register](#) and/or receive the recording.

2/17/18: Workshop: Home Solar Setup, at Detroit Training Center, 11am-

1pm. [RSVP required.](#)

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

[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

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