



Gather Your Quorum for the Earth!

In Judaism, certain rituals require a quorum of participants. I've always liked this idea-- that you have to gather people in community to make the magic happen. I need reminders like this.

It also makes me think of Bill McKibben's admonition that "What can I do about climate change?" is the wrong question, and that we urgently need to be asking "What can WE do about climate change?" instead.

This Earth Day, I issue a challenge and an invitation. What can you do *with your quorum* (whatever that looks like to you) to honor the Earth this April 22?

Here are 2 ideas:

1. Help plan an Earth Day-oriented worship service and enter our contest!



Holding an Earth Day-oriented worship service is a great way to integrate

Earth care, as a value, into your congregation's spiritual life. 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 it, it's not really on the map as an important spiritual issue, right?

So, this year we're holding a contest 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 me at outreach@miipl.org by Friday, April 13. We will share the winning materials with the Michigan IPL community on Friday, April 20.

2. Join us in Lansing on April 11 to stand up for strong citizen oversight on environment



The consequences of poorly managed infrastructure and industrial waste are felt first and foremost by ordinary Michiganders. The ongoing water crisis in Flint is but one example of how our society's most vulnerable pay the highest

price when the systems meant to protect the public fail.

That's why maintaining and strengthening citizen oversight on environmental matters is so, so vital.

On Wednesday, April 11, we will be joining members of the Sierra Club to meet with lawmakers to discuss the importance of citizen involvement in environmental regulation. Will you join us?

Specifically, we will be asking our elected leaders 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 your legislators or you're new to lobbying, this day is especially for you!

We will meet in the morning to learn about the issues and get training on how to lobby. We will then disperse to meet with our legislators in small groups (the appointments are scheduled in advance-- you don't have to handle the logistics).

Let's have a strong faith contingent on April 11! Questions? Contact Leah: outreach@miipl.org, 248-376-4603. Also contact us if you want to carpool from metro Detroit.

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



Leah

Leah Wiste
Director of Outreach & Advocacy

**Event: Solar Marketplace for Houses of Worship in Ann Arbor on
Sunday March 11**



The City of Ann Arbor is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by encouraging local building owners to use energy wisely and invest in renewable energy. Michigan IPL is working with the City to support this effort by helping houses of worship go solar.

The [Solar Marketplace event](#) will be an opportunity for houses of worship to meet solar installers and those involved in financing solar projects and ask questions.

WHEN: Sunday, March 11, 2–4 pm

WHERE: Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Court, Ann Arbor

The event is free and open to all! RSVP to Jennifer Young:
projectmanager@miipl.org, 248-463-8811.

Michigan IPL is proud to co-sponsor the "Just Water" conference on Saturday, April 21 in Detroit

[Advance Registration required.](#) Scholarships are available.



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

Conference Date: Saturday, April 21, 2018
Place: Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
18700 James Couzens Fwy.,
Detroit, MI 48235
Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Breakfast and lunch served

Earn Money by Spreading the Good News about Energy Efficiency

Pastor Andreas Teich and Messiah Lutheran Church of Bay City earned \$2,000 by signing members and friends of the congregation up for Consumers Energy's free Home Energy Analysis!



Here's how it works:

1. Sign up for the **House of Worship Rewards** program
2. Get a unique code (something easy like "Messiah Lutheran BC")
3. Ask congregants and friends to use that code when they schedule their free Consumers Home Energy Analysis appointments
4. Earn up to \$2,000 for the congregation, based on the number of sign ups

For more information and get your congregation started, contact Darlene Kusterer: Darlene.Kusterer@cmsenergy.com.

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.](#)



Become a Sunrise Semester Fellow

Sunrise is a movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. Sunrise Semester is a 6-month program designed to help young people (aged 18-35) become effective organizers and leaders for climate action. [Apply to be a Fellow](#) or share this opportunity with the young people in your life.



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.](#)



Scholarships available for the Citizens Climate International Conference and Lobby Day

Free registration/transportation/stipends are available for Southeast Michigan students of color (18+) to attend this year's CCL annual event on June 10-12, 2018 in Washington, DC. [Application deadline: 3/31/18.](#)



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). [Learn more here.](#)



Battle of the Buildings

The Michigan Battle of the Buildings is an awards and recognition program for energy use reduction. *This year, there is a new category just for houses of worship!* [Registration deadline is March 31.](#)



Governor's Energy Excellence Awards

Nominations are now being accepted to honor Michigan organizations and individuals for their commitment to responsible energy production and consumption. [The nomination deadline \(including self-nominations!\) is March 31.](#)



Upcoming Events

3/8-9/18: [Detroit Food Policy Summit](#), College for Creative Studies (Detroit).

3/11/18: [Solar Marketplace for Houses of Worship](#), Campus Chapel (Ann Arbor), 2-4pm. RSVP to Jennifer: projectmanager@miipl.org.

3/11/18: [World Sabbath: An Interfaith Experience of Music, Dance and Prayer](#), Christ Church Cranbrook (Bloomfield Hills), 4-5:30pm.

3/22/18: [World Water Day #MICalltoAction \(march and rally\)](#), meet at Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 10am-1pm. (To hitch a ride from metro Detroit with Hazon, email ilana.unger@hazon.org.)

3/24/18: [Fate of the Earth Symposium](#), Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center

(East Lansing), Free, 8am-5pm. Advance registration required.

3/26/18: [Free Film + Discussion: "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey,"](#) MSU Detroit Center, 6:30-8:30pm.

3/28/2018: [Detroit 2030 District House of Worship Roundtable](#), NextEnergy (Detroit), 11:30am-1:30pm. For questions and to RSVP, contact Jennifer Young, projectmanager@miipl.org.

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

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](#).

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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