



Apologies for the re-send. The "Get Tickets" button for the conference now links to the ticketing page.

Chop Wood, Carry Water.

Even though I no longer identify as Catholic, I still get the urge to confess things.

Today's confession: I don't feel hopeful.

I know. It's not technically a "sin." But it feels like one in this line of work.

Maybe you, too, caught the [article about how climate change is way worse than we think](#), or the piece about how 50% of the world's wildlife has been wiped out in the last 40 years and that [we've entered the 6th mass-extinction](#). The news-- about our Earth, our democracy, our enduring inability to provide for the least among us-- is beyond sobering. It's *Weltschmerz*-- not just a personal, private emotional state, but a feeling of pain with and for the world.

When I was confiding in a friend about my despair, this Zen proverb came to mind:

Before enlightenment chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment chop wood, carry water.

The proverb is usually read as a reminder that, regardless of where you are on your path to enlightenment, the ordinary tasks required to sustain life still need doing. But that the attitude you have when doing them might change along the way. Today I also read it to mean: keep on doing the stuff, regardless of your feeling.

You did stuff before the thing happened, now keep doing the stuff.

For members of oppressed groups who wake up to a new injustice against them every day, this is hardly a revelation. Speaking as an indigenous person who lives this day-to-day struggle, Winona LaDuke said: "What we all need to do is find the wellspring that keeps us going, that gives us the strength and patience to keep up this struggle for a long time."

At Michigan IPL, our hope is that faith can be this wellspring. For many of you, I know it is. But as a formerly Catholic, currently unaffiliated Unitarian-ish seeker, I'm still looking for mine.

In the mean time, I chop wood, carry water...

Yours in the search,



Leah Wiste
Director of Outreach & Advocacy

Take our Survey for Congregations

Two of the most important things we do here at Michigan IPL are:

- share [stories about congregations](#) who are integrating Creation Care into their congregational life-- to show how faith communities are putting their faith into action, and to inspire and equip others
- help congregations connect and learn from one another's successes and failures

To do these things effectively, we'd like to know more about what your congregation is doing-- or not doing yet-- on sustainability, and how we can best support you.



[Please help by taking this survey by Friday, July 21 \(next week!\).](#) Survey Monkey says it will only take 4 minutes.

We promise we'll get back to you with the results and, hopefully, some more stories that will help us all build momentum in this work.

Michigan IPL will donate \$100 in the name of one one lucky respondent to her/his congregation!

Take the survey

Discounted Early-Bird tickets
are now available!

Our fall conference, **Heeding the Call: Faith, Hope & Climate Action**, will feature congregations and individuals on the front lines of climate action sharing their stories about solar, energy efficiency, water protection and water justice, ethical eating, and advocacy.



WHEN: Friday, October 6 (full-day)
WHERE: University United Methodist Church
1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI

Get tickets

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and non-profits. Check out our [conference webpage](#) for more details or contact Paige at intern@miipl.org.

**Your congregation could continue to waste money on inefficient lighting...
OR you could do more of your vital mission.
*The choice is yours.***



What good works could *your* congregation do with \$250, \$500 (or even more) a year in energy savings?

Sign up for Light the Way and start saving if your congregation:

- is a Consumers Energy customer
- is located in the Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Flint or Saginaw areas
- hasn't participated in the program before

Or reach Jennifer at projectmanager@miipl.org or 248-463-8811. *Pssst:* pass it on!

Sign up online

In other news:



Our Guidebook for Congregations Going Solar is here! The guide includes case studies of two churches (First Unitarian of Ann Arbor and Edgewood United Church in E. Lansing), plus information about permitting, financing, emissions factors, and solar installers and contractors here in Michigan.



Green Living Science, a Detroit nonprofit, can help your metro Detroit congregation or business start recycling! They'll provide an on-site assessment and connect you with a recycling vendor, a dumpster, and pick-up service for a single stream recycling program. Contact info@greenlivingscience.org or (313) 871-4000, ext. 3, for more.



The Synagogue Vegan Challenge encourages Jewish spiritual communities to think more deeply about the nexus of animal welfare ethics, *kashrut* (kosher law), and compassion for all by going vegan for one calendar year. The Shamayim V'Aretz Institute is offering a **\$5,000 grant** to participating synagogues who undertake this fun and delicious challenge! The application deadline is August 1, 2017.



Need a new fridge? Income-qualified DTE Energy residential electric customers can now get a free ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator to replace old, inefficient models (manufactured before 2000). This program is administered by Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice while supplies last!

Upcoming events:

7/15/17: [Protest March to Oppose the Expansion of US Ecology](#) hazardous waste treatment plant, meet at the Wilkins and Russell parking area north of Eastern Market (Detroit) Shed 5, 11am.

7/24/17: Great Lakes Bioneers Detroit Film Screening & Discussion of "[A Brief History of Old Time Radio](#)" at the MSU Detroit Center, 6:30-8:30pm. Fresh popcorn will be served! (Parking is available in the lot off Erskine St.)

7/29/17: [White Ally Toolkit: Detroit, "How to be a Better Ally"](#) (includes childcare), Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church (Southfield), 12-4pm.

8/6/17: [Interfaith Suburban-Urban Unity Annual Picnic](#), Belle Isle (Detroit), Central Avenue across from kids' playscape, 12-5pm.

8/27/17: [Michigan Jewish Food Festival](#), Eastern Market (Detroit) Sheds 5 & 6, 11am-4pm.

9/24/17: Solar Open House, Haslett Community Church (Haslett), 2-4pm.

10/6/17: Michigan IPL's [Heeding the Call: Faith, Hope & Climate Action](#) conference, University United Methodist Church (E. Lansing), all day.

10/25/17: [US Green Building Council Sustainable Detroit Forum](#), Detroit, 9am-3:30pm.



Resources

Check out our free resources-- from energy efficiency manuals to study guides on the spiritual foundations of earth care.

[Resources >>](#)

Love Our Work?

Your support enables us to help faith communities become more sustainable through action, education, and advocacy.

[Donate >>](#)

Become an Advocate

We have a moral responsibility to protect the Earth and love our neighbors. Help us make systemic change!

[Advocate >>](#)

Connect with Us



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