

## Leah Wiste

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**From:** Leah Wiste, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light <director@miipl.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 10:03 AM  
**To:** Leah Wiste  
**Subject:** February e-Newsletter



Friends,

Cornel West famously said: "Justice is love made public." In that spirit, we wish you and yours a Happy Valentine's Day. May we struggle together toward this righteous expression of love today and always!

Close readers of this e-newsletter know that it always ends with the question: ***Love our work?*** followed by an invitation to make a [donation](#). We rely on your support to do this work, which is, truly, a labor of love.

With gratitude and...



Leah + Jennife

Team Michigan IPL

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**The World is Alive: Webinar, Potluck + Discussion in Detroit  
THIS Sunday 2/16 and next**



On Sunday, we gathered for Part 1 of this webinar series. The food was excellent and the company was delightful. We hope you can join us THIS Sunday for more. (If you missed the first one, that's okay! You'll catch up.)

Each week doors open for lunch at 11:30am. The webinar runs from noon-1:30pm, followed by a discussion.

- [Sunday, Feb. 16: "Staying with the Trouble"](#)
- [Sunday, Feb. 23: "Making Sanctuary: Other Places of Power"](#)

***Click the links above for event details on Facebook and to RSVP!***

If you're not in Detroit, or can't make the screenings, you can also [purchase the webinar series](#) and participate from where ever you are.

Read more about Bayo Akomolafe and the webinar series [here](#).

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**Join our Team!**



Since 2015, we've helped 800 Michigan congregations spend less on energy and more on mission by working with Consumers Energy to install hundreds of thousands of dollars of FREE energy efficiency upgrades.

**We're now seeking an Energy Programs Outreach Specialist** to help with that work! The position is open until filled. We're especially interested in hiring someone with relationships with faith communities in **Genesee, Jackson, Shiawasee, Eaton and/or Clinton counties.**

This is a 15-20 hour/week independent contractor position. Hourly rate is \$18-20.

P.S.: Our team is actually made of humans, not corgis.

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**Work For Me DTE - Send the PSC Your Comment**



### **Health. Affordability. Community control.**

These are 3 of the key things we need for a just and equitable energy system. But DTE's 15-year energy plan fails miserably on these measures.

And you don't have take our word for it. In December, Administrative Law Judge Sally Wallace issued a [recommendation](#) that the Public Service Commission reject DTE's disastrous plan. Wallace based her recommendation on the fact that DTE's plan lacks sufficient provisions for health, affordability, and community-owned clean energy.

**In just 1 week, we expect a final decision on DTE's plan from the Public Service Commission. Let's make sure the PSC knows that thousands of Michiganders share these priorities!**

**[Demand that DTE create a new 15 year plan \(IRP\) that prioritizes health, affordability, and community-ownership.](#)**

The link takes you to a pre-filled, editable form that will send a comment to the Public Service Commission directly from you. **Deadline: Wednesday, Feb. 19.**

P.S.: As MI's largest utility, DTE's energy plans affect us ALL and the Public Service Commission is accountable to ALL Michiganders, regardless of which utility provides your service. (In other words, your comment matters, regardless of whether you are a DTE customer!)

## **New Offering: Climate Conversations**



# **CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS**

*for faith communities*

Seven in 10 Americans understand that climate destabilization is real and happening now. But fewer than 40% of us are talking about it on a regular basis.

This presents a profound opportunity! To normalize the reality of climate disruption and move our society to bold action, we need to talk about it.

In this 1-2 hour workshop, we will facilitate a heart-based, values-based Climate Conversation in your congregation or community. We will begin by sharing stories of connection and aliveness, then articulate together the realities of our changing climate, and finally discuss how to take faithful action together.

This is a FREE program!

**Want Michigan IPL to come out and facilitate a Climate Conversation in your community? [Sign up here.](#)**

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**Lenten Fast 2020 – Plastic**



Each year, Michigan IPL creates a Lenten Calendar to help you reflect, learn and take action on some dimension of sustainability and your faith. This year, we have created a Plastic Fast.

**[Download the Plastic Fast for Lent Calendar.](#)**

While many of us grew up “giving something up” for Lent, only to gleefully indulge in the forbidden item when the season passed, we hope that this fast will be more than a temporary exercise in deprivation and will help you make lasting changes in your everyday practices and mindset.

Why plastic?

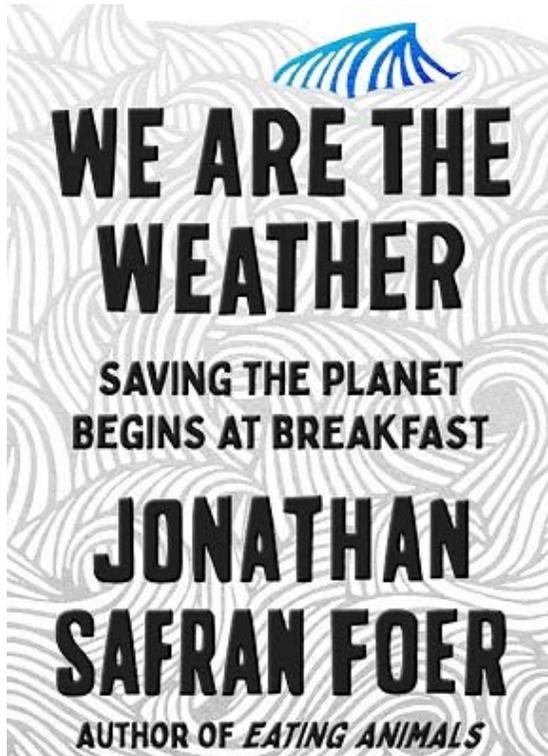
- If we continue to produce and discard plastic at the expected rates, our oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.
- As a byproduct of fossil fuels, plastics are the fastest growing and second largest source of industrial greenhouse gas emissions (according to the Center for International and Environmental Law).
- Throughout its life-cycle—from production through the hundreds (if not thousands) of years after its disposal—plastic harms wildlife and human health. Among humans, this harm is experienced first and worst by communities of color, low-income communities and other vulnerable populations.

**[This year, we've created a Facebook group for the Fast. Join us in doing the Plastic Fast as a community!](#)**

*A big shout out of gratitude to Nicky Marcot (@everydayhopemama on Instagram) for putting this Fast together!*

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**Interfaith Reading in Kalamazoo: We Are the Weather**



**Hope for Creation**, an interfaith group in Kalamazoo, **invites congregations to join in reading and discussing Jonathan Safran Foer's [We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast](#)** this February and March, as part of the Kalamazoo Public Library's annual Reading Together program.

*We Are the Weather* holds special significance for faith communities. Its author weaves together his family's Jewish traditions, his quest to understand how belief begets action, and a passionate plea for individuals and communities to engage in actions that mitigate the life-threatening impacts of climate destabilization.

**To help congregations discuss these important themes, Hope for Creation has created an interfaith discussion guide. [Learn more here.](#)**

**You can also check out [Hazon's discussion guide for Jewish communities.](#)**

The author will give a presentation at Chenery Auditorium (714 Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo) on [Tuesday, March 10 at 7pm.](#)

*Pro tip: Even if your congregation isn't in Kalamazoo, you could still read and discuss the book together! Just sayin.'*

## The Report: Organize a Congregational Screening



*The Report* is a compelling, true-story chronicle of the CIA's torture program (euphemistically known as "enhanced interrogation"). Michigan IPL and the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) invite faith communities to screen the film and discuss the moral issues of justice, humane treatment, and government accountability it brings to light. [View the trailer here.](#)

**[Sign up for your FREE screening kit and discussion guide.](#)**

*Note: You'll notice this film is outside of our usual lane of climate/energy/water/Earth. We're working with the NRCAT on this because we share their fundamental concern for justice and the need to create right relationships with all people-- issues that are at the heart of this film.*

*With climate instability come increased conflict and the displacement of people. Our federal government and military's responses to these circumstances have the potential to be catastrophic (especially given the xenophobic populism that has been on the rise throughout the West). It's up to us to stay informed and exercise our moral voices on these issues.*

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## Faith Climate Action Week



Save the dates! [Faith Climate Action Week](#) is April 17th - April 26th. In these ten days during Earth Month, IPL invites congregations focus on how we can all take action to protect our climate.

This year's theme is Love Made Visible: Engaging in Sacred Activism to protect the people we care about who are most affected by climate change.

[Learn how to participate here.](#)

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### **Other Upcoming Events**

February 27 - [Detroit 2030 District energy challenge kick off](#), TCF Center (Detroit), 4-6:30pm

March 12 - [Michigan Climate Action Summit](#), Michigan Union (Ann Arbor), 9am-3pm

March 22 - Solar Summit, Haslett Community Church (Haslett), Save the date - details forthcoming

April 6 - [Poor People's Campaign We Must Do M.O.R.E. Tour \(Flint\)](#), 5-8pm

April 22 - 50th Anniversary of Earth Day!

**Love our Work?**



Michigan IPL relies on your generous gifts to do it!

[Donate on our website](#)

OR mail a check to the address below.

[Michigan Interfaith Power & Light](#)

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