A New Food Pantry for the Keweenaw!

On Sunday, February 2nd, Trinity, Houghton had its own "Kick Off" (Get it? Super Bowl Sunday?) gearing up for the creation of their very own Food (and Other Things Every Needs) Pantry. They started taking up pantry donations during the 10:00 am service. Good luck in this new and exciting endeavor!

A few suggestions: cleaning supplies, hand soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream

Tomato sauce, tomato paste, pasta, tuna, mac n cheese, canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned juices, powdered milk
Our Relationship, as Christians, with the Environment
submitted by Jacklyn Lenten

Our lives as Christian people are supposed to be filled with love. We share our love with our friends and family, but we also express our love to complete strangers by being patient, kind, respectful, and caring. We take verses such as Matthew 22:39 "Thou shalt love they neighbor as thyself" to heart and we give things like old clothing, canned goods, money, and time. But, are we missing something? Who exactly are our neighbors?

When we talk about spreading love and kindness and giving what we can to those who need it, we tend to focus only on human relationships. Maybe some of us also have dogs and cats we spoil a little too much or we give regularly to the local animal shelter or the ASPCA, but I want to go even further than that. "At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home." This quote comes from Eucharist Prayer C in the Book of Common Prayer and the words 'this fragile earth, our island home' always strikes a chord with me. This Earth is a fragile place, and as the industrialization expands to developing nations and our global population keeps climbing, this fragile earth only faces more stress.

It wasn't until the sixth day that God breathed life into Adam and created mankind, but before that he created plants, birds, sea creatures, and cattle. And although humans were created in God's image and God granted man dominion over all other creatures, I don't believe this is the type of ruling God had hoped for. Human accelerated climate change has caused the endangerment and extinction of hundreds of species, we've completely wiped out some of God's most precious creations from the face of the earth. It is our God given duty to rule over these plants and animals and a good ruler isn't the wealthiest and most well-fed, a good ruler ensures everyone is nourished and taken care of before taking care of himself. This is a call to action for the Christian people, to take a step back and look at God's remaining creations and the suffering their currently experiencing and do something about it before the consequences become irreversible. We're at a critical threshold right now, where the majority of damages done to this planet can be reversed, but we need to act fast.

The Christian people need to be at the forefront of the environmental movement our earth so desperately needs. We truly are the most caring and compassionate people who open our hearts to everyone in need. Our care and compassion needs to extend to every single one of God's creations and we need to focus on our relationship with earth just as deliberately as we focus on our relationship with our neighbor. Our prayers need to be backed by actions that will help improve the integrity of this planet and we need to spread more love and compassion than ever before.

So here is my challenge to you; take a look around you and assess all the parts of your day that may not be so environmentally friendly. This will look different for everyone and there is no right or wrong way to go about it. Now, take what you've learned about your consumption habits and mold it into something you can give up this Lenten season. You may choose to follow Christian tradition and abstain from eating meat on Fridays or maybe you make one meal everyday meatless or you give up meat entirely. You could stop buying bottled water or give up plastic shopping bags from the grocery store. Maybe you choose to lower the temperature of your house by a couple of degrees or try to take shorter showers. There's no act too small. The point is to think about the big picture and the role we have in this world. Continue to be kind, patient, caring, and respectful and continue to spread love in God's name, but try to act in ways that will spread that love and compassion to all of God's creations.
Breaking Bread

The next Breaking Bread will take place on Tuesday, February 4th at Jack's Restaurant in Rapid River. We begin at 6 pm followed by a conversation at 7 pm. If you plan to attend, just email diocese@upepiscopal.org or leave a message at 228-7160 with Jane so that we can have enough meals prepared for the evening.

Plan Your Getaway

Here's an opportunity to rest, relax, and renew yourself! We'd love to have you join us for the Winter Women's Retreat, hosted by the Women's Ministry Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan. This Retreat is open to all women of faith regardless of denomination. The Retreat is entitled "Embracing Your Whole Spirituality: The Divine Feminine and Masculine." Dr. Bonnie Nussbaum, local psychologist and holistic coach, will be leading discussion and offering experiential group activities designed to help you go deeply into the core of your spirituality and integrate the Divine Feminine and Divine Masculine within you. There will be opportunities for building friendships and community, having quiet time, meditation, prayer, and much more. All activities are voluntary so you can choose what you'd like to do. Most meals are included in the Retreat price, with Friday's supper being a separate purchase of $6 for a pasty (a Retreat staple over the years!). Lodging is also included and various options are available. Contact Alison at 906-228-7160 or alison@upepiscopal.org for options.

WHEN: February 21-23, 2020
Friday, the 21st, dinner at 5 p.m. if you choose to join us for that,
Gathering at 6:30 p.m. for welcome, Q and A.
Saturday, the 22nd, 8:15 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, the 23rd, 8:30-lunch at noon, then depart.
(Contact Alison at 906-228-7160 or alison@upepiscopal.org for full agenda)

WHERE: Rapid River Lodge (The Dutch Mill)
13149 S.15 Rd. Rapid River, MI 49878

INVESTMENT: $150, plus $6 for pasty if you wish to join us for dinner on Friday night

REGISTRATION: To register, please complete either of these:
1) Click on Get Tickets to pay through PayPal on The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan Facebook page or
2) E-mail or call Alison with the following information your name, address, phone, e-mail, whether or not you're joining us for dinner on Friday night, and Alison will set you up with your lodging preference.

If you have any questions call: Alison at 906-228-7160 or alison@upepiscopal.org.
The Way of Love
Through Lent and Easter

The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death, then we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, faith communities will be invited to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life. Updated and expanded Way of Love resources for Lent and Easter are available here and include: a series of Adult Forums, a Quiet Day curriculum, a customizable publicity poster, and a daily calendar. 

Adult Forum: This set of seven Adult Forums, suitable to diverse settings, ties the Easter Vigil readings to the seven practices of the Way of Love. Drawing on the ancient practice of setting aside Lent as a period of study and preparation for living as a Christian disciple, known as the catechumenate, the forums draw participants to reflect on salvation history, walk toward the empty tomb, and embrace the transforming reality of love, life, and liberation. As we stand with the three women at the empty tomb, we hear Jesus’ call to go and live that transformed reality. (Format: Digital download.)

Quiet Day: The Quiet Day curriculum condenses the forums into a single-day journey. Offered as an option for churches and dioceses seeking an alternative to the weekly class. (Format: Digital download.)

Daily Calendar: This calendar, based on Mary Bea Sullivan’s Living the Way of Love (Church Publishing, 2019), offers a daily practice and scriptural reference throughout Lent. Individuals may choose to use this resource to make a daily special intention to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, or rest. Resources available in English and Spanish here. Way of Love resources can be used across all seasons. Additional seasonal resources here include: Episcopal Relief & Development’s Lenten Meditations, Living Compass: Living Well Through Lent, United Thank Offering Lenten Calendar.

Women’s World Day of Prayer

The women of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee are hosting this year’s Women’s World Day of Prayer and are inviting women from all denominations across the UP to participate. The service takes place on Friday, March 6th at 1:00 pm at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee.

From the Women’s World Day of Prayer 2020 website, "World Day of Prayer 2020 is Friday, March 6th. World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. The host country for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The WDP 2020 program is based on Jesus’ encounter with a person who, although positioned for healing, had not acted upon the opportunities given (John 5:2-9a). Jesus asked –“Do you want to be made well?” with the theme “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”. You are faced with this life-changing question. What are you going to do? Use this opportunity to reflect with your WDP group, community and ecumenical partners. Prayer and action are what link us together around the globe."

The contact person for this year's event in Negaunee is Jonelle Collins. She can be reached at 475-9177. There will be a practice for women wishing to be a part of the service on Monday, Feb. 10th and Tuesday, Feb. 11th at 1:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church on the corner of US 41 and Baldwin Ave. in Negaunee.
Dear Advocates,

Last year, we organized people of faith and conscience to pressure Ford Motor Company to keep its promise and uphold the Clean Car Standards (aggressive targets on fuel economy and emissions reductions) - delivering a 12’ scroll of thousands of signatures to Ford Headquarters.

Thanks in part to our efforts, Ford is among a handful of automakers working with the state of California against the EPA’s efforts to roll back the 2012 Clean Car standards.

Now we need YOUR help to demand that General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Toyota clean up their act and invest in engineers to develop innovative fuel-efficient vehicles rather than lawyers to fight against clean car standards.

In the US, the transportation sector is the biggest emitter of CO2. This means that we MUST impose stronger emission and fuel economy standards if we are to have a chance at stabilizing our climate.

Please sign our letter to the CEOs of GM, FCA and Toyota to urge them to support Clean Car Standards. (Hover over the bold print - the link to the letter).

The signature deadline is Friday, February 7th.

Yours in Faithful Action,

Leah Wiste
Executive Director
Michigan Interfaith Power and Light
February Calendar

4th - Breaking Bread, 6:00 pm, Jack's Restaurant, Rapid River
6th - Justice and Peace, 2:00 pm, Diocesan office
10th - Womens' World Day of Prayer service - practice, 1:00 pm
   Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee
11th - WWDP service - practice, 1:00 pm, Immanuel, Negaunee
21st-23rd - Womens' Retreat, Old Dutch Mill/Rapid River Lodge
29th - Diocesan Council meeting, 10:00 am, Diocesan office

Cross Roads

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