

# Woodside World

NEWS of CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

*Joyfully Defiant for the Sake of a Just World*

a congregation of the United Church of Christ, the Alliance of Baptists, and the American Baptist Churches

## CRIMINAL INJUSTICE

With several Woodsiders in attendance, *The National Lifers of America* held a rally Friday at the State Capitol in support of the Second Look Sentencing Act. Laura Eufinger offered a recap:

Woodside member Jamie Meade spoke by phone at the rally and was also instrumental in writing the Second Look Sentencing Act, which would automatically require a review of a life sentence after the inmate has served a specified portion of the sentence. This is so much better than just warehousing people forever with no redemptive purpose.

Jamie's speech highlighted the service formerly incarcerated people can give to their communities if released: going to law school, becoming college professors, advocating for and helping the newly released adjust to life. (Jamie himself has earned multiple degrees and is now a "Member in Discernment" preparing for ministry in the UCC under the endorsement of Woodside.)

Other issues were addressed and other folks told their stories. One woman, after decades in prison, was released at age 52 with no skills to enable her to get a job. A man who now helps the formerly incarcerated missed the years while his daughter was growing up. Now he has had to deal with that daughter's murder. Still he hangs onto his belief in the power of redemption and that people can change their lives.

We are proud of Jamie and the other organizers, and stand with them in the fight for incarceration reform.

## WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

If you're vaccinated and want to participate in person, please use the registration link on our website ([here](#)). **Need to register by phone? Call or Email Deb or Jamie, and we'll sign you up.** You can also participate virtually on Facebook Sundays at 11 am.

## A STEWARDSHIP WORD

Each fall, we ask congregation members and friends to make financial plans to support Woodside in the coming year.

Our theme this year is "We're Still Us," a pretty good reminder after a disorienting Covid disruption. Pledge cards have been mailed; if you haven't received yours — or if you're new and may not have been on that list but would like to make a pledge — please [send a message](#) and we'll send it right out.

Please plan to return your pledge card by **Nov 1**. The congregation will meet to adopt a 2022 budget **Dec 15**.

Your pledges really do help us plan. But remember, pledges are *intentions*. If you make a pledge and something changes, we understand! Thank you for your love of this congregation.

## THINGS TO DO

Zoom links are on the church calendar [here](#). Need more info? [Just ask!](#)

**Adult Forum**, 9:30 am Sundays, in person or by Zoom. The group has just started Mitzi J. Smith's *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)Justice, Intersectionality, and Biblical Interpretation*. Sounds interesting, huh? Let us know if you need a book.

**Thursday Evening Study Group**, Thursdays 7-8:30 pm by Zoom only, Brueggemann: *Tenacious Solidarity: Biblical Provocations on Race, Religion, Climate, and the Economy*.

**Vigil for Racial Justice**, 1-2 pm Thursdays, Courthouse lawn.

**Outreach & Social Action** meets monthly on Tuesdays. Next is Nov 9. Come join in this righteous work.

**Woodside World** is an every-other-week event, (despite this delayed edition). If you have announcements, email them to [email Deb](#) by Wednesday evening of WW week, starting 10/27.

## 'TIS THE SEASON

You can help make it a merry Christmas for the children from *Voices for Children*. Here's how it works:

You select a family info sheet with names, ages, gift ideas and other pertinent details (Sheets available Sun, Nov 14, in worship, and thereafter by email, phone, or facebook request). Then, you shop! Suggested allotment is \$30-40 per child, use your discretion; please keep the amount consistent for each child in the family.

Wrap and deliver the gifts to Woodside by Dec 5, with all the family gifts together in one box or bag and the info sheet attached.

**Out of town or out of time?** You can always make a contribution to our Minister's Discretionary Fund. This is the fund we use to address emergency needs in the community.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**Imagine Flint: Supporting Resilient Neighborhoods.** The Sloan Museum concludes its "Healing through Truth-Telling" speaker series 5-6:15 pm Wed, Oct 27 on Zoom or Facebook live. Discussion will reflect on master planning, zoning and "undoing historical wrongs." More info here: [t.ly/srarF](#).

## WHY ARE WE PRAYING...

**for State Senator Jim Ananich?** Sen. Ananich is the Michigan Senate Minority Leader, a high-ranking Democrat with the Governor's ear. We're trying to entice (compel?) him to intercede on behalf of Jamie Meade's application for pardon/parole.

Pray with us! And tell him! [senjananich@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjananich@senate.michigan.gov). 517-373-0142.