

MICAH MESSENGER

July 2022



White Bear Lake
**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

*He has told you,
O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?*

- Micah 6:8 -

Racial Justice Initiative: The 4 R's **Reduce — Reuse — Recycle — Rebuy**

Everything we no longer want or need and thus dispose of—has to go somewhere! Items put in our weekly trash can and will end up burned or in a landfill—buried underground. Many items buried in a landfill are unable to decompose properly, and generate gases that we know contribute to climate change and cause respiratory illnesses and cancer. Older landfills can leak, contaminating soil and groundwater which of course can impact human and animal health.

In 1987 the United Church of Christ's (UCC) Commission for Racial Justice published a report "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States" which documented disproportionate environmental burdens facing people of color and low-income communities across the country. This groundbreaking study resulted in the coining of the term "environmental racism". In the report, Professor Robert Bullard wrote,

"whether by conscious design or institutional neglect, communities of color in urban ghettos, in rural 'poverty pockets', or on economically impoverished Native-American reservations face some of the worst environmental devastation in the nation."

In 2007, the UCC commissioned leading environmental justice scholars for a new report, "Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: Grassroots Struggles to Dismantle Environmental Racism in the United States." In addition to updating the 1987 report, the new report included evaluations of progress (or lack thereof) achieved over a period of twenty years.

Numerous studies up to the current time reveal little has changed over time. **Race** remains the greatest determinant of living in and exposure to toxic and hazardous waste in our country.

Environmental and social justice is the philosophy that **everybody should have equal access to clean water and air, and a healthy place to live, work and play.** So, what can we do TODAY and TOMORROW to bring about environmental and social justice in our communities?

Turn to page 2 for article continuation →

The articles in this Newsletter are authored by Lori McBride, Director of Compassion & Justice Ministries for White Bear Lake UMC. If you have questions or comments, please share them. If you would like more information, contact Lori at lori.mcbride@wblumc.org or 651-208-9000. Thank you.

4 R's continued . . .

Environmental racism is a complex issue requiring analysis of many issues and creation of responses that are numerous and generally speaking not politically expedient for the people who hold the reins of power. It's a problem too big for me to fully analyze for this article and certainly for us individually to solve in its entirety. But we can do something, TODAY.

1. Read the reports of the UCC Justice & Witness Ministries. They are long and complex. But we all can glean something from giving it a try to understand.
2. Identify current resources that will help understand the situation in 2022. If you have some references that could be shared with our whole congregation SEND THEM MY WAY! I'll get the information published as appropriate.
3. Evaluate your personal attitudes about consumption of goods. Do I really need another pair of tennis shoes? How many blouses can I wear in a given week? LOTS to think about and evaluate. Eventually you can make choices about REDUCING consumption of goods that lead to our disposal problems.
4. Study ways you can be active in Re-Using, Recycling, and Rebuying goods. When we reduce the trash we produce, we decrease the need for more landfills and incineration. Fewer toxic sites means fewer people impacted by those sites.
5. Advocate for Environmental Justice issues. The United Methodist Church has a lot to say about this issue. Here's a website that might be a good starting place for you:

[Climate Justice • GBCS \(umcjustice.org\)](https://umcjustice.org)

(ctrl/click on the link)

6. Check out the LOCAL organizations listed on **the INSERT of this newsletter** for details about where/when you can donate goods you no longer want/need that will help stretch the budgets of low-income people—or—where you might be able to find something you'd enjoy reusing in your home!

Environmental Justice

DID YOU KNOW?

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) **Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)** tracks key data for landfill gas (LFG) energy projects and municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills in the United States. LMOP is a voluntary program that works with industry stakeholders and waste officials to reduce or avoid methane emissions from landfills. LMOP encourages the recovery and beneficial use of biogas generated from organic municipal solid waste.

Landfill gas (LFG) is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills. LFG is composed of roughly 50 percent methane (the primary component of natural gas), 50 percent carbon dioxide (CO₂) and a small amount of non-methane organic compounds. **Methane is a potent greenhouse gas** 28 to 36 times more effective than CO₂ at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year period (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report).

Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 14.5 percent of these emissions in 2020. At the same time, methane emissions from MSW landfills represent an opportunity to capture and use a significant energy resource.

Minnesota currently has 26 "Open" landfills according to the LMOP Project Database and most of them have an LFG Collection System in place. Several of them do not but are candidates for a system or have future potential:

- Brown County SLF (Sleepy Eye)
- Kandiyohi County SLF (New London)
- Mar-Kit SLF (Hallock)
- Olmsted County/Kalmar LF (Rochester Area)
- Rice County SLF (Dundas)
- Steele County SLF (Blooming Prairie)

If you'd like to learn more about Methane Gas, LFG systems, etc. here is a link that could get you started:

[Basic Information about Landfill Gas | US EPA](#)

(ctrl/click on link)

Compassion & Justice Opportunities



Partner: Common Hope-Guatemala
(www.commonhope.org)

Education is critical to ending the cycle of poverty that keeps people trapped in lives filled with difficulty and often little hope. A student can't learn if distracted by life circumstances such as hunger, illness, poor housing, or family conflict. That's why our partner Common Hope focuses on providing all of the things that are needed to achieve better lives through education:

- Access to resources
- Healthcare Program
- Housing Program
- Family Development Program

Funds needed to operate the programs that support the families of Common Hope are secured in various ways, including the annual Walk for Hope.

About the 2022 Walk for Hope at WBLUMC

Two years of distance learning has had an immense impact on learning for students of all ages, in particular younger students and those experiencing poverty. Distance learning is challenging in itself, but even more so if there isn't adequate access to technology and resources to help with homework questions. Distance learning continues in Guatemala at this time. Your Walk For Hope raises funds that provide students with access to academic support during these challenging times. **So let's walk together for the families of Common Hope.**

DATE: Sunday, August 14, 2022

TIME: Gather @ 2:45 pm at WBLUMC. The walk will begin at 3:00 pm and last about 35 minutes.

Following the Walk, we'll return to the church for refreshments and join with others for the first BACKYARD CONCERT of 2022 at 4:00 pm.

Registration & donation details coming soon to our weekly Elbast and Sunday bulletin.

Compassion & Justice Opportunities

Partner: The Sandwich Project
(thesandwichprojectmn.org)

Started in 2007 by a small group of people who wanted to do something to help those in need, the concept of making sandwiches caught on in area churches, organizations and other groups because it was a simple yet important way to make a difference for people struggling with food insecurity.

Today, The Sandwich Project coordinates weekly service to seven community partners feeding the hungry, including Waite House and Simpson Food Pantry in South Minneapolis.

The Sandwich Project is a particularly apropos way for White Bear Lake UMC to live into it's mission to "nourish the hungers of life." Our involvement dates back to at least 2015 when youth and women's groups started to make sandwiches. With a hiatus for several years, we are back stronger

than ever and in the past 12 months people of all ages have come together on Sunday mornings to make more than 1,800 sandwiches for Waite House. Future dates scheduled include July 31 and August 28.

In addition we are planning to take a "2nd Mile

Offering" on Sunday, July 31 during in-person worship. Special envelopes for donations will be available in the pews that Sunday. All donations will be used to pay for the ingredients needed for the project. Of course you can give to The Sandwich Project at any time throughout the month of July through Realm online or by sending a check to the church office.

A simple sandwich nourishing the hungers of life. Thanks to everyone for your support of this important outreach project!



PEARLS in Haiti Update

In the 2022 WBLUMC Endowment Grant cycle, an application was submitted on behalf of The Village School of the Future in Bonnette, Haiti. Funding was requested to hire teachers and assist with student tuition for a newly established "NS1" class (NS = New Secondary).

The Village School was founded in 2005 offering classes through ninth grade. In 2017, PEARLS in Haiti began partnering with the school. PEARLS involvement, with generous donor support, not only increased academic opportunities for primary school children, but allowed school leaders to start a class for students who had completed Gr. 9 studies. This is the FIRST time a secondary class was opened in the Bonnette community.

In order to attend NS1 and beyond, a student must pass a national exam. NINE students of The Village School passed in 2021 and began studying in NS1 in 2022. NS education covers 4 years and offers NS1 various vocational training classes for the students.

A grant of \$2,500 was awarded to this project. Thank you Endowment Team of WBLUMC.



June, 2022: Sewing class—students learning how to make patterns.



June, 2022: "Working lunch" for NS1 students.



June, 2022: NS1 students hanging out after school.

WBLUMC—Home of the Community Brick Oven



White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

1851 Birch Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
www.wblumc.org; 651-429-9026

Sunday Services: online @ 10 am
and in-person summer @ 10 am
Regular in-person @ 9 & 10:45 am

Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle: Where Can I Donate Unused Items		Acceptable Items	Restrictions/Guidelines
Vendor/Organization	Hours for Donations		
Basic Needs Thrift Shop (formerly Stone Soup Thrift Shop) 6990 80th St. Suite 200 Cottage Grove, MN 55016 https://basicneedsmn.org 651-458-9786	W: 10am-2pm Sat: 10am-3pm Drop donations off behind the building by the teal awning	Clothing & accessories: baby through adult Small household items such as frames, artwork, decorations, clocks, kitchenware, knick-knacks, curtains Small appliances such as vacuums, irons, coffee makers, toasters, griddles, sewing machines Bedding: blankets, sheets, bed coverings, throw pillows Electronics: DVD players, DVDs, flat-screen TVs Books: novels, children's books, non-fiction; Furniture	*All furniture must be photo-approved by our staff. Please email an image to us at storemgr@basicneedsmn.org See website for list of items that are not accepted for donation.
Bridging Warehouses: Bloomington: 201 W 87th St Bloomington, MN 55420 Roseville: 1730 Terrace Dr. Roseville, MN 55113 www.bridging.org 952-888-1105 (main phone)	Donations during open hours: M - Th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. F & Sat 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Residential curbside/ garage pick up is available for a fee.	Furniture Housewares – dishes, cookware, utensils Small appliances and electronics Bedding – sheets, blankets, bedspreads See website detailed list of items accepted (and not accepted).	Bedframes accepted but NO headboards, footboards, and wooden rails. Items NOT accepted for donation: clothing or food.
Community Helping Hand 408 15th Street SW Forest Lake, MN 55025 Communityhelpinghand.org Phone: 651-464-0061 Thrift Shop & Food Shelf	T-Sat 10:30am-3:30 pm.	Clothing & accessories: baby through adult Small household items such as frames, artwork, decorations, clocks, kitchenware, knick-knacks, curtains Small appliances such as vacuums, irons, coffee makers, toasters, griddles, sewing machines Bedding: blankets, sheets, bed coverings, throw pillows Electronics: DVD players, DVDs, flat-screen TVs Books: novels, children's books, non-fiction Furniture Food – see list on website for more information	Furniture donations must be pre-approved by management.
Dress for Success Twin Cities Dressforsuccess.org 651.646.6000	Pre-scheduled clothing drop off dates in 2022: February 12 April 23 August 13 December 3 Appointment required!	Business professional suits Professional separates including blouses, slacks, skirts, dresses, blazers, sweaters, and jackets Casual separates including shirts, jeans, dresses, sweaters, and coats Professional shoes (flats, heels, boots) Scarves, Handbags, Jewelry	Athletic and lounge wear not accepted. Men's clothing not accepted!

Vendor/Organization	Hours for Donations	Acceptable Items	Restrictions/Guidelines
<p>Joseph's Coat 1107 West 7th Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 https://www.josephscoatmn.org 651-291-2472</p>	<p>Donations accepted T & Th by appointment only.</p>	<p>New or gently used clothing Adult backpacks, sleeping bags, duffle bags Shoes and boots Books for adults (novels, mysteries) Children's games, toys and books Hygiene products: soap or body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, shaving soap cream, razors, foot powder Household items: pots and pans, glassware, dishes and silverware, small electric items, sheets, blankets, towels, bedspreads, rugs for the bathroom and kitchen,</p>	<p>APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR DONATION DROP OFF Items NOT accepted for donation: food, furniture, electronics</p>
<p>Neighbors, Inc. 222 Grand Avenue West South St. Paul, MN 55075 Neighborsmn.org 651-455-5000</p> <p>Clothes Closet Thrift Store Food Shelf</p>	<p>W-F 10 am – 3 pm for Clothes Closet Food Shelf open from M-F 9 am – 4 pm Bring your items to the food shelf door (lower level) and ring the bell. A member of our food shelf team will assist you with your donation.</p>	<p>Clothing: all sizes & seasons Accessories Footwear Kitchenware: dishes, utensils/silverware, pots and pans, towels, food storage containers & table cloths Bathroom: towels & washcloths Bedding: sheets & blankets Food and personal care items.</p>	
<p>OLD SCHOOL by Steeple People 1901 Niccollet Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55403 Oldschoolthriftv.org 612-871-8305</p>	<p>Store Hours: T-Sun 11 am – 6 pm Donation Drop Off: 11 am – 5 pm and by appointment</p>	<p>Clothing Linens In-season only</p>	<p>Donations must be in bags or closed boxes and labeled "clothes", "books", or "hard goods" If donating clothing: clean and in-season only, please Maximum 3 bags, boxes</p>
<p>Valley Outreach 1911 Curve Crest Blvd. West Stillwater 55082 www.valleyoutreachmn.org 651-430-2739</p>	<p>Drive Up Donation Hours M: 9:30-11:30 am T/Th: 1:30 – 6:30 pm W/F: Closed</p>	<p>Food Items (Supershelf) Personal Care Items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste) Household Paper (toilet paper, paper towels) Baby Supplies (diapers, wipes, baby food) NEW socks and underwear New or gently used in-season clothing (StyleXchange)</p>	<p>Items NOT accepted include: Non-wearable items such as toys, Housewares, appliances; Linens (towels, blankets, etc.) Baby furniture and equipment</p>