



January, 2011

Dear Muskegon Area Churches,

Muskegon Area Earth Week is April 22-28, 2012. Plans include Creation Care Day, the Chris Bedford Arts Festival, and finally the Earth Fair. It will be a wonderful week filled with events that educate, inspire and encourage acts for change that benefit our community and God's creation.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22nd. To kick off Muskegon Area Earth Week, we are inviting congregations to participate in Creation Care Day, a morning where your church can remind people about God's original gifts and human's role as stewards. We are asking your church to choose at least 5 things from the suggested list that you will do that morning. In return, we will tell the community that you have signed on. Here is the list:

- A. Reduce paper by not printing announcements for the bulletin. Limit announcements to the overhead, bulletin board & pulpit.
- B. Recycle bulletins & announcements after the service. Have labeled boxes/baskets by the exits for easy collection. Make sure someone is designated to take them to the recycle center.
- C. Preach a sermon on Creation and how humans are called to be stewards of His creation. Genesis 1 & 2, and Psalm 24:1-2 are possibilities. The following web site is also a source. <http://nccecojustice.org>
- D. Show a 2-10 minute video clip before the service that contains a message about clean water, renewable energy, trash reduction, or other green or sustainable topic.
- E. Take up a special offering for a local environmental organization or cause, such as the Muskegon Conservation District, DARLING CETACEANS, or Muskegon Area Earth Week.
- F. Reuse coffee cups for Coffee Hour and classes, washing them when done. Encourage congregation to bring mugs from home that morning. If this is not possible, use recycled or compostable coffee cups. They can be purchased from GFS. Do NOT use Styrofoam.
- G. During Children's Worship & Sunday school, refrain from using foam crafts and try to use recycled materials.
- H. Encourage members ahead of time to walk, bike or carpool to church that morning.
- I. Start collecting empty ink cartridges, eye glasses, batteries, or some other item for recycling to benefit a community organization, or even your own church. Increase recycling programs that already exist by adding new ones, or reminding the congregation & community of their existence.
- J. Reduce electricity by only turning on lights within an area when it is actually be used and turning them off when the last person departs the area. Consider replacing at least 10 bulbs or 2 fixtures energy saving alternatives.

Muskegon Area Earth Week promises to be an event that results in positive actions in our community. We hope you will be part of the movement. Fill out the Creation Care Day Registry Form, indicating what steps you will take on that day and we will let everyone know. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Joel at admin@darlingcetaceans.com or 231-288-0999. More information about Muskegon Area Earth week is at <http://muskegonascorg>.

Sincerely,
Your Muskegon Area Earth Week Committee