



# St. Francis of Assisi Laudato Si'

## Environmental Team

### April 2023 Newsletter

#### Toxic Waste Drop-off Day Thursday, April 20, 2023

Dear Parishioner,

What a great chance to safely rid yourself of those hard to dispose of household items, ones that are toxic to the environment if they end up in landfill, avoiding the \$10 fee at Waterloo Landfill.

Simply bring items to the back of St. Francis Church (by the Gatewood Parking Lot) between: **9 a.m. and 12:00 and 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.**

*Items to save for Drop-off Day:*

- *automotive fluids and products including motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters*
- *batteries*
- *fluorescent lamps, including curly compact light bulbs*
- *fuel (your container will not be returned to you)*
- *household cleaners, lawn & garden chemicals*
- *items with Drug Identification Numbers (DIN) including prescription and over the counter products, expired medicines, cosmetics (makeup, nail polish, perfume, shaving cream, deodorant)*
- *mercury thermostats*
- *paints and solvents*
- *propane tanks (BBQ size or smaller)*

*We will not accept glass or leaking/unlabeled containers, ammunition, firearms, explosives, asbestos, radioactive material, or medical devices/supplies.*

Feel free to buddy up with family and friends and bring some of their items as well.



#### Tips for Using the Waterloo Landfill



The *good* news is the Waterloo Landfill on Erb. St. is expected to last an additional 20-25 years because of our recycling, composting and waste reduction efforts – until about 2050. The *bad* news is that taxpayers will be on the hook for nearly a *billion* dollars in replacement costs (WR Record - April, 2021).

[Waste Whiz](#) is an app which provides sorting information and a collection calendar, but here are some additional tips for items that shouldn't be placed in the garbage.

##### **Collect Your Items:**

Find a small box or bin and collect these items that often end up in landfill: batteries, printer cartridges, paint/solvents, #5 and 6 styrofoam (packaging used in large boxes), metal products (i.e. nails, hangers, etc.) and even small chunks of concrete.

##### **First Stop:**

Drive to the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundabout and enter. The first stop is free! You can hand off batteries, paint, solvents, motor oil, etc. Mulch and compost can often be acquired for free in warm weather months. It's possible to exit the way you came, or you drive to a weigh station to enter the dump.

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Stop:**

After being weighed, you'll be guided to a large area that can recycle: #5 & 6 foam (not allowed in garbage), concrete, appliances, electronics and more.

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Stop:**

You'll drive to an area that allows garbage items. Before you sweep around to pay the \$10+ exit fee (depending on the weight of your items) flattened cardboard can be dropped off and there is a scrap bin for metal products.

##### **Lastly:**

Don't forget a camera! There are usually dozens of "wild" turkeys at the front entrance.



### **St. Francis Candlelit Mass – February 9, 2023**

More than twenty parishioners were greeted with handheld candles to help light the church, in an environmentally themed mass on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This was something many parishioners requested in a September, 2021 survey. It was a chance to reflect on ways that parishioners could nurture the environment and change our energy practices in a modern world.

Many thanks to Sandy Milne and Ruthann Fisher for planning this mass and decorating the church with candles, Terrienne Moulten and choir members, and to Gary Howell and Wanda Cakebread for organizing delicious treats and coffee.



### **Lee Valley Tools Small Box Initiative + Volunteer(s)**

The Environmental Team would like to create a win-win initiative that supports both Lee Valley Tools (on Davenport in Waterloo) and St. Francis Church.

Lee Valley needs small boxes – bigger than a large coffee mug but smaller than an open laptop. They ship many of their products in boxes, and are looking for ways of reusing the boxes that often end up in recycling bins.

St. Francis parishioners who use Amazon Prime and other stores for online shopping receive lots of these! Each one would be worth **\$0.50** in store credit, which could be used to purchase tools and supplies for the gardens.

About every two months, parishioners would be asked to drop their (flattened, tape free) boxes at the front of the church. These boxes would be collected after the 11:00 mass and periodically returned to Lee Valley for store credit.

We could use several volunteers to help Clayton Klaver make this a viable initiative. Please contact the church (email or 519 745 7301) if this environmental calling is a good fit for you. Clayton will contact you and work out the details of the project.



### **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, April 20th, 2023 – Toxic Waste Drop Off Day**

**Saturday, April 22nd, 2023 – Lakeside Park Clean Up** (10:00 meet at “swings”, 206 Lakeside Drive. Gloves & bags provided. 12:00 Lunch provided for small donation fee)

**Monday, May 1st, 2023 – Blessing the Summer Wheels** at Forest Hill United Church 5:30 p.m. Food trucks outside 4:30 – 8:00. A future bulletin will provide more details.

**Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Next St. Francis Environmental Team Meeting (5:30 p.m.)** – Feel free to join our team! Contact the church at 519 745 7301.ß