

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Tuesday  
03/13/18

Coming to the Detroit Service Trip, I had no idea what to expect. I have learned that the reason no much details were explain about this trip was because what we have been experiencing is something that can't be explained. We have to see it with our own eyes to be able to understand. Today talking to the priest at the Second Baptist Church of Detroit was great. We learned a lot about what is their passion. As well as how they try to bring civil problems and the church together in order to help out the community. The fire I saw spark from the words of the priest was really empowering. In a way he is being a hero to his community. That's something we have seen a lot and I am very happy to see these people thriving for something beyond. Additionally, being at the tour of the church was incredible, I was definitely not expecting our tour guide to be so enthusiastic when she spoke about the history of the church. That location is rich on history, for many people it was a place of hope, knowing they had a tunnel and a station for slaves is fascinating. They were there helping their people. They were following their ~~of~~ Gods words. That's something I can't really explain much of what I felt because I can't find the words, it's a kind of situation where you had to be there to understand it. As of now this trip has been amazing, lots of learning and bonding with everyone in our group.



03/14/2018

This is the fourth day of this service trip, and everything has been inspiring and thought-provoking so far. We went to a farming project called "Growing with Detroit" this morning. I really enjoyed it because it was the first time I ever planted some <sup>#</sup> vegetables. It was fun to learn different types of vegetables, such as brussel sprouts, ~~sa~~ collards and broccoli gypsy...

One thing remarkable though, was when we went a place called "The Skit" since our service got cancelled. There was a wall ~~at~~ ~~painting~~ painted with ~~black~~ ~~figures~~ body figures of black people, and I thought it was "artistic" in the way that it was painted. However, it was not until today's <sup>#</sup> reflection that I realized the significances and implications embedded in these paintings. It was meant to disclose ~~to~~ the experiences that black people had suffered and had more implications than the artistic elements appeared to be.

It was a fresh experience for me to learn from ~~black~~ ~~peo~~ a member of the minority

group that what <sup>the</sup> painting meant to the group. And I take this experience as a special gift from this trip.

I also realized the importance of appropriate communication from today. ~~Since~~ It would be much better if I was educated the significance of the painting at the moment I saw them. Sometimes education of cultural norms and history is necessary to avoid misunderstanding. Since we are all here ~~to~~ to explore different religious beliefs and ~~in~~ raise the awareness of social justices, ~~it is~~ being honest to each other <sup>on</sup> one's own feelings is crucial.

Thursday. Today we went to Gleaners food bank in the morning and bagged a wild amount of peppers and potatoes. I really enjoyed spending time with Kim, Brandi and Liza along with others who popped by our station. Then we returned "home" for lunch and went to a mosque which was about a half hour/45 mins away. That was very well organized: there was a video on frequently asked questions/common stereotypes of Islam. Then ~~we~~ Sarah, the ~~with~~ director spoke <sup>gave</sup> through a presentation on Islam which was very informative. They were gracious and provided snacks and then we watched another documentary on the similarities between Christianity and Islam. Finally, we proceeded to a Q+A with the Imam who was very kind and open to all questions - excited for interfaith work and service we were doing. Finally, we went to a talk at the Detroit Historical

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to hear a talk on  
Museum ~~on~~ white supremacy and  
ending it. It was worrisome at  
first, seeing the talk led by a  
white man after a rough experience  
earlier in the week but he was fabulous!  
He explained ~~why~~ the history and  
context, why white privilege supremacy  
is not working, and suggested education,  
training and strategy be utilized to  
make change. Discussing it in school  
but also acknowledging that empowering  
"the next generation" is not enough -  
we all have to be involved. The  
programming today was great! That said  
I think we can tell it's the end of  
the week, we are getting closer  
with each other but little things  
are causing problems. I look forward  
to the rest of the trip and hope  
communication and inclusion improve

Detroit 2018

2018/3/13.

This morning we talked to the pastor of the 2nd Baptist church, and then we had a tour ~~that~~ which was led by a very charismatic and inspiring lady. I learned a lot about Detroit's history in the past few years, and the history of slavery in this city in the past decades. I can not help to be amazed, shocked, inspired, and complexed by the beauty, selfishness, horror, persistence, and so many other ~~the~~ aspects ~~to~~ within humanity. I also start to have a deeper understanding of religion's role in justice when the pastor ~~introduced the word progressive baptist~~ the way he wants to be religiously progressive and how he approached social justice with active initiatives.

The way he stands with people for development and preach his believes and values with actions were very inspiring to me. It is totally opposite to the way the scholar we listened to, who seemed very distant and indifferent toward the real injustice and issues that he did research for, just approached it as an academic issue. I hope our education will never lead us that way. Instead, we all become educated, but also compassionate, empathetic

and understanding, and use our knowledge to  
contribute to ~~the~~ solving the real problems in the  
world.



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3/11/18

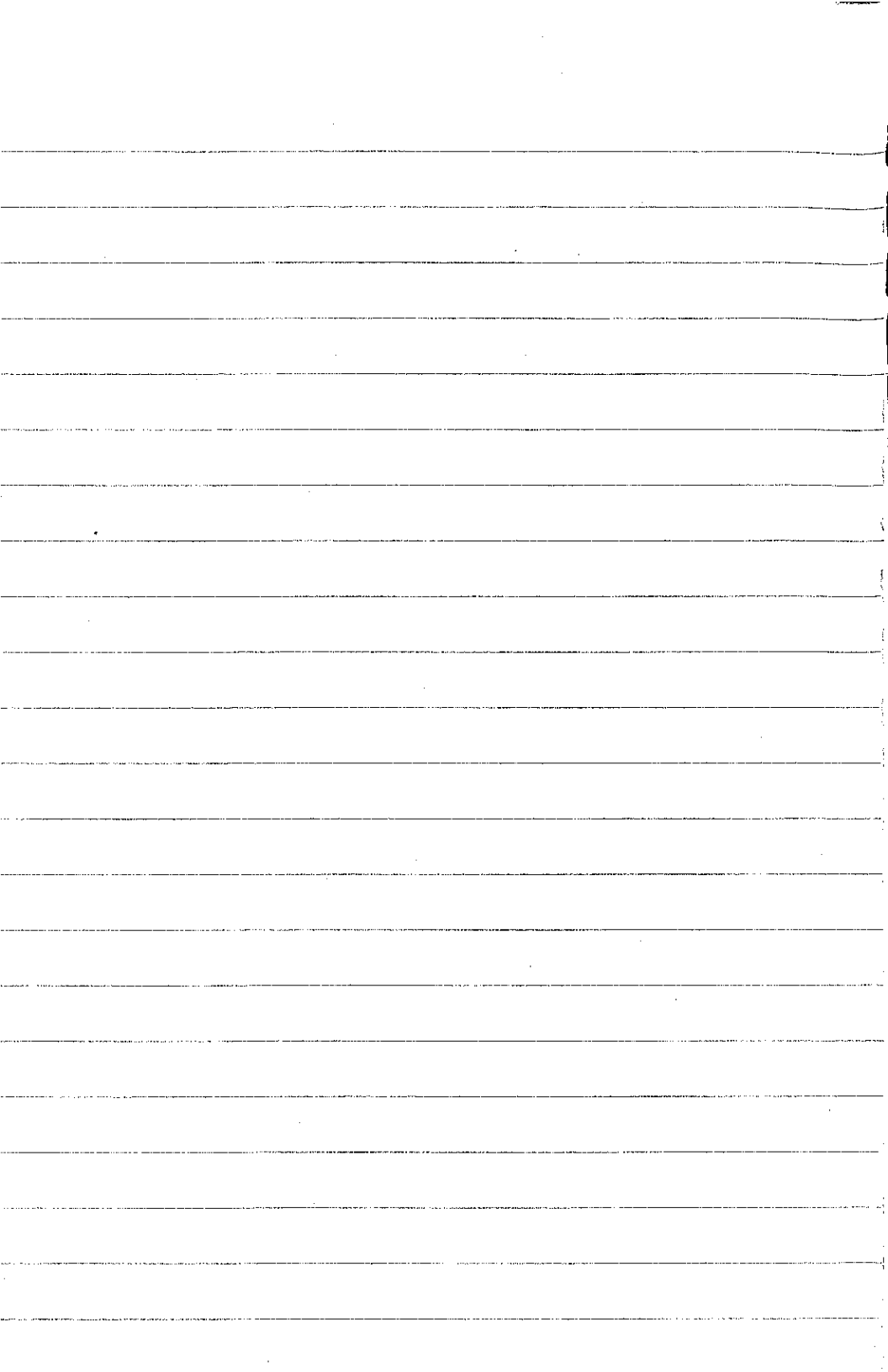
This morning, we visited Second Baptist Church for morning service. I really enjoyed the diversity of music that was played. My favorite part was the Handbell choir and how organized they were, just like the singing choir. It reminded me of how artistic people are and how art is shown throughout the Baptist church. I really enjoyed how the church reminded me of my home church. I appreciated how the pastor incorporated old school ~~of~~ and new school into the service. I was glad we made Second Baptist a stop on our service trip!!

3/14/2018

This service trip has taught me so much so far. We have visited several places of worship, including a Baptist church, a synagogue, and a Muslim Unity Center. My knowledge of religious values, practices, and the implications of various religions has increased immensely. At the end of the day, we are more similar than we are different. Overall, I've really enjoyed hearing a wide variety of faith-based perspectives of Detroit and all it has to offer.

I've also loved learning about food access and education in Detroit. The high number of community initiatives is truly inspiring; it is clear that members of the community care deeply about improving conditions for younger generations. Our service at the Georgia Street Community Collective, Keep Growing Detroit, and Gleaner's

Food Bank has opened my eyes to the potential, passion, and grit the people of Detroit and Detroit itself possess. The kids we tutored taught me that life is full of beautiful flowers growing through the concrete, and it's important for us to take the time to stop and look every once in a while. Detroit is a place full of history, culture, and compassion that I am so grateful I had the opportunity to experience.



Friday 16/03/2018

Today we went to Zen Buddhist center. It was different from the other temples and centers I have been before. As the buddhist, I was always accustomed to walking in shoes in the temple and getting them off when I am going to sit on the cappet near altar and pray. Usually, I would pray when I stand, not when I sit, so I would not take off my shoes. The other thing I have noticed that the whole meditation at zen center was a engaging interesting conversation in a quiet room. We were sipping tea and talking about life student's values. One of the core values was not wasting your and other people's time. I found this value crucial, because something I tend to waste my own time worrying about exam or being anxious about small little things that some people would notice, but which I thought they would notice. I took this advice with gratefulness, and probably will try to follow it.