

Climate Justice Ministries April Newsletter



"Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action"



Earth Day is celebrated this year just two days after Easter. As I was thinking about what to say, I came across these words by [Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas in a sermon that she delivered in 2022](#).

What happens when we bring Earth Day into the light of Easter? The first thing to say is that our Easter liturgies are clear that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is good news not only for human beings but also for the whole of Creation – for rivers and mountains, forests and fields, hawks, whales, and bees. ... Too often our liturgies limit the good news of Christ to human beings, and we push to the margins all the other creatures and natural elements with whom we share this planet, as if Homo sapiens were the only species of any interest to God. But Easter and Earth Day give us a chance to remember the larger truth: according to Scripture, God loved the whole world into being, sustains all things through the Holy Spirit, and through Christ redeemed and reconciled all things in heaven and on earth "by making peace through the blood of the cross" (Colossians 1:19). What's more, our Christian faith looks ahead to the renewal of all things (Matthew 19:28), to the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21), to the day when humans live in peace with God, with each other, and with the whole of God's creation. The good news of God in Christ is not just for us – it's for all the round Earth!

... I wonder what it would be like if we could look at the wounds of creation like that [the wounds of Christ]. I wonder if we could learn to see the wounded Earth as revealing not only the harsh reality of sin, suffering, and death, but also as lit up with God's undying love. I wonder what it would be like if, in tending to the wounded body of creation, we knew that we were also ministering to the wounds of Christ – so that in every act of love for creation, in every choice we made, say, to eat less meat and move to a plant-based diet, to walk rather drive, or to push for state and federal policies that promote renewable energy and keep fossil fuels in the ground, we

were honoring the presence of the wounded and yet risen Christ. For it is not only peace that Jesus gives his disciples. He gives them a commission.

Let us take [Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas'](#) words to heart as we engage with actions and policies that are currently being enacted which endanger creation and climate justice.

Remember, Christ is risen; the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In this issue we share some examples of how to connect with God and creation, take action, advocate for change, and educate ourselves.

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Easter Blessings,

Rev. Joan Pell
Chair, California-Nevada Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

Connection

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
connection



Connection with God, creation and others;
and telling our stories

Earth Connect Retreat



Saturday, April 26

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Windsor Community United Methodist Church

9451 Brooks Rd S, Windsor, CA

This retreat, on the Saturday after Earth Day, is being organized by our task force and is open to everyone in the conference. In this time when there are assaults on all sides, we need to make space to connect with the Divine -- to be spiritually grounded -- as a daily first step toward works of love and justice. This retreat aims to help us "Thrive in Community" with one another and with God's Creation. We will gather in facilitated small groups for meditation, conversation, and the sharing of action and advocacy ideas. Come prepared for some time outdoors, weather permitting. Participants will also receive an orientation to the [Sacred Ground project](#) and a list of possible "field trips" for the journey home!

[Registration](#) is required to reserve your spot and the deadline is Tuesday April 15th.

Cost: \$5-10 suggested donation (but no one will be turned away) which can be paid at registration or at the door.

A vegan lunch will be provided by the Himalayan Restaurant of Windsor.

Please note that there is no childcare being offered at this event.

Eco Preaching Resources

- EcoPreacher 1-2-3 is a partnership between the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade and the [Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development](#), publishers of [Eco Bible](#), a Jewish ecological commentary on the Hebrew Scriptures. EcoPreacher 1-2-3 provides Creation-centered sermon preparation that is short, accessible, and based on a solid biblical foundation. There is a brief “eco-exegesis” for interpreting a Hebrew text from the Revised Common Lectionary for that Sunday. This is followed by one “eco idea” for the basis of the sermon, two “eco questions” to go deeper, and three “eco actions” to choose from to help a congregation put their faith into action. With this resource, preachers can use the sermon ideas in their own context and make it relevant for their congregation.
- [Creation Justice Ministries](#) offers a Green Lectionary podcast, a conversation on scripture with a creation justice lens based on the liturgical seasons of Lent & Easter, Earth Day, Ocean Month, Season of Creation, and Advent.



Action



Earth Day 2025



Earth Day (April 22) is coming up just after Easter. The 2025 theme is Our Power, Our Planet, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. How? By joining in an Earth Action Day.

If you've not yet planned your event, then the [UM Creation Justice Movement](#) has 10 Easy, Last-Minute, Yet Effective Ways to Honor Earth Day.

Advocacy



Protect the Protectors

An Action Alert from [UM Creation Justice Ministries](#) (by Rev. Dr. Becca Edwards)

Since the Trump Administration took office in January, we have heard many troubling announcements about changes made to the federal workforce. As United Methodists who feel called to work for a healthy environment and safe climate, perhaps the most troubling news has been the reduction of workforce and suspension of funding for research at two government agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

It was announced this week that some fired federal employees at NOAA have been brought back on after a court order. But their long-term employment depends on the outcome of ongoing litigation. Now is the best time for people of faith and conscience to let your elected officials know that you value the life-saving work done by the EPA and NOAA.

We suggest making four phone calls:

- The office of [Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator](#)
- The office of [Vice Admiral Nancy Hamm](#), Deputy Under Secretary for Operations (NOAA's chief operating officer.)
- The Representative from your district
- The Senators from your state

End Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Fossil Gas Expansion

[GreenFaith](#) are sending a letter to decision-makers, urging them to take right action to end fossil fuel subsidies and fossil gas expansion as a moral imperative.

Every year, the oil industry receives \$20 billion in Federal subsidies which pollute the air, destroy the climate, and harm communities, while enriching corporations that have knowingly caused the climate crisis. That's \$2 million every hour to one of the world's wealthiest industries, while 2.5 million US children are homeless. This is morally obscene. The giveaways must stop. Expanded oil and gas subsidies, which are included in current versions of upcoming Federal tax legislation, would support a massive expansion of LNG projects which will more than double national export capacity by 2030. This expansion would lock in decades of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 80 times more potent than CO₂ over 20 years.

You are invited to read the full letter and to sign it before April 15, when individual tax returns are due. The letter begins: "As faith leaders and people of faith from across the U.S., we urgently call on the government to end fossil fuel subsidies and halt fossil gas expansion. Our traditions teach us to care for the planet and protect the vulnerable. Yet the U.S. spends \$20 billion annually subsidizing fossil fuels, fueling pollution, climate destruction, and harming frontline communities while enriching polluters. Additionally, the U.S. plans to double LNG export capacity by 2030, locking in methane emissions 80 times more potent than CO₂ and delaying the clean energy transition. At this pivotal moment, continuing fossil fuel subsidies and LNG expansion is a profound moral failure. We call on you to stop, and to invest in what our communities truly need: housing, healthcare, education, and clean energy..."

Call on Congress to Protect Funding for Clean Energy Projects

An Action Alert from [Creation Justice Ministries](#).

As Christians, we believe budgets are moral documents, as they demonstrate what we care about and what we are willing to invest in as a country. Right now, Congress is preparing the federal budget for the next fiscal year. As communities across the country experience harm caused by increased flooding, fires, and drought – investing clean energy is imperative to address the urgency of the climate crisis.

In order to meet the moment and enhance resilience in the face of climate disasters, the Department of Energy estimates the U.S. must double the size of its power grid in the next decade – a challenge requiring robust investments in affordable, renewable energy sources. The clean energy tax credits passed last Congress are essential for supporting this transition and meeting the power requirements of a growing clean energy economy. Friends of the fossil fuel industry in Congress are threatening to cut these tax credits.

Contact your Senator to protect these essential investments!

Education

Climate Justice
through faith-inspired
education

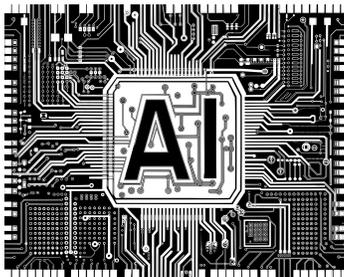


Education through books, websites, podcasts,
webinars, conferences, retreats, speakers

The Science of Climate Change

At the UM Creation Justice Movement Café in March, Bill Middlecamp spoke about the science and solutions of climate change. The recording of the session is now available. The scientific explanation that he gave in layman's terms is a good resource for local churches to help explain what greenhouses gases are and why they are driving climate change.

Is AI Worth the Energy It Consumes?



Scott Hughes, Executive Director of Congregational Vitality & Intentional Discipleship, has written an article for [UM Discipleship Ministries](#) entitled “Is AI Worth the Energy It Consumes? A Christian Perspective on Stewardship and Innovation.” He begins by saying:

AI's energy use isn't just a technical detail—it's a window into the broader challenges of balancing innovation, responsibility, and sustainability. To grasp its ecological impact, we must explore how AI fits into the larger narrative of our energy consumption, its transformative potential, and the role it might play in addressing global crises. By looking at the bigger picture, we can weigh its costs against its capacity to drive meaningful change. To navigate this intersection of technology and stewardship, this article brings together perspectives that might seem in tension: two AI advocates who train church leaders in AI use and a stewardship director focused on sustainable ministry practices. We aim not to take sides in this debate, but explore how Christians might thoughtfully engage with these emerging technologies amid conflicting headlines about their benefits and risks.

Connect with our Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries Task Force

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