



EarthCare Connections

unity[®]
Worldwide Ministries
EarthCare

Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.
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Inspiring Ideas for Earth Day (April 22) Earth Sunday (April 24) And Faith Climate Week (April 22-May 1)

Earth Day is fast approaching but there's still time to honor the Earth in new and creative ways. It is especially important that we do so this year in light of a February 28 report by the United Nations Panel ([IPCC Sixth Assessment report](#)). It concluded that the Earth's climate continues to erode faster than expected. This is the most dire warning yet about the suffering that rising temperatures will cause. It also is a call to action for religious communities. As the Rev. Ioan Sauca, acting general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said recently: *The vulnerable and impoverished are at the very center of our mission and work as churches and people of faith. We are not true to our calling as Christians if we are not doing everything we can to prevent the global temperature rise from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius.*

From local activities to ones larger in scope, all help to raise awareness and alter consumer habits. But religious communities also have the opportunity to play an even larger role through public action that confronts those in power. They can be a prophet for change in creating a more environmentally just and sustainable planet.

At the local level, "[EarthCare Steps and Actions, Suggestions & Opportunities](#)" contains many examples of activities you can do.

On a larger scale, here are four things your congregation can do, from the [United Church of Christ and Blessed Tomorrow blog post](#):

- **The Faith of Prophets**
Discover the prophet within you to confront the climate crisis. The world needs a new generation of prophets, writes best-selling Catholic writer Joan Chittister. *We can no longer wait for others to be the*

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Blue bold text are links. Please click on them for more information.

prophets that were needed yesterday. We have to find the prophet in each of us. We are the ones who can make a profound difference right now.

To answer the urgent call for prophetic action today, [this online event](#) will focus on what the Hebrew Prophets can teach us as well as what current prophetic leaders have to say. Time: April 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m. (ET).

- **Create a Community Climate Collage**

Use the weekend of Saturday, April 23, 2022, to [prepare a community climate collage](#) that will be delivered in person to the district office of their Congressional Representative or Senator during the week that follows. Here are suggested steps for making that happen:

1. Create a Community Climate Collage.
2. Deliver the Community Climate Collage.
3. Tie your action to a call for specific legislation.

- **Weathering the Storm: Faithful Climate Resilience**

Each year, Creation Justice Ministries offers Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation. The 2022 theme is "[Weathering the Storm](#)" and focuses on faithful climate resilience and action.

-  **Focus on the Children during Faith Climate Action Week (April 22–May 1, 2022).**

Sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light (IPL), [this year's theme](#) is *Sacred Trust: Our Children's Right to a Livable Future*.

Sacred Season for Climate Justice

Greenfaith states the matter plainly:

The climate crisis means that diverse religious communities must share the urgent message during these sacred days: climate justice now!

During the [Sacred Season](#), religious partners of Greenfaith around the globe are offering powerful messages or sacred rituals for climate justice. Drawing on their core values and in a spirit of compassion, love and justice, Greenfaith is shifting the narrative by calling for an end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation and a rapid, just transition to a sustainable future.

Because religious communities have a unique role to play in changing the

hearts and minds of billions of people, Greenfaith is inviting spiritual resources, rituals, prayers, talking points, and other pieces for use and adaptation during this Sacred Season for Climate Justice.

Each submission should boldly call for the end of new fossil fuel extraction, the phase out of current fossil fuels, and/or support a just climate transition, rooted in clear faith language.

Unity Worldwide Ministries through its EarthCare Team is proud to have submitted a statement in support of Season of Climate Justice and Climate Action. Prepared by Cylvia Hayes, it reads in part:

Unity Worldwide Ministries supports and affirms an end to the desecration of Nature, and bold action in stopping climate injustice for all species and human populations who are disproportionately harmed by climate pollution, fossil fuel extraction and consumption, and the resulting ecological destabilization.

We hope to use the statement to build momentum for Faith, Climate, Action later this year. The complete statement can be found in the [EarthCare folder on Google Drive](#).

Please join EarthCare and [submit your own statement](#) in support of Greenfaith's *Season of Climate Justice and Climate Action*.

Become a Cool Congregation



Every year Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) invites congregations to submit ways in which they have responded

to climate change through the reduction of their carbon footprint. Thanks to a generous donor in 2022 IPL was able to increase the award amount of the top winners in each category to \$1,500 and also award 12 runners-up with \$500 each!

Whether a small or large congregation, rural or urban, these projects demonstrate that when we work together, we can create positive change, save energy and money, and live out our calling to care for our Sacred Earth.

Challenge winners and runners-up are awarded in six categories that include planning, energy efficiency, renewable energy, grounds, electric vehicles, and

community inspiration.

Although 2022 awards have been announced, it's not too early to begin planning for 2023 to be a **Cool Congregation!**

YouTube Channel



Hosted by Core Team member Mary Gerken, EarthCare's YouTube channel has 80 links to EarthCare Unity messages as well as on the topics of social justice, education, spiritual practices, poems and inspiration, and music videos.

View the videos on YouTube.

Mentoring Calls



David Cordova from Unity of San Antonio facilitates these calls on the third Saturday of each month, at 11 a.m. (CT). For more information, contact David at davecordova@msn.com, or call 210-825-8422.

A different topic is highlighted at each call followed by a discussion that can go many directions. One of the benefits of participating in these calls is that they provide a way for you to connect with other churches in your respective region and open new avenues to collaborate.

Facebook



EarthCare's Facebook page provides timely information and comments regarding our environment! Its usage continues to grow as we currently have 1,544 followers. Please go to:

www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare

The page is maintained by UET member Beth Remmes of Unity Atlanta, Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

Contacting EarthCare

For general questions, please email earthcare@unity.org or call Mike McCord at 913.907.4061. You also may contact your regional EarthCare representative as follows:

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A Final Thought: When Love Is Brought into Action

From our cofounder Charles Fillmore:

“When love, the universal magnet, is brought into action in the consciousness of our race, it will change all our methods of supplying human wants. It will harmonize all the forces of nature and will dissolve the discords that now infest earth and air. It will control the elements until they obey man and bringing forth that which will supply all his needs, without the labor that is called the sweat of his face. The earth shall yet be made paradise by the power of love. That condition will begin to set in for each one just as soon as he develops the love nature in himself.”

(Talks on Truth, p. 61)