

April Newsletter from the UM Creation Justice Movement



April News

The rapid dismantling of public agencies and services at the federal level coupled with unrelenting climate chaos is disturbing, disruptive, and sometimes overwhelming. It can be hard to know where to start. This newsletter is full of stories of ways United Methodists are taking action right where they are. We hope it will inspire your next step in your unique location. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Learn about the [science of climate change](#) and talk about it.
- Turn to the [United Methodist Social Principles](#) and other denominational statements to guide your responses.
- Take action for [Earth Day](#).
- Incorporate Creation Justice in your [Eastertide worship](#).
- Start or join a [Green Team](#) in your local congregation and/or annual conference.
- Advocate for a [Creation Justice Coordinator](#) for your annual conference.

Let us know what actions you are taking and how we can support you.

Action Alerts

Protect the Protectors

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. <https://umcreationjustice.org/protect-the-protectors/>

We suggest making four phone calls:

- The office of Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator:
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-administrator>
- The office of Vice Admiral Nancy Hamm, Deputy Under Secretary for Operations (NOAA's chief operating officer.)
<https://nsd.rdc.noaa.gov/search?fs=1&ln=Hann&fn=Nancy>
- The Representative from your district
- The Senators from your state

Does your church own a solar array, geothermal system, or EV charging station installed in 2024, or will it buy and install any of these in 2025?

If so, the church may be eligible for a federal payment of at least 30% of the total cost through the Direct Pay program of the Inflation Reduction Act. Global Ministries is connecting with churches using Direct Pay to gather and share information about navigating the filing process. If you are the person in your church responsible for filing, please contact Sarah Paulos with Global Ministries at spaulos@umcmmission.org.

Are you wondering how the new federal administration will impact funding for clean energy projects like solar?" See this new webinar recording from IPL Affiliates addressing Direct Pay

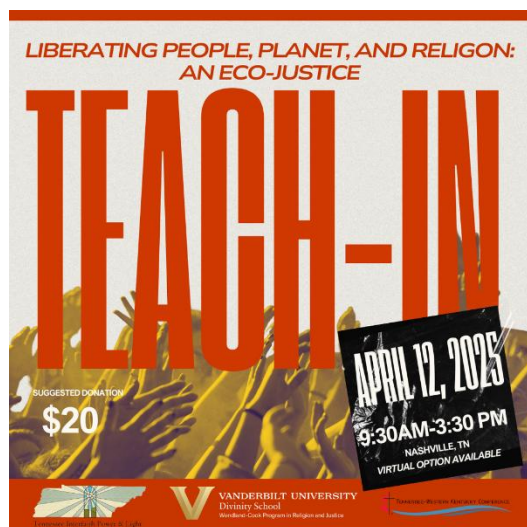
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMKzmyNUo4w>

Creation Justice News

Is AI Worth the Energy It Consumes? A Christian Perspective on Stewardship and Innovation (Discipleship Ministries) <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/is-ai-worth-the-energy-it-consumes-a-christian-perspective-on-stewardship-and-innovation>

Growing a new kind of Christian community (<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/growing-a-new-kind-of-christian-community>) UM News, featuring Rev. Elaine Heath of Spring Forest featured in the Nov 2024 Movement Café <https://umcreationjustice.org/november-2024-movement-cafe/>)

Upcoming Events



Liberating People, Planet, and Religion: An Eco-Justice Teach-in

April 12

The event will explore the interconnectedness of ecological and social justice issues with an emphasis on the role of faith communities. It will feature presentations by several of the author's included in the new book, [*Liberating People, Planet and Religion*](#), edited by United Methodist theologian Joerg Rieger and religion philosopher Terra Rowe.

[Register Here](#)



April Movement Café

April 16

10am PT/11am MT/12pm CT/1pm ET

Stories of Congregations and Annual Conferences working to build Resilience in response to disasters in their communities. Featuring Scott Parrish, North Georgia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Shawn Anglim, First Grace UMC New Orleans, Community Lighthouse initiative and Cara Fleischer, Florida Annual Conference Creation Care Task Team.

[Register Here](#)

[Watch Past Cafés Here](#)



United Women in Faith 2025 Reading Program

April 30

Author Talk with Heather McTeer Toney on *Before the Streetlights Come On: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions*

In this book, climate activist Heather McTeer Toney insists that those most affected by climate change are best suited to lead the movement for climate justice.

[Register Here](#)

Global Ministries EarthKeepers

While the Spring online registration is closed, you can mark your calendars for the Fall training that will be held in person Oct 2–5, 2025 in Des Moines, Washington.

More details coming soon.

United Methodist
**Creation
Justice**
movement



Featured Stories

Local Responses to Global Challenges

Caretakers of God's Creation—Wisdom From the First Coordinators

In support of their newest colleagues, the UMCJM sat down with two Caretaker Coordinators to glean insight and some tips for those starting out.

[Read More](#)



Developing a Green Team Steps for Success

By following these steps, your Green Team can create a lasting impact, helping your church live out its calling to care for God's creation and serve the community with justice and compassion.

[Read More](#)



Learn and Talk about Climate Change

- Watch the [March 2025 Movement Café](#) on the The Science and Solutions of Climate Change
- Participate in The United Methodist Church Blessed Tomorrow [Climate Ambassador Training](#)

Turn to UMC Social Principles for Guidance

- [Protect the Protectors](#) by Advocating for NOAA and EPA
- Learn What's new in the Book of Resolutions, [Part 1: Community of All Creation](#) from UM News.
- Read [Community of All Creation](#) and other articles about [The Social Principles](#) from United Methodist Insight
- Be inspired by [Faith in a Seed](#) from The Missouri Methodists
- Find a collection of Creation Justice [Statements of the UMC](#)

Start or Join a Green Team in Your Congregation

- Check out this updated checklist for Developing a Green Team [Steps for Success](#) and Explore other [Green Teams Resources](#)

Incorporate Creation Justice in your Eastertide worship

- Explore the extensive [Believing into Christ](#): Eastertide Worship Resources and Listen to the Discipleship Ministries Worship Matters Podcast: [Worship Resources for Eastertide](#)
- Watch Minnesota Laity Collective [Preparing Earth Day](#) using Eastertide Worship Resources

Advocate for Creation Justice in your Annual Conference

- Gain [Wisdom From the First Caretaker of God's Creation Coordinators](#).

Take Action for Earth Day

- Explore Earth Day Resources including: Creation Justice Ministries [Power of God](#), One Home One Future [Earth Day Resources](#), and Earthday.org [Faith & the Environment](#)
- Get inspired by God's Green Earth Day from [Missouri Methodists](#)
- And Find 10 Easy, Last-Minute, Yet Effective [Ways to Honor Earth Day](#)
- Learn from actions in the Dakota Conference to establish a Creation Care Team
 - [A Call to Action](#)
 - Key Findings of the [Dakotas Creation Care Survey](#)
 - [Survey Questions](#) for Use



April Creation Justice Tips

Heart and Earth The same letters, a definite connection! Heart/Earth—Earth/Heart As Christians, we are to love God above all else. How do we show love to our Creator? By loving God's Creation. **Put your HEART into loving EARTH.**

Share these Tips with your family, friends, and congregation. Choose any or all. Forward them to someone you care about. Cut-and-paste to put them with your email signature, in your letters and emails, worship bulletins, newsletters, social media, or website.

April Tips

Sample Tip

One youth celebrated his birthday with a litter pick-up party for his “adopted” street. The friends snagged the trash, bagged it, weighed it, photographed it, and spread the story to encourage and challenge others to do better about caring for our home. Cake, music, and fun followed—a joyous celebration of **one person with a heart**

of gold, showing how to love Earth.

