

Resources on the Climate Crisis



Updated March 2025

Our country is amid a shifting of priorities in dealing with the many challenges that face us. As we approach the 55th anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970, many of us are concerned that whatever progress we have made in being better stewards of God's creation will be lost in the clamor and division over what is best for our country and the world, even as we witness more and more examples of

catastrophic weather. Other nations, who were our partners in this work, have not been able to focus on this common need as other conflicts have frustrated their efforts.

Many may believe that the task of being faithful stewards of God's creation is too large for one person, one congregation, or even one annual conference to make a difference. In reality, until we see the call to environmental stewardship as part of God's call in our own lives—individually and collectively—lasting change is out of reach. The resources we are sharing here will help you convince your church and community that their involvement in creation care is an essential part of discipleship.

IS AI WORTH THE ENERGY IT CONSUMES?

How many Google searches equal the energy of a single ChatGPT query? It's a question worth pondering—not for trivia's sake, but for what it reveals about the energy we consume daily and the decisions we face as stewards of God's creation, striving to balance our technological advancements with sustainable and just practices. Before answering this question, consider this: 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.

[Read more on UMC Discipleship.org.](https://umcdiscipleship.org)

Worship Resources for Creation Care

We recently became aware of additional Creation Care worship resources on the website of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. You might find these helpful, in addition to the resources from UMC Creation Justice Movement included below.

[Read more on worship.calvin.edu.](https://worship.calvin.edu)

Stewardship That Can Save the World

The growing climate crisis has forced many congregations to adopt a wider understanding of the word "stewardship." This wider understanding has proved healthy not just for the creation care movement; it is one more way to show that our stewardship and discipleship are not separate but intertwined. It can also help us move people to see that stewardship is not just about what we give, but also how faithfully we live with all that God has entrusted to us. This opens new possibilities for ministries of generosity, compassion, justice, and advocacy. Join Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane as he unpacks some ways you can empower your people to hear God's call to be stewards of not just money but all of God's creation!

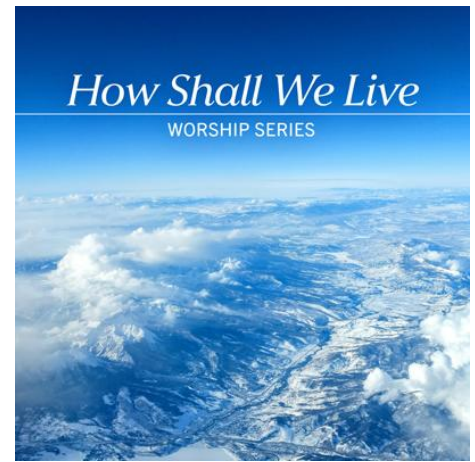
[Watch the recording on UMC Discipleship.org.](https://umcdiscipleship.org)



How Shall We Live Worship Series

Discipleship Ministries' worship resources for the first three weeks in April 2024, were prepared by leaders from across The United Methodist Church who are part of the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement. The overall theme for the worship series is a question, "How Shall We Live?" The response to this question is ["We Walk in the Light"](#) in week one, ["We Purify in Hope"](#) in week two, and ["We Abide in Christ"](#) in week three.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](https://umcdiscipleship.org).



'Loving People and Planet' Course Offers Insight into the Stewardship of God's Creation

Discipleship Ministries is excited about a new course that will be available in time for Earth Day, April 22 (or on the United Methodist Church calendar of Sundays, Festival of God's Creation, on April 23). While the course was made available through our training resources for Lay Servant Ministries, it offers any lay or clergy an enlightening look into the urgent need to take better care of this lovely, blue ball that God has given us for a home. Make your plans now for a post-Easter course that celebrates the depth and breadth of a disciple's stewardship responsibilities!

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](https://umcdiscipleship.org)



Resources for Eastertide from the UMCJM Worship Team

The United Methodist Creation Justice Worship Team Worship Team has developed a new season of Creation Justice worship resources for use between Easter and Pentecost in 2023 called "New Life is Breaking Forth". The series focuses on lectionary gospel texts for inspiration and provides resources for planning your Earth Sunday worship, an Eastertide series of services, and/or other coordinated events.

[Read more on umcreationjustice.org](https://umcreationjustice.org)

Taking an Eco-Survey of Your Home Church for Earth Day

One of the simplest actionable steps you can take part in at your local church is doing an Eco-Survey, led by the young people in your congregation.

An Eco-Survey of your church's physical building is a straightforward process that focuses on how energy efficient and earth-friendly your building and grounds are. Perhaps this could be an opportunity for a youth ministry gathering where youth and adult leaders survey the building with a checklist, looking for ways that the building or meetings could be made more efficient and friendlier for God's creation, the Earth.

[Read more on UMCYoungPeople.org.](https://umcyoungpeople.org)



Inviting a Child to be a Climate Hero

Yes, when it comes to climate change, the job belongs to all of us, but young people often have the insight to see that many adults have dodged the hard work of this job for way too long. With more years in front of them, our children and teens have often been the ones to lead the way, showing us how we should be good stewards of the planet God entrusted to us.

I discovered a wonderful new book titled [*Climate Hero Handbook: How Kids Can Defend, Protect, and Restore the Planet*](#) by Jennifer Manley Rogers and Jessica Gamaché. It is a wonderful book for kids, beautifully illustrated by Sophie Ann Elliot, and organized in a way

that is fun, while equipping children and teens for the task of being a climate hero.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](https://umcdiscipleship.org)

What Can I Do About the Climate Crisis?

I attended the American Climate Leadership Summit 2022, a gathering of scientists, authors, and activists from the United States and other countries working to help accelerate the response to the damage being done to our environment and the resulting climate change. In many of the presentations I attended, there were discussions focused on responding to the question, "What Can I Do About the Climate Crisis?" There are a lot of ways to respond to that question. The answer I heard most often might surprise you: "We need to talk more about the climate crisis – every person, every day, at every opportunity!"

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org.](https://umcdiscipleship.org)



Discipleship Ministries Joins the Joint United Methodist Church Commitment to Net-Zero Emissions by 2050

In the first net-zero commitment of its kind, Discipleship Ministries, along with other agencies of The United Methodist Church (UMC), released a joint statement, “[Our Climate Commitment to Net-Zero Emissions](#).” The collaborative, multi-institution statement pledges to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the organizations’ ministries, facilities, operations, and investments by 2050. “Net-zero” describes the process by which human-caused greenhouse gas emissions can be balanced, or “netted out”, by removing emissions from the atmosphere.

[Read more on ResourceUMC.org.](#)



Toolkit for Launching Your Creation Care Ministry

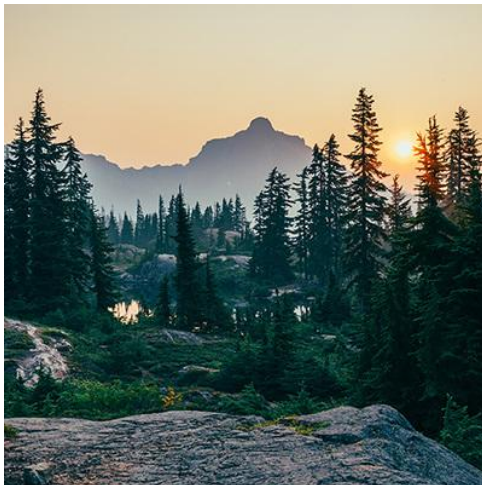
This page offers a biblical and historical foundation for integrating creation care into the life of a United Methodist congregation.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](#)

10 Tips to Help Your Church Go Green

The best way for your church to lead your members in a growing consciousness of being good stewards of earth resources is to lead by example.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](#)



Worship Resources: 'For the Creation Waits'

Earth Day is April 22 this year, and Sunday, April 23, 2023 has been designated as Festival of God’s Creation Sunday. This could be observed on any Sunday in April or another time convenient to the congregation. But it should be celebrated!

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](#)

Music for Earth Day and the Festival of God's Creation View this list of hymns for your Earth Day and Festival of God's Creation celebration.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](http://UMCDiscipleship.org)



Creation Care Children's Message

God's creation is too important to be left to the care of strangers or those who do not worship God. Followers of Jesus are God's hands and feet on the earth!

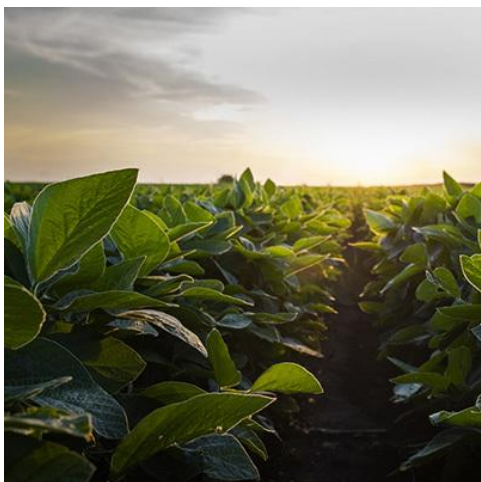
[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](http://UMCDiscipleship.org)



Review of 'Climate Justice With and For Children and Youth'

This toolkit produced by the World Council of Churches offers best practices for churches with a commitment to children and the concern of worldwide climate justice.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](http://UMCDiscipleship.org)



Earth Day: Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear

Stewardship of the earth and care for all creation must be part of our personal and communal discipleship. Young people can be key in helping your congregation identify ways to engage in sustainability and creation care.

[Read more on UMCYoungPeople.org](http://UMCYoungPeople.org)

Earth Day and Beyond: Caring for God's Creation and Encouraging Others to Get Involved

Earth Day and the Festival of God's Creation are opportunities for United Methodist congregations to reflect on the goodness of God's creation and our responsibility as stewards through worship, education and action. Where do we begin?

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](http://UMCDiscipleship.org)



Courageous Conversations About Climate Change

These lessons are designed with the goal for participants to be more aware of and assess their assumptions (right and wrong) about climate change.

[Read more on UMCDiscipleship.org](https://umcdiscipleship.org)



Courageous Conversations for Youth: Climate



Courageous Conversations for Youth are designed to equip a youth leader with a model to create brave spaces where youth can share their thoughts and feelings on pressing topics. The point is not to arrive at consensus, simply for a youth leader to create a space where everyone can be heard.

This resource asks participants to explore the difference between climate change and climate justice, as well as the humanitarian effects of changing weather patterns.

[Read more on UMCYoungPeople.org](https://umcyoungpeople.org).

What has the UMC Affirmed about the Climate Crisis?

If you are wondering about the stance of The United Methodist Church on the climate crisis, check out these resolutions passed by 2020-2024 General Conference session.

[DOWNLOAD 'Social Principles: A Resource for Mission and Ministry' \(PDF\)](#)