

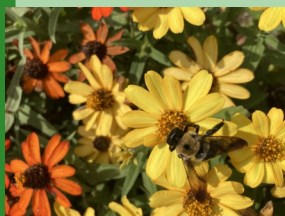


EarthConnectionNews

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2022

Faith for Earth: A Call for Action

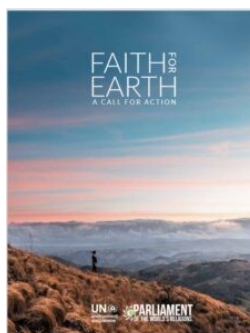


According to Klaus Topfer, former director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), “We have entered a new age. An age where all of us will have to sign a new compact with our environment...and enter into the larger community of all living beings. A new sense of our communion with planet Earth must enter our minds.”

Faith for Earth: A Call for Action is a collaborative effort between UNEP and the World Parliament of Religions. Based on the belief that religions are the consciousness of humanity, this endeavor is a call to harness the

moral authority of every faith tradition to save our planet.

According to UNEP “Spiritual values for more than 80% of the people living on earth



have been driving individual behaviors. In many countries, spiritual beliefs and religions are main drivers for cultural

values, social inclusion, political engagement, and economic prosperity.”

“in the last 60 years, more than 40% of the world’s civil wars have been linked to control over natural resources such as oil, land and water.” They also note that “climate change continues to be one of the most systemic environmental threats that humankind has ever faced” and that a common ethical system of values is needed among the world’s multiple religious traditions.

The mission of the World Parliament of Religions is “To cultivate harmony among the
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Sustainability across the Curriculum

The Catholic Climate Covenant awarded EarthConnection a \$1,000 grant to develop and present a program for elementary teachers on “Sustainability across the Curriculum”.

The grant enables the program to be offered for free at elementary schools in the greater Cincinnati area on individual school

sites as an in-service or at presentations on the topic given at EarthConnection. Programs can vary in length from one to three hours.

Those offered at EarthConnection for three hours will enable teachers in the Archdiocesan schools to earn a certificate recognized by the school office to-

wards their professional development.

These workshops are designed to give teachers both information and tools to integrate sustainability in all subject areas.

If interested in hosting an in-service at your school, contact:

Sr. Caroljean (Cj) Willie, SC
scearthconnction@gmail.com

Faith for Earth cont'd

"Scientific evidence documenting the crisis is undeniable and grows with every passing day. At the same time, there has been a surge of faith-based action and advocacy on behalf of the environment from religious groups everywhere. The response is coming from every corner of the world reflecting both the diversity of the ways we define our relationship with nature and the essential unity of values at the core of all our hope."

-from Faith For Earth

world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world."

Together UNEP and the World Parliament of Religions are calling for interfaith collaboration to transform human consciousness. They believe that faith communities have a key role to play and must begin to use their moral voices for global action and engage in campaigns to change consumer habits.

The document ***Faith for Earth: A Call for Action*** provides an overview of the beliefs of indigenous peoples as well as multiple faith traditions throughout the world about their responsibility to care for creation.

Points of agreement among all

of the traditions include:

*The natural world has value in itself and does not exist solely to serve human needs.

*There is a significant continuity of being between human and non-human living beings, even though humans do have a distinctive role. This continuity can be felt and experienced.

*Non-human living beings are morally significant, in the eyes of God and/or in the cosmic order. They have their own unique relations to God, and their own places in the cosmic order.

*The dependence of human life on the natural world can and should be acknowledged in ritual and other expressions of appreciation and gratitude.

*Moral norms such as justice, compassion and reciprocity apply both to human beings and to non-human beings. The well-being of humans and the well-being of non-human beings are inseparably connected.

*There are legitimate and illegitimate uses of nature.

*Greed and destruction are condemned. Restraint and protection are commended.

*Human beings are obliged to be aware and responsible for living in harmony with the natural world, and should follow the specific practices for this prescribed by their traditions.

The entire document can be read online or downloaded at <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/faith-earth-call-action>



New Landscaping

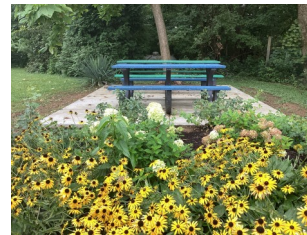
This summer EarthConnection (EC) has embarked on a number of landscaping projects on EC property.

The new benches and tables are from Green Tree Plastics and are made out of recycled plastic caps and lids. The collection of the caps and lids was a project initially started with the Girl Scouts, but people throughout the country saw the initiative on our website (www.scearthconnection.org) and contributed to the project. Caps and lids have arrived from more than 17 states from California to

New York and multiple states in between.

In addition to the plastic lids, there is a cost for each of the tables and benches. A number of people have contributed the fee and asked to dedicate the table or bench in memory of a family member or to mark a special occasion in someone's life.

The Associates in Florida dedicated one to Sr. Mary Loyola in honor of her 100th birthday and Sr. Annie Klapheke's family chose to buy one to mark Sr. Annie's final vows.



EarthConnection (EC) Outreach

EarthConnection offers a number of programs in our facility, but also engages with multiple organizations off campus through speaking engagements and participation in local, national and international environmental initiatives.

Sr. Cj is currently a co-chair of the Faith Communities Go Green initiative (fcgg.org) which is a collaboration between Green Umbrella and Equasion to encourage collaboration among religious denominations to work together to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all by mobilizing their moral voice to reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.

She facilitated a panel at the Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit (MRSS) and the Festival of Faiths on forming congrega-

tional Green Teams and gave a presentation at the Festival of Faiths on the UN/World Parliament of Religions initiative on Faith for Earth.



(l.to r: Mary Ann, Sr. Cj, Kyle and Early at the Festival of Faiths)

EC's administrative assistant, Associate Sue DiTullio, designed and maintains the [fcgg](http://fcgg.org) website.

The new SC Casa del Sol Ministry Center was one of the sites participants at the MRSS visited where they were hosted by Srs. Joanne Burrows, Marge Kloos and Whitney Schieltz.

Sr. Cj is also a member of the Archdiocesan Care for Creation task force and active at both the diocesan and national levels on the implementation of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP).

Girl Scout troops are continuing to visit EC and earn a variety of earth-related badges. A number of troops are scheduling return visits.

Sr. Winnie frequently hosts students from Cincinnati State and both she and Sr. Cj are speakers for classes at Mt. St. Joseph University and host interns through their service learning program.

Little Flower parish requested a presentation on EC on their site to learn more about our center and its programs.





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Sue DiTullio-Administrative Assistant
Caroljean (Cj) Willie, SC, Ph.D.-Program Director

Visit our website to sign up for free webinars and other information on how to care for Planet Earth.

www.scearthconnection.org



Sister Caroljean Willie, will offer the following:

In-person workshops:

"Sustainability across the Curriculum for Elementary Teachers"

Date: 10/22/22 and 11/19/22

Time: 9:AM-12:00 PM

(This is the same workshop offered twice. It is only necessary to attend once to receive professional development credits.)

Webinars

The following will be offered twice on the dates indicated. Each presentation is one hour.

"Building Bridges: How to Have Hope in a Divided World"

Date: 9/22/22

Times: 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

"Earth As Common Ground: The

Recommendations

Hayhoe, Katharine. ***Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case For Hope and Healing***. One Signal Press, 2021.

Dr. Hayhoe is offering a webinar on September 11th at 6:00 PM through Faith in Place who invited FCGG to participate.

Register Here to receive a presentation zoom link:

<https://www.greenteamsummit.org/register-2022>

PLEASE TYPE, FCGG, in the "How Did You Hear About the Summit?" text box.

To attend the In-Person Watch Party: (6pm-7:30pm)

RSVP HERE <https://greenumbrella.org/faith>

Address: EarthConnection, 370 Neeb Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45233

For the local Zoom discussion at the conclusion of the presentation, click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86431100539>

Valters Paintner, Christine. ***Earth: Our Original Monastery***. Sorin Books, 2020.

Upcoming Events



"Call for a Moral Voice"

Date: 10/20/22

Times: 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

"Recovering a Sense of the Sacred: Ecospirituality for Our Times"

Date: 11/17/22

Times: 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

All webinars are offered free of charge, but require registration.

For more information and to register go to:

www.scearthconnection.org

Movies That Matter

These are offered on our site.

"Eating Our Way to Extinction"

- a documentary that will challenge the way you look at the food industry. What is the true cost of food? Who pays the price?

Date: 10/12/22

Time: 7:00 PM

"Dark Waters"

A corporate environmental defense attorney from Cincinnati risks his career and his family when he takes action against a chemical corporation hiding a dark secret.

Date 11/9/22

Time: 6:30 PM

We also offer the following:

In-service workshops for teachers on a variety of environmental topics for elementary teachers. These are available on our site or yours.

Field trips for elementary and secondary students to learn about renewable energy sources, organic gardening, recycling and other sustainability initiatives.