

Earth Week 2020: April 17-26

Resources for Congregations from Hope for Creation

April 22, 2020, marks the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. Across the planet, faith communities are focusing on their common values of creation care and environmental justice. More than ever in this time of global crisis, people of faith must raise their voices in prayer and advocacy, recognizing the interconnectedness of all the living things that share this one planet. COVID-19 exists alongside heat waves, floods, fires, and extreme storms, and impacts like food insecurity, biodiversity/habitat loss, and public health challenges, along with rapid urbanization and population growth, may heighten the likelihood of future diseases linked to environmental change and human behavior.



Faith communities can live our values by providing leadership for earth care and climate action, even as we lament global losses and call for compassion.

This Earth Week in Kalamazoo, congregations can join local efforts to care for the earth:

Attend a virtual interfaith service on Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 PM:

Weeping at the Water: A Gathering for Lament & Commitment

In our work protecting and caring for creation amidst a global pandemic, we need space to share grief and find strength together. All are welcome as Hope for Creation hosts a service using interfaith resources, poetry, and simple ritual to name our individual and collective grief for the planet, acknowledge the precarious balance of despair and hope in our lives, and offer commitments to practices and actions to care for creation. To register, email hopeforcreationswmi@gmail.com.

Share your Earth Day sermon or congregational activities:

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light is collecting and sharing sermons and activities commemorating Earth Week 2020. Find a submission form as well as examples of Earth Day messages here: https://www.miipl.org/earth_day_sermon.

Record your thoughts about local environmental concerns:

Raising Our Voices for the Planet: Designed to invite and listen to the voices of all individuals of faith and conscience throughout the Kalamazoo community as they talk about their relationship with nature, concerns about climate change and/or experiences with environmental injustice. For more info, contact Mary Ann Renz at maryannrenz47@gmail.com.

Participate in the wide variety of other local Earth Week events and offerings:

<https://www.kalamazooearthday.com/earth-week-2020-virtual-events>

Learn more at these local Earth Day/Week/Month connections:

- **Kalamazoo Climate Crisis Coalition:** <https://www.facebook.com/kalamazooecrisis/>
- **Earth Month Challenge 2020:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/316501025991479/>

For online interfaith resources to support your Earth Week activities, see:

- **Faith Climate Action Week** offers an interfaith compilation of prayers and climate blessings: <https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/prayers-and-climate-blessings/>
- **Parliament of the World's Religions Climate Commitments Project** includes inspirations and prayers from a wide variety of religious traditions: <https://www.parliamentofreligions.org/tradition/interfaith>

Many traditions and denominations offer Earth Day resources; search online for resources like:

- **Creation Justice Ministries:** <http://www.creationjustice.org/urgency.html>
- **Catholic Climate Covenant:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/earth-day>
- **Hazon, the Jewish Lab for Sustainability:** <https://hazon.org/commit-to-change/environmental-teshuva/>

Join **Hope for Creation**, an interfaith network of individuals and congregations in greater Kalamazoo whose faith traditions teach that people and the planet flourish when social and natural communities are in harmony. To live our values, we are called to the great work of seeking balance and justice on earth. We encourage people from faith communities and the wider community to undertake climate action in individual lives, in congregations, and in community governance. Participants of all faith traditions are very welcome.

Email us: hopeforcreationswmi@gmail.com

Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeForCreationSWMI/>

Hope for Creation: Faith and action in a time of climate change