

EarthCare Connections



Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.

<https://www.unityuwm.org/earthcare>
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By empowering Unity congregations, EarthCare envisions Unity Worldwide Ministries as a powerful force and global leader in addressing the climate change emergency and moving society towards environmental justice in order to create a world that works for all. In so doing, it will vitalize and expand our Unity movement.



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April 22, 2025 is Earth Day!



We all can make positive change for this amazing planet we call Earth.

Our environmental legacy is a testament to the power of collective action, and it calls upon individuals, businesses, governments, and the private sector to join hands in safeguarding our planet. Now, more than ever, we must step up our efforts to combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and preserve our ecosystems. Join the Earth Day network. (<https://www.earthday.org/>).

The essence of Earth Day is captured in Unity EarthCare's official song, "I Dream," by Lisa Firestone. Click on, or copy the link below in your browser, to listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfOtVLEd7RE>

There are many things you can do to commemorate Earth Day. In this regard, two of our Wayshower congregations have agreed to share some of the activities they've undertaken on this important day and month.

Unity of the Blue Ridge, Mills River, NC

By Judie McKown

- An event we have done in the past is a Repurpose Event. Congregants bring gently used items they no longer want to the church. They are displayed on tables, and the congregation takes what they would like for their own use in exchange for a monetary donation. The benefits are multiple. In addition to reducing purchases of new things, items are reused, keeping them out of the landfill. We use the monetary donations to support our Unity Sustainability Team which in turn uses the money for other environmental events. It's a popular activity, kind of like a huge garage sale which people love. Who doesn't like a good bargain?

Unity of Walnut Creek, CA:

By Lee Sparling

Listed below is how Unity of Walnut Creek has celebrated Earth Day from 2021 through 2024.

- An annual ceremony on our Labyrinth celebrating our connection to the earth. We read our EarthCare Covenant and recommit to taking care of mother earth.
- Earth Day Ceremony at nearby Larkey Park (due to Covid no events or services happening on UWC campus). Introduction of new EarthCare Team, Spiritual EarthCare message, music.
- EarthCare Faire: Music, Raffle, Vegan Food Demo, Information on Ways to help save our EARTH.
- *Tending Our Sacred Grounds* campus cleanup. Ceremony; UWC campus gardening projects and clean-up; Plant-based potluck for all community members.
- *Tending Our Sacred Gardens* campus cleanup. Celebration of Earth Day with Ceremony; UWC campus gardening projects and clean-up; Plant-based potluck for all community members.

Here are some more ideas:

- If you are not certified as an EarthCares Congregation, apply to become one and announce its approval during your Earth Day services.
- In conjunction with an Earth Day festivities, play the song, "I Dream," by Lisa Firestone.
- Initiate a four or six week series called, "Environmental Fast Facts," in which two environmentally friendly ideas are published each week in the bulletin. Go to the EarthCare website for a sample program.
- Plant a tree on church grounds accompanied by a special ceremony.
- Give away tree saplings, bushes or flower seedlings to youth and/or the congregation.
- Through Youth and Family Ministries (YFM) have children make conservation posters illustrating how conservation was important to them.
- Have a Blessing of the Animals ceremony.

- Participate in local natural resource campaigns such as stream cleanup days, removal of non-indigenous plants, and planting of wildflowers.
- Tour local environmental discovery centers, sponsor hikes or visits to local natural areas, tour a solar or “Zero Energy” home.
- Organizing social time and fundraisers that are also active time like family bike rides or dances or jog-athons, and Installing a bike rack.

Climate Protection in Action

The Organizing Strategy Team of the Unitarian Universalist Association has created a go-to hub for climate justice advocacy called **Side With Love Action Center**. Whether you're pushing for policies that protect our planet, organizing for clean energy solutions, or resisting environmental injustice, we have the **resources and actions** to support you. **Each Tuesday, find our newest update at our Action Center** as well as the archive of past updates.

Join them to:

- Demand bold climate policies
- Mobilize your community for environmental justice
- Support frontline movements fighting for a sustainable future

<https://sidewithlove.org/actioncenter?emci=62d07d08-c2ef-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=6c08e4f0-ceef-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=19282932>



From Diana Butler Bass’ “Cottage News blog comes this: On February 11, 2025, more than two dozen faith groups – including most mainline denominations, the Brethren and the Mennonites, the Unitarians, and Reform Jews – filed a lawsuit against the administration for violation of their religious freedom regarding their practices of serving immigrants and immigrant communities.

When you make both the Episcopalians and the Mennonites mad enough to bring a suit against you, well, that’s huge.

I urge you to READ the filing [HERE](#). It isn’t just legalese. There are parts that read like a sermon! You can quote this in your sermons, excerpt it in your church newsletters, share about it on social media. GET THE WORD OUT. Christians need to be aware. INFORM, PRAY, SUPPORT. ENCOURAGE.

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/icap/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2025/02/Mennonite-Church-USA-v.-U.S.-Department-of-Homeland-Security-Complaint.pdf>

EarthCare News

1. Requests have been sent for annual reports by certified EarthCare Congregations.
2. All non-certified 2024 Green Star awardees have been invited to apply for Certification.
3. The due date for this year's Green Star Award is May 19, 2025. This includes the new Green Star Constellation Award.
4. The website has been updated to include the Green Star Constellation programs.
5. The fourth quarter 2024 newsletter has been published. Four requests have been received to be added to the mailing list.

Collaboration Calls



Mary Gerken hosts these calls monthly. A different topic is highlighted each time. 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. For the date and time, email Mary, at agreatpickle@gmail.com.

EarthCare's Facebook Page

Beth Remmes administers EarthCare's Facebook Page. Over 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas that it contains. To join them, please go to:

www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare



The New Story

By Rev. Kathy Harwood Long



In the context of so much government action that erodes funding for support of the earth, let's not miss The New Story we are co-creating. Evidence of this New Story can be detected in the titles of the books that I now immerse myself in: *The Rebirth of Nature / The Greening of Science and God* by Rupert Sheldrake; *The Great Work / Our Way Into The Future* by Thomas Berry; *Coming Back To Life* by Joanna Macy & Molly Brown; *Rooted* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt; and *Talks On Truth* from Charles Fillmore. So many people write of our scientific principles and spirituality! Across the planet increasingly we share pictures of videos of saving creatures, while celebrating bald eagles nesting with real time webcam video. In Olympia Washington the Procession of the Species will take to the streets for the 25th year! (<https://oly-wa.us/procession/>) We are in an experience of mutual awakening-a world awakening to our common ground and home: earth.

It may be difficult to discern The New Story day by day, but for sure we are overturning the Old Testament Genesis story of humans designed to subdue the earth, what eco-philosopher Joanna Macy calls the Business As Usual model. Thinking that we can use the earth with only the thought of benefiting humans has led to The Great Unraveling which is our current experience. But there is more: The Great Turning. We in Unity and New Thought are poised to provide tools such as prayer, meditation and mindfulness, to center and stabilize the mind and heart during so much unraveling. AND, we have volumes of experience in the 'turning' of the mind to the Source of ideas. The answers we seek are spiritual, infinitely creative, and intuitively intelligent for the challenges at hand.

During challenge we change, and Joanna Macy speaks to five gifts as we live with great uncertainty. The present moment; only in the present can we choose. 2) fresh recognition of the power of intention. 3) befriending our path and the mystery it brings. 4) solidarity with all our relations. 5) the immensity of time and all before us that has led to this our time, the Universe's opportunity for the evolution of life.

Let's take these to heart and add to the New Story!

In line with Kathy's prescient message, let us never forget the following by Drew Dellinger:

It's 3:23 in the morning and I'm awake because my great-great
grandchildren won't let me sleep.
My great-great grandchildren ask me in dreams
"What did you do while the planet was plundered?
What did you do when the Earth was unraveling?
Surely you did something when the seasons started failing,
As the mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying.
Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was stolen?
What did you do once you knew?"



Mike McCord
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