

Pennsylvania Because our world can change a lot in 40 days.

Lenten Creation Care 2024

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God’s Creation throughout this season.

May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it.

On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty — those most harmed by our damaged climate — may we answer God’s call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.

Compiled from many sources by...



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>A prayer from Psalm 51:</p> <p><i>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Creator God, we begin this Lenten season asking for Your renewal. Through prayer, fasting, and sharing over these 40 days, we ask that our eyes be opened to the ways we can do better; in our relationships with You, Your Creation, and all those with whom we share this, our common home. Lord, help us to restore what has been damaged through our sinful overconsumption and the systemic injustices that surround us, returning to You with renewed spirits.</i></p>			<p>FEBRUARY 14 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Joel 2:1-2 “for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom...” Spend the day reflecting on the suffering and injustice caused by humankind.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Take some time to learn about some Christian responses to climate change with Dr. Julia O'Brien and Dr. Bradley Johnson: https://paip1.us/2023-10-13-re-imagining-a-christian-response-to-a-changing-climate/</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Talk with your church about ordering “eco palms” for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers’ living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/1: EcoPalms.org</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Is 61:4 “They will rebuild the ancient ruins.” As people of faith, we are called to make the injustices of colonization right. Visit www.native-land.ca to learn about the Indigenous peoples of the places where you reside.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Is 61:1 “... good news to the poor.” No community is disposable. Learn how environmental racism has enabled “sacrifice zones” and how to join our neighbors in this fight: bit.ly/ted_sacrificezones</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Rom 13:1, “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities.” For President’s Day, recall that democracy offers a shared authority for self-governance. How can your community ensure all voices are heard?</p>	<p>20</p> <p>For all that has breath, let’s electrify our homes. Look up benefits available from the Inflation Reduction Act with Rewiring America’s calculator: rewiringamerica.org</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Take some time to learn about the state of renewable energy in PA. Join the Jewish Earth Alliance, PA IPL, and Monica Carey from Solar United Neighbors for a discussion at 7PM on February 21st! Register at paip1.us</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Righteousness in the Bible is always connected to justice. Take time to read the Principles of Environmental Justice and reflect on how to embody them in your faith community: bit.ly/17EJPrinciples</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for generations. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam’s Eat for Good resource online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good</p>	<p>24</p> <p>In working toward environmental justice, we must hold our elected officials accountable. It’s time to ask President Biden to finalize and implement the strongest possible pollution standards to meet our climate justice goals. Sign the petition here: https://forms.gle/ea8KpjZfvJhtbtrj6</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Rom 8:34 “Who then is the one who condemns? No one.” The United Church of Christ has worked on Environmental Racism since the 80’s. Learn more and incorporate anti-racism into your worship. bit.ly/uccenvracism</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Learn about solar financing for congregations with Interfaith Power and Light: https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/blog/2023/06/21/summer-solstice-webinar-solar-financing-for-congregations/</p>	<p>27</p> <p>For all that has breath, we must electrify. Learn more about new electric school bus funding coming to PA in this article from PennEnvironment: https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/updates/new-ev-school-bus-funding-coming-to-pa/</p>	<p>28</p> <p>“Do unto those downstream,” teaches Wendell Berry, “as you’d have those upstream do unto you.” Learn how your community can protect the Susquehanna River and its watershed: https://saveoursusquehanna.org/</p>	<p>29</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Utility Law Project provides information, assistance, and advice about residential utility and energy matters affecting low income consumers: https://www.pautilitylawproject.org/</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>IPC’s Faithful Green Leaders training can help strengthen environmental stewardship efforts at your church. Sign your team up here for the next one, starting in June: bit.ly/ipc_training</p>	<p>2</p> <p>How can your church community help repair our climate? Join with other communities called by many traditions to this sacred work, and flock together with other “green sheep” through PA IPL: https://paip1.us/subscribe/</p>

URLs that begin with bit.ly are case-sensitive; all other links are not.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake 3 can support you and your congregation in stewarding our land and streams: interfaithchesapeake.org/resources</p>	<p>In Piscataway oral tradition, we are in the season of the 13th month, "when the moon fits in a thumbnail." It is a time of emergence and growth. Learn more Indigenous wisdom from Peter Brooks: bit.ly/pbytpway 4</p>	<p>Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Consider composting what's left at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com, VeteranCompost.com, KeyCompost.com 5</p>	<p>Psalm 25:4 "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." Take a mindful winter walk with guidance from the Center for Spirituality in Nature: centerforspiritualityinnature.org/self-guided-programs 6</p>	<p>Gn 1:12 "The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds." Look up nourishing plants for your zip code at nativeplantfinder.nwf.org. 7</p>	<p>On this International Women's Day, connect with the All That We Can Save Project, built around the voices of 60 women at the forefront of climate work: allwecansave.earth 8</p>	<p>Water is life! On average, a family of four in the US uses 40 gallons of water per day just in the shower! Set a timer for 5 minutes and consider installing a low-flow shower head: bit.ly/epashowerheads 9</p>
<p>Gn 17:6 "I will make [Abraham] very fruitful; I will make nations of you..." Hear from Imam Chris Caras at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh about Islamic approaches to environmental care at this link: https://paipl.us/2023-12-12-exploring-islamic-approaches-to-environmental-care/ 10</p>	<p>"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and its leaves are for the healing of the nations." - Rev. 22:2 Explore planting a native tree at home or at church: https://tenmilliontrees.org 11</p>	<p>How could we heat and cool our buildings without causing harm? Heat pumps are a solution! Watch IPL's webinar on Holy Heat Pumps: bit.ly/holy_heatpumps, and learn more about incentives at rewiringamerica.org 12</p>	<p>"He replied, 'You give them something to eat.'" Support the Black Church Food Security Network and learn how churches garden to care for the environment and feed our neighbors: blackchurchfoodsecurity.net 13</p>	<p>Genesis 1: "Let there be light!" Could your congregational facility go solar? Learn about going solar in Pennsylvania at https://pasolarcenter.org/ 14</p>	<p>Purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Walk to a farmers' market or join a community-supported agriculture group: LocalHarvest.org, or sign up to receive rescued produce weekly: HungryHarvest.net 15</p>	<p>"God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." - Gen. 2:15 Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors: bit.ly/gavictorygardens 16</p>
<p>Consider taking climate action by ordering native trees for your property. PA IPL partners with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to distribute native trees in the Spring and Fall. Email info@paipl.org to be added to the notification list. 17</p>	<p>Is your stove burning methane gas? With more evidence that gas stoves pollute our air indoors and our climate, it's time to turn away from burning at home: bit.ly/gasstoves 18</p>	<p>Care for Creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels: GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest and choosing a bank that aligns with your values: GreenAmerica.org/better-banking 19</p>	<p>Hear from Rabbi Ora Nitkin and Rabbi Fred Dobb about a Jewish approach to activism and accompaniment through the climate crisis: https://paipl.us/2023-11-14-a-jewish-approach-to-activism-and-accompaniment-through-the-climate-crisis/ 20</p>	<p>Caring for creation includes responsibly disposing of electronics. Organize "E-cycling" for your congregation to dispose of old phones, tablets, computers, and TVs responsibly: e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler 21</p>	<p>How will your church celebrate Earth Day on April 22? Invite members of your congregation to consider participating in PA IPL's annual Bike and Hike in May. Learn more at https://paipl.us/pa-ipl-climate-advocacy-bike-hike/ 22</p>	<p>At 8:30 pm, join hundreds of millions of people around the world who will be switching off all lights for one hour to commit to global climate action and more mindful energy use: EarthHour.org 23</p>
<p>Palm Sunday 24 Mk 11:1-10 Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem threatened the status quo and the safety of all those living under Roman rule. Discuss with others the role civil disobedience plays for people of faith.</p>	<p>The Angel Gabriel proclaimed the birth of Jesus to Mary. Eco-feminist author Rebecca Solnit proclaims how to address climate change in her book Not Too Late. Listen to her speak: bit.ly/solnitinterview 25</p>	<p>Mk 1:3: "A voice cries out in the wilderness." As people of faith, we must use our voice to call for climate justice. Do you know if you're registered? Do you know how to fill out a mail in ballot? Use vote.gov for more information, and join us in making sure that all have access to the ballot box. 26</p>	<p>Ask: How can I be a part of faithful stewardship? What is mine to do? Listen to the BTS Center's podcast Climate Changed to hear how we all have a part to play in caring for creation: bit.ly/btswhatsmine 27</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 28 "There is a new creation!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Look outside for signs of regeneration in the natural world today. We too can be made new.</p>	<p>Good Friday 29 Ps 22:1 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Jesus quotes a psalm of anguish and despair. What suffering and injustice from environmental crises do we need to call out today? hrw.org/topic/environment</p>	<p>Holy Saturday 30 Is 61:11 "as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up." Welcome wildlife onto your congregation's grounds with the National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds program: nwf.org/sacredgrounds.</p>

3 | Easter Sunday

Lk 24:9: "They told all these things to the eleven and others." Reflect on this Lenten season. Prepare to share what you've learned with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's guidance for opening climate conversations: bit.ly/HayhoeInterview



Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.