



MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Follow MassIPL on Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mass_IPL

August 2022

**Is your email showing a clipped message?
Check at the end to see if you need to click to "view entire message"**

Dear friends,

In This Issue

*From our Executive
Director*

Pray

*Love.Earth.Justice.
2022*

*Faith Communities &
Climate Resilience
Summit*

"Tree of Life" Workshop

*Season of Creation
Interfaith Prayer
Service*

Green Team Summit

Act

*Start now to save on
energy costs this winter*

Mobilize

MA Climate Bill

*Faith Action Network
Worcester group in
Action!*

*Encouraging Faith
Communities to Vote*

Throughout these Dog Days of summer and record-breaking heat, legislators and activists have stayed focused on moving climate legislation forward in both expected and unexpected ways. Neither the bill in the Senate nor the bill on Governor Baker's desk, if passed, has all we would like to see and each still falls short of the scope and ambition that is necessary to adequately address the climate emergency. Even so, they are important accomplishments that were far from guaranteed.

The [**Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**](#) before the Senate includes \$369 billion in transformative climate and energy investments. As author and environmentalist [**Bill McKibben**](#) **observes:**

"Taken as a whole, the bill is a triumph. It would be the most ambitious climate package ever passed in the U.S., and would allow the country to resume a credible role as an environmental leader. Yet it reflects not just the growing strength of the climate movement but also the lingering power of the fossil-fuel industry..." (The New Yorker Aug 8)

Your commitment and long-term engagement, along with others in the growing climate movement, helped make these happen! The voices and actions of people of faith, united by our common reverence for Nature and commitment to justice and stewardship, add a compelling and unique perspective to the movement. Together, we become a respected constituency with demands politicians take seriously to heart and soul.

Read more about the MA climate bill below. If Governor Baker has not yet signed the bill by the time you read this newsletter, take action, once again, and urge him to do so!

After the hard work of this legislative season and the disturbing news of climate disruption worldwide, perhaps you are feeling tired and discouraged. It's OK. Take some time to rest and recharge before launching into your full slate of services and activities this fall! We hope some of the events listed here will help you reconnect and re-energize.

Specifically, I invite you to join MassIPL and our sister affiliate, New Hampshire IPL, for an online interfaith prayer service on September 1st, details below. Also, be sure to mark your calendars now for Mass IPL's Love.Earth.Justice 2022 event on

Inspiration

*Cartwheel Galaxy
Cosmic Snapshot*

Sunday afternoon, October 16th. Details below and to follow next month!

Thank you for joining us!



Rev. Cindy Davidson

Pray

Connect environmental justice to your faith tradition through prayer, worship, and reflection



(Logo credit: Jamie Garuti)

Love.Earth.Justice. 2022
Multi-faith Worship and Workshops to Make a Difference

HOLD THE DATE!
Sunday, October 16, 2-5 pm Eastern
First Unitarian Church of Worcester
90 Main Street, Worcester, MA

MassIPL presents an afternoon of celebration and community engagement, in collaboration with our host Faith Action Network affiliate, Worcester Congregations for Climate & Environmental Justice. An hour of worship with [Rev. Vernon K. Walker](#) preaching will be followed by two 50-minute workshop slots, each offering two workshops simultaneously.

Flyer to post and share, along with details and registration link in the September newsletter.



Faith Communities & Climate Resilience Summit
Thursday, August 18: 5 - 8 pm Eastern, via Zoom

The impact of climate change on our communities is no longer in doubt. We all feel these impacts in one way or another, be they from heat waves, wildfires, or floods. Often, our faith buoys us through these difficult times by providing food, shelter, or hope for a better tomorrow.

But moving beyond reaction, how can faith communities be hubs of resilience, helping our neighbors weather the physical, social, and spiritual storms of the climate crisis? How do we plan and build a world in which the most vulnerable are not simply protected from climate impacts, but empowered to thrive?

Our sister IPL affiliates in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas, along with Creation Justice Ministries and the Southeast Faith Leaders Network, sponsor an **evening of discussion and workshops on building climate resilience and restoring our**

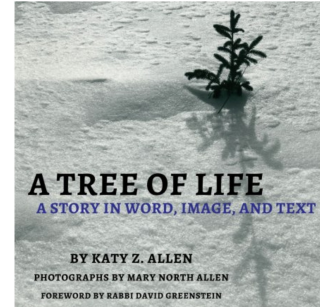
communities to places of safety, justice, and prosperity. Learn how faith communities, academics, and government officials from across the U.S. are finding new and creative solutions to climate challenges.

Learn more and Register for the Climate Resilience Summit

"Tree of Life" Workshop with Rabbi Katy Allen Sunday, August 21 from 2-7 pm Eastern Open Spirit, Framingham

Join Rabbi Katy Allen for an afternoon of multimedia interaction and meditation on a journey through trauma toward healing, using her new book, *A Tree of Life: A Story in Word, Image and Text*.

Ideal for social justice and climate activists and anyone stressed out by life and the state of the world. Accessible for an interfaith or a Jewish group. Workshop cost is \$20 plus the book.



Learn More and Register for the Tree of Life Workshop



Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Finalize Plans for the Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4 Interfaith Prayer Service Kick-off Sept 1st

Since 2017, an ecumenical Season of Creation has been celebrated globally. This year's theme is "Listen to the Voice of Creation," designed to lift up the many voices that are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping: those who suffer the impacts of climate change, people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land and voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species.

The [Season of Creation website](#) includes a [Celebration Guide](#), [resources](#) for specific denominations as well as bulletin inserts, social media posts, and more. In addition, the national IPL website offers a [page of prayers and sermons](#) and the MassIPL site offers a number of [meditations](#).

And it is not too late to book a guest sermon or after-service meeting with MassIPL! Email Executive Director [Rev. Cindy Davidson](#) to find out more or schedule.

A SPECIAL INVITATION: The New Hampshire and Massachusetts affiliates of Interfaith Power and Light invite you to join them via Zoom on September 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm for an interfaith prayer service on the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*.

This interfaith prayer service will unite us around the theme, *Listen to the Voice of Creation*. Through prayer, we'll respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and renew our unity, hope, and commitment to action to protect our common home.

Register for the Zoom Link: September 1st Interfaith Prayer Service



Attend the Green Team Summit
Sunday-Wednesday, Sept 11 - 14
Keynote Address: Sunday, Sept 11, 6-7:30 pm

Our IPL sister affiliate in Illinois, Faith in Place, is hosting this free event in person and online. Event kicks off with a **Keynote Address and live Q&A with Dr. Katherine Hayhoe**, author of "*Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*". Dr. Hayhoe is also chief climate scientist for The Nature Conservancy, and a distinguished professor and chair at Texas Tech University.

The full **agenda** includes a variety of spiritual and practical sessions such as "Healing Centered Justice", "Interwoven: Exploring Environmental Justice from a Faith Perspective", and "Green Team Networking."

Learn More and Register for the Green Team Summit

Act

Lower the carbon emissions of your house of worship and your home

Start Now To Reduce Energy Costs This Winter



Save Money. Cut Pollution. Create Jobs.

While we are still enjoying picnics, beach outings, and other summer fun activities, no one wants to think about the coming winter and the heating bills! Since it appears that gas, oil, and electricity prices are likely to remain high for the foreseeable future, doing what you can to reduce your energy use is your best course of action. Getting started now will put you ahead of the official **Energy Efficiency Day, October 5!**

For your house of worship, consider engaging MassIPL for an **Environmental Stewardship Assessment**. This assessment, geared to the unique design and use of faith communities' buildings, examines 24 energy-saving opportunities and provides specific recommendations ranging from easy, low-cost actions to major projects like upgrading your heating equipment. Check out the link above or email esa@MassIPL.org to learn more.

Collectively, the homes of congregation members use far more energy than the house of worship. If you haven't had a MassSave assessment in two years, **schedule a free home assessment now**. The program updated its incentives this year, and continues to pay 100% of the cost of air sealing your home and 75% for adding insulation -- and up to 100% for low income customers. You pay for the MassSave assessment through a small charge on your utility bill each month, so use this opportunity to get some of the money back while you lower your carbon emissions.

Mobilize

Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world

Urgent Action Needed: Tell Gov. Baker to Sign the Climate Bill!

Late last month, heeding the calls from MassIPL and other grassroots climate and environmental justice

organizations, the Massachusetts House and Senate finally came together to pass a strong climate bill: H.5060, “an act driving clean energy and offshore wind.” Briefly, [this bill](#) would move Massachusetts toward its climate goals by investing in workforce development and clean energy research, shifting us away from fossil fuels, improving state energy efficiency programs, and removing barriers to offshore wind development.



Governor Charlie Baker returned the bill to the legislature with amendments, and the legislature has now returned the bill to the governor, [accepting some of his amendments and rejecting others](#).

It's crucial that Gov. Baker sign this climate bill. **Please telephone the governor's office** right away at **617-725-4005** and urge him to do so. Say that as a person of faith, you view climate and environmental justice as a moral imperative. Or, **click on the button below to use the form** prepared by our coalition partner [Clean Water Action](#) to send the governor an email, which you can customize with your own faith-inspired language.

Thank you for taking action!

Send Gov. Baker your email

Faith Action Network Update: Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice are training, organizing, and rallying!

On June 29th, the Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice (a Faith Action Network affiliate) hosted a climate justice workshop and potluck, with thirty in-person participants and more on Zoom. Participants shared food, built relationships, and learned about how to conduct a one-on-one organizing meeting from Tali Smookler of UU Mass Action. In addition, Reverend Aaron Payson (UU Church of Worcester) and Reverend Brae Adams (United Congregational Church of Worcester) offered benedictions, and Reverend Fred Small presented on faith and climate justice.

Building on the momentum from the workshop, WCCEJ organized an Eleventh Hour Vigil at 11am on July 11th as part of Mass Power Forward's statewide legislative day of action. The rally was well attended and led to a feature on WCCEJ by local news outlet The Rambler.

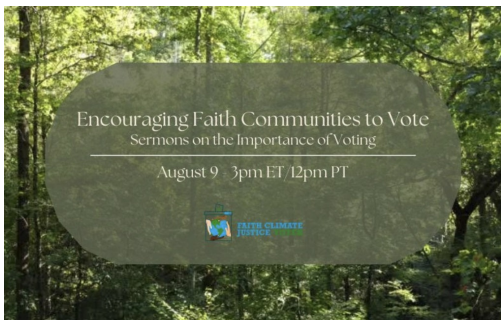
Since these events, WCCEJ has grown even more, organizing against new gas infrastructure in Worcester and working with MassIPL to co-sponsor the upcoming Love.Earth.Justice event in October!



June 29th training in action (photo, David Coyne). Image description: thirty people sit around tables outside, while one person reads from a flipchart.



July 11th Eleventh Hour Vigil (photo, Tali Smookler). Image description: thirty people holding handmade signs stand on the steps of Worcester City Hall.



Encouraging Faith Communities to Vote Sermons on the Importance of Voting August 9, 3 pm Eastern

In an election year, voting is one way that we can bring forth a world rooted in the values of justice, hope, courage, and love for all of God's Creation and our sacred Earth. But what is the best way to encourage members of our congregations to vote?

Join IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot; IPL Board Chair Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley; IPL Board member Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb; and Islamic Organization of North America Imam and President Mustapha Elturk for a discussion about encouraging our faith communities to vote by offering sermons, divrei Torah, and khutbahs on the importance of voting. We'll also share nonpartisan resources to help you in developing these messages to encourage the members of your faith community to vote.

Register for the Encouraging Faith Communities to Vote
webinar

Get your Faithful Voter Reflection Guide now!

[Download a free digital version](#) of the guide.

[Printed guides available for purchase](#) \$5 plus shipping.

Intended to spur discussion and discernment, and whether you use it at a kitchen table, in a house of worship, at a community forum, or at an event with political candidates, the hope is it helps you navigate the urgent moral questions raised by this election cycle. The issues addressed here provide a framework for evaluating issues and candidates in a way that prioritizes solutions that promote dignity and the common good. Each section includes suggested questions to guide your conversations and spark ideas for questions to ask political candidates.



Learn more about the guide by watching IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot's June 10th [conversation about the guide](#) and this election season with Climate Reality Project's William J Barber, III and other IPL partners.

Inspiration



"Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality."

When we recognize our place in an immensity of light-years and in the passage of ages, when we grasp the intricacy, beauty, and subtlety of life, then that soaring feeling, that sense of elation and humility combined, is surely spiritual." Carl Sagan, *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*

Image NY Times, Aug 4, 2022: The James Webb Space Telescope recorded new images of the Cartwheel galaxy. This one is a composite made with two tools, the Near-Infrared Camera and the Mid-Infrared Instrument. Credit...NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

Find the information in this newsletter valuable?
Please help MassIPL expand its impact!

Forward this newsletter >>> to others in your network and area.
If you find the information in this newsletter valuable, please make a donation to support
MassIPL's work.

Donate to
MassIPL

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light | 897 Washington St., Unit 600163, Newton, MA 02460
www.MassIPL.org

