



# MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Follow MassIPL on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Mass\\_IPL](https://twitter.com/Mass_IPL)

October 2022

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

## In This Issue

*From our Executive  
Director*

### Pray

*Love.Earth.Justice.  
October 16*

*Environmental Justice  
is Racial Justice*

*Mass for the Season of  
Creation*

*BTS Convocation:  
Liberation for a Climate-  
Changed World*

*ICYMI: Preaching  
Climate Justice*

### Act

*Solar for Nonprofits  
Webinar*

*Energy Efficiency Day:  
October 5*

### Mobilize

*Demand a Stronger  
Opt-In Specialized  
Building Code*

*Global Faiths 4 Climate  
Justice*

*Faith Climate Justice*

Dear friends,

The storm has passed over. And, as environmentalist and writer Bill McKibben wrote last week, "*Hurricane Ian is a storm we knew would occur.*"

First, we grieve and pray, holding in our hearts all those in the paths of the most recent hurricanes. Again, we lament the loss of life, the damages to homes and livelihoods, and the pain and suffering inflicted on those unable to evacuate in a timely manner. We give thanks for the tireless dedication of those working on disaster preparation, response and recovery.

Let this latest tragedy alert us to the realities of our climate-changed world. We would do well to follow the ministry and teachings of our colleagues at CREW, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather. I hope you will join us October 16 to hear Rev. Vernon K. Walker's timely message at our upcoming event, Love.Earth.Justice.2022. We also bring you other opportunities for connection and theological depth this month.

This month, MassIPL lifts up ways you can act to help contain the rate of climate change and limit its expected impacts. Exploring solar energy, increasing energy efficiency, opting into true net-zero stretch codes for electrifying the buildings where we worship, live and work: these are the nuts and bolts of the transition to a clean energy economy and zero carbon future. Think of them more as "trim tabs" than silver bullets!

We continue to keep abreast of what is happening on the political front, and encourage you to stay engaged and mobilize to advocate for climate friendly legislation at all levels of decision making. While we celebrate the aborted attempt to fast-track Senator Manchin's dirty side deal, we are concerned about local challenges and getting climate-aware voters to the polls. Together, we can keep growing the faith-based climate movement needed to blow strong winds of policy change through our political houses.

Thank you for joining us this month as we Pray, Act, and Mobilize for a livable climate!

## Inspiration

*Blessing of the  
Animals, St. Francis*

*Rev. Cindy Davidson*

Rev. Cindy Davidson

## Pray

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



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

**Sunday, October 16, 2-5 pm Eastern**  
**In person & via Zoom**

**First Unitarian Church of Worcester**  
**90 Main Street, Worcester, MA**

**Free; free will offering received**

*(Logo credit: Jamie Garuti)*

MassIPL and Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice (WCCEJ) look forward to welcoming you -- in person or online -- to *Love.Earth.Justice.2022*, an afternoon of celebration, engagement and skill-building for climate action and resilience. Bring a friend or two, or organize a watch party in your community!

In person attendees, please be aware our **COVID protocol** includes mandatory masking in for the service as there will be singing! Masking suggested at other times, during workshops and while exploring our co-sponsors tables and displays. Refreshments will be available.

Virtual attendees, note you must register to receive the ZOOM link!

*Transportation tips: Parking is available at First Unitarian Church from the State Street entrance; and also across the street at the Wesley United Methodist Church. The Church is in walking distance of the Worcester train station: ~ 1 mile, ~ 20 minutes.*

At 2 pm: **A celebratory multi-faith service**, with prayer, song and reflection from diverse faith traditions, with sermon delivered by **Rev. Vernon K. Walker**, Executive Director of **CREW (Communities Responding to Extreme Weather)**.

At 3 pm and 4 pm: **Workshops** to help you build skills and engagement for climate action and resilience:

- Charting pathways to net zero for houses of worship
- Building a climate resilience hub in your community
- Community organizing, one conversation at a time
- Advancing climate policy at the local level



Questions? Contact Miriam at [mcohen@massipl.org](mailto:mcohen@massipl.org)

Thank you to our many co-sponsors to date who are supporting this event with gifts of time, talent and treasure!

*350 Central Mass; Boston Catholic Climate Movement; Christian Community Church; CREW; Episcopal Diocese of Western Mass; First Congregational Church of Worcester; First Unitarian Church of Worcester; Hadwen Park Congregational Church; Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action; Mothers our Front Worcester; NAACP, Worcester Branch; Religious Action Center of MA; Iglesia Roca de Salvacion; Southern New England*

Register here for  
Love.Earth.Justice.2022

Click here to download the flyer to POST in your  
community!

**Mass for the Season of Creation**  
**Saturday, October 8, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
**St. Susanna Church, 262 Needham St.,**  
**Dedham**



*Listen to the  
Voice of creation*  
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

To close the Season of Creation, we will gather to celebrate Mass outdoors (or if it rains, indoors). Prayers, songs and dance will echo the theme of the Season of Creation and the symbol of the Burning Bush. Bring a chair and a friend (carpools encouraged). Light refreshments and conversation will be offered after Mass. Sponsored by the Boston Catholic Climate Movement.

Questions or need transportation? Contact [BostonCatholicClimate@gmail.com](mailto:BostonCatholicClimate@gmail.com)



**Environmental Justice Is Racial Justice:  
Faith Communities Respond**  
**Thursday, Oct 20, 1:30-3:00pm**  
**Online**  
**Free**

Across our country and world, communities of color are impacted first and worst by pollution and climate-driven disasters, and among the

strongest advocates for change. Learn how your faith community can stand with them.

Panelists, all leaders on the front lines of environmental justice, will include:

- [Dr. Robert Bullard](#), the "father of environmental justice;"
- [Rev. Mariama White-Hammond](#), Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston and nationally known environmental justice advocate;
- [Rev. Dr. Deborah Conrad](#), formerly of Peoples Church in Flint, MI during the lead poisoning water crisis; and
- [Rev. Betsy Sowers](#), Earth Justice Minister at Old Baptist Church in Boston, moderates.

Sign up to attend or to receive the recording afterwards.

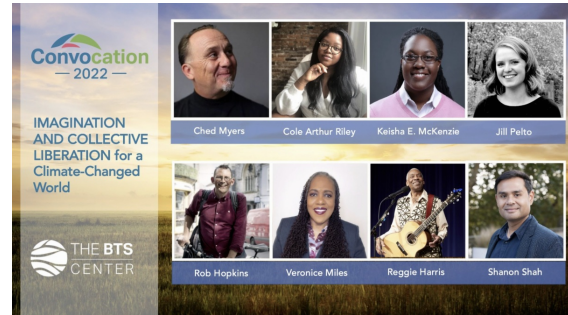
Hosted by the [Creation Justice Community](#) of [The Alliance of Baptists](#), endorsed by [Churches Thriving for Racial Justice](#). Co-sponsored by [Creation Justice Ministries](#), [The American Baptist Creation Justice Network](#), [Environmental Justice Ministries - United Church of Christ](#), [Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light](#), [UU Mass Action](#), and [Southern New England Conference UCC Environmental Ministries Team](#).

More info & registration for Environmental Justice is Racial  
Justice

## Convocation 2022: Imagination and Collective Liberation for a Climate-Changed World

Thursday, Oct 6: 3:30-5 pm; 7-8:30 pm  
Friday, Oct 7: 9:00-5:30 pm, with breaks  
Online, Registration fee

Join the BTS Center for its annual online convocation, incorporating music, the arts, and contemplative practice in worship, presentations, and small group engagement in affinity groups and topical "deep dives." Featured speakers include activist theologian Ched Meyers, Cole Arthur Riley, creator of Black Liturgies, and Rob Hopkins, activist, author and cofounder of the Transition Network.



Full details and registration for BTS Center Convocation 2022

### Planning to Preach on Climate Justice Soon?

Check out these helpful tips and suggestions from Margaret Bullit-Jonas and Jim Antal's recent **webinar on Preaching Climate Justice**: Link to text and 30-minute video are [here](#).

## Act

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

### Webinar: Solar for Non-Profits: New Policies, Big Benefits

Thursday, October 6, 11:00 am Eastern

Last month, we wrote about an important provision in the Inflation Reduction Act which allows non-profit organizations to benefit from the 30% tax credit for solar and other climate-fighting/energy-reducing projects. This provision -- known as "direct pay" -- means the US Treasury will send non-profits a payment of 30% of the cost of the solar panels: if your system costs \$70,000, you will get a check for \$21,000.



Join us this Thursday, October 6, with our solar partner, Resonant Energy, to discuss how this changes the game for houses of worship who want to go solar and learn how to get started so you can take advantage of this new benefit in 2023.

Register for the Solar for Non-Profits webinar

### Wednesday, October 5 is Energy Efficiency Day!

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY**  
Save Money. Cut Pollution. Create Jobs.

Just in time as the weather turns colder, and we know we will be turning on the heat in the next couple of weeks, Energy Efficiency Day draws attention to the benefits of energy efficiency.

So what better time to have a MassSave Assessment? If you or those you know in your congregation or community haven't had one in two years, there are new incentives that you may be able to take advantage of -- you can find the [list of incentives here](#). To request an assessment, call 1-866-527-7283.

Even if you don't get an assessment, you can still save energy with great deals like a smart thermostat for as little as \$9.99 and savings of 50% or more on weatherstripping supplies! [Check out the deals here](#).

And remember, each of us pays for these incentives each month through the "Energy Efficiency" charge on our bills. So why not get some of that money back!

## Mobilize

*Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world*



### Join the Call to Demand a Stronger Opt-in Specialized Stretch Code

Buildings are the second largest source of carbon pollution in MA and building codes are being updated now, and will go into effect in 2023. Since building codes are only updated every three years, this update is extremely important to ensure that

MA gets on the path to fulfill its goals of 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050. ***The just-released version of the code has a major deficiency and this month is crucial to correct it!***

One new element is the "specialized opt-in stretch code", which as the name implies, goes beyond the current stretch code to require higher energy performance and lower carbon emissions than the stretch code (which 299 towns in MA have adopted). The "opt-in" notes that towns must vote to adopt this code even if they have already adopted the stretch code. Originally, this was envisioned as a "net zero" building code.

The Commonwealth [just released the next version](#) incorporating comments received on the first version over the summer. The greatest weakness of it is that it still allows use of fossil fuels, although it requires that all the infrastructure (wiring, electric service, etc.) to enable an easy electrification conversion in the future.

Our colleagues at Massachusetts Climate Action Network, MCAN, are continuing to oppose a "fossil fuel pathway", and issued [this statement](#).

This month, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Transportation, Utilities, and Energy (TUE) will review the draft then make recommendations to the Department of Energy Resources (DoER). ***Join MCAN in demanding that the TUE hold a public hearing on how to improve this code by sending a note to your legislators.*** MCAN provides [sample language here](#) and you can [find your legislators and their contact information here](#).



### Faiths 4 Climate Justice mobilization October 2 - November 6, 2022

**Take local action to demand climate justice in the lead-up to COP 27!**

Greenfaith is organizing a global multi-religious campaign for climate justice in the weeks leading up to COP 27. The demands to political and financial decision makers are clear and necessary: an immediate end to new fossil fuel projects, deforestation, and related financing; a commitment to green jobs; and put climate reparations from wealthy countries in place to equip vulnerable nations for a better future.

From prayer vigils to protests at government offices and financial institutions, it's not too late to plan an event or find ones taking place near you! Resources provided online!

Learn more, register your event, or download the Action Guide

Join a Faith Voter Textbank!  
Sign up for a text-banking shift this month

Tuesday and Thursday evenings: 7:00-8:30 pm  
Saturdays: 12:30-2:00 pm.



FAITH CLIMATE  
JUSTICE VOTER

Did you know lots of folks aren't picking up the phone anymore, they aren't opening their emails, or their doors to strangers? But, almost everyone reads their texts!

Did you know that Peer-to-Peer texting is easy when using the online system called ThruText with pre-written scripts? And that your own mobile number is not revealed?

If you can take a shift or organize a group texting party, we can help our IPL affiliates in Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania towards their goal of reaching 500,000 infrequent, climate-alarmed voters of faith. Now is the time to nudge more Creation Care minded voters!

Sign up for a Textbank - by date or by state

## Inspiration



**“All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures.”**

-- St. Francis d'Assisi, *Canticle of the Creatures*

[Image and blog](#) on the Blessing of Pets at [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org)

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

