

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Earth Day, April 22, 2020

Call for Climate Action

From Bonnie Power, Sustainable Living Team

Earth Day began 50 years ago as a day to draw attention to pollution from the ravages of an oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA, witnessed by Gaylord Nelson, Democrat from Wisconsin. Towns along the oil spill (estimated at 200,000 gallons) experienced the stink of crude oil, blackened beaches, birds and other sea life dead or dying on the beaches.

Nelson was inspired by the power of student anti-war protestors. He hoped to build this kind of support, along with the emerging knowledge of air and water pollution, to lobby for environmental protection policy.

On that Earth Day, 10% of the U.S. population demonstrated for a healthy sustainable environment. Since then Earth Day has evolved to embrace all the urgent issues affecting this earth, and became global in 1990. Now the call is for climate action from all of us.

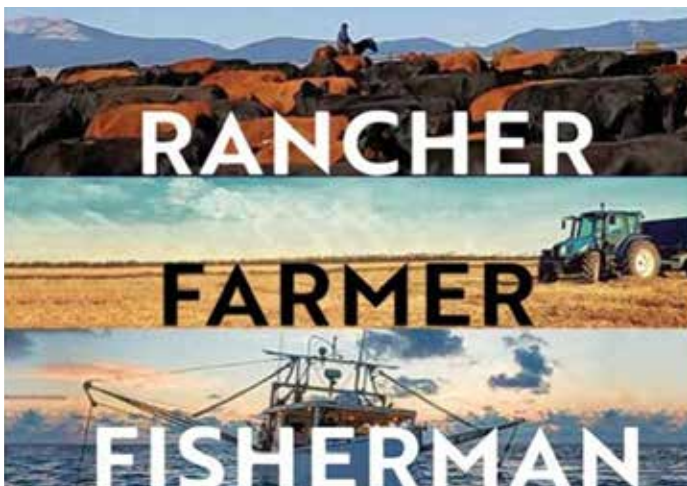
Scientists have studied impacts of humans on this planet from the dawn of the industrial revolution. The data is available to everyone. There are hundreds of canaries in the coal mine, calling out the danger signs. Are we listening? How can we bridge the disconnect between how we live on this earth and all the danger signs crying at us to change.

What is true is we work best in community. But we must be the larger community of nature. We can't act separately. An individual can start an action — such as Greta Thunberg and countless others have done — and the community supports those actions. We must hear and respond to those incessant cries from the canaries in the coal mine — *now*. The time we have to act is finite and the next 10 years are critical.

We can't ask the other species on this earth to step up their game, we can't ask the trees or the oceans or the weather patterns or the land to do *more*. Every other natural process and species that have kept this earth habitable is at our mercy.

What should we do? The clock is ticking so take a step. Will you join any number of groups who are making commitments to change, asking questions and demanding changes from business and government? The Sustainable Living Team came together in response to those canaries in the coal mine. You will have plenty of support.

It is the only way forward — one step at a time. Let's honor the foresight of those like Greta and make this Earth Day one of action. We can't see what a sustainable future will look like but we need to follow those who envision a future that propels us to a liveable earth.



Sustainable Living Team
Film Series

Come watch the
conservation heroes of
America's heartland.

March 27
7 pm
Robbins Parlor

Food Shelf Help Sought

Unity's Evergreen Team has overseen collection and delivery of food shelf donations over many years. We're seeking interested congregation members to join our small group. Can you commit to drive to the church, pick up the food shelf donations, and deliver the grocery bags a few blocks away to the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf? On a regular basis? Or once in a while? If so, please call Kathie at 612-379-4253 (leave your name and phone number). We're setting up the schedule now. Many thanks for considering this service to our church and to our neighbors in our community.

Help Provide a Meal for Jeremiah Families

Help cook a meal at The Jeremiah Program, a residence and education program for single moms and their children. Volunteers are needed from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16; and Thursday, May 12. Contact Karen Buggs at 651-297-0111 or buggs745@hotmail.com.

Rainbow Chalice Alliance Pick up your pie!

Thanks to all who ordered pies for making this year's Pi(e) Day fundraiser a success! Your pie purchases make it possible for RCA to support Q-Quest (a yearly festival for LGBTQA youth) as well as help fund Queer Prom and Youth Pride in the spring.



If you were lucky enough to purchase a pie, remember to pick it up on Sunday, March 8!