



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 21, 2024

Celebrate Our Earth

Earth Day is April 22, but shouldn't everyday be earth day, a time to celebrate God's creation? Pope Francis reminds us through his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* and his 2023 exhortation *Laudate Deum* of our responsibility as God's children to protect and care for creation.

“Four in five American Catholics believe they have a moral responsibility to do what they can to combat climate change, and 72% believe that environmental justice is a legitimate issue that needs urgent attention, according to a new survey” (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University 3/26/24).

Interfaith Power & Light has once again provided a program which each year encourages nationwide action on climate. Their faith climate action weeks have reached over two million people. This year's theme is **Common Ground: Cultivating Connections Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate**.

Join us downstairs today for Hospitality Sunday and visit our table. There will be information on how our food systems contribute to injustice and to climate change and how our faith traditions call us to respond through practical solutions.

You will also have an opportunity to pledge to vote with the climate in mind, “demonstrating your care for our Sacred Earth for current and future generations and building a better world for all.” You can also pledge to vote with the climate in mind using this link: <https://bit.ly/IPLvotepledge>.

At a later date, we will provide an opportunity to view this year's featured film, *Common Ground*, “to learn how the way we grow our food is an important climate solution. Since we all eat, we all can be part of this solution.”

Action for Communities on the Front Lines of Climate Change

“For many around the globe, climate change is not just warmer temperatures — it is a devastating force that is upending their way of life.

It reduces access to safe water for drinking, bathing, and everyday household tasks. It weakens agricultural productivity, creating more hunger. It makes communities more susceptible to natural disasters like floods, wildfires, and extreme heat waves....

Climate change affects communities around the world in so many different ways. But often, it is people who have contributed the least to warming the globe that are affected the most....

[Sign our pledge today to support communities on the front lines of climate change.](#) (Mercy Corps, 4/9/24)

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.