



Vermont Interfaith Power & Light
A faith-based response to global warming

Green Mountains, Blue Water

Earth Care News August 2020

Enjoy Spirit in Nature this Summer



Chapel at Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, VT (Photo courtesy Donna C. Roberts)

- IPL Faith Climate Justice Voter Campaign Invitation to Faith Leaders
- Virtual Conversation with Civil Rights Champion & IPL Board Chair Rev. Gerald Durley: How faith leaders can use prophetic voices this election year
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- August 19 & 26: UMC Virtual Town Halls on Ending Racism
- August 22: *Commemoration of First African Landing Day* to Benefit New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church

IPL's Faith Climate Justice Voter Campaign & Sermons

On the heels of this week's primary, the Faith Climate Justice Voter Campaign non-partisan initiative of Interfaith Power and Light is encouraging faith leaders to consider giving sermons on the importance of voting this fall. To demonstrate this commitment, consider signing up on the Campaign website.



Among the materials and activities available on the website are sermon resources, a Faith Climate Justice pledge, information and links on registering voters in your faith communities, a template for bulletins, and a Voter Guide.

[Campaign website.](#) [Sermon resources.](#)

Virtual Conversation with IPL Board Chair & Civil Rights Champion Rev. Gerald Durley: Using Your Prophetic Voice this Election Year.

This is a moment for fundamental change, and a renewed vision for our nation and our world, based in our spiritual values. As a Civil Rights champion, Interfaith Power & Light Board Chair Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley understands the challenges we face as a nation. Rev. Durley marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congressman John Lewis, and Rev. C.T. Vivian (whose eulogy Rev. Durley recently delivered) working for voting rights, racial justice, and environmental justice. We are living in a Kairos moment, a

moment ripe with opportunity. We need to help ensure that people of faith vote this November in order to fully live into this moment. And we need faith leaders who are willing to use their prophetic voice to call people to embody the values we seek to live as a nation. Please join this August 20 conversation about how faith leaders can use their prophetic voice this election year. [Register here.](#)

The Movement for Black Lives Saves the Planet - Sierra Club podcast

This episode of “The Overstory” podcast explores the connections between systemic racism and environmental destruction. Hop Hopkins, Director of the Sierra Club's strategic partnerships, discusses how the ideology of white supremacy fuels environmental degradation and social injustice. Other stories include news of #BlackBirdersWeek, and why NASA climate scientists say the pandemic doesn't have an environmental silver lining. [Podcast.](#)

Native Americans Devastated by COVID-19 yet Overlooked in the Data

In another demonstration of injustices in our country, this article outlines how indigenous people are suffering disproportionately during COVID across the U.S. [Full article.](#)



Update on Global Warming Solutions Act (by VT IPL Board member Richard Butz)

Last February 20, many celebrated the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act in the State House on Faith Climate Action Day. Almost 6 months later, the bill has passed the Senate and awaits the August 25 beginning of the budget session so the final adjustment between the two versions can be formalized and the bill sent to the governor.

Our partner organization VPIRG shares this summary:

"Governor Scott is crafting his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021. For the Solutions Act to achieve bold reductions in climate pollution sustainably, we must invest in long-term solutions that chart the path towards a more resilient future for Vermont. To that end, the Governor needs to hear that Vermonters

are committed to making this investment in climate action. The Solutions Act offers a strategic planning and implementation framework to ensure we make smart investments that prioritize Vermont's most vulnerable; put people to work in the local, clean energy economy; and harness Vermont's unique assets to make our state more resilient, independent, and strong. Creating a framework for a resilient recovery is particularly important as we look towards Vermont's post-pandemic future. The Solutions Act does just that. Let Governor Scott know that it is time to walk the walk on climate while investing in a more resilient, just, and sustainable Vermont by funding the Solutions Act. Call his office at **(802) 828-3333**. By advocating for Solutions Act funding, you help ensure that we follow through on our stated commitment to reducing climate pollution and building climate resilience in our local communities. “

VTIPL Matching Grants Available for Energy Projects

Although many of us are not meeting in-person for worship or to plan building improvements, this is a good opportunity to consider having an energy audit conducted on your facility to identify options for energy efficiency improvements. Two socially-distanced people can easily do an energy audit; the auditor meets with someone familiar with the facility, equipment, and operations. Vermont Interfaith Power & Light offers the Katy Gerke Memorial Program, a matching grant program for eligible faith communities to have a professional energy audit, and matching grants to implement some of the energy efficiency or renewable energy projects identified by the audit. Details and applications for the Katy Gerke Memorial Program are available on [VTIPL's website](#). Questions? Please contact VTIPL's president [Ron McGarvey](#).



Rev. Rachel Field (left) and Rev. Lisa Ransom on the porch at Mission Farm.
Photo courtesy, Maddie Ransom.

How We Meet God is Changing - A New Vision for Mission Farm

The inspiring work of VT IPL Board Member The Rev. Rachel Field is featured in a recently published article in *The Mountain* of the Episcopal Church in Vermont. Here's an excerpt:

"Field says the pandemic means that 'how we meet God is changing. We're thinking about agriculture and building community...how we meet God, and how we pray.' Field became the farm priest at Mission Farm in July, a one-third time position that she combines with her ministry as priest-in-partnership at St. Thomas, Brandon, and a nearby homestead that she and her husband began last year. Given their experience, it's not surprising that Field and The Rev. Lisa Ransom aim to make Mission Farm a working farm once again. These days, they say, they spend most of their time together praying, planning and writing grants to fund their vision of growing food for people in need and teaching people to grow their own food. 'A lot of people know Mission Farm because they have stayed here in the guest house,' Field says. 'We want people to have that feeling of being welcomed, to feel a connection when they come here.' Though even outdoor services are not yet possible, people who want to experience the farm's peaceful setting online are invited to join a Zoom meditation on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:30 a.m." [Access meditation here.](#) [Read full article.](#)

Upcoming Events

-Friday, August 14-18: Free Film Screening, *Dark Waters*

Vermont Conservation Voters (VCV) offers a free screening of *Dark Waters*

thanks to Safer States and Sierra Club, in partnership with Participant Media. The film tells the true story of an attorney who uncovers a secret about one of the world's largest corporations knowingly dumping toxic PFAS chemicals into the nation's water supplies. A panel discussion is scheduled Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. [Register for the film.](#)

-August 19 & 26 UMC Town Halls on Ending Racism

The United Methodist Church will host two Town Hall conversations aiming to help participants perceive today's work of dismantling racism in light of what has gone before. Join emerging leaders in the current movement and seasoned leaders who've been instrumental in this work since the 1960s. The Town Halls will be live and [accessible here on August 19 & 26 at 1 p.m.](#)

-Saturday, August 22: Commemoration of First African Landing Day

The Vermont Racial Justice Alliance, in partnership with the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, will live stream the second annual First African Landing Vermont Commemoration August 22 from 2:00 - 6:00 pm. Last year's event culminated with Governor Scott proclaiming the 4th Saturday of August *First African Landing Day in Vermont*. This serves to recognize the 401st anniversary of the landing of the first Africans in English-occupied North America at Point Comfort in 1619. "Though the Commemoration does not celebrate the circumstances surrounding the arrival of the first Africans to these shores, it serves as a historical marker that shines a light on the incredibly powerful 401-year journey, and offers some hope in the continued struggle to dismantle the systems of oppression created by the original sin." All proceeds for the event will go to the Building Fund of the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church, the only church in Vermont that worships in the African American tradition. [Access live stream event.](#)

[Donate Now](#)

We greatly appreciate your contributions to our ongoing work at the intersection of faith, climate, and justice.



