



Photo courtesy Gerald Lee Hoffman.

Green Mountains, Blue Water

- Join VTIPL's Faith Climate Action Day, Montpelier, March 29!
- VTIPL Donor Offers Matching Donation Challenge
- IPL's Faith Climate Action Week, April 14-23. Organizer's Kit & Film
- Recording Available, VTIPL's Weatherization for Faith Communities
- Putting Geothermal to Work for Climate & Policy Webinar, March 20
- Third Act National Day of Action Against "Bad Banks", March 21
- World Water Day, March 22. Clean Water & Faith Action on U.N. SDGs

- Earth's Materials* Exhibit, March 27, with *Yemanjá* film April 4
- Black Earth Wisdom with Leah Penniman of Soul Fire Farm, March 31
- Ongoing: Creation Care/Green Team & EcoSpirituality Gatherings

On the occasion of Women's History Month, VTIPL acknowledges all of the women who care for Earth, their wider communities, and their families daily with great devotion, and often without pay or other compensation.



VTIPL's Faith Climate Action Day, March 29, Montpelier – Please Join Us if You Can!

VTIPL is pleased to again be collaborating with VPIRG, Vermont Conservation Voters, and Vermont Interfaith Action on a Lobby Day at the State House in Montpelier.

Our 2nd Faith Climate Action Day will take place on **Wed., Mar. 29, 2023**. **Activities will begin with a news conference at 11:30 a.m. in the Cedar Creek room at the State House**, followed by opportunities to speak with representatives about critical climate-related legislation while demonstrating how our faith motivates our resolve to create a livable climate for future generations. We will also gather in the gallery to observe the House in action and perhaps be acknowledged as advocate/visitors.

To help us prepare, VPIRG is offering a **pre-event virtual lobby training including a review of legislative climate priorities in a Zoom meeting on March 20, at 7 p.m.** Please plan to join the *How to Lobby & Legislative Climate Priorities* overview and training for those planning to attend VTIPL's March 29 Faith Climate Action Day. The Zoom event will be recorded for later

viewing if you cannot attend on March 20. **Connect directly to the March 20 training by clicking at 7p.m. [Zoom link](#).**

To participate in VTIPL's March 29 Faith Climate Action Day in Montpelier, please contact VTIPL Coordinator Donna Roberts by email with the subject: "Faith Climate Action Day". We hope you can join us as we put our faith into action for a safe climate. [Email to join VTIPL at the State House on March 29.](#)



Recording Available - Feb. 23 VTIPL Webinar on Weatherization for Faith Communities

Did you miss VTIPL's February 23 webinar on Weatherization and Efficiency Rebates for Faith Communities featuring two speakers from Efficiency Vermont, and moderated

by VTIPL's in-house energy expert Ron McGarvey? If so, you can review the presentation and discussion on this Zoom [Recording](#). Use Passcode: h*C7G!bR Read more about the event on our [website](#).

VTIPL Donor Offers Matching Donation Challenge

A longtime member of VTIPL is challenging our community, individuals and congregations alike, to give more, become donors, or to renew giving to VTIPL this year. As part of the challenge, the generous donor will match up to \$1500 in gifts received by our organization this year. Please help us meet this challenge with an increased donation to VTIPL, or if you haven't given in the last year, that will count as a new donation. And we always embrace new donors! If you're a faithful donor to VTIPL, please consider sharing info about VTIPL and this invitation with your friends and neighbors and encourage them

to consider supporting our work by becoming new donors. Our website is full of great information about our ongoing work. [VTIPL Website.](#)

We are extremely grateful for this admirable challenge and gift.

Donations are possible by postal mail or online. Either send a check made payable to VTIPL, to P.O. Box 3095, Burlington, VT 05408. OR give securely online via the Network for Good link on our [website](#) or using the Donate Now button below. Thank you so much for considering a gift at this time when it will go even further to support our work putting faith into action for a safe climate! For more information, please send an email to Coordinator [Donna Roberts.](#)

[Donate Now](#)



IPL's Faith Climate Action Week, April 14-23. Order Organizer's Kit & Film

We hope you're planning to participate in national IPL's 2023 Faith Climate Action Week, with the theme, "Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy". There are multiple materials to help you create meaningful events and to help make the faith-

climate connection for your congregants. A free download of the digital Organizer's Kit is available here. Available now. [Organizer's Kit.](#)

The materials in the Kit help us examine our responsibility to transition to energy sources that safeguard our common home, and how our faiths call us to respond with just solutions for all. Resources will help equip you to lead faith-based discussions and actions at your congregation and in communities to safeguard a thriving Earth for everyone prioritizing the well-being of workers and frontline community members.

There's also an updated **climate change fact sheet**, film suggestions, faith-based discussion materials, a multi-faith Golden Rule poster, and ideas for local action. National IPL also offers a Faith Climate Action Week featured film, *Current Revolution*, comprised of three short films about the transition to clean energy. The films are a great length to view in a group with time for discussion. Thanks to the generosity of the American Resilience Project, IPL-affiliated congregations may register to stream these films for free during Faith Climate Action Week. DVDs can be purchased for \$25 and can be screened at any time. Register to show the film & view the *Current Revolution* trailer. [Order film.](#)



Putting Geothermal to Work: Achieving climate goals & policy solutions, March 20

The public is invited to join the Vermont Community Geothermal Alliance Network webinar at 12 p.m. on Monday, March 20. How can thermal energy networks help Vermont achieve our climate goals? What policies and programs are needed to make them a viable, equitable solution in our communities? To answer these questions and more, join Jay Egg – who was instrumental in the passage of New York's Utility Thermal Energy Networks and Jobs Act – for this lunchtime talk about the surprising alliance of utilities, unions, and climate advocates that helped that pioneering law pass, and consider what Vermont can learn from developments in neighboring states and beyond. Hosted by Energy Action Network and presented by the Networked Thermal Network Action Team. Webinar [registration.](#)



Third Act National Day of Action Against “Bad Banks”, Defunding Fossil Fuels, March 21

From our allies at Third Act Vermont. “The climate crisis is fueled by “bad banks” loaning massive amounts of funds to the fossil fuel industry. The four largest offending banks are Chase, Citibank, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America. Join Third Act Vermont in our campaign to end this climate-destroying funding of fossil fuels. Tuesday, March 21, 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Chase Bank, at the top of Church Street Marketplace, 1 Church St, Burlington. Please come and bring your signs; see ideas at [Third Act](#). (Spare

signs will be available on site.) We will march down Church Street and back, then gather in front of the bank for some introductory remarks, skits, a credit card cutting ceremony, and music.”

Many Vermonters have signed the Third Act pledge to no longer bank at the “bad banks”. They will cut up credit cards and close accounts unless the banks change their ways. [Take the Pledge](#).



World Water Day is March 22! Clean Water & Sanitation: Faith Action on U.N. SDGs

We are grateful to our friends at Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology (FORE) for their work and this story.

“Beginning in 2020, and in

collaboration with UNEP’s Faith for Earth Initiative, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, United Religions Initiative, and Parliament of the World’s Religions created the online database, ‘Faith Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs). This vibrant and growing resource documents environmental action taken by faith-based organizations, religious communities, and Indigenous groups worldwide.”

Related to the U.N. Water Conference, there's a new report, the first in a series of periodic updates, that covers Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and showcases “inspiring religious efforts to implement water, sanitation, and hygiene practices and to ensure healthy livelihoods of oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, streams, and glaciers.” [Report](#). Learn more about the March 2023 [UN Water Conference](#).



New Perennials Project, *Earth's Materials* exhibit, Middlebury, March 27

The public is invited to view the new exhibit, *Earth's Materials: Perennial Perspectives in the Arts*, which will be on display at Town Hall Theater Gallery, in Middlebury, from March 27 to April 15. The group exhibit of curated art represents diverse responses from artists working in a variety of media that reflect, respond, and rejoice in the earth, our roots, and relationships. There will be a special event on

April 7, from 5-7 p.m. including a panel discussion at 6 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by Middlebury New Perennials; VTIPL is a community partner.

Connected with the exhibit, on April 4, New Perennials and Town Hall Theater present the documentary film, *Yemanjá: Wisdom from the African Heart of Brazil*, narrated by Alice Walker, and created by VTIPL Coordinator Donna Roberts. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Donna and others.

New Perennials explores the restorative powers of perennial thoughts and actions in the context of five communities of practice: Farming, Education, Arts, Wellness, and Sacred Practice Traditions. Learn about [New Perennials](#).



Black Earth Wisdom: A Conversation with Leah Penniman, March 31

BIPOC farmers and environmentalists are cultivating communities based on racial justice, food sovereignty, and Earth wisdom. Join this program on

Friday, March 31, at 2 p.m. as Leah Penniman, cofounder of Soul Fire Farm and author of, *Farming While Black*, and *Black Earth Wisdom*, joins this Garrison Institute virtual event to explore how farming and living in deep connection with the land can heal and fortify our planet and ourselves.

[Register.](#)



Ongoing Gatherings for Creation Care & EcoSpirituality

These monthly, virtual meetings offer support for beginning and/or continuing "Green Teams" and EcoSpirituality. Join others who foster Creation Care, have Green Teams or want to create one. Share questions, support, tips, and inspiration.

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, VTIPL's Vice- President, leads these meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Come every time or drop in occasionally. **The next meeting is Tuesday, March 28, at 7 p.m.** To receive the link to join, email Pr. Nancy with "Creation Care Zoom Meeting" [email.](#)

Connecting with Spirit in Nature

Due to Easter, the date of the next EcoSpirituality gathering is **April 16, at 7 p.m.** vs. the regular 2nd Sunday meeting. These monthly virtual gatherings focus on EcoSpirituality as a way to stay connected with those who also value a spirituality grounded in appreciation of the natural world. For a link to join, please send Pr. Nancy an [email.](#) Both offerings are co-sponsored by VTIPL and the Green Team of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Thank you for your interest in and support of Vermont Interfaith Power & Light. We are grateful to collaborate with you on behalf of the human community and all of Creation.



Photo courtesy Gerald Lee Hoffman.

