



Photo courtesy Gerald Lee Hoffman.

## Green Mountains, Blue Water

- VTIPL's Faith Climate Action Day a Success!
- Welcome to National IPL's Faith Climate Action Week! April 14-23
- Current Revolution* Film for Congregations & April 17 Webinar
- Earth Day & Climate-focused Faith Community Activities
- UVM Climate Café, April 18, 3-5 p.m.
- Our Planet Live* in Concert, April 19. The Flynn.
- Lament with Earth*, April 20, 7:30 pm (Online)
- Sound the 11th Hour Alarm, Earth Day, Sat., April 22, 11 a.m.
- Donor Offers Matching Challenge to New & Existing VTIPL Supporters

## **-VTIPL at Third Act Vermont March & Rally**

## **-Ongoing: Green Team & EcoSpirituality Gatherings**

On the occasion of Earth Month, VTIPL acknowledges the first peoples of this land, the Abenaki, who have and continue to care for Earth and her creatures, and from whom we have so much to learn. May we listen to the voices of those who intimately know Mother Earth and to the Earth herself. May we put our faith into action for a safer climate for all of Creation.



*VTPL President Ron McGarvey at press conference.*

## **VTIPL's Faith Climate Action Day a Success!**

VTIPL is very pleased to report that our second Faith Climate Action Day of advocacy at the State House was a success. This was largely thanks to the leadership of VTIPL Board member Richard Butz, and key event partners VPIRG and Vermont Interfaith Action. The Lobby Day in

Montpelier on March 29 began with a press conference when several VTIPL members spoke, starting with President Ron McGarvey explaining why people of faith have a particular responsibility to work on behalf of Creation. VTIPL Vice-President Pr. Nancy Wright offered an opening Earth-based prayer. VTIPL Coordinator Donna Roberts spoke about the recent U.N. IPCC report on the urgent state of the climate and the critical opportunity to act NOW linking the global report to legislative priorities in Vermont. Board member Harris Webster shared about his personal environmental commitment invoking words of Greta Thunberg from her new publication, *The Climate Book*.



*VTIPL Board member Richard Butz.*

Richard Butz spoke about the specific legislation we were at the State House to support including the Affordable Heat Act and the Renewable Energy Standard. We were also joined by Representative Mari Cordes and Representative Caleb Elder both of whom are instrumental in creating and supporting climate-friendly legislation.



*Board member Betsy Hardy sings with other VTIPL & VIA members at the State House.*

Concluding the press conference uniquely, those in attendance sang, *For Beauty of Meadows*, a hym suggested by longtime Board member Sister Laurian Seeber. (See final photo.)



Lt. Governor David Zuckerman welcomed our group in his office for a discussion about our common priorities as environmentalists and advocates for a healthy climate...including some light-hearted sharing.



*VTIPL Board members Pr. Nancy Wright & Rev. Dick Hibbert in the gallery.*

We were delighted to gather in the gallery to watch the House of Representatives in action. From the floor, Representative Cordes acknowledged members of VTIPL and VIA as visitors to the State House.



*Rep. Amy Sheldon speaks with VTIPL members.*

Our advocacy day ended with a meeting with Representative Amy Sheldon in the State House cafeteria where we also took time to write letters to legislators about priority concerns. It was great to hear from Rep. Sheldon about her longtime work on and convictions regarding environmental issues and current legislative priorities including "the Bottle Bill" (VT's Beverage Container &

Redemption Law) to make returnable those bottles which now get recycled - consuming energy - or end up in landfills. Thanks to all who joined us at the State House putting their faith into action for a safer climate!



*Rev. Joan Javier-Duval of Unitarian Church of Montpelier & others at press conference*



*VTIPL members & friends after Faith Climate Action Lobby Day.*



## Welcome to National IPL's Faith Climate Action Week! April 14-23

Faith Climate Action Week starts today. This year's theme is, *Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a Clean Energy Economy*. We hope you've had time to access the Organizer's Kit containing many helpful resources to help congregation and communities create

meaningful events and make the faith-climate connection. Materials include an updated **climate change fact sheet**, faith-based discussion materials, and ideas for local action. The free digital Organizer's Kit is still available.

[Download Kit](#). Included in the Kit are:

- Golden Rule Guide – learn about the principles of a Just Transition, and how it aligns with our religious values, with suggestions for action;
- Multi-faith Poster to discuss the connection between our values and our role in a just transition;
- Clean Car Advocacy postcards and a pre-addressed envelope for mailing to IPL. Learn about the [advocacy message](#).
- Sign-up Sheet to invite congregation members to join the movement for climate justice.

Resources help us examine our responsibility to transition to energy which will help safeguard our common home, and how our faiths call us to respond with just solutions for all. Use these resources to lead faith-based discussions and actions to promote a thriving Earth for everyone.

Check VT IPL's Facebook page for Faith Climate Action Week activities during the week including an Earth Day Prayer. [VTIPL Facebook](#).



## **Current Revolution Film for Congregations & April 17 Webinar**

The feature film for 2023 Faith Climate Action Week is *Current Revolution*, a compilation of three short films about the transition to clean energy. The films are a nice length to view in a group with time for discussion. Congregations

may register to stream these films for free during Faith Climate Action Week. Register to show the film & view the *Current Revolution* trailer. [Order film.](#) **On April 17, at 2 p.m. ET there will be a webinar** with award-winning filmmaker Roger Sorkin, IPL Chair Emeritus Rev. Gerald Durley, and IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot. [Register for webinar.](#)

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## Earth Day & Climate-focused Faith Community Services & Events

Dayenu Dartmouth, Norwich Congregational Church, and First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington are among the many faith-based communities in our region celebrating Earth Month with special activities.

On Sunday, April 16, from 2:30-5 p.m., Dayenu Dartmouth in Hanover, NH, presents the workshop, *Confronting the Climate Crisis and Cultivating Spiritual Courage*. The interactive activity is part of an emerging field of climate spiritual adaptation work, anchored in practices from *The Work that Reconnects* by Joanna Macy. Grounded in Jewish wisdom, song, and courageous conversations, the hybrid in-person and virtual workshop will be held at Dartmouth's Roth Center. Participants are asked to commit to the full 2.5 hour event. [Register.](#)



On April 23, Norwich Congregational Church hosts its 4th annual Climate Sunday at 10 a.m. Rev. John Langhus will provide the sermon. "Spurred to action through a calling to care for God's Creation and an obligation to preserve it for future generations, the Church's Climate Action Group (CAG) was formed in 2018.

Emphasizing concrete Action and Advocacy and by supporting education of ourselves, our church and our community, the CAG focuses on raising

awareness of the climate crisis and taking decisive steps to help mitigate it." VTIPL held its 2022 Spring Conference on *Limits to Growth* at the Church.



And First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington will hold an Earth Day service on Sunday, April 23, at 10 a.m. featuring the FUUSB Climate Justice Team with Judy Brook. The service will be in person and live streamed on [FUUSB YouTube Channel](#). Be sure to check listings for congregations in your community which may have special programs in honor of Earth Day and Earth Month.



### ***Our Planet Live in Concert, April 19. The Flynn.***

The Emmy Award-winning Netflix series is now a live concert event. *Our Planet Live in Concert* combines breathtaking HD cinematography with orchestrations by Oscar-winning composer Steven Price performed by a live orchestra. The event comes to The Flynn, in Burlington, on April

19, at 7:30 p.m. A journey of discovery across our planet featuring narration by the legendary David Attenborough, this mesmerizing concert is a celebration of the planet we call home – inviting audiences to be fully immersed in the wonders of Earth's wildlife and wild spaces. A donation will be made to the World Wildlife Fund for each concert. [The Flynn](#).



### **Lament with Earth, April 20, 7:30 p.m. (Online)**

Join the BTS Center and the Creation Care Alliance of Western North Carolina for this next seasonal, worship-filled online gathering focused on water. The event will

feature music and liturgy from The Many. [Register & learn about BTS](#). And stay tuned for VT IPL's in-person *Celebration & Lament for the Earth* to take place in late summer/early fall.

**SOUND THE 11th HOUR ALARM on Earth Day, Sat., April 22, 11-11:15 a.m.**

On this Earth Day, on the heels of the latest IPCC report sounding the alarm like never before about the urgency of action to help slow climate change, join people of faith around the world by sounding your bells, shofars, gongs, and drums, whatever joyful noise works at your home or house of worship. How can you and your community bear witness and engage others in faith-based responses for climate and environmental justice? What is your faith community doing AMAP, ASAP...As Much As Possible, As Soon As Possible? Learn more about organizing your own 11th hour gatherings on the 11th of every month at 11 am at [The 11th Hour Calling](#).

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**Donor Offers Matching Challenge to New & Existing VT IPL Supporters**

A longtime VT IPL supporter is challenging our community to give more to our organization, to become new donors, or to renew giving. Up to \$1500 in gifts received by VT IPL this year will be matched. Please help us with an increased donation to VT IPL, or if you haven't given in the last year, that will count as a new donation. Consider sharing about our work, this newsletter, and invitation with friends and encourage them to support VT IPL. Our website has much information about our ongoing and historic work. [VT IPL Website](#). Donations can be via credit card or by check payable to VT IPL and sent to P.O. Box 3095, Burlington, VT 05408. Give securely online via the Network for Good link on our [website](#) or using the Donate Now button below. Thanks for considering a gift when it will go even further putting faith into action for a safer climate!

[Donate Now](#)



*IPL National President Rev. Susan Hendershot at the Third Act VT Rally*

### **VTIPL at Third Act Vermont March & Rally**

VTIPL leaders participated in the Third Act march and rally against "bad banks" on March 21 along with scores of other protests on the same day.

The march began and ended at Chase Bank at the top of Church Street Marketplace with several speakers and a ceremonial moment to cut up

credit cards issued by "bad banks". We were especially happy that the event coincided with the Vermont visit of national IPL President Rev. Susan Hendershot pictured here. Third Act reminds us that "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." Many Vermonters have signed the Third Act pledge to no longer do business with the "bad banks". [Take the Pledge.](#)

### **UVM Climate Café, Tuesday, April 18, 3-5 p.m.**

Please join UVM for a climate cafe for (almost) all ages...12 & up!

Share intergenerational conversation covering a range of topics including connection with nature, personal experience with climate change, and eco-anxiety. The Climate Café - naturally - also features food and drink. The event takes place in the John Dewey Lounge, Room 325, 3rd Floor Old Mill, 94 University Place, Burlington, VT 05405. It is hosted by CCALL, a group of UVM students working together on solutions to climate change while learning how to navigate this crisis as a community. [RSVP.](#)



### **Ongoing Gatherings for Creation Care & EcoSpirituality**

Join those who have Green Teams or want to create one, and who foster Creation Care.

Share questions, support, and inspiration. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, VT IPL's Vice- President, leads these meetings on the last Tuesday of the

month at 7 p.m. Come each time or drop in. **The next meeting is Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m.** To receive the link to join, email Pr. Nancy with "Creation Care Zoom Meeting" [email](#).

### **Connecting with Spirit in Nature**

The date of the next EcoSpirituality gathering is **this Sunday, April 16, at 7 p.m.** vs. the regular 2nd Sunday meeting due to Easter. These monthly virtual gatherings focus on EcoSpirituality as a way to stay connected with those who 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 VT IPL and the Green Team of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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*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.*



*Sister Laurian Seeber shines her light at the State House! Photo courtesy  
Donna C. Roberts*

