



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



Photo courtesy Pr. Nancy Wright

Green Mountains, Blue Water

- Registration Still Open for VT IPL's Sat. Sept. 23, 1-4 p.m. Rock Point Event "Finding Balance in Times of Darkness: An Equinox Lament & Celebration of Earth"
- March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City - A Review
- South Burlington Energy Fair, Sat., September 30
- Intersectional Environmentalism & EcoAnxiety: Faith in Place Summit

- ***Ways of Seeing: Climate Chaos Summer* - by Prof. Rebecca Kneale Gould**
- **ONGOING: Green Team & EcoSpirituality Gatherings**



Photo by Donna C. Roberts

VTIPL Gathering, *Finding Balance in Times of Darkness: An Equinox Lament and Celebration of Earth*, Sept. 23, 1-4 p.m., Rock Point

As the days turn cooler and darker, we at Vermont Interfaith Power & Light look forward to seeing you this Saturday, September 23 at

our Equinox gathering, *Finding Balance in Times of Darkness: An Equinox Lament and Celebration of Earth*, from 1-4 p.m., at Rock Point Conference Center, 20 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT, 05408.

There is still time to register if you have not yet, and please share with your friends! [Register](#) on our website to access all registration information. You can send the registration form or simply a message with its contents by [email](#) and securely pay the **\$20 registration fee** via Network for Good on our website or use the **Donate Now** link below. You can also print and send the registration form with your check to VTIPL, P.O. Box 3095, Burlington, VT, 05408. Or email us to let us know you're coming and pay on site. Please indicate "Sept. 23 event" in the designation field on the payment link or email subject line. Registration includes the afternoon of activities, snacks, cool drinks, and parking on site at Rock Point. Please bring your water bottle and warm drinks.

We also invite you to bring special items if you like, but the only thing necessary is to bring yourself. Some may wish to have a journal on hand or to bring a special object to place with our Sacred Centerpiece – perhaps a rock, feather, or photo. Maybe there's a special short poem or prose you may wish

to share during the event, or send it to us in advance if you think we might want to integrate it in our program. [Email VTIPL](#).

You may also wish to bring a cushion to make your seating more comfortable. We will be seated much of the time. Dress comfortably and wear good walking shoes if you'll join our contemplative period outdoors which is optional, but not necessary. We do recommend wearing masks when indoors. **VTIPL will provide masks if needed.**

Our time together will involve silence, contemplative chant, sharing and an opportunity for reflective time on the land. We intend to create a relaxed space in which we can just BE.



View from Rock Point.

We look forward to having you with us at beautiful Rock Point as we take the time to honor the joys and losses that come with being Earth-caring people in a time of climate crisis. So that we can make the most of our time together, please plan to arrive as early as you need to settle in so that we can begin at 1 p.m.

VTIPL board members and friends will be strategically stationed on site to provide directions and show you where to park.

Thank you for giving yourself the gift of time and space to connect with Earth and kindred spirits. For additional information, please send us an [email](#). VTIPL can't wait to welcome you this Saturday! [Register here.](#)

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Rev. Dr. Davida Crabtree, Third Act CT, on left; VT IPL's Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright on right.

March to End Fossil Fuels! New York City - A Review

with briefing by VT IPL Vice-president the Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright

Many of our Vermont friends headed to New York City by bus and train to join the tens of thousands in the March to End Fossil Fuels in Manhattan last Sunday. VT IPL's Pr. Nancy Wright shared her first-hand observations.

"It was moving, exciting, and thrilling to participate in the September 17, 2023, March to end Fossil Fuels, which kicks off the annual Climate Week, of events and speakers,

coinciding with the UN General assembly. I represented Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, as well as Connecticut Third Act having recently relocated to Connecticut. During the March, people of all ages, races, and genders, forcefully pronounced, "The time to act on the climate emergency is now!"



Photo New York Times

Here are some comments of Helen Clarkson, CEO of Climate Week, during her Opening Speech. [Climate Week link to events.](#)

"We're living through a solar boom, but this year Canada's forests were reduced to ashes – forcing people right here in New York to stay indoors.

The Inflation Reduction Act in the US triggered a Renewables Rush but in Hawaii we saw deadly wildfires destroying communities. And the EU responded to the US with its own plans to attract clean industrial investment, while at the same time, sea temperatures rose to an all-time high, going off the charts. And then there were the heatwaves. In Sanbao in China. Catalunya in Spain. Phoenix in Arizona.

It's like every time we think we are going in the right direction, the planet kicks us right back into reality: 'You're not even close to where you need to be'."

Read Sunday's *New York Times* article about the March to End Fossil Fuels.

[NYT Article.](#)

South Burlington Energy Fair - Saturday, September 30

VTIPL will participate in the City of South Burlington Energy Fair on Saturday, September 30. The Fair will also serve to announce the City's recently completed Climate Action Plan. VTIPL's presence at the Fair is intended to help people understand the roles faith communities can play in efforts to confront the causes and impacts of the climate crisis. VTIPL will be joined by members of South Burlington's Ascension Lutheran Church to share about actions their faith community is taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to walk lighter on Earth, and to care for Creation. **Energy Fair: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 180 Market Street**, in front of the City of South Burlington offices.



▪ Intersectional Environmentalism & EcoAnxiety: Green Team Summit, October 8-11

VTIPL is pleased to again support Faith in Place's annual Green Team Summit taking place virtually from October 8-11. Have a look at the entire summit agenda on the link below or start by joining the opening session, *Bridging the Divide: Intersectionality in Environmentalism*.

The Summit always features amazing speakers and keynotes (last year was award-winning climate communicator Katharine Hayhoe) and this year is sure to inspire.



Leah Thomas, Green Team
Summit Keynote Speaker

Faith in Place invites us to “join the Summit’s highly anticipated keynote address featuring Leah Thomas, founder of Intersectional Environmentalist & author of *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*. As a leading voice in the environmental justice community, Leah will share her insights on the ways intersectionality creates a wiser and more

inclusive movement.”

Another session of note is on **October 10, at 12:30 p.m. EST: *Spiritual and Well-Being Practices to Transform Eco-Anxiety***. Session 4, *Transforming Eco-Anxiety: The Role of Spiritual and Self-Care Practices In Navigating Climate Trauma*, features Rabbi Jay Michaelson, as well as Kristy Drutman of Browngirl Green who will share her expertise and perspectives on how spiritual and well-being practices can help transform our eco-anxiety. Kristy is the Jewish-Filipina founder of the Browngirl Green platform which explores the intersections of media, diversity, and environmentalism.

The opening keynote is Sunday, October 8, from 6-7:30 p.m. EST

(Note: Agenda times will list activities in CST; adjust for your timezone.)

[Summit Agenda.](#)

Ways of Seeing: Climate Chaos Summer Persists

(The following is an excerpt of an essay by Dr. Rebecca Kneale Gould, VT IPL Board member and Assoc. Professor of Environmental Studies at Middlebury College. The piece was originally published in August by Addison County Independent. [Read full piece.](#))

“The harsh reality is that this summer is emerging as a no-holds-barred Climate Chaos Summer. The rain throughout Vermont is that unwelcome visitor that refuses to leave regardless of invitations that begin with coy politesse and progress to utter desperation. ‘Who cares what you think?’ the rain seems to say, ‘I’m going to hang around indefinitely. If you ask me to leave one more time, I’ll drop six inches of rain over Middlebury in a matter of hours.’ Yes, friends, it was quite possibly All My Fault.

If I were living in Arizona, however, I would be jumping for joy should something resembling a rain cloud appear in the heavens. Anything to break the relentless heat.... In the month of July, residents of greater Phoenix endured 31 consecutive days of 110 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Stepping imaginatively into the shoes of my Arizonan brothers and sisters, I can see myself trapped for an excruciatingly long month between two impossible choices: stay inside or venture out into a kind of heat that is not just oppressive, but deadly. It goes without saying that these two choices are only available to those who are privileged enough to have some kind of temperature control in their homes. For some, there is no choice. If I lived in Phoenix, things would not be going well for me, even in the most air-conditioned contexts. By comparison, life in Vermont feels soggyly sane.

It is good to start your day in a state of gratitude and I do — and usually in ways that are more creative and affirming than ‘at least I’m not in Phoenix.’ Indeed, the worse things get, the more I tend to up my gratitude practices. I have been well taught by any number of spiritual guides (including my sheep) that beginning one’s day with gratitude is a wonderful way to stay open to the beauty before us, behind us, above us and all around us. Beginning the day with gratitude is a central concept in religious practices from the Navajo/Diné Blessingway Prayer (that I have just evoked) to the ancient Jewish practice of beginning the day by uttering blessings of gratitude. You start by expressing gratefulness that your soul has returned to your body, which is to say: you wake up, you realize that you are not dead, you give thanks....

But even with these gratitude practices, I am making my way through the summer in a state of ambient grief. Climate grief is a bit like the many rain clouds of this wet Vermont summer: grey, persistent, sometimes tear-filled, always hovering. While the June wildfire smoke certainly got to me, the headache amped up in early July. In the midst of our first flood event, I was

poised to go to Massachusetts and was already two days late. When I-89 finally opened up and it was deemed safe to travel, I threw a bright yellow life jacket into the back seat of my car. I wryly wondered if this would become a common travel strategy. The sun was out, the valleys shimmered with an iridescent green and the village of Hinesburg looked all shined-up and post-card perfect as I started my journey. Then came Richmond. Where you would normally find the Park and Ride, there was an enormous, brown lake. Cars were scattered everywhere, water rising to the rooflines. Five minutes later, I encountered the Winooski River. Was this wild muddy torrent even a river? I experienced it as a crazy, high-tide ocean forcing itself through a very narrow flume. Luckily, I saw it from what some highway official had deemed 'a safe distance.' My nervous system felt otherwise.

Further down the road, I gazed on houses and fields, all flooded, mostly lost. Home. Food. These are the essentials that keep us warm, healthy and happy. Overnight, they were gone. 'This is terrible. This is terrible.' I repeated to myself over and over until I made it past Barre and into New Hampshire, where the sun and some semblance of exterior normalcy returned.

But interior normalcy is another matter....“



Ongoing Gatherings for Creation Care & EcoSpirituality

Join those who have Green Teams or want to create one, and who foster Creation Care. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wright, VT IPL's Vice-president, leads these meetings on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Drop ins welcome! To receive

the link, write Pr. Nancy with "Creation Care Zoom Meeting" in subject line.

[Email.](#)

Connecting with Spirit in Nature

EcoSpirituality gatherings meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 p.m.

These 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](#).

Offerings are co-sponsored by VT IPL and the Green Team of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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



Animal companion enjoys a late summer day on the Champlain Islands Causeway



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