



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

## Green Mountains, Blue Water



*"Our world needs to be enlightened by the truth that humanity needs to create a Sustainable Age in which humankind successfully heals our Earth from its higher temperatures, which increases breathing problems and other serious symptoms, so our Earth can foster the life, not the death, of living beings." - Harris Webster for VT Digger*

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Dear VT IPL Community,

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Harris Webster, a trusted, dedicated, and stalwart member of the VT IPL community and Board of Directors for many years.

Harris's prolific writings, unwavering advocacy, vivid curiosity, avid reading practice, and clear voice enriched all of the communities he was a part of, including ours.

**In this issue of our newsletter, we've paired some of Harris's words with images of flowers from this abundant summer in Vermont.**

In honor of Harris, VT IPL will rename the "Ellie Cressey Webster Memorial Fund," named for Harris's late wife, to the "Ellie & Harris Webster Memorial Fund." These generous funds make possible some of the work that Harris and Ellie were most passionate about: enabling Vermont's faith and spiritual communities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, in response to a sacred and moral obligation to do everything we can to reduce our contribution to the climate crisis and to inspire and mobilize others to follow our example.

You can read Harris's full obituary [here](#).

With our deepest condolences to Harris's family and with our utmost gratitude for his invaluable contributions to this good work,

The VT IPL Team



**Read on for:**

- Join us for two "Gatherings for Creation" this fall
- Sun Day: September 21st
- Button-up Vermont: Kickoff Event
- Be a VT IPL Congregational Liaison
- Climate Action Grants



## **VTIPL Presents "Gatherings for Creation"**

**How do people of faith actively engage this moment of unraveling with open hearts, fierce spirits, and enduring care?**

In partnership with **Ascension Lutheran Church** in South Burlington and **St. Michael's Episcopal Church** in Brattleboro, we are calling Vermont faith communities together for two half-day workshops. Both will feature:

- Forest Bathing with Rev Nancy Wright
- Green Teams & Earth Advocates Dialogue
- Eco-spiritual Formation
- Community Lunch & Conversation

This is an opportunity to deepen our spiritual commitment to the fight against climate change and to learn from and support each other across Vermont's diverse religious and spiritual landscape in this critical moment.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Registration Information:

### Caring for Creation: Outside & In

with Ascension Lutheran Church



**Sept 27th, 9:30am-1:30pm**

Ascension Lutheran  
95 Allen Rd  
South Burlington

### **"Caring for Creation: Outside & In" with Ascension Lutheran**

Including: "Eating Lower on the Food Chain" Luncheon provided by  
ALC's Caring for Creation Committee

*\$15 suggested donation*

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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# Building Hope for the Earth

with St Michael's Episcopal Church



**Oct 18th, 9:30am-2:00pm**

St Michael's Episcopal  
16 Bradley Ave  
Brattleboro

**"Building Hope for the Earth" with St. Michael's Episcopal**

Lunch provided!

*\$15 suggested donation*

[REGISTER HERE](#)



*"I have some optimism these days based on the growth of meditation groups, spiritual movements, religious organizations and environmentalists who stress non-material truths. These folks value Creation and the Golden Rule and are worried about the worship of Mammon. I believe they should and will see how their beliefs and practices are an essential element in the movement to heal not harm our Earth, the Sustainer of Life." - Harris Webster for VT IPL*





## Sun Day: September 21st

[Sun Day is a day of action](#) on September 21 celebrating solar and wind power, and the movement to leave fossil fuels behind.

You can find ways to be involved in Sun Day, discover local events to attend, or access resources to host your own event

[HERE](#).

**We're pleased to share some Sun Day resources for faith communities, from our friends at Third Act Faith:**

If you are a member of a congregation, you can use this [email template](#) to invite your congregational leaders to plan a Sun Day observance.

If you are a clergy or lay leader, you can use this [email template](#) to write the regional or national leader of your faith group to encourage congregations to take part.

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## **SUN DAY: A Time for Faith Communities to Rise to the Challenge with New Vision**

**Sun Day Preparatory Webinar on Thursday, September 4th, 6:30-7:30 pm**

*Sponsored by the VT Conference of the UCC  
Justice & Witness Ministries Committee*

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Envisioned by Vermont's own Bill McKibben, Sun Day is being promoted collaboratively by Third Act, Green Faith, Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, Sierra Club and other advocacy and religious groups. Rev. Jim Antal describes it as "a grassroots weekend of**

*action when millions of people across the United States will celebrate the gift and power of clean energy and the urgent need to stand up to the wealthy and well-connected who are doing everything they can to stand in its way."*

**To help congregations prepare for Sun Day, the Vermont Conference of the UCC is hosting a webinar that will feature Jim Antal as keynote speaker, joined by representatives of Vermont Interfaith Power & Light, who will share ideas and resources about how churches can get involved in renewable energy initiatives.**

*Again, the words of Jim Antal, "People of faith can and must play a key role, demonstrating... that the earth is our common home, that it is up to us to end the desecration of the sacred gift of creation, and that humanity is now called to embrace an urgent transition to clean energy."*

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### **Button-Up Vermont: Kickoff Event!**

Please join Efficiency Vermont and other partners on Wednesday, **August 27th from 12:00-1:00pm for their 2025 kickoff meeting.**

You will hear all about this year's campaign, including how you can spread the word about the benefits of weatherization and electrification in your community.



"Button Up is Vermont's annual campaign to help you prepare your home for winter. From low- and no-cost efficiency tips to comprehensive projects designed to reduce heating bills, it's a great way to save money and stay comfortable all winter long."

[You can register HERE.](#)

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*"I hope the world wakes up to the critical challenges our Earth is facing. I have lots of flaws, but my family and good friends know them, and the rest of you don't need to. I soon will complete my full-of-wonder life, knowing that our universe will continue to evolve and that love between imperfect beings (my god or the ultimate worth in my life) will live on." - Harris Webster, in his obituary, which he wrote himself.*

### **Be a VT IPL Congregational Liaison!**

Are there key people in your congregation who are concerned about caring for the planet?

VTIPL can work directly with you and your congregation or faith community to **offer programs**, help you **create and sustain a Green Team**, work with you on **climate action grants**, and more!

Please reach out to [chelsea@vtipl.org](mailto:chelsea@vtipl.org) to learn more!

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## VTIPL Climate Action Grants

Our Climate Action Grants provide **matching grants** to faith and spiritual communities in Vermont! These grants can enable your faith and spiritual community to: obtain energy audits, implement energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects, and more!

Learn more [here](#).

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If you would like to receive a **print copy of our newsletter** in the mail, please contact [chelsea@vtipl.org](mailto:chelsea@vtipl.org).

If you would like to be on the mailing list for our **Volunteer Task Force**, please email [chelsea@vtipl.org](mailto:chelsea@vtipl.org)

[Donate Now](#)

*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.*



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