



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

Green Mountains, Blue Water



Dear VTipl Community,

As we have welcomed some much-needed rain over the last several weeks, we are also settling into the deeper turn of the season: shorter days, colder nights, and the rapidly changing color palette of the Autumn canvas. (This issue of our newsletter captures the transitions of Fall through a series of images of ferns.)

Fall and Winter offer time and space for reflection. Here at VTipl, we are thinking through some strategic questions of **who we are called to be in this moment, and how we can continue to deepen and grow our engagement with faith communities around climate change and what it means to be faithful stewards of this beautiful Earth.** To that end, while we are engaging in internal conversations, **we'd also like to be engaged with you! For our next few newsletters, we'll pose a question for you to reflect on and respond to.** We would so appreciate your participation!

October Question:

What do you think of when you think of VTipl? What does VTipl mean to you?

Please send responses to chelsea@vtipl.org and thank you!

And as always, thank you for being part of this vibrant community and this good work!

Autumn Blessings,
The VTipl Team

Read on for:

- "Caring for Creation: Outside & In": A beautiful day in South Burlington
- Caring for Creation dialogue prompts
- VTipl Interfaith Book Club: "Here Comes the Sun"
- Waterbury LEAP Weatherization Workshop
- PA IPL Online Film Festival
- Sierra Club of Vermont: Reclaiming the Climate Movement

- Fred Small at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier
- VECAN Annual Conference
- Be a VTIPL Congregational Liaison
- Climate Action Grants
- Please Remember VTIPL in your End-of-Year Giving!

Caring for Creation: Outside & In



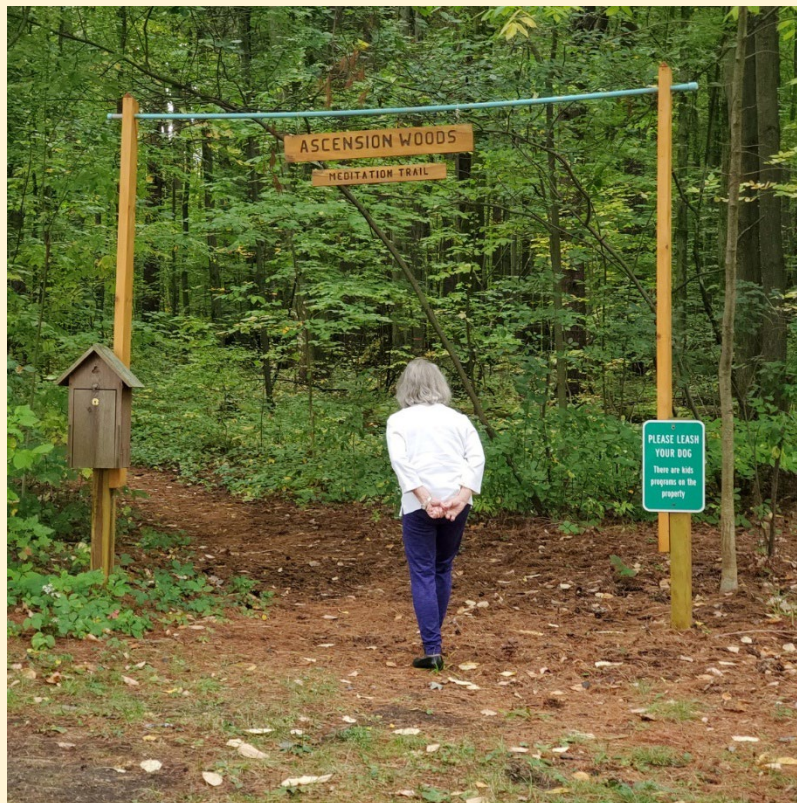
On September 27th, VTIPL hosted folks from half a dozen faith communities for “Caring for Creation: Outside & In” at Ascension Lutheran Church in South Burlington!

Together, we explored the question: **How do people of faith actively engage this moment of unraveling with fierce spirits, open hearts, and enduring care?**

We began by immersing ourselves in the living world as Reverend Nancy Wright led us in an hour of **Forest Therapy**. We learned about the spiritual, emotional, and physiological benefits of being in the woods and received two sensory invitations—each paired with 15 minutes of silence and slow walking among the trees. We then drank white pine tea and had a community conversation.

Afterwards, we broke bread together with an **"Eating Lower on the Food Chain" luncheon**, generously prepared by Ascension Lutheran volunteers. We had the opportunity to learn about Ascension's long-standing climate work and steadfast dedication to eco-justice.

After lunch, we had a **dialogue session** to hear from each other about what is lifting us up in this moment, what is causing us to grieve, what we are bearing witness to, and where we feel called to step into action. You can reflect on or respond to our dialogue prompts below!





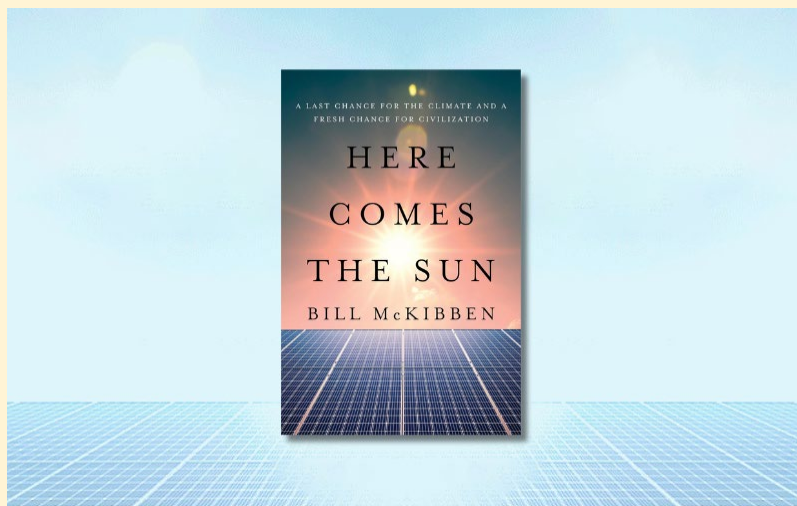


"Caring for Creation" Dialogue Prompts:

- What is nurturing and nourishing your connection to the Earth and to Creation right now?
- How does your faith or spiritual framework inform your relationship to Creation and / or your understanding of climate change, environmental advocacy, or activism?
- Are there ways that your faith community is engaged in climate or Creation care work? Are there ways you would like to see your faith community engage in this work?

You can send your responses to chelsea@vtipl.org!

VTIPL Interfaith Book Club



Join us this fall to read Bill McKibben's newest book, "HERE COMES THE SUN"!

We'll meet over Zoom on Nov 18th and 25th at 7:00pm.

"*Here Comes the Sun* tells the story of the sudden spike in power from the sun and wind—and the desperate fight of the fossil fuel industry and their politicians to hold this new power at bay. From the everyday citizens who installed solar panels equal to a third of Pakistan's electric grid in a year to the world's sixth-largest economy—California—nearly halving its use of natural gas in the last two years, Bill McKibben traces the arrival of plentiful, inexpensive solar energy. And he shows how solar power is more than just a path out of the climate crisis: it is a chance to reorder the world on saner and more humane grounds. You can't hoard solar energy or hold it in reserves—it's available to all."

Email chelsea@vtipl.org to sign up!



No Kings protest in Burlington! From left to right: Donna Roberts (former VT IPL Coordinator and ever-friend & ally), Joy McGarvey, Ron McGarvey (VT IPL Board President). Photo credit: Chip Hoffman



Waterbury LEAP Workshop

On Friday, Nov. 14 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) will be hosting a **free Button Up**

Weatherization & Home Heating Workshop

at the Steele Community Room in the Waterbury Municipal Center (28 North Main Street), next to the public library. *No RSVP is required.*

**Button Up
Weatherization &
Home Heating
Workshop**

During the free event you will learn from an Efficiency Vermont expert about:

- The most common ways homes lose energy
- DIY steps you can take to tighten up your house
- Energy audits and how they work
- Heat pumps and other energy-efficient heating systems
- Tips for flood recovery
- Many loans and incentives that are currently available

LEAP will provide free pizza, drinks, and energy-efficiency raffle prizes including gift certificates to local hardware stores. Don't stay cold this winter. Learn how to warm your house and save money.

For more information email Duncan at duncan@clifonline.org.



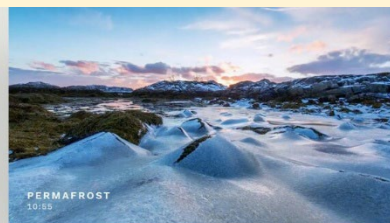
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light Film Festival

We're pleased to share an exciting offering from our friends over at PA IPL: their 2025 Film Festival!



Between October 30th-December 4th, they're screening three films online—*The Here Now Project*, *Inhabitants*, and *Family Tree*—exploring different stories related to the theme of "Love Your Neighbor, Love Your World."

For more information and to register, [click here](#).



Reclaiming the Climate Movement

Next week, the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington Climate Justice Team is participating in the Sierra Club of Vermont's state-wide film series to inspire Vermonters to refocus our efforts on mitigating the human impacts of climate change.

From The Sierra Club of Vermont:

"As federal funding vanishes and agencies are gutted, our planet burns and powerful voices try to silence the call for climate justice. But we refuse to be quiet. The Sierra Club of Vermont is reigniting the movement through truth, art, and action."

Join for the launch of their **Climate Change Film Series on November 2 at 2:00 PM with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington**. They'll screen the film *Climate Emergency: Feedback Loops*, and participants will gather for a **fierce, collective discussion on how Vermont can lead the charge for climate justice in these perilous times**.

You can register [HERE](#).



Rev Fred Small preaches at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier

The Peace of Trees

VTIPL was excited to be a co-sponsor for an event with Rev Fred Small at the Unitarian Church of Montpelier on October 12th. Rev Small delivered a sermon entitled "The Peace of Trees" and led an afternoon workshop about ecological grief.

Olivier Clement writes, "This age needs people like trees, filled with a silent peace, rooted at the same time in solid ground and in the open sky." As we work together for social and environmental justice, Rev Small invited us to consider how we remain grounded in a peaceful spirit. What can we learn from trees?

Cited by Bill McKibben as "one of the key figures in the religious environmental surge," Rev. Fred Small is Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington Street Church, Boston. A Unitarian Universalist parish minister for nearly two decades, Fred is also a singer-songwriter and environmental lawyer.

You can watch the recording of the worship service [HERE](#).

Join VECAN for their Annual Conference

The 18th Annual Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) Conference is this Saturday, November 1st, at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee!

This year's conference will hone in on three primary themes:

- Strategically leveraging Vermont's Climate Action Plan to cut pollution, enhance resiliency and achieve greater energy equity;
- Highlighting and harnessing the many rich resources within some leading universities and colleges;



- And continuing to strengthen the powerful role – and collaborations – among community energy and climate leaders.

Renowned climate activist Bill McKibben will join as a keynote speaker!

[Learn more & register here.](#)

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 to learn more!

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](#).

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

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

Please Consider an End-of-Year Gift to VT IPL!

[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.



©2025 Vermont Interfaith Power and Light | PO Box 3095, Burlington,
Vermont 05408

Web

Subscrib

Forwar

Unsubscrib

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing®](#)