



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

Green Mountains, Blue Water



Rev. Joan Javier-Duval of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier delivers the Invocation at the Faith Climate Action Day Earth Vigil. (Photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder)

Dear VTipl Community,

We're certainly not through winter weather yet, but the first day of Spring - the Vernal Equinox - is right around the corner, and the recent span of warmer weather reminds us that this new season's emergence is on its way. Sap is running, brooks are tumbling. Even in the midst of climate change and shifts in seasonal patterns, our planet is resilient. We see this resiliency especially in Springtime, and we can draw on this vibrant energy to keep doing the work we're doing.

One of our board members, Rev. Dick Hibbert, recently shared the poem "Dead Stars" by Ada Limón. It speaks to how each of us is a spectacular being on a spectacular planet, and how that comes with an invitation into an ethic of deep care.

Here are a few lines from the poem:

Look, we are not unspectacular things.

We've come this far, survived this much. What

would happen if we decided to survive more? To love harder?

*What if we stood up with our synapses and flesh and said, No.
No, to the rising tides.*

Stood for the many mute mouths of the sea, of the land?

*What would happen if we used our bodies to bargain
for the safety of others, for earth...*

[You can read the full poem here.](#)

We hope to see you this spring at the LEAP energy fair, for our online book club, or as part of a Green Team project!

Spring blessings,

The VTipl Team

Read on for:

- Faith Climate Action Day: Thank you!
- VTIPL Interfaith Book Club: "Climate Church, Climate World"
- VT Community News Service article featuring VTIPL
- LEAP Energy Fair
- Upcoming Energy Action Network events
- Earth Hour
- Ongoing Advocacy
- Be a VTIPL Congregational Liaison
- Climate Action Grants



Faith Climate Action Day participants listen to an overview of the 2026 Legislative landscape (photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder)

Faith Climate Action Day 2026: THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who came out for Faith Climate Action Day on February 19th! We welcomed folks from twenty faith communities across the state for a day of community advocacy, prayer, and song.

The day started with a group of us attending the Climate Caucus where we shared our priorities as people of faith urgently concerned about the climate crisis. Afterwards, we had a community training on lobbying, led by VT Interfaith Action and VPIRG, which included an overview of the 2026 Legislative landscape, sign-making, and dialogue.

We then sat in on the House Session where our group was recognized in front of the assembly.

At sunset, we gathered outside for a **Vigil for the Earth**. We heard **prayers, songs, and messages of hope, grief, and love from faith leaders across Vermont**, including: Rev. Joan Javier-Duval of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier; Rabbi David Fainsilber of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe; Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters of the Greensboro United Church of Christ; Rev. Don Chatfield and Rev. Kim Marie Glynn of All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne; Rev. Dick Hibbert; and Senator Anne Watson.

Deep thanks to all who came out in community and in faith on behalf of our Earth.

And huge thanks to our partners: **VT Interfaith Action, VPIRG, 350VT, VNRC, and VCV.**



People of faith from across Vermont gathered for the FCAD Earth Vigil (photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder)

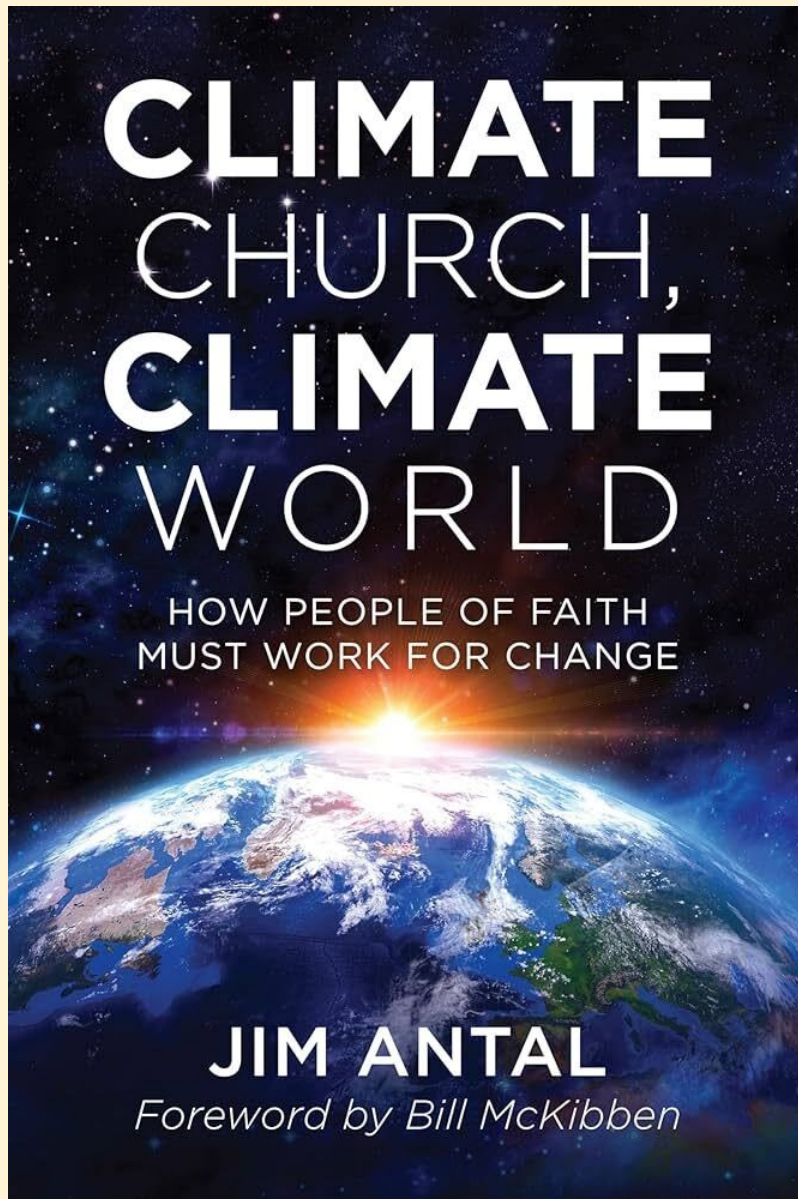


Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters speaks during the FCAD Earth Vigil (photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder)



VTIPL Board President Ron McGarvey speaks to FCAD attendees (photo by Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder)

VTIPL Interfaith Book Club



Join us this spring to read Jim Antal's book, "CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD"!

We'll meet on Tuesday April 7th, 14th, and 21st, over Zoom, from 8:00-9:00pm.

"Why should people of faith engage the moral challenge of climate change – and how should we do it? We can expand the Golden Rule to include future generations. We can shift our focus from personal salvation to collective salvation. Because climate change amplifies all forms of injustice – hunger, refugees, racism, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses, war – defense of creation is a campaign for justice. By reorienting what we prize through new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing, and other spiritual practices, we can honor creation as we cultivate hope and discover new joy."

Email chelsea@vtipl.org to sign up!

Faith Climate Action Day shortens the distance between science and religion at the State House



Submitted by *tim* on *Sun, 02/22/2026 - 16:41*



Sen. Anne Watson, D-Washington, delivers a message of hope to the Earth Vigil attendees. Photo by Kate Kampner

"Faith Climate Action Day shortens the distance between science and religion at the State House"

We're so grateful to reporter Kate Kampner who wrote a wonderful piece about Faith Climate Action Day for the VT Community News Service.

"As the sun began to set over Montpelier on Thursday evening, the verses of "We Shall Overcome" echoed across the State House lawn. The song was paired with hymns, moments of prayer and speeches from members of Vermont religious groups who believe their faith is a key force in climate change advocacy.

This was the scene at the first-ever Earth Vigil, the coda to Faith Climate Action Day. The annual event drew about 20 people to Montpelier to learn about climate-based policy and engage directly with lawmakers."

[Read the full article here.](#)

Come Say Hi to VT IPL at the LEAP Energy Fair on April 11!

Saturday, April 11, 9:00am - 2:00pm at Crossett Brook Middle School gym in Duxbury (5672 VT Route 100).

The LEAP Energy Fair is the largest in Vermont, and it's completely free. Tour 60 exhibits and talk to experts about heat pumps, weatherization, solar power, energy audits, electric vehicles, electric lawn tools, financing, subsidies, and much more. Attend breakout sessions on topics of special interest.

This family-friendly event includes a free magician show, free ice cream, free electronics recycling, children's activities, and local food and refreshments while you learn how to shrink energy bills and save money.

Come by the VT IPL table to learn about our Climate Action Grants and more!

Brought to you by the volunteers of Waterbury LEAP. For more info visit waterburyleap.org. If you have any questions, contact Duncan at duncan@clifonline.org



Energy Action Network: Upcoming Events

Future of Electricity Prices in Vermont:

Join EAN members and partners for an in-person event to discuss the Future of Electricity Prices in Vermont. We'll hear from a panel of experts about how state and regional trends are impacting electricity prices, both now and looking to the future.

- Location: Hugo's Bar and Grill, 44 Main St, 3rd floor, Montpelier, VT 05602
- Date & Time: Tue, Mar 24, 4:00 pm
- Register [here](#)

EAN Webinar: How to improve heat pump installation and use in Vermont

- Date & Time: Mar 30, 12:00pm
- Register [here](#).

Energy Coaching Network Webinar: Energy coaching is the process of providing residential customers with the support they need to execute clean energy projects that reduce their energy and fossil fuel use in their homes and for their transportation needs.

- Date & Time: Apr 7, 12:00pm
- Register [here](#).



Earth Hour: March 28

"Earth Hour is an annual event started by the World Wildlife Fund. The purpose is to encourage sustainable living and to highlight environmental issues, such as climate change and nature loss."

The iconic tradition of Earth Hour is to turn off the lights for 60 minutes.

This year, Earth Hour occurs on March 28th at 8.30pm your local time.

"There's a reason why Earth Hour is held in late March. Around this time, the vernal equinox occurs. This means the sunset times coincide in both hemispheres, which provides the greatest visual impact for a 'lights out' event worldwide."

[Learn more here.](#)

Ongoing Advocacy

VTIPL recently signed a letter in support of the **\$500,000** that the **House Energy and Digital Infrastructure recommended** in their policy budget memo to fund the establishment of a **comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting program** at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Co-signers included:

- Conservation Law Foundation
- Rights and Democracy
- Sierra Club
- Third Act Vermont
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Vermont Climate and Health Alliance
- Vermont Conservation Voters
- Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
- Vermont Public Interest Research Group
- Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance

Be a VTIPL 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 a Gift to VTIPL!

[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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