

**Green Downside?**  
by Henry McPherson

The aspirational ideas of the Green New Deal suggest some questions:

1. Will participating nations actually follow through with the steps outlined in the deal, due to their bad track record environmentally?
2. Will countries that limit coal, oil and gas production stop the consumption of these resources, which will just shift to countries with less strict environmental laws, posing a larger detriment to those nations?
3. Will environmentally friendly sources of energy require environmentally unfriendly machines which produce a surprisingly high amount of pollution? Will hybrid cars, for example, require pollution-causing manufacturing? How pollution-free is the production of lithium ion batteries?
4. Are the health and environmental costs of green energy being computed?
5. Could there also be massive land use changes associated with expansion of renewable power? Is Ben Zycher at the American Enterprise Institute right that land use necessary to meet a 100% renewable target would require 115 million acres, which is 15% larger than the land area of California?

# Lenten Services

## at Eliot Church City Church

Sun.	3/1-3/29	<b>Lenten Sundays</b> begin: Our preaching theme for these Sundays focuses on traditional Christian practices as our response to the Climate Crisis.	10 am
	3/1	<b>Stone Soup:</b> We invite everyone to join us in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. You are invited to bring chopped up veggies to add to the soup. We'll also play "Lent Jeopardy."	
Sun.	3/15	<b>Pretzel Sunday:</b> Did you know that pretzels are a traditional Lenten staple? Children and Youth will meet in the kitchen to make pretzels to share with the congregation. Parents are welcome to participate with their children!	10 am 
Sun.	3/22	<b>Bread Sunday:</b> We'll be making bread for the Maundy Thursday Communion service.	10 am 
Sun.	4/5	<b>Palm Sunday:</b> Our worship will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We parade with palms and shout "Hosanna!" (this service does <i>not</i> include the Passion).	10 am 
Thur.	4/9	<b>Maundy Thursday:</b> Join us for a reflective intergenerational Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion.	7 pm
Fri.	4/10	<b>Good Friday:</b> The Sanctuary will be open for those who wish to pray and meditate. <b>Good Friday:</b> Our intergenerational service is appropriate for all ages. We will journey with Jesus on the last week of his earthly life, ending at the empty tomb. The service is interactive and meaningful for all ages.	12-3 pm 5:30 pm
Sun.	4/12	<b>Easter:</b> All ages will celebrate the Resurrection in a festive worship service that includes congregational singing of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." We invite you to join us for a special coffee hour after worship and an Easter Egg hunt for children.	10 am 



**Future Topics for The Columns:**  
April—Music May—Voting Rights

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Environment Issue SONG, WORD, & PRAYER Sundays at 10:00 am February and March, 2020

**Call for a New Earth Ethic**  
by Rev. Richard Chrisman

Is environmentalism a religion? Shouldn't it be? As earthbound creatures, we are bound by gravity. It's time to embrace that fact religiously. We belong to each other.

Religion = religio = re-ligare means to bind together.

As the planet heats and shrinks, the tendency will be to fragment ourselves down to nation, to tribe and to class and ethnicity and family and perhaps even to just pairs. Best case scenario: the last will be "the defiant ones" (Sydney Poitier and Tony Curtis are escaped prisoners handcuffed to each other).

"The universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects," wrote Thomas Berry. "The destiny of humans cannot be separated from the destiny of the earth."

When will we learn, when will we ever learn?

**Glossary**  
by Rev. Richard Chrisman

**How many can you identify?**

- Americans for Prosperity
- An Inconvenient Truth
- Carbon tax
- Climate grief
- Denialism
- Ecosystem
- Forest raking
- Fracking
- Green New Deal
- IPCC Report
- James Hansen
- Paris Agreement
- Resilience
- 350.org

**MSJ FORUM SCHEDULE after worship**

- Greta Thunberg clips March 22, 2020
- Vince Maraventano April 26, 2020
- Eliot Solar Players May 3, 2020
- Yonder Gillihan May 10, 2020

**Calling for Climate Justice**  
by Doug Stuart

We have come to see that living in concert with our environment is an issue of social justice. The impact of climate degradation rests disproportionately on the poor.

Around the year 2000, Ken Gleason along with his wife Mary Lou (whose portraits now hang opposite the parlor) and I attended the very first meeting of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MassIPL.org) in Roxbury. How far our church has come in 20 years—much due to our participation in that organization.

Eliot Church, built in 1957, was heated by a 2.1 million BTU oil fired cast iron boiler (with all five zones set at 72 degrees) that towered over our boiler room. Now, the building is heated by two natural gas fired condensing boilers totaling 530k BTUs in a small corner of that boiler room—take a look! Insulation surrounds the building envelope; pleated shades adorn most windows and interior storms are widely employed. LED lighting prevails. A 25 KW array of solar panels (look up at the south

**Climate Justice** *continued from pg. 1*

facing roof!) provides ALL of our electricity, and any month that we generate a surplus, we donate 20% to Brighton-Allston UCC in appreciation for their meal program and food pantry.

We are currently running a \$3,000 credit with the electric utility company, and the \$130K PV installation cost is on track to be paid down by 2026, well within the projected estimate. After that time, we anticipate that we will have no electric bill for the life of the system.

The actions taken to curb environmental impact have also produced reductions in operating expenses at a time when many faith communities now struggle for survival because of increased operating costs.

Eliot Church has been a responsible environmental steward—membership’s creative involvement has made this happen. We have taken to heart our faith in a God that has blessed us; we feel called to be worthy of our blessings... passing them on.

What next steps do we take? Install free public EV charging station? Heat pump heating system and hybrid hot water heaters? Promote solar clothes dryers (lines) and .8 gallon toilets in area homes? Let’s keep going!

## LINKS AND RESOURCES FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS

### Mass Interfaith Power and Light

([www.MassIPL.org](http://www.MassIPL.org))

### Global Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet

[climate.nasa.gov](http://climate.nasa.gov)

### Boston Climate Action

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/boston-climate-action>

### Paris to Pittsburgh DVD (see Rev. Rick to borrow)

## Lenten Sundays 2020 at Eliot Church:

### Personal empowerment in the face of planetary suffering—six ways.

3/1 “Christ’s Way—Reject temptation.”

3/8 “The Ritual Way—Sabbath as resistance.”

3/15 “The Devotional Way—Retreat and pilgrimage.”

3/22 “Reasoned Inquiry—Know your scriptures.”

3/29 “Mystical Quest—Direct awareness of the Christ.”

4/5 Palm Sunday. “Right Action—Going to the mat.”



### Interfaith Youth Initiative (IFYI) Invites You To:

#### An Intergenerational Conversation circle on the Spiritual Roots of Environmental Justice

**When:**

**Sunday, March 1, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Where:**

**Myrtle Baptist Church, Newton**

This interfaith, intercultural, and interracial conversation circle will be engaging in group interactive exercises, facilitated dialogue, and a community meal.

An opportunity for Greater Boston youth and all ages to experience and practice healthy and constructive dialogue with people across various differences. The Interfaith Youth Initiative exists to create such spaces and learn in community about important topics such as these that require our attention for true change.

Attend this unique night of partnership, highlighting youth perspectives, critical reflection, conversation, active listening, dinner and sacred curiosity!

No cost, but please RSVP and for more information on IFYI, visit: [coopmet.org/ifyi/](http://coopmet.org/ifyi/)



### Choose Newton Power Choice by Sarah Mausner

Choosing electricity supplied from local renewable sources like wind and solar power sends a message to utility companies and legislators that we care about the environment and want to do our part to protect the planet. If we as consumers demand energy from renewables, supplies will increase according to demand.

By paying just a few dollars more for 100% renewable electricity each month—and less than you would pay for Eversource Basic Service—you’ll increase your impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering Newton’s carbon footprint. Why not opt up to 100% today?

Right now, Newton residents can choose to have their electricity supplied by 100% renewable sources for only 11.75 cents per kWh. That’s less than the current Eversource standard rate of 12.42 cents per kWh with only 16% supplied by renewables (i.e., 84% from fossil fuels and nuclear power plants!). And under Newton Power Choice we enjoy fixed rates (current rates apply through January 2021), whereas Eversource’s residential rates change every six months.

Thanks to Newton Power Choice, the municipal aggregation program which the City of Newton launched last March, of 150 cities and towns in Massachusetts with municipal aggregations, Newton’s electricity supply has the highest percentage of renewably sourced energy.

Newton’s standard level—the amount you purchase if you take no action at all—is now at 62% renewables and many participants have opted for 100%.

To opt up or down, go to <https://masspowerchoice.com/newton> or call 1-833-272-9592.

- **Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
- **Saves Utility Dollars**
- **Lowers Newton’s Carbon Footprint**



*Late last night, I heard the  
screen door slam*

*And a big yellow taxi took  
away my old man.*

*Don’t it always seem to go*

*That you don’t know what  
you’ve got*

*Till it’s gone.*

*They paved paradise*

*And put up a parking lot.*

—Joni Mitchell

### Faith Climate Action Week

April 17-26, 2020

By Susan Hendershot, National President of Interfaith Power and Light

The United Church of Christ has just released a new study “The Toxic 100: America’s Super Polluters,” which documents the 100 industrial facilities emitting the most toxic

air pollution into heavily populated areas, along with demographic details on who lives near them. Find them and speak out!

Congregations across the nation are planning Sacred Activism events as part of this year’s Faith Climate Action Week, “Love Made Visible: Engaging in Sacred Activism,” to protect the people we love and care about who are most impacted by climate change—prayer vigils, rallies, marches, standing witness at polluting facilities, and meeting with elected officials to make the moral call for climate justice.

ORDER A KIT FROM US—([www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/)). It includes a Sacred Activism guide on the importance of people of faith taking part in civic engagement, suggestions for activism challenges, and the Sacred Activism Art Guide to creating eye-catching banners and placards with faith-based messaging.

Collect pledges to vote with the climate in mind at your event using the provided Faith Climate Voter Pledge postcards and stickers for all who pledge.

Our voices can turn the tide for communities bearing the brunt of toxic air pollution and climate emergencies. I urge you to find your place of power and be one of today’s prophets, protecting our children, our communities, and our common home.

