

Maryland *Because our world can change a lot in 40 days.*

Lenten Creation Care 2023

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and more intentional sharing. This year, our church is joining with many others in heeding the call to be stewards of God's Creation throughout this season.

May this calendar remind us to be more mindful of the ways that our daily habits impact both our common home and all those with whom we share it.

On behalf of future generations and all living in poverty — those most harmed by our damaged climate — may we answer God's call to be faithful stewards, speaking out for Creation care.



**INTERFAITH
& Power
& Light**

Compiled from many sources by...

IPLdmv.org/lent

Our religious response to climate change.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>A prayer from Psalm 51:</p> <p><i>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Creator God, we begin this Lenten season asking for Your renewal. Through prayer, fasting, and sharing over these 40 days, we ask that our eyes be opened to the ways we can do better; in our relationships with You, Your Creation, and all those with whom we share this, our common home. Lord, help us to restore what has been damaged through our sinful overconsumption and the systemic injustices that surround us, returning to You with renewed spirits.</i></p>			<p>FEBRUARY 22</p> <p>Ash Wednesday <i>"All are from the dust, and to dust all return."</i> - Ecclesiastes 3:20</p> <p>Reflect with gratitude on the reality that we all are made of and fed by the earth.</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>"Make me to know your ways, oh Lord; teach me your paths."</i> - Psalm 25:4</p> <p>The path to climate justice passes through every other struggle we face. Learn more at Intersectional Environmentalists.com</p>	<p>24</p> <p>IPC's Faithful Green Leaders training can help strengthen environmental stewardship efforts at your church. Sign your team up here for the next one, starting in March: bit.ly/ipc_training</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Talk with your church about ordering "eco palms" for Palm Sunday. They help improve workers' living standards and protect forests in Mexico and Guatemala. Order by 3/10: EcoPalms.org</p>
<p>Help IPC & neighbors plant 5 million trees in Maryland by 2030. Sign your church up for free trees: bit.ly/trees4sacredplaces</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Turn down your thermostat by at least 1 degree. In cold weather, aim for 68° during the day and 60° at night. Buy a programmable thermostat if you can. Always turn the heat off when you leave home.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 offers new incentives for energy efficiency. Use Rewiring America's IRA savings tool to see how much your household can save: bit.ly/ra-ira-calculator</p> <p>28</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p> <p>Last year, Montgomery County Council passed a bill requiring all new buildings to be electric! Join with IPL-DMV as we organize in Howard County and beyond to do the same! bit.ly/iplsingup</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>"Do unto those downstream,"</i> teaches Wendell Berry, <i>"as you'd have those upstream do unto you."</i> Affirm your church's watershed stewardship by signing IPC's Partner Congregation Pledge: bit.ly/IPCpledge</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Christians have fasted from meat during Lent for generations. Try eating vegetarian today and check out Oxfam's Eat for Good resource online for other ways to use your fast to bless others: bit.ly/eat4good</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Learn about the Indigenous peoples of the land where you live, work, and pray (native-land.ca) and practice acknowledging whose land you're on: creationjustice.org/indigenous</p>
<p>Rest today. Take a break from the TV and internet. Turn off everything, and unplug it if you can. Play a game, go for a walk, or read a book! Read Blessed Earth's resources on Sabbath living: SabbathLiving.org</p> <p>5</p>	<p>How can your church community help repair our climate? Join with other communities called by many traditions to this sacred work & flock together with other "green sheep" through IPL-DMV: bit.ly/iplsingup</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Reduce your food waste by planning well and eating leftovers. Consider composting what's left at home or get table scraps picked up: CompostCrew.com, VeteranCompost.com, KeyCompost.com</p> <p>7</p>	<p>International Women's Day 8</p> <p>Too often, women aren't part of critical climate decisions. On this International Women's Day, reflect on the necessity of gender equality to solving the climate crisis: bit.ly/womenclimateequality</p>	<p>9</p> <p>What can you do about climate change? Talk about it. Listen to Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's talk to New York Ave Presbyterian Church about the power of opening climate conversations: bit.ly/HayhoeInterview</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Nourish birds, butterflies, and other wildlife in your backyard with IPC's Faithful Lawn Care guide: bit.ly/faithfullawncares</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Is your stove burning methane gas? With more evidence that gas stoves pollute our air and climate, it's time to turn away from burning: bit.ly/gasstoves</p>

URLs that begin with bit.ly are case-sensitive; all other links are not.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>"For God so loved the Cosmos ..."</i> 12</p> <p>- John 3:16</p> <p>God's circle of love is infinite and all-inclusive. Reflect and open your heart today to those in Creation, human or non-human, who sometimes fall outside your circle.</p>	<p>We are called to care for all creation. Learn how native plants can bless our local ecosystems and heal the natural world: bit.ly/nativeplants-dougallamy 13</p>	<p><i>"God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."</i> 14</p> <p>- Gen. 2:15</p> <p>Plan a garden today and start some seeds to germinate indoors: bit.ly/gavictorygardens</p>	<p>Care for Creation and support clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels: GreenAmerica.org/divest-reinvest and choosing a bank that aligns with your values: greenamerica.org/better-banking 15</p>	<p>Send blessings to faithful voices from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, United Methodist Church, raising their voices for Creation care in Annapolis today. bit.ly/bwumc_advocacyday 16</p>	<p>Annunciation 17</p> <p>Over a hundred local faith communities are getting their energy from above! Check out this map of solar congregations across our region, and find resources to help your church join them: ipldmv.org/solar</p>	<p>Take climate action locally with groups like Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MCFACS), Multi-faith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County (MACS), or ... start your own! 18</p>
<p><i>"There is a new creation!"</i> 19</p> <p>- 2 Corinthians 5:17</p> <p>Look outside for signs of regeneration in the natural world today. We too can be made new.</p>	<p>Does your church yard welcome other species? Learn how to cultivate grounds that are good for people, plants, and creatures at church: bit.ly/sacredchurchgrounds 20</p>	<p>Shift to clean energy at home! See if you can install solar panels: ipldmv.org/solarcoops, or subscribe to a community solar project: nsunsolar.com/ipl 21</p>	<p>God's children are coming together to care for Creation. As our Muslim neighbors begin the holy month of Ramadan tonight, learn how Muslim communities are taking action for our common home: greenmuslims.org 22</p>	<p><i>"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and its leaves are for the healing of the nations."</i> - Rev. 22:2 23</p> <p>Apply here to get a free tree planted at your home: bit.ly/mdtreecoupon</p>	<p>As you fast from meat today, consider celebrating Easter and beyond with plant-based meals: StFrancisAlliance.com/recipes 24</p> <p>BeCreatureKind.org</p>	<p>At 8:30 pm, join hundreds of millions of people around the world who will be switching off all lights for one hour to commit to global climate action and more mindful energy use: EarthHour.org 25</p>
<p><i>"God of grace and salvation, today we open our hearts to the pain of our planet."</i> 26</p> <p>Reflect on the role the church has played in the degradation of Creation; consider reciting this litany: bit.ly/envconfession</p>	<p>Organize a congregation and community stream cleanup for Earth Month in April. Participate in Project Clean Stream: bit.ly/projectcleanstream 27</p>	<p>The Inflation Reduction Act provides new funding for houses of worship to become more energy efficient. Use National IPL's resource page to learn what your congregation is eligible for! bit.ly/ipl_iraresources 28</p>	<p>How will your church celebrate Earth Day on April 22? Invite a guest speaker: IPLdmv.org/speakers and find worship resources: InterfaithChesapeake.org/materials, bit.ly/cjmeearthday 29</p>	<p>Plant trees this spring and join IPC's webinar to learn directly from the experts about how best to keep your trees healthy. bit.ly/ipc_sacredplaces 30</p>	<p>All are called to repair our climate. In April, our Jewish neighbors will gather for Passover seders to retell their story. Listen to these Jewish climate songs for the journey: dayenu.org/songs 31</p>	<p>APRIL 1</p> <p>Purchase locally-grown food this weekend. Walk to a farmers' market or join a community-supported agriculture group: LocalHarvest.org, or sign up to receive rescued produce weekly: HungryHarvest.net</p>
<p>Palm Sunday 2</p> <p><i>"God of wilderness and water, guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance ..."</i></p> <p>- Revised Common Lectionary</p>	<p>Caring for Creation includes responsibly disposing of electronics. Organize "E-cycling" for your congregation to dispose of old phones, tablets, computers, and TVs responsibly: e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler 3</p>	<p>Consider the gifts given to you. Pray about how you are called to use your time, talent, passion, and treasure to care for our neighbors and our common home. 4</p>	<p>Talk with your family and community about your Lenten Creation care journey. What ideas do you have to continue your stewardship into the Easter season? 5</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday 6</p> <p>Today we remember Jesus's last supper with his disciples and his prayers in the garden of Gethsemane. Following Jesus' example, take time today to pray outdoors, remembering all who suffer.</p>	<p>Good Friday 7</p> <p><i>"At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two ... the earth shook, and the rocks were split."</i> - Matt 27:51</p> <p>Contemplate the destruction already caused by climate change through wildfires, floods, and stronger storms.</p>	<p>Holy Saturday 8</p> <p><i>"Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through! They are renewed every morning."</i> - Lam 3:22-23a</p> <p>Take a walk and notice signs of new life and resurrection in your neighborhood.</p>

9 Easter Sunday *"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to Godself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace by the blood of his cross."* - Colossians 1:19-20

"The New Testament does not only tell us of the earthly Jesus and his tangible and loving relationship with the world. It also shows him risen and glorious, present throughout Creation by his universal Lordship" - Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

Trusting in the words of Philippians 1:6, *"that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion,"* take time to give thanks for the changes of heart and habit you have taken on since Lent began, and continue to live out your call to Creation stewardship with the hope of the resurrection always in your heart!



Take some time today to reflect on all of the activities that you have performed during Lent, and how they have brought you into greater harmony with the earth and with all life. Conclude your Lenten Creation care practice by making a personal pledge to serve God and serve others by pursuing a more sustainable way of life.