

Welcome to the supplemental materials for Hope for Creation: Faith and Action. I hope you will find opportunities to become more fully engaged in the quest to understand and respond to climate change.

Mondays, March 10, 17, 24 and 31.

Coming to the sessions: All sessions will be in Wesley Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St. The Hall is in the basement directly beneath the sanctuary and it can be accessed from the doors at the Park St. entrance until 6:00PM. An alternative entrance will be available throughout the session which can be accessed from the parking lot on Academy St. Greeters will be available at both entrances to assist you getting to Wesley Hall. Persons requiring an assist from the elevator should enter from the parking lot entrance.

Parking: At the time of this writing, the parking lot off Academy has several large piles of snow. Additional parking is available at metered sites (free after 5:00PM) on Academy. To park in front of First Congregational Church, you should be aware that Academy is one-way, westbound. Next to FUMC, it is two-way. Participants are welcome to park at First Congregational Church; the lot is accessed off Michigan Ave., just east of Park. If you are able, leave the especially close parking for persons who may require it.

Sustainable transportation: There is limited parking for bicycles at the Parking Lot entrance. The entrance will be monitored by security throughout the meeting. There is a bus stop across the street from the church on Park St. Buses traveling northbound on Park include Westnedge#1 and Lovell#16. If you are driving, see if you can car-pool.

Dinners: Dinners will be provided by First United Methodist Church (March 10), First Presbyterian Church (March 17), St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish (March 24) and First Congregational Church (March 31). All the food is free although there will be an offering basket out to help defray some of the costs of the series. We will make every effort to provide reusable dinner ware and bowls. You are invited to bring your own to reduce some of the toil of cleanup.

Childcare: In order to provide appropriate childcare, we are asking that you contact Janet Scarrow at janscarrow@gmail.com or 269-381-6336 to let her know how many children are coming and their ages. The children will be in a room very close to Wesley Hall and they will be provided a meal which includes macaroni and cheese and fruit.

[Abstracts of talks](#) and biographical notes on the speakers

Continue to see schedule of events

Schedule of all activities in the series.

March 9: “[God’s Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action](#)”, Sermons at 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 9: “God’s Renewed Creation, A discussion session”, 9:30 - 10:30AM, Parlor, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 10: “Seeds of Hope: Faith Communities Adapting to Climate Change.”, Cybelle Shattuck, 5:30- 7:30PM, , First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 14: [Faith and Sustainability](#) with Cybelle Shattuck, Judaism: An Ethical Path 7:00-8:00 PM; Room 9 People’s Church, 1758 North 10th St. 269-375-3262. Sessions continue on March 21(Hinduism: Karma in a Divine World) and March 28(Buddhism: Compassion for All Living Beings).

March 14: Showing of the film, “Carbon Nation” 7:00 - 9:00PM First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St. <http://www.carbonnationmovie.com/> 269-381-6340

March 16: “[We love God by paying attention to God’s creation](#)”, Sermons at 8:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St.269-381-6340

March 16 “Hope for Creation: Follow-up” 12:00- 1:00PM, First Presbyterian Church, 321 West South Street, childcare provided. 269-344-0119

March 16 “Considering our Legacy” 10:30AM, Sermon at morning worship, First Presbyterian Church, 321 West South Street, childcare provided. 269-344-0119

March 16: “God’s Renewed Creation, A discussion session”, 9:30 - 10:30AM, Parlor, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340.

March 17: “The Economic Debate on the Costs of Climate Inaction.”, Ahmed Hussien, 5:30-7:30PM, , First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 21: [Faith and Sustainability](#) with Cybelle Shattuck, Hinduism: Karma in a Divine World 7:00-8:00 PM; Room 9 People’s Church, 1758 North 10th St. 269-375-3262

March 22: Movie Night "Chasing Ice" and Write Your Senator a Love Letter, 7:00PM, St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, 421 Monroe St., 269-318-8917

March 23: “[We love God and neighbor by practicing compassionate respect](#)”, Sermons at 8:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St. 269-381-6340

March 23: “Hope for Creation: Follow-up” 12PM- 1PM, First Presbyterian Church, 321 West

South Street, childcare provided. 269-344-0119

March 23: “God’s Renewed Creation, A discussion session”, 9:30 - 10:30AM, Parlor, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 24: “Climate Change and Agriculture in Michigan....”, Phil Robertson , 5:30- 7:30PM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 28: [Faith and Sustainability](#) with Cybelle Shattuck, Buddhism: Compassion for All Living Beings 7:00-8:00 PM; Room 9 People’s Church, 1758 North 10th St., 269-375-3262

March 30: "[We love God and neighbor by changing our behavior.](#)" Sermons at 8:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

March 30: “Hope for Creation: Follow-up” 12:00- 1:00PM, First Presbyterian Church, 321 West South Street, childcare provided. 269-344-0119

March 30: “God’s Renewed Creation, A discussion session”, 9:30 - 10:30AM, Parlor, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340.

March 31: “Our Response in Kalamazoo.”, discussion led by Kiran Cunningham, 5:30- 7:30PM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340.

April 6: “[We love God and neighbor by believing in God's economy](#)”, Sermons at 8:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St.

April 6: “Hope for Creation: Follow-up” 12:00- 1:00PM, First Presbyterian Church, 321 West South Street, childcare provided. 269-344-0119

April 6: “God’s Renewed Creation, A discussion session”, 9:30 - 10:30AM, Parlor, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

April 13: “[We love God and neighbor by challenging those who do harm](#)”, Sermons at 8:30, 9:30 and 11:00 AM, First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., 269-381-6340

April 14: "Solar Power in MI", 7:00 - 9:00 PM, St. Thomas More Catholic Student Parish, 421 Monroe St., 269-318-8917.



Faith and Sustainability

With Cybelle Shattuck

This Adult Education Series examines the potential of religion to motivate more environmentally sustainable behavior. We'll explore beliefs, values, stories, rituals, and community structures in several of the great world religions and look at how faith communities draw on these resources in their efforts to live more sustainably.



Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM; Room 9

People's Church, 1758 North 10th St.

March 14: Judaism: An Ethical Path

March 21: Hinduism: Karma in a Divine World

March 28: Buddhism: Compassion for All Living Beings

Our environmental crisis is as much a spiritual problem as a technological problem; our social systems do not foster sustainable, healthy, or meaningful lifestyles. As climate change reframes environmental concerns around issues of social justice and harm to the poor, people of faith are becoming involved in environmental movements. They are drawing on religion to articulate alternative visions for society and taking action to conserve resources, practice sustainable land management, educate people about environmental injustices, and advocate for new regulatory policies. Knowing more about these efforts can help us work together to protect our common home.



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Lenten Sermon Series: God's Renewed Creation

At the core of Christian faith is the command to love God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). Several years ago, the Council of Bishops wrote [God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action](#) in which they reflected on what this dual commandment means in terms of addressing climate change. Our Lenten sermon series will address ways in which we can live out that commandment by expanding our understanding of who is our neighbor and how do we love God? The question for Christians is whether we love the world that God loves enough to protect it from the crisis of climate change.

First Sunday in Lent: **God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action** **March 9**

The United Methodist Church is a strong and diverse global denomination, the Council of Bishops wrote [God's Renewed Creation](#) as pastors to the Church and people of goodwill around the world. It is a calling for awareness, study, and action birthed of hope rather than fear. In this season of Lent we hope this call will inform and shape our lives of faith, as we repent of our ways, celebrate God's good creation and prepare ourselves for resurrection and renewal.

"In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind swept over the face of the waters." Genesis 1: 1- 31

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22: 37-40 [\[back\]](#)

Second Sunday in Lent: **"We love God by paying attention to God's creation."** **March 16**

Are we attentive to the world that God loves? Do we see its beauty and wonder, and do we see its wounds?

“This beautiful natural world is a loving gift from God, the Creator of all things seen and unseen. God has entrusted its care to all of us, but we have turned our backs on God and on our responsibilities. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride have fostered:

- o pandemic poverty and disease,
- o environmental degradation, and
- o the proliferation of weapons and violence.” ([Pastoral Letter](#))

"I lift up my eyes to the hills- from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121

"For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no

law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Romans 4: 13-17

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Third Sunday in Lent: **"We love God and neighbor by practicing compassionate respect." March 23**

We understand that the earth is not ours to plunder and that its resources are not ours to exploit. We take seriously the statement found in Psalm 24:1-2 that "the earth is the LORD's."

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." Romans 8:22-25

"The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; 2 for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers." Psalm 24: 1-2

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Fourth Sunday in Lent: **"We love God and neighbor by changing our behavior." March 30**

We ask ourselves how our lifestyles increase our carbon footprint (the amount of carbon our actions put into the atmosphere). Answering that question requires examining our consumption of material goods. Do we buy more than we need? Are we wasteful? Answering that question also involves examining the sources of our food. Do we try to eat locally grown foods that are in season? Or does most food come from thousands of miles away by transportation that burns huge amounts of fossil fuel?

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." Isaiah 43: 18-21

"Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition... Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits." - Mark 6:1-13 The Message

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Fifth Sunday of Lent: **"We love God and neighbor by believing in God's economy" April 6**

Living in a time of economic insecurity and the destruction of our natural world can contribute to our yearning for a different way of doing things. Dishonesty breeds mistrust in a world where debts are rarely forgiven. But if we tend God's economy, grace overflows. As the Common

English Bible translation says, we have a "down payment on our inheritance." What would it mean to really live in the trust that we are forgiven, that even now God is transforming us through love and there is plenty to go around.

"...we have forgiveness for our failures based on his overflowing grace, which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding... The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory." Ephesians 1:3-14 CEB

"What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager asked himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me?'" Luke 16: 1- 13

"Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty". Proverbs 22:16

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Palm Sunday: **"We love God and neighbor by challenging those who do harm." April 13**
We must challenge people, companies, and governments whose practices are destroying the earth. Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem to challenge the powers that be, to proclaim the kingdom of God.

"When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee." Matthew 21:1-11

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Biographies of the presenters and their abstracts:

Cybelle Shattuck will inaugurate the series on March 10. She is a doctoral candidate in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), University of Michigan, where her research focuses on faith-based sustainability initiatives. She has a master's degree in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and spent a decade as an adjunct instructor in the Religion Departments of Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. She also has a master's degree in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan, for which she studied environmental psychology, environmental justice, and

conservation biology. In 2010-11, Shattuck worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, developing materials to assist Great Lakes communities in planning for climate change adaptation. She serves on the board of directors for Michigan Interfaith Power and Light and on the Green Sanctuary Committee for People's Church in Kalamazoo MI. She is the author of three books: *Dharma in the Golden State: South Asian Religious Traditions in California* (1996); *Hinduism* (1998); and *The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Hinduism* (2003). Her most recent publication is an essay on "Expressing the Sanctity of Nature" in *This Sacred Earth* (2011).

In her presentation, "Seeds of Hope: Faith Communities Adapting to a Changing Climate," Cybelle Shattuck will describe an upwelling movement in which people of faith are taking action to build more resilient and sustainable communities. Drawing on insights from these inspiring stories, she explores moral values that trigger action, elements of faith organizations that increase success, and some of the special contributions that religion can bring to the great social and environmental challenges we are facing. [\[back\]](#)

Ahmed Hussen is the von Dolson Professor of Economics at Kalamazoo College. His field of specialization is environmental and resource economics. He has written a popular textbook in this sub-field of economics which is now in its third edition. His book is known for being the first textbook in environmental economics that truly attempted to integrate economics with ecology. He has been teaching at Kalamazoo College since 1985, and he is a recipient of the prestigious Florence J. Lucasse Lectureship award (in 1997) for excellence in teaching. Hussen is a co-founder of the environmental study program at Kalamazoo College, and offers a course and a senior seminar on a regular basis that counts towards the concentration in environmental studies.

In his talk, "The Economic Debate on the Costs of Climate Inaction" he will discuss the ..."ongoing policy debate concerning the rate at which greenhouse gas emissions should be curtailed in order to avert irreversible environmental damage resulting from future impacts of climate change. The views taken by economists on this subject matter vary widely; from doing nothing to taking aggressive action.... The main objective of my talk will be to explain the causes behind these ongoing and consequential policy debates. In the final analysis, the message I would like to leave is this. When what is at stake is the potential for irreversible degradation of natural capital, prudence not efficiency should be the guiding principle for any decision that is expected to have an adequate and enduring protection of the wellbeing of future generations. Key issues addressed in my presentation include: cost-benefit analysis, economic growth, the precautionary principle, intergenerational equity (fairness), natural capital, environmental sustainability, climate change, greenhouse gas emission damage cost, greenhouse gas emission abatement cost, and irreversible ecological damage." [\[back\]](#)

Phil Robertson is an MSU Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Ecology in the Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences. He has been studying agriculture and climate change for over 20 years at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station near Richland with funding from the National Science Foundation, Dept of Energy, and USDA. He is a lead contributor to the forthcoming U.S. National Climate Assessment, and has published extensively on sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in Michigan field crops.

Climate change is expected to have major implications for agriculture in the Midwest in general and in the Great Lake States and Michigan in particular. Warmer, shorter winters with less snow cover (though this winter is a throw-back!) means more pests during the growing season. Hotter summers will reduce average field crop yields. More frequent early spring warm-ups will threaten bud set in fruit crops and more variable rainfall will complicate planting schedules and increase soil erosion. Michigan farming will need to adapt to both warmer temperatures and more frequent extreme events, some of which are already beginning to happen. In this talk I'll focus on current trends and some of the ways that farming will likely change in response to climate change over the next 30 years, and as well some of the ways that farming can combat climate change - i.e. can contribute to climate change solutions. [\[back\]](#)

Kiran Cunningham is Professor of Anthropology at Kalamazoo College. She is an applied anthropologist whose areas of expertise include action research, community-based research, social change, deliberative democracy, community development, international & intercultural education, experiential learning, and transformative learning. At the core of her teaching, scholarship and service is using action research to catalyze social change. As an action researcher, she works with communities and organizations desiring change and uses participatory research methods to bring a broad range of community members into the change process. She has designed and facilitated workshops and trainings for numerous groups and organizations in the areas of leadership development, transformative learning, and mindset change. This work has led to a variety of publications, including two books: *Tapping the Power of City Hall to Build Equitable Communities* (National League of Cities, 2007) and *Integrating Study Abroad into the Curriculum: Theory and Practice across the Disciplines* (Stylus Press, 2010). [\[back\]](#)