



Green Notes: Weekly tips for reducing your carbon footprint from First United Methodist's Green Team

Climate Change Report Adds Impetus to Our Work

If you've wondered why First Church's Green Team is working so hard to install solar panels on our roof, take a moment to consider [this week's report](#) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Its findings are unequivocal: "The dangers of climate change are mounting so rapidly that they could soon overwhelm the ability of both nature and humanity to adapt, creating a harrowing future in which floods, fires and famine displace millions, species disappear and the planet is irreversibly damaged." [NYT, 2/28/22](#)

Written by 270 researchers from 67 countries, the report is "an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed

climate leadership,” said António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general. For the first time, this IPCC report focuses on the inequities baked into climate change.

“Failure to curb pollution from fossil fuels and other human activities will condemn the world to a future that is both universally dangerous and deeply unequal,” it says. “Low-income countries, which generate only a tiny fraction of global emissions, will experience the vast majority of deaths and displacement from the worst-case warming scenarios. Yet these nations have the least capacity to adapt.” [Washington Post 2/28/22](#)

The time to act was yesterday, the IPCC says. But action today will still have an impact. We must rethink where and how we build homes, generate heat and electricity, grow food, store water, and travel from place to place. The scientists’ call to action speaks directly to our church’s Climate Covenant and its commitment “to elevate climate action, and with it social justice, as a primary focus of our ministry.”

Yes, the report says, the most sweeping and immediate actions must come from national leaders – big-picture changes with big-dollar price tags. But millions of individual and community actions are also essential, and that is where Missoula’s downtown United Methodist Church and our solar panel project enters the picture. We can reduce our electric consumption by up to 90 percent by installing solar panels on the roof of our education annex. That’s something real – a first step we can take as a congregation.

So let’s get busy. We don’t have a day to waste.

March is “Recruit a Friend Month” in our campaign to raise \$20,000 to generate First Church’s electricity using solar power. If you’ve already made a pledge, now’s the time to

spread the good news to your friends, relatives, and Sunday morning Zoom- and pew-mates.

A pledge of \$250 buys one solar panel, but any amount is a significant help in this effort. We are only collecting pledges at this point. We won't request any actual money until the project is at full funding – via pledges and grants – and has final approval from our church's Board of Trustees.

To make your pledge, contact Green Team co-chair Jim Gillison at (406) 546-1359 or by email at james.gillison@msn.com, or talk to any other member of the Green Team, Pastor John or Genevieve in the church office.