

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

Sharing our stories of success

It's easy to feel discouraged, or even hopeless, these days. But let's not forget that there is good work happening all around us. Every day in thousands of ways, our friends, neighbors and fellow citizens are taking action on behalf of our planet.

For the month of September, First United Methodist's Green Team will devote our weekly column to the "green deeds" of our congregation and community. We'll need your help: Call or email Sherry Devlin at 546-1016 or sherrydevlin@gmail.com to share stories of what you're doing – or what a friend or neighbor is doing – to help stop global warming.

Did you recently install solar panels on your home? Maybe you have an idea for a workshop on climate activism. Or need volunteers for a weatherization project. Or a unique approach to recycling or composting. What are the green deeds you've spotted around town?

Did you know that a Missoula man is riding his bicycle 3,000 miles across the U.S. as part of an education effort in advance of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or **COP26**, in Glasgow, Scotland? Dave Morris left town on Wednesday, bound for Washington, D.C., and ultimately Glasgow.

Along the way, he will collect Americans' messages for the world leaders who will convene at COP26, and share information on climate science and solutions.

“I’m hoping that the world can come together to address climate issues in a meaningful way,” Morris told students at Paxson School this week. “All the science is saying where we’re at is not the new normal – this is a new trend, more than anything. So we need to blunt this trend of drought and fire and floods and extinctions.

“Every bit of carbon emission avoided is crucial. We have to do as much as we can as fast as we can. It’s not going to be perfect, just like my ride isn’t perfect – I have to use an airplane. But we gotta do all the things we can to address this.”

Morris also worked with Climate Smart Missoula to launch a new program that allows him – and other local travelers – to purchase carbon offsets to compensate for the emissions created by the air travel he’ll need from D.C. to London. (He’ll then bicycle to Glasgow.) The Missoula Footprint Fund, through the Human Resource Council, does weatherization and home equipment upgrades for low-income residents.

Here is more of Morris’ story on MissoulaCurrent.com:

<https://missoulacurrent.com/outdoors/2021/09/missoula-cyclist-scotland/> .

Now it’s your turn to share, First UMC! Stay tuned for next week’s Green Notes for stories from our own congregation’s climate-change activism.