

Green Notes: Be A Climate Patriot this Fourth of July!

What if we showed our patriotism this Independence Day weekend by committing to take individual climate action?

It's easier than you think. Here's why:

"We need everybody doing everything," said scientist-activist-author Katharine Hayhoe. "There's no 10 Commandments of Climate Action. No 'thou shalt do A, B, C and D.' Just do whatever you can do, and share what you're doing."

In other words, just do something. Anything. And talk about it.

Thirty of the world's top climate scientists put together loads of information and individual climate actions on a website that grew out of the Netflix film, "Don't Look Up." [Here's the link.](#)

You can click on any of their top six suggestions and find detailed information intended to help you pick something to do – and then actually do it! Here's their starter list and the links:

- [Talk about it.](#) Start a conversation about climate change and the steps each one of us can take. First UMC's Green Team tries to do this each week in our Green Notes column and each month in our updates during Sunday worship.
- [Join a climate group.](#) Team up with others and boost your impact. Join First Church's Green Team! We're working on dozens of projects – everything from glass recycling to installing solar panels on the church roof. To join the team, email co-chair Jim Gillison at james.gillison@msn.com.
- [Make your money count.](#) Choose how financial institutions use your money. Your decision on where to keep, save and invest your money is powerful. Your money is not just "sitting in the bank." Any institution where you store money –

pensions, investments and (especially!) your checking account – is investing it on your behalf. Many financial institutions still invest heavily in the fossil fuel sector and in deforestation. But there are also many climate-friendly banks and investment funds. [Here's where to start](#) learning about this significant issue.

- [Keep politicians accountable.](#) Are you in regular contact with our national, state and local elected leaders? Are you demanding specific climate actions? Here's an example: Are Missoula City Council members requiring that renewable energy be incorporated into every subdivision they approve?
- [Spark ideas at work.](#) Inspire your organization to make changes that matter. This action item could also say: Spark ideas at church. How can we reduce [First Church's carbon footprint](#)?
- [Push for climate headlines.](#) Get news outlets to consistently and prominently feature climate news. Here are [some great suggestions](#) for how you can encourage the media to make climate change a front-page story every day.

Happy Independence Day, First Church family and friends! May God bless you and our country.