

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

Wildfire Season Should Be Our Wakeup Call

Climate change is here, and Montana is ablaze. Firefighters working hundreds of starts statewide report historic drought conditions and fire behavior.

Last weekend's blowup at the Boulder 2700 fire on the shore of Flathead Lake is a case in point. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes fire bosses reported temperatures of 90 degrees along the lake after midnight – readings we all know to be far out of the norm. A strong downslope wind carried flames off the Mission Mountains and to the water's edge in minutes, burning at least 25 structures and many families' cherished homes.

Forty miles north of Finley Point, in Kalispell, July's average daily temperature was 71.5 degrees – a whopping 6.6 degrees above normal.

Everywhere you look, there's another shattered record. And the National Interagency Fire Center says the 2021 wildfire season will continue at least through September in the northern Rockies. "We're just at the beginning of this thing," firefighter Rick Trembath told the Montana Free Press. "That's the scary part." (Here's the full report from [MTFP](#).)

The obvious conclusion: It is way past time for our state, nation and worldwide community to take aggressive action to halt the planet's warming. Already, the consequences are dire – and are only going to get worse.

TAKE ACTION TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING! Please join First Church's glass recycling program today by emailing Sherry Devlin at sherrydevlin@gmail.com or calling her at 406-546-1016.