

# EarthCare Connections



Fostering awareness of our spiritual oneness with the earth and promoting active care of creation.

<https://www.unityuwm.org/earthcare>  
[earthcare@unity.org](mailto:earthcare@unity.org)

All humanity lives in a spiritual consciousness that manifests as loving co-existence with all creation and care for our Earth home.



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## Flourishing Ecological Leadership

Twelve participants explored and experienced new ideas during an interactive EarthCare workshop at this year's Unity Conference entitled, *Flourishing Ecological Leadership*. Led by reverends Kathy Harwood Long and Eliasa Sabogal, the group experienced a nurturing and healing connection with nature.



An Eco-Advent program was introduced and planning calendars were given to help people engage with seasonal changes. The discussion highlighted an approach designed to be accessible without requiring new teams, as many churches were struggling with team formation. Instead, the focus was on involving existing groups like youth programs and choirs.

This resonated well with attendees as it will inspire their ministry leaders to engage in ecological leadership on Sundays and beyond.

## Is it too late to do anything about Climate Change?



In her article by the same name, climatologist Katherine Hahoe writes<sup>1</sup>:

Over the past few years, and most recently, climate disasters have soared—while news of solutions remains scarce. And an avalanche of bad news has made us feel helpless, including the recently passed bill to stop many actions previously authorized by Congress to combat climate change. So for many people, it's often easier to simply tune out. An even more dangerous coping mechanism is climate “doomerism”—the absolute conviction that there's nothing left that we can do.

But that's not true. While the challenges before us are serious, **they are not beyond our ability to solve. We still have the power to change the future** and avert the worst. That's why everything we do now matters more than ever.

What we most need are people who, upon recognizing the seriousness of the climate crisis, are **motivated to act—not give up**. And the good news is, there's a lot more of us than you would think. According to People's Climate Vote (<https://peoplesclimate.vote/>), the largest climate surveyor in the world, 80% of people want their country **to do more on climate change**.

As historian Emily Pauley<sup>2</sup> says, **“The world has changed before when people loudly demanded it do so**. The scales tipped relatively quickly on issues such as civil rights, smoking, and apartheid when people rallied together and declared **it was time to change.**”

And as Bill McKibben points out in, **What if we Get it Right**, “There are about 20,000 cities and towns in the U.S. and if you had five people from each town, a core of 100,000 people

who were knowledgeable about this stuff, and willing to go sit through all the endless planning board meetings and public utility commission meetings, and keep putting unrelenting, they could make a huge, huge difference”<sup>3</sup>.

Stated differently, empirical research indicates that mobilization of around \*\*3.5% of the total population\*\* in sustained, nonviolent protest can be an effective threshold for major political change, including removing a dictator, though it is not an absolute guarantee<sup>4</sup>.

Why does this matter? Because our willingness to act is directly related to whether we think that action will make a difference. And whether we think our actions will make a difference depends on whether we think we're acting alone, or whether we realize that many other people feel the same!



Our collective voice has always been the catalyst for action and today, the data is clear: the majority of voices *already* agree. **We just have to start using them**<sup>1</sup>!

So get involved, join other like-minded people or organizations, go to protests, write your legislators and more. The internet is full of options and opportunities. Just remember, you are not alone. We are all in this together!



But here is something NOT to do--Don't let them steal your joy! Take time to appreciate the beauty and miracle of the universe that is all round you, enjoy the company of friends and family, take walks in nature and appreciate every moment of your life! No one can take these things away from you!

<sup>1</sup>Talking Climate, with Katherine Hayhoe, ([talkingclimatenewsletter@172836257.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:talkingclimatenewsletter@172836257.mailchimpapp.com))

<sup>2</sup>Emily Pawley <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/N/bo48885576.html>

<sup>3</sup>What If We Get It Right?: Visions of Climate Futures, by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson  
<https://www.amazon.com/What-If-We-Get-Right/dp/0593229363>,)

<sup>4</sup>Why Civil Resistance Works, The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict, " Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan  
<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Civil-Resistance-Works-Nonviolent/dp/0231156839>

# EarthCare News

## Unity Spiritual Center of Spokane has achieved Level B of the EarthCare Program!

Led by Rich Hutchins in the absence of a permanent minister, and with Susanne Croft heading their Environmental program, Unity Spiritual Center of Spokane has accomplished many things. As an example, for the third Earth Day in a row, they have asked congregants who hadn't done so to sign their EarthCare Covenant poster:



Also, an impressive number of activities have been included in the following categories: an Environmental Audit, Energy/water conservation, Waste Minimization, Conservation of Natural Resources, Recycling, Interdependent Web of Creation and Environmental/animal social justice.

Of particular note is a six week class they offered called, **“Wake up World, through Hope and Understanding,”** based upon a curriculum created by **Dr. Robert & Anita Dygert-earheart Gearheart**.

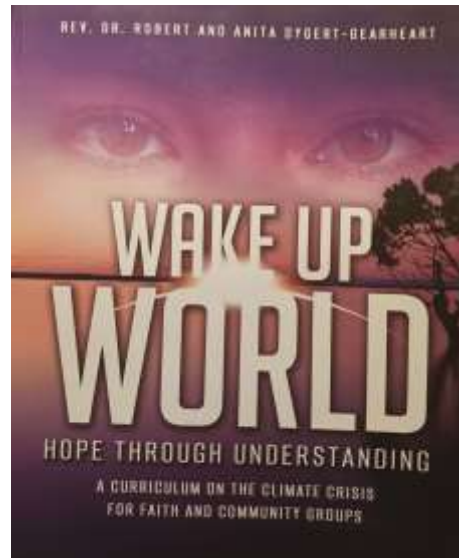
The curriculum is a thoughtful, well organized, comprehensive introduction and explanation of causes, specific sources, effects on specific populations, and happily ongoing efforts to provide solutions to this crisis. Here is the course outline:

1. FAITH, JUSTICE & THE CLIMATE CRISIS
2. WHERE ARE WE—HOW DID WE GET HERE?
3. CLIMATE CRISIS IN OUR DAILY LIVES
4. CLIMATE & CREATION JUSTICE
5. WHO IS GOING TO SAVE US?
6. WHAT WE CAN DO WITH HOPE & ACTION

The course is a valuable resource for everyone to wake up to what's happening, to see our part in that and what we can do differently, to have the courage to face the discouraging



facts of the crisis and develop the consciousness and willingness that empowers us to participate in solutions.



As one participant said, “I encourage everyone to take this course. It becomes an ongoing inner process. What I learned continues to develop in my life and affect the choices I make every day.”

**Congratulations Unity Spiritual Center of Spokane for your commitment to the environment and making a better world for all of us!**

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**SACRED ECOLOGY**  
**For the SEASON OF LIGHTS**



**Advent      Christmas      Epiphany**

**Design your ministry's holiday season**

**With KATHY HARWOOD LONG**

**Annual Webinars**  
**September 16, 3 PM EASTERN**  
**October 8, 7 PM EASTERN**

**[kathyharwoodlong@gmail.com](mailto:kathyharwoodlong@gmail.com)**

# Mentoring/Collaboration Calls

With Mary Gerken ([agreatpickle.com](http://agreatpickle.com)).



Thanks to Mary, participation in these calls continues to grow. Here are highlights from a recent meeting.

They may give you some ideas as well!

- Mary, St Pete, FL - “Chit, Chat & Chew,” a field trip to St Pete Youth Farm where youth are mentored to “run the farm,” grow veggies, fruit trees, form community, raising tilapia, catch rain water, & make/sell kale pesto.
- Eva, Vero Beach, FL - Huge community Earth Day event—a Family Fest with her team, a local school, tents with other organizations.
- Becky, Minneapolis - Group cleanup partnered with **One Good Deed**; participated with the **Elder Climate Action** group to learn how to discuss with people who have differing ideas; field trip at new recycling facility; various walks to near Indian mounds, labyrinth walk & forest bathing gatherings to help people with their stress.
- Marge, Lynchburg, VA-Earth Day events: table of, “**This**” not “**That**,” continue to collect trash and read book entitled, *Earth Prayers*, by Elizabeth Roberts.
- Ann, Charleston, SC - EarthCare banner, *Prayers for the Earth* and readings; planted a white fringe tree with blessings & songs, battery recycling.
- Penny, Denver- working with book - *Think Indigenous* by Doug Goodfeather.
- Lori, Philly - Wants to use Unity & principles learned from a spiritually in Nature group call “**SING.**”
- Linda, Detroit- Highly recommended [www.greensteps.earth](http://www.greensteps.earth) Earth Month; Suggested book, *Living without Plastics*.
- Sandi, Santa Fe - Showed *Water is Love: Ripples of Regeneration*.

## EarthCare Facebook Page

Beth Remmes administers EarthCare’s Facebook Page. Over 1500 followers have discovered the timely resources and interchange of ideas it contains. To join them, go to:

[www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare](https://www.facebook.com/UnityEarthCare)



# Subtle Activism

In the past, I've given readers a number of ways in which people can become activated citizens to promote care for the environment and initiate social justice. But did you know you can also contribute to making a difference by simply by holding an intention. It's called Subtle Activism.

Subtle Activism is an activity of consciousness or spirit such as prayer, meditation, or ecstatic dance, intended to support collective healing and social change. Subtle Activism grows from the idea that there are many effective ways - some newly emerging, many as old as humanity - to positively influence social change other than overt political action.

Subtle Activism is motivated by universal values such as love, compassion and reverence for the Earth. Its goal is to encourage us to extend our healing focus beyond our local family to our greater community<sup>1</sup>.

Projects such as, "The Global Consciousness Project"<sup>2</sup> and "The Maharishi Effect," a meditation project led by Garland Landriff III that reduced crime by 23% in Washington, DC", in 1993,<sup>3</sup> have shown that as little as 1% of a population can identify and affect a spectrum of social action through focused consciousness or spirit. Jung called this, the Collective Unconscious<sup>4</sup>.

Subtle Activism expounds upon Unity's Third Principle: *Thoughts are Creative. The power of thought shapes our experiences. Our thoughts and beliefs have a direct impact on our lives, attracting circumstances and events based on our mental state.*

This is yet another example of the *Power of One*. It starts in your own mind and is something you can do anytime, anywhere. Try it!

<sup>1</sup>David Nicol: Subtle Activism: Applying Spiritual Power for Social Change [https://gaiafield.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Tikkun\\_Current\\_Thinking\\_-\\_Subtle\\_Activism\\_Applying\\_Spiritual\\_Power\\_for\\_Social\\_Change.pdf](https://gaiafield.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Tikkun_Current_Thinking_-_Subtle_Activism_Applying_Spiritual_Power_for_Social_Change.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Global Consciousness Project; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global\\_Consciousness\\_Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Consciousness_Project)

<sup>3</sup>Theory and research on conflict resolution through the Maharishi effect. <https://research.miu.edu/maharishi-effect/theory-and-research-on-conflict-resolution>

<sup>4</sup>Collective Unconscious, Carl Jung; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective\\_unconscious](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_unconscious)



Mike McCord  
Editor