

Caring for God's Earth: a hopeful response to the climate crisis

WORKSHOP OPTIONS



11:00 a.m. workshops

Ears to Hear: Talking to Humans about the Climate thing

Jerry Lee Miller

Is climate change really a slow moving catastrophe? If unchecked, will climate change eventually bring disastrous consequences to life on this planet? Hard to imagine isn't it? Psychological and cultural factors, along with ideology and a well funded disinformation campaign prevent many from believing there is a major problem. These same factors hinder most others from mobilizing to take urgently needed actions. Connecting at the values level is the goal whether you're talking to someone who's convinced its all a hoax or to one who knows we need to do something but doesn't know what. "Scientific data, although undoubtedly vital for alerting our rational brain to an existence of a threat, does not galvanize our emotion brain into action." George Marshall, "Don't Even Think About It".

Current & future impacts of climate change

Keith Miller

The science of climate change is well-established and affirmed by the global scientific community. Keith will briefly summarize the wide range of currently occurring impacts of climate change from local to global scale, and the communities most impacted.

Congregation's Care of Local Habitat

Linda Ferich

As a certified Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional and student of Mt Cuba Center's Ecological Gardening program, Linda Ferich is active with Sacred Grounds, a National Wildlife Federation Garden for Wildlife Program to inspire churches to transform their properties to benefit the earth. Ferich will share a video and presentation on how congregations can mobilize people to shift our communities' landscape to better protect the natural world. In light of increasing threats to the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Sacred Grounds provides concrete tools for increasing native plant habitats/gardens. Community-of-faith leaders are uniquely positioned to inspire their congregation members, neighboring congregations, and the greater interfaith community to advance stewardship practices.

3:00 p.m. workshops

Beyond Genesis: Creation throughout the Bible

Doug Kaufman

Most creation teaching in the Bible has focused on Genesis 1-2. We will explore the creation stories of Psalms and Job, as well as that found in the gospels and epistles. What do these Scriptures teach about how humans relate to God and the rest of creation?

Assessing and making a congregational plan for carbon reduction

Eric Sauder, PA Power & Light

Katie Isaac, Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions

Eric Sauder and Katie Isaac will present assessment and action plans available to help congregations plan for carbon reduction. They will present options for a wide variety of congregational action using resources developed for communities of faith.

Advocacy for Climate Policy

Tammy Alexander, MCC

Rev. Sandy Strause, PA Council of Churches

Learn about current advocacy efforts at the state (Pennsylvania) and national levels and how you and your faith community can join in the push for sustainable climate policy. Tammy Alexander is Senior Legislative Associate for Domestic Affairs at the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office. Rev. Sandy Strauss is Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.