

Dear Friends,

With close to 400 people showing up for the Earth Day Fair last Saturday, we can fairly safely say that our county and community is concerned about the Global Climate Change Crisis. There was good food, speakers, information, conversations, games, music, and bridge building. I watched a presentation by Leah Schade, who is a leader of my Eco-Preacher Cohort. She shared a Pew Study that 92% of highly religious people think it is humans' job to care for the earth, but only 42% see climate change as a serious problem. 70% of respondents say that they are not hearing about climate change during worship services. Only 21% say that they have conversations about climate change in their churches.

I am very proud of our church in all that we are doing and working on. Steve Aldrich said during the Fair that he thinks everyone he sees on Sunday was there. He was right, with the exception of a person or two, we did show up and most were volunteering or leading in some manner. We are trying to broaden the conversation with other bodies of faith in our county. We are hitting some snags as there is a lot of pastoral leadership changes happening, so it is hard to communicate and gather with them right now. Hopefully it will soon improve.

You can check out our national churches, United Church of Christ, gathering that happened in the Twin Cities, "What is Possible? Earth Day Stories of Hope" by clicking [HERE](#). All of these things are good stuff and moving us, as humans, toward a story and world view that all are related, the world is intimately connected, and it is time to treat humans, animals, life, and the planet itself with respect, compassion, and care.

Peace