

April 15, 2020

PUMC Weekly Update

Greetings, Friends and Members of Petaluma United Methodist Church
Bringing you news & updates, worship resources, and connections with each other!



Staying Connected...

April 19th is our Earth Day Sunday celebration, so this week's update will highlight God's glorious Creation, remembering April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day!

I hope this provides useful information, as well as some fun for you as we connect with each other in our "sheltering in place" reality of this time. Please also make use of the *Worship Resources* on the church website.

Even if we can't worship together in the church sanctuary, you're invited to gather together virtually from the sanctuary of your home ...
same time, same place...

Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

[Visit our Website](#)



CELEBRATE EARTH SUNDAY
April 19th



**Hand-made Masks -
Support PUMC**

with the Petaluma United
Methodist online Community

www.petalumaumc.org

Other links to explore for Earth
Day and Creation-Care Ministries:

WWW.CREATIONJUSTICE.ORG

www.umcjustice.org

Sonoma County is now requiring
masks to be worn if you need to be
out and about.

If you need a mask or just want to
have a special mask for the occasion
(see picture above :-)) Nora Tallent
can sew masks for you.

**She is asking \$10/per mask and is
donating all proceeds to the
church.**

Contact the church office if you would
like to order one or many! Get them
while materials last...

Articles to ponder... and wonder...

I have always been a fan of magazines,
and I'm always on the lookout for good
ones; magazines with excellent,
provocative writing and superb visuals.

One I highly recommend is ***Emergence
Magazine*** -- a magazine dedicated to
Ecology, Culture, and Spirituality.

Emergence also has an online presence,
posting reflections, poems, and stories.
Most recently, they shared:
"During this pandemic, we are publishing
new content that explores the deeper
themes and questions emerging at this
time. These stories reveal new
opportunities to deeply connect with each
other and the living world—in the midst of
this crisis and beyond."

Here is just one from the latest posting:

In the Ground of Our Unknowing
by David Abram

<https://emergencemagazine.org/story/our-unknowing/>

Facing the paradoxes and ambiguities
enmeshed with the COVID-19 pandemic,
author and eco-philosopher David Abram
finds beauty in the midst of shuddering
terror. As we're isolated in this uncertain
time, he writes, we can turn to the more-
than-human world to empower our
empathy for each other.



Wisdom from the Mouths of Children

"...we act as if we have all the time we
want and all the solutions. I'm only a child
and I don't have all the solutions. I don't —
I want you to realize, neither do you... You
don't know how to bring the salmon back
up in a dead stream. You don't know how
to bring back an animal now extinct. And
you can't bring back the forests that once
grew where there is now a desert. If you
don't know how to fix it, please stop
breaking it."

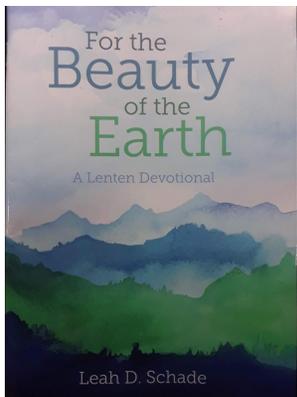
Severn Suzuki, child speaker at 1992 at
Rio de Janeiro United Nations Conference
on Environment and Development

Possibilities for church grounds...

PUMC Earth Day Task Force did some

brainstorming and came up with a few possibilities for us to consider in how we might best steward our church property.

- Re-landscape the edge of the property on the 5th St side. We could either do some easy-to-maintain, low-water plants or a community garden.
- Ask Daily Acts to evaluate whether our property can benefit from rain barrels. Recruit youth to paint them. Assuming one or more barrels would be visible from the street, they would be a witness to the community, and maybe an inspiration to others to do likewise.



Readings from *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Our Lenten Devotional was filled with material that helped us heed this question posed in the introduction: "If Jesus heeded Earth's teachings and learned the lessons of God's ways from his time spent in nature, shouldn't we afford Earth and Creation the same status as sacred teacher?" Here are a few selected passages....

Learning from Trees (read Mark 13:28-31)

"Nearly every religion uses the image of the tree to convey the mysterious linkage between sky and earth, the realm of the divine and the realm of humanity. ...The tree embodies the

mysterious interchange of birth, growth, death, and new life; of soil, water, air, and sunlight; of reaching into the depths while also rising toward the heights.

"As we witness the ongoing and accelerating degradation of the planetary life-systems that support trees - along with monarch butterflies, spade-footed toads, dolphins, human beings, and everything else - these great woody plants suggest what we need to do in this perilous time. *Homo religiosus* must reach deep into our soil of scriptural and spiritual wisdom in order to draw up the life-giving water and nutrients that can sustain the trunk, branches, and leaves of the whole "family tree" that makes its home on Earth" (page 25).

Setting Creation Free from the Bondage to Decay (Read Romans 8:18-25)

"Paul says that Creation "waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God." In what ways will Creation benefit when we follow Jesus' teachings and care for the most vulnerable? Paul explains that Creation is in "bondage to decay," and "groaning in labor pains." When we see oceans choked with islands of plastic trash, which is breaking down into dangerous microplastics that end up in our food supply, we know that the redemption of our bodies is directly linked to the redemption of Earth's body" (page 40).

The Fierce Urgency of Now

[VISIT EARTH DAY SUNDAY
TOOLKIT PAGE](#)

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding



conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 2020, **Creation Justice Ministries'** theme is **The Fierce Urgency of Now**. We know we have ten years to take action to avert the most catastrophic damage to the life-sustaining climate God blessed us with, and entrusted to our care. Every action we take now matters.

Together, we foster eco-justice transformations, respond to Christ's call to right relationship with creation, and equip our communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

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