



# MASSACHUSETTS Interfaith Power & Light

PRAY | ACT | MOBILIZE

FAITH IN ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

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June 2022

**THIS IS A LONG ISSUE!**  
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**Check at the end to see if you need to click to "view entire message"**

Dear friends,

## In This Issue

*From our Executive  
Director*

## Pray

*Climate Change as  
Spiritual Practice*

*A Day of Mindfulness  
for Mother Earth*

*Summer Solstice  
Retreat*

*Bring MassIPL into  
your Congregation!*

## Act

*Summer Solstice  
Solar Webinar*

*Introducing our  
Summer Intern*

## Mobilize

*Faithful Voter  
Reflection Guide*

*SEC Comment  
Period Extended*

*Mass Power Forward*

*Save MA Forests!*

*Federal Update*

As spring gives way to summer, the month ahead promises beautiful weather ... along with predictions of above-normal heat and above-average hurricane activity on the Atlantic seaboard. Stark reminders that climate change is here, impacting our lives and that of our nearby and far-away neighbors. Every day. In ways both profound and subtle.

Our coalition partner, Rev. Vernon Walker, Senior Program Manager at CREW (Communities Responding to Extreme Weather), put it this way in recent [WBUR](#) and [Boston Globe](#) articles, "heat waves are the deadliest form of extreme weather, especially for poorer people, communities of color, and others who have fewer resources to stay cool when they strike. We should treat heat with the seriousness that it deserves."

As people of faith, we are called to respond to the most pressing needs of those impacted in our communities, especially in the wake of natural disasters and extreme weather events. It turns out that participating in the democratic process is one of the best ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Researchers recently studied the 2019 Canadian elections, where parties were clearly divided on climate, to estimate the greenhouse gas reduction implications of voting and campaign donations. This conclusion surprised me:

***emissions reduction linked to voting "is higher than most individual lifestyle decisions that the average person has the opportunity to make," ...***

***If voting is comparable to lifestyle choices, "then we should regard the responsibility of voting as meriting the same level of moral consideration."***

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-23/voting-for-climate-policies-cuts-more-carbon-than-going-car-free>

MassIPL encourages people of all faiths and political affiliations to vote their values and fiercely advocate for the protection and preservation of Creation. As state and federal elected officials near their session's end, it's important to stay engaged and play your position!! Vote during elections. Advocate fiercely. We share here several timely actions with the potential for long-lasting impact, from calling for broad-based climate legislation

## Inspiration

National Ocean Month  
Featured poems by  
Mary Oliver and  
Amanda Gorman

and advocating for an act that protects our forested ecosystems and their carbon sinking gifts, to involving your congregation in voter registration or turnout campaigns. What you and I do matters!

Challenging times like these remind us of the importance of rest and keeping calm and spiritually grounded. Only by cultivating our own spiritual resilience can we sustain our activism and ultimately help build our community's resilience. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to do so this month.

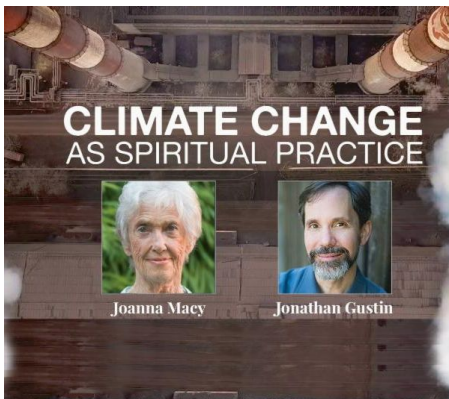
May your days and the month be filled with wonder, perseverance and grace,



Rev. Cindy Davidson

## Pray

Connect environmental justice to your faith tradition through prayer, worship, and reflection



### Climate Change as Spiritual Practice: Transforming Anxiety into Empowerment

**NOTE DATE CHANGE: Tuesday, June 14:**  
3:00 - 5:00 pm - Online (free)

Join **Joanna Macy**, author of *Active Hope*, and **Jonathan Gustin**, the founder of Purpose Guides Institute, to discover your authentic place in the world and to offer your soul-level purpose as a gift of service to life in this time.

Can't make it? Sign up for free and receive a recording.

Learn more and register below:

Register for Climate Change as Spiritual  
Practice

### What Can I Do for Mother Earth? Love, Heal, Act: A Day of Mindfulness for Mother Earth

Chua Viet Nam, 68 Bradeen St, Boston, MA  
02131 [\[MAP\]](#)

**Saturday, June 21: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm Eastern**

Led by John Bell, ordained dharma teacher in **Thich Nhat Hanh's Order of Interbeing** and cofounder of the **Earth Holder Community**.

Event organized by **Boston Old Path Sangha** (Peaceful Songbird Hamlet)

Learn more and register below:



Register for A Day of Mindfulness for Mother Earth



**Rooted and rising in love:  
A Summer Solstice in-person retreat**

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

with **Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**  
Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center in  
North Andover

**Tuesday, June 21: 9:00 - 3:30 pm**  
**Register by June 10**

Celebrate the beginning of summer while reflecting on your sources of courage and hope. Explore a framework for the heart to help become a compassionate, prophetic leader through a mixture of presentations, small group conversations, individual reflection and free time for contemplative wandering and prayer. Retreat site includes a lake, woods, hiking trails, outdoor labyrinth and chapel! \$80 fee includes lunch - financial assistance available. *(Stay overnight for an extra charge by contacting Guest Services: Lee O'Brien @ [Lee.O'Brien@rollingridge.org](mailto:Lee.O'Brien@rollingridge.org)).*

**Online registration, below, with both online and by mail options for payment.**

Register online by June 10 for the Summer Solstice retreat

**Bring MassIPL into your Congregation!**

**IN THE PULPIT:**

A special thank you to First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, Christ Church United in Lowell, and Dennis Union Church for hosting MassIPL guest preachers.

**AS THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR GENEROSITY:**

Deep gratitude to the following faith communities for their financial support:

## A special collection from members of First Parish (UU) and First Congregational church, both in Milton, at their joint "United Sunday" service.

## A shared plate collection from the First Unitarian Society of Winchester, at the recommendation of their Social Action and Outreach Committee.

***Thank you for your generosity and support of MassIPL!***

Planning for the year ahead?

Request a guest preacher or speaker for your worship service, an after-service meeting, or other environmental stewardship event!

Contact Rev. Cindy Davidson at [cdauidson@massipl.org](mailto:cdauidson@massipl.org)

# Act

*Lower the carbon emissions of your house of worship and your home*



## IPL's Summer Solstice Webinar Calling Green Teams, Building Committees & more!

**Tuesday, June 21: 4:00 - 5:00 pm**

Join Jerry Bernstein, national IPL's special projects manager, and guests from the three latest Solar Certified Cool Congregations in Taftsville, VT, Kalamazoo, MI, and Burke, VA to learn how they got started and overcame challenges to **successfully cut their energy use through energy efficiency upgrades and solar installations**. Jerry will also share an overview on various methods congregations use to finance solar based on [IPL's free Solar Financing Guide](#) he authored, based on his decades-long experience with renewable energy.

**Can't make it? Register below and receive the recording afterwards.**

Register here for the Summer Solstice  
Webinar.



## Welcome Sophia Gosselin-Smoske, Summer Intern

We are excited that Sophia will be joining MassIPL for the summer as a Massachusetts Clean Energy Center intern. She will be working on two projects: calculating the overall carbon emissions of all houses of worship in Massachusetts and outreach for our Solar Equity Program bringing solar to houses of worship in environmental justice communities.

Sophia is a rising junior at Endicott College, majoring in environmental science with a minor in political science. As an intern in the College's Sustainability Office, she conducted a greenhouse gas inventory for the College and researched carbon offsets. Her studies have covered the gamut of chemistry, biology, ecology and environmental law and politics.

We are looking forward to her first day on June 15!

# Mobilize

*Promote policies for a more just and sustainable world*



**FAITH CLIMATE  
JUSTICE VOTER**

## Faithful Voter Reflection Guide Launch National Interfaith Power and Light event

**June 9, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. ONLINE (free)**

The Climate Reality Project's William J. Barber III and other IPL partners join national IPL's President, Susan Hendershot, to discuss the guide's key themes and share how you can use it this year. The guide discusses many of

the defining moral issues of our time that are on the ballot: faltering democratic institutions, too much wealth in the hands of a few, damage to the climate, cruel immigration policies that tear families apart, mass incarceration that devastates communities of color, and threats to global

public health and security. As people of faith and conscience across the country, we believe elections are a referendum on the values that will shape our future. Voting is how we create a society based on our shared values.

Printed voter guides and digital versions available for download soon.

Register for the Faith Climate Justice Voter  
webinar



### Comment Period extended to June 17, 2022: Securities and Exchange Commission proposed rules on climate-related disclosures

Climate change is devastating Earth's life support systems, harming our communities, and putting future generations at risk. Climate-induced historic wildfires, flooding, and record-breaking extreme weather have also caused over \$145 billion worth of damage in the U.S. in the last year alone.

The SEC is proposing rulemaking to enhance and standardize climate-related disclosures so investors can be aware of how companies are impacted by the financial risks of climate change when making decisions about their portfolios.

Tell the SEC why you support this rule! And why transparency and considering climate risks in business and investments decisions needs to be a moral imperative.

Submit your comment here by June  
17

### All out for climate action! With Mass Power Forward

Mass Action: June 21, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
At 30 days out from the end of the session



The Massachusetts legislative session is ending on July 31st, and **the legislature has yet to pass key bills** that the climate movement has been pushing for: cleaning up our energy grid, building retrofits, green jobs, and more. The Senate omnibus bill is now going into a conference committee that will combine it with the House offshore wind bill, for a final version that will be put to the whole legislature. But-- neither bill goes nearly far enough or fast enough! We need a stronger final bill!

In response, the broad environmental coalition **Mass Power Forward is holding two mass actions at the State House** (along with virtual components for those who can't make it in person) to demand that the legislature pass the bills our movement has been calling for. Join us at the State House to make your voice heard now! Save the dates: June 21 and July 11.

### ### ACTION ALERT ###

Urge your state legislators to speak with the conference committee members and request that the final climate bill include the provisions in Sections 22-30 of S.2842 removing woody biomass subsidies from the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS).

**Conference committee members include:  
Representatives Jeff Roy, Tackey Chan, and Brad Jones  
Senators Mike Barrett, Cynthia Creem, and Bruce Tarr  
They have until the end of July to negotiate a climate package and move it to  
the floor of both chambers for a vote**

**If you are a constituent of one of the conference committee members,  
definitely let them know that this remains a priority for you!**

June 21 Mass Action LIVESTREAM on Facebook begins here at 4  
pm

**Save Massachusetts State Forests!  
H.4784 - An Act Relative to Forest  
Protection**

**Expand and make forest reserves  
permanent, preserve biodiversity**

Our coalition partner, Save Massachusetts Forests, reports their forest bills were moved out of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (ENRA) on May 12th, and have been sent to House Ways and Means in a redrafted bill which includes six other bills, [H.4784 - An Act Relative to Forest Protection](#)



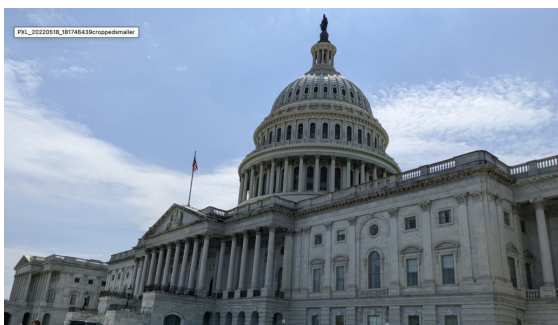
The bill directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to make reserves permanent, expand reserves, codify committees to oversee forest management, declare a DCR moratorium on forest management activity, potentially until June 30, 2023, and update the Landscapes Designations. The bill emphasizes transparency, public participation, and a DCR policy review every five years. It does not affect Fish and Game wildlife management areas.

**### ACTION ALERT ###**

**Contact MA House Ways and Means Committee Chair Michlewitz,  
Vice Chair Ferrante, Assistant Vice Chair Donato, and  
other members of the Committee listed here to urge passage of H.4784.**

**If you are in the districts of Senator Adam Hinds, Representative Natalie Blais, or Representative Lindsay Sabdosa, please call or write to them to ask them to assist in getting this bill passed because they have bills that they sponsored that are incorporated into H.4784.**

**Find your representative here: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>**



**FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE:  
It's time to reach out across state lines!**

The window for significant climate legislation is closing quickly. Madison Mayhew, IPL's Federal Policy Advocate in Washington, DC, confirms bipartisan discussions and negotiations on the Reconciliation package are continuing, with Senators Manchin and Schumer in dialogue. Additionally, Senate Finance

Committee Staff are now involved with negotiations and working out any conflicts with the House Ways and Means Committee. There is a strong sense that an announcement of a framework for the bill is growing closer. **Now is the time to keep pushing Senators to get the bill over the finish line!**

MassIPL is not alone in our concern that if we miss this opportunity, it may be years before national climate measures are enacted should the November elections result in fewer climate-friendly legislators. Massachusetts residents can applaud Senators Markey and Warren for their climate leadership, yes. AND we must each reach out to friends, family and colleagues in states whose support is critical to enacting forward-looking climate policies.

### ### ACTION ALERT ###

**Who do you know in Virginia, Arizona, Alaska, and Maine?**

**These are particularly important states right now.**

**Please reach out. Ask them to urge their Senators to take climate action now!**

National IPL has crafted this sample email you can share with others to help them contact their members of Congress: [\*Tell Your Senators Climate Can't Wait!\*](#)

## Inspiration

### June is National Ocean Month!

*I Go Down To The Shore, by Mary Oliver*

*I go down to the shore in the morning  
and depending on the hour the waves  
are rolling in or moving out,  
and I say, oh, I am miserable,  
what shall—  
what should I do? And the sea says  
in its lovely voice:  
Excuse me, I have work to do.*



And even more poetry!

[Click here](#) to watch Amanda Gorman's 2020 poem, "Ode to our Ocean."  
2:44 video, captioned and suitable for streaming, sharing and discussion!

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