



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

**Earth Day Sunday & Climate Justice Month 2018
Program Resources**





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Earth Day Sunday & Climate Justice Month

Unitarian Universalists observe Earth Day (April 22nd) by honoring the interdependent web of life through worship, reflection, and events that educate, foster connection with the Earth, and create change in our communities and larger world. Earth Day is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and recommit to environmental justice.

“Climate Justice Month” is a framework to support congregations and communities that want to focus on Earth Justice for a whole month instead of just one Sunday.

This year, UU Ministry for Earth has chosen to focus on the theme of **Justice for #Each Generation** for Earth Day and Climate Justice Month.

The **Justice for #EachGeneration** Campaign

In December 2017, the UU Ministry for Earth and UU Young Adults for Climate Justice joined as co-sponsors of a campaign started by the United Church of Christ Climate Justice Council:

Justice for #EachGeneration: A Call for More Than a Thousand Sermons in Solidarity with the Youth Awakening a Nation to Climate Action

In particular, this is calling for solidarity with the 21 youth that have filed a constitutional lawsuit against the United States president and federal government for failure to meaningfully address climate change (*Juliana vs US*).

About Juliana vs US

“Exercising my ‘reasoned judgment,’ I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society.”

- U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken

The *Juliana vs US* lawsuit was filed in September of 2015, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, asserting that “through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.”

Read more: <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/us/federal-lawsuit/>

About the Youth: <https://www.ourchildrenstrust.org/federal-plaintiffs/>

Multiple news sources have reported that [Levi Draheim](#), the youngest *Juliana vs U.S.* plaintiff, attends a UU congregation with his mother near their home in Florida.

1,000 Sermons in Solidarity

The *Justice for #EachGeneration* campaign is a calling for 1,000 sermons in solidarity with the *Juliana vs US* youth, cumulatively across many faiths. UU Ministry for Earth’s goal is to have **at least 100 UU sermons** in solidarity with the *Juliana vs US* youth for Earth Day Sunday. Will your congregation be one of them?

Ask Youth and Young Adults to Lead

The UU Young Adults for Climate Justice (UUYACJ) started a campaign in 2014 to deliver 100 worship services about climate justice with young adult leadership, and they are just 46 worship services away from meeting their

goal! Help UUYACJ cross the finish line by inviting young adults to speak &/or help plan the Earth Day Sunday service at your congregation.

[Justice for #EachGeneration Campaign Graphics](#)



UU Ministry for Earth commissioned artist Rose Gallogly to design images expressing the Justice for #EachGeneration theme for our Earth Day Sunday and Climate Justice Month programs. We are sharing them under a Creative Commons -

[Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC 4.0\) License](#) (Attribute to "UU Ministry for Earth & Artist Rose Gallogly").

[View and download them here.](#)

The Principle of Intergenerational Equity

The theme of *Justice for #EachGeneration* evokes the concept of Intergenerational Equity --- a key concept of sustainability and sustainable development.

These written excerpts from Edith Brown Weiss help provide a definition and framework for intergenerational equity:

Source: "Intergenerational equity: a legal framework for global environmental change" - Chapter 12 in *Environmental change and international law: New challenges and dimensions* - Tokyo: United Nations University Press, 1992, adapted from E. Brown Weiss, *In Fairness to Future Generations: International Law, Common Patrimony, and Intergenerational Equity* (Transnational/United Nations University, 1989) and E. Brown Weiss, "Our Rights and Obligations to Future Generations for the Environment," 84 *American Journal of International Law*, 198 (1990). ([DOWNLOAD](#))

"Sustainability is possible only if we look at the Earth and its resources not only as an investment opportunity but as a trust, passed to us by our ancestors, to be enjoyed and passed on to our descendants for their use.

Such a "planetary trust" conveys to us both rights and responsibilities. Most importantly, it implies that future generations too have rights - although to be sure, these rights have meaning only if we the living respect them and if this respect transcends the differences among countries, religions, and cultures." (p.6)

"...we, the human species, hold the natural environment of our planet in common with all members of our species: past generations, the present generation, and future generations. As members of the present generation, we hold the Earth in trust for future generations. At the same time, we are beneficiaries entitled to use and benefit from it." (p. 6)

"The purpose of human society must be to realize and protect the welfare and well-being of every generation, in relation to the natural system, of which it is a part. This requires sustaining the robustness of the planet: the life-support systems and the ecological processes and environmental conditions necessary for a healthy and decent human environment." (p.6)

"Three principles form the basis of intergenerational equity. First, each generation should be required to conserve the diversity of the natural and cultural resource base, so that it does not unduly restrict the options available to future generations in solving their problems and satisfying their own values, and should also be entitled to diversity comparable to that enjoyed by previous generations. This principle is called "conservation of options." Second, each generation should be required to maintain the quality of the planet so that it is passed on in no worse condition than that in which it was received, and should also be entitled to planetary quality comparable to that enjoyed by previous generations. This is the principle of "conservation of quality." Third, each generation should provide its members with equitable rights of access to the legacy of past generations and should conserve this access for future generations. This is the principle of "conservation of access." (p.9)



Plan Your Earth Day Sunday Worship!

Our Earth Day 2018 goal is to have **at least 100 UU sermons** in solidarity with the *Juliana vs US* youth for Earth Day Sunday this year. Please participate!

1. **Create a Worship Planning Team!** Share this packet with your congregation's worship planning team, minister, religious education leaders, climate action and Green Sanctuary teams, youth and young adult groups, etc. Form a planning team of folks who are interested in digging into this topic. **Invite kids, youth, and young adults to help lead!** What better way to hold a worship service about intergenerational equity than in a multi-generational way?
2. **Get on the Map!** Let UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) know that you are planning a service for Earth Day: <http://bit.ly/EarthDayUU2018>

*Don't wait until you have every last detail figured out to sign up!
Everyone who RSVPs will be entered into a raffle for prizes and notified
when there are new resource updates from UUMFE.*

3. **Plan your Earth Day Sunday!** UU Ministry for Earth has a lot of resource recommendations for you, but also celebrates and looks forward to seeing the creative ceremonies that UU congregations will develop!
4. **Make it happen!** Have a wonderful Earth Day Sunday. Try to have a point person to help document beautiful moments with photos or a recording!
5. **Celebrate and share your story!** Take time to reflect and celebrate with your collaborators! Share stories, photos, and reflections with UU Ministry for Earth @ office@uuministryforearth.org. Use the hashtag #EachGeneration when sharing on social media.



Worship Resources

Order of Service

UU Ministry for Earth invites you to use our custom Earth Day **Order of Service covers** --- or you can design your own using the Justice for #EachGeneration **graphics** we are offering.

Special Collections

Please take a special collection for the UU Ministry for Earth and UU Young Adults for Climate Justice if possible! Our half-page Order of Service **insert (PDF)** is a great resource for this. We also have a 1-minute **fundraising video** for special collections to support the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice. Contact office@uuministryforearth.org for questions about special collections.

Story for All Ages Mini-Play About the *Juliana vs U.S. Lawsuit*

Share the story of the *Juliana vs U.S.* lawsuit with this **mini-play** developed by Aly Tharp, Ayla Halberstadt, and the 4-6th graders at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon

The Climate Ribbon

The **Climate Ribbon** is an arts ritual to grieve what each of us stands to lose to Climate Chaos, and affirm our solidarity as we unite to fight against it. This could be done as a ceremony during a worship service. It is appropriate for all ages. UU Ministry for Earth Program Director, Aly Tharp, is collecting climate ribbons from UU ceremonies for a community art project: email alytharp@uuministryforearth.org to make arrangements.

Coming Soon! A featured sermon from Rev. Susan Ritchie , PhD (Minister at North UU Congregation, Lewis Center, Ohio, and Director of the UU House of Studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio).

Congregational Eco-Hero Award

UUMFE encourages congregations to present one or more community members with an **Eco-Hero Award** during the worship service on Earth Day Sunday, to foster community

celebration and express gratitude for their dedication to building a just and sustainable world. Consider honoring a child, youth, or young adult in your community as an eco-hero this year.

Multi-Generational Worship Resources

- There's a great **collection** of resources & recommendations on the UUA website
- **Tips for Youth Sunday** - A public Google document about best practices and good ideas for Unitarian Universalist congregations who ask their high school youth group to lead a Sunday worship service, maintained by the UUA Youth and Young Adult Office
- **UUMFE Worship Resources** online include a number of good resources to pull from

Inspiration for Climate Justice Month Programming

Host a Screening of *THE RELUCTANT RADICAL*

THE RELUCTANT RADICAL features activist Ken Ward as he confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. Ken breaks the law as a last resort and with great trepidation, to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations.

UU Ministry for Earth is excited to help bring this important film to our community. UU congregations can get a 20% DISCOUNT on community screenings fees! Use coupon code "UU_20%_OFF" when you **order a screening kit**. Please consider taking a special collection for the UU Ministry for Earth &/or the [Climate Disobedience Legal Fund](#) at your screening.

The Seventh Generation

This interactive activity by Joanna Macy could be done together by your climate action team or worship planning team for inspiration and grounding in the Justice for #EachGeneration theme, or it could be an activity done together in a class or after a traditional worship service. It could perhaps even be adapted for use in an alternative worship setting. It would help participants to also provide more grounding in Joanna Macy's framework of the [Great Turning](#).



Conceivable Future Events

Conceivable Future is a grassroots women-led network bringing awareness to the threat climate change poses to reproductive justice, and demanding an end to US fossil fuel subsidies. They organize and support groups to organize house parties where people share food, discuss how the climate crisis is shaping their intimate decisions about childbearing and/or parenting, and record personal video, audio, & written testimonies on this subject.

Connect with UUCAN &/or YouCAN!

UUCAN stands for **Unitarian Universalist Climate Action Network**:

Does your congregation have a registered Climate Action Team yet? Climate Justice Month is the perfect time to start one or recruit new members! **Register** your Climate Action Team with the UUMFE and UUA to join the network --- or join as an individual!

YouCAN (**Youth Climate Action Now**) is a program developed by Our Children's Trust that trains and supports youth, their families, and other supporters to engage in civic participation with local government to advocate for binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and climate recovery planning in line with the best available science.

*Thank you for reading and for partnering with UU
Ministry for Earth for a fantastic Earth Day Sunday!*
Don't forget to *get on the map!*

Resources compiled by Aly Tharp, UU Ministry for Earth Program Director. Connect and find out more about UUMFE at www.uumfe.org, or on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#).

Questions? Contact UUMFE's Program Director, Aly Tharp:
alytharp@uuministryforearth.org

Please consider making a personal [donation](#) or taking a special collection on Earth Day Sunday to support UU Ministry for Earth.