

Creation Justice - Sample Past Activities and Opportunities We've Hosted

Book Study, e.g.:

- Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*;
- *Inhabiting Eden*, by Patricia Tull;
- *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor

Spiritual Connections:

- Nature walks with follow-up discussions during much of the year. These guide participants to reconnect with the unbuilt world, and center their lives in God's creation.
- Tour of Blumenberry Organic Farm with Farmer Jesse, regarding sound organic farming and the benefits of local food sourcing.

Speaker Presentations:

- *Caring for the Earth: An Interfaith Dialogue Event*, exploring how various religions approach the environment. Participants included members of our local mosque, our neighboring synagogue, and local churches, Dr. Waleed El-Ansary from Xavier University, speaking about Islam and Environmental Sustainability, members of the Environmental Studies department from New College of Sarasota, and representatives from local sustainability groups.
- A three-part discussion group, including: 1) the review of the movie *This Changes Everything*, directed by Avi Lewis, and based on the book of the same name by Naomi Klein; 2) review of the book *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea*, by Jack E. Davis (2017), and 3) a two-speaker webinar hosted by our church featuring Darcy Young, Director of Planning and Communications at the Sarasota Bay and Estuary Program, and Dr. Erika Diaz-Almeyda, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at New College, Sarasota, Florida, which offers an interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program. The webinar program was an interfaith event involving members and friends of other Sarasota faith communities.
- For World Water Day, 2021, we hosted a Zoom discussion on the importance of fresh water locally and globally, featuring David Douglas, who has headed for 30 years the all-volunteer Santa Fe-based non-profit, Waterlines, which has provided technical help and funding for drinking water projects in over 1,000 rural communities in a dozen developing countries. Also featured was Chester Trow, who is spearheading a drive to make potable drinking water accessible to the homeless in St. Petersburg.
- Presentation by a representative of MOTE Marine, regarding sustainable aquaculture systems research at Mote Aquaculture Research Park (Sarasota, FL).

Movie, Book & Other Resources:

- Assembled a list of book, television, streaming and related resources, which was made available to congregants and church friends during COVID isolation.
- Monthly informational newsletter articles on a wide range of sustainability topics.
- Alerts for members to sign up to join the local sustainable communities workshops, Youth Climate Strike, protest to construction of a waste transfer station near the Celery Fields, and more!