



A COLLABORATION:
GREEN UMBRELLA AND EQUATION

Faith Communities Go Green (fcgg.org)

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Help Stop Gerrymandering

by Ariel Miller

"When you look at what is happening to our world-and it is hard to look at what's happening to our water, our air, our trees, our fellow species-it becomes clear that unless you have some roots in a spiritual practice that holds life sacred and encourages joyful communion with all your fellow beings, facing the enormous challenges ahead becomes nearly impossible."

~ Joanna Macy



Help end gerrymandering in Ohio by getting the Citizens Not Politicians proposal on the fall ballot. A broad non-partisan coalition including the League of Women Voters and the Ohio Environmental Council are working to stop gerrymandering in Ohio by passing the [Citizens Not Politicians](#) constitutional amendment to prohibit elected officials and lobbyists from serving on Ohio's Redistricting Commission.

Under current law, all members of the Redistricting Commission are

elected officials, and the majority defied seven different Ohio Supreme Court rulings finding the maps they drew in 2021-22 unconstitutional for excessive partisan gerrymandering. Our elections are being conducted with unconstitutional maps, with impunity.

You can help in any of these ways: collecting petition signatures due July 3, verifying which ones are currently registered in the county, organizing events, serving as a speaker, or coordinating volunteers in your county. Here are links to learn more and

volunteer:

See Fair Districts Ohio [Redistricting Toolkit](#) for redistricting basics and additional resources. Here's the [link](#) to volunteer and get trained as a petition circulator or speaker.

[Request speakers](#) for your congregation, civic group, community council, etc.

Please also [email us](#) if you can help so we can build a FCGG team and encourage each other!

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FCGG Facilities Report

by Ken Wright

Though we never applied for last summer's Dept. of Energy grant ("Renew America's Nonprofits") to improve the energy efficiency of our client houses of worship, FCGG with our Facilities group decided to proceed along these

lines using our available funding. We're calling this effort our Energy Efficiency Initiative (EEI).

From interviews of a portfolio of 50-some houses of worship, we obtained basic data on their building characteristics and

needs. Approximately 30 of these have never had an energy audit, so we have instituted an effort to do this. First, we hired Cheryl Hutchins as our EEI coordinator.

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Gerrymandering cont'd

Ohio's General Assembly has passed multiple laws impeding renewable energy and favoring fossil fuel interests. The [2022 Ohio Pulse Poll](#) conducted by Baldwin Wallace University found that over 65% of Ohio voters agreed that human activity - including the burning of fossil fuels - contributes to global climate change. Over 71% supported tougher restrictions on power plant carbon emissions.

But our state legislature refuses to

repeal the coal plant subsidies billed every month to all Ohio ratepayers under HB 6, the heart of Ohio's massive corruption scandal. HB 6 killed Ohio's energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards. In late 2023 the General Assembly passed a law designating natural gas as "green energy."

Gerrymandering creates "safe" or uncompetitive districts where incumbents only have to please pri-

mary voters, who tend to be the most ideological, and then lobbyists. Safe districts make corruption easy. You can help stop this by helping to get Citizens Not Politicians on the November ballot and encouraging fellow Ohioans to vote for it.



Am I Doing Enough?

by Susan Vogt

I don't know about you, but occasionally I get into a "Depression Funk". It goes something like this:

- I'm tired. I've already taken a nap, but I don't feel like tackling another thing on my To Do list.
- I'm tired of trying to save the world.
- Global Warming is way bigger and more complicated than what I can solve. Let somebody else do it.
- If not me, who else is going to take care of this problem?
- I'm tired.,

Perhaps some of my funk is natural for a person in their mid -70s. But, I'm in good health. I no longer have a regular paid job, but I do have enough income that I don't have to worry about being hungry, unclothed, or homeless. What I do have is the gift of TIME. How should I be using it? After all, people like Pope Francis or the Presi-

dent of the USA are older than me and haven't given up on being a useful member of the human race. So...am I doing enough?

I recently listened to a 61/2 minute video "[7 Daily Habits to Change Your Life Forever](#)". The author, Joshua Becker, proposes 7 daily acts to focus one's life.

- Make a list of the 3 most important tasks I need to do this day.
- Exercise
- Turn off the TV
- Practice Gratitude
- Write something down
- Reset your kitchen
- Eat together

The list moved me past *Am I Doing Enough?* Because I realized, "Hey, I'm already doing most of these. I don't need to beat myself up, but neither am I free to just slink into old age and vegetate. The only thing

I would add is "Take it to prayer".

Maybe, since my daily life has a pretty functional rhythm for my current circumstances, I should let go of the guilt and focus on balancing my 3 priorities"

- Personal life (Keep in touch with family and reduce single use plastics at home.)
- Service to my local community (Make sure my life regularly includes some hands-on physical service to those in need.)
- Influencing those beyond my home (Seek at least one way to impact systemic change beyond my home.)

Wrap all of these in a humble, faith-filled spirituality, i.e. Pray and discern.!

Easy to write. Hard to do on a regular basis. What helps you balance your personal well-being with the needs of those hurting among us and the future of the universe?

Facilities cont'd

We put out a call in November for volunteers to be trained to do energy assessments (similar to ASHRAE Level 1) and received a fantastic response with 16 people signing up. We hired Justin Kale of Energility to come to Cincinnati and conduct two training sessions to cover building envelope, lighting, HVAC, and interpreting utility bills.

Cheryl has been asked to communicate with our client HOW's, beginning with our J40 clients who have not had energy audits and request they send their utility data to us for evaluation prior to a site visit.

We expect to have site visits begin in March, once utility data begins to be sent in. The first two visits will essentially be training sessions with Justin accompanying a group of volunteers to help them get comfortable with the process. After that volunteers will go out alone or in pairs, as they feel comfortable.

We still have much work to do. We developed a check list for volunteers to use during site visits and need to develop a simple system for analyzing the utility bills prior to our visits. Finally, we need to establish an easy but reliable method for making recommendations to improvements

to our clients. We are currently looking at a program that Justin uses called EPIC. This program would be \$150 per month with \$20 each for more than 5 buildings a month. Contributions would be helpful in allowing this to happen.



Glaciers: A Fading Gift of God's Creation

by Ted Bergh

This summer I had the opportunity to experience Glacier National Park in Montana and Jasper and Banff National Parks in Alberta Canada. The parks were amazing with wonder and beauty and included a walk



on the Athabasca Glacier pictured here.

It has lost half its volume and over a mile in length since 1900. It is losing 5 meters per year and at current atmosphere carbon growth, will be gone by 2100.

There was an Exhibit named Moun-

tains of Change – Climate change at Canada's mountain national parks available at Google Arts and Culture with the QR code below:

The Mountains of Change Exhibit presents the situation facing the mountain parks:

- Average temperatures are rising at double the global average.
- Winters are shorter, warmer, and wetter. – Summers are longer, hotter, and drier.
- By 2100 glacier ice will decline by 70%
- Wildlife and plants are under more stress migrating to survive.
- Pests and diseases are damaging the mountain habitat.

Some park visitors come to see glaciers before they're gone. I am saddened to think that my grandsons will not experience glaciers but will experience the extreme effects of

climate change. The next decade is critical. Only the people alive now can cause meaningful change.

Later will be too late. What can be done:

1. Become involved and take active interest in the causes and effects of climate change.
2. Be spiritually present in nature.
3. Take action to reduce carbon emissions, waste, and mitigate climate change.
4. Advocate at both the personal and policy level

It is time to be more than a climate tourist or bystander, and to protect glaciers and all eco-systems for the next generations.





Gleaning with St. Andrew Society

by Mike Eck

Gleaning is an ancient practice that translates, today, into farmers inviting volunteers to harvest crops they won't be taking to market. This is some of the freshest food available to those who rarely have access to it. If you'd like to become a gleaner, this season (generally May/June - October) - whether on a farm or at a farmers' market - , you can sign up on our platform at <https://www.mobilize.us/endhunger/event/601268> or via the QR code, below. Also, look for year round opportunities to rescue and share delicious food with your hungry neighbors! For more info: sw-ohio@endhunger.org or 513-458-9808. Also, here are some other ways to get involved: <https://endhunger.org/lead/>, as well as a flyer you can print and post for your congregation.

To learn more and join Faith Communities Go Green, a Green Umbrella and EquaSion collaboration, go to : www.fcgg.org

Join a Working Group!

Advocacy: Contact Ariel at Advocacy@fcgg.org

Facilities: Contact Ken at: Facilities@fcgg.org

Education/Lifestyles
Contact Kyle at Education@fcgg.org



SCAN ME

Upcoming Events



In collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Ohio and the Taft Lecture Series, Faith Communities Go Green announces a lecture from an author and environmental justice leader of our time, Dr. Robert Bullard. Dr. Bullard was the first scientist to publish systematic research on the links between race and exposure to pollution, which he documented for a 1979 lawsuit. Prior to that no one fully understood how a person's surroundings can affect their health. For more than four decades, Bullard integrated human and civil rights with environmental justice. He em-

braced the principle that all people and communities have a right to equal protection and equal enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

For more details on this Taft Lecture Series, March 13th, program visit FCGG.org or

<https://share.fluro.io/event/65cb8ce9c73a3e003700b52a>

Fluidity: A Creative Choral Community for a Cause is a chorus of passionate and diverse singers that gives back to our community by putting on choral concerts that benefit non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Fluidity will perform a concert on

April 13th to benefit Faith Communities Go Green.

Hear from Faith Communities Go Green leaders about their engagement with communities representing all faiths and ethnic backgrounds, working for all generations, to becoming better stewards of the Earth, our common home.

Mysterium: Earth, Water, Wind, Void, and Fire -The Five Elements.

Saturday, April 13th, 2024, 7:30 to 9:00pm.

First Lutheran Church, 1208 Race Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Tickets go on sale March 1, 2024,

<https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/fluidity/events/962>

Tickets are \$25 each. Seating is limited.