

Dear Friends,

Earth Day started over 50 years ago in 1970 when people saw rivers, lakes, and bays on fire because of pollution. We have come a long way in the cleaning up of our waterways (though there is still a ways to go) but we have even farther still to go to clean up our atmosphere and reduce CO2 which is causing a global climate emergency. Most of us know the science, the numbers, and the harm that is happening right now and the catastrophic harm that is coming if we don't do something soon and comprehensive.

It does seem hopeless for those who believe that it's the end of the world as we know it. And we don't feel fine. In fact, we may feel hopelessness, feel despair and grief and "all the feels," as our moderator Jenny would say. But all is not lost, even if we don't act now. Though life will continue, it will take generations for the damage to be repaired from what we have done and are doing.

The good news is that each and every year, more people are believing in the reality of this situation and are working for and demanding that action to combat this continuation. The good news is that 90% of all new energy projects done last year were renewable energy based, not fossil fuel based. The good news is that here in our county, we are coming together in ways that haven't been done before, government, business, non-profit, and religious.

We aren't going to solve it or fix it. But we can work to avoid some of the damage and help the planet heal faster. We can plant the seeds valuing all life, eco-systems, and creating better systems to ensure that we are in harmony (Shalom) with nature, with life, and with God.

We have a group in our church who want to work on this and work through our church on this. We have churches who want to work together and other groups as well. Maybe, just maybe, if the circle continues to widen, we could make a difference, save a species, a forest, and a planet for the future generations.

Peace

*Pastor Enno*