



Climate Consciousness

At Dearborn First UMC

- Information packet
- Brief Climate Care Interest Survey



ARE YOU/WE READY TO EDUCATE OURSELVES AND BECOME ENGAGED WITH EACH OTHER AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BECOME BETTER STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH?



(State Dept./L. Rawls), from the website: <https://share.america.gov/our-ocean-should-be-trash-free/>



THINK GLOBAL...

Climate Change Myths*:

MYTH # 1:

“Climate change is natural and normal—it’s happened at other points in history.”

It’s true that there have been periods of global warming and cooling—also related to spikes and lulls in greenhouse gases—during the Earth’s long history. But those historic increases in CO₂ should be a warning to us: They led to serious environmental disruptions, including mass extinctions. Today, humans are emitting greenhouse gases at [a far higher rate than any previous increase in history](#). (Before you collapse into a puddle of despair, however, find out about our work to promote [natural climate solutions](#), like community forestry and regenerative agriculture.)

MYTH #2:

“There’s no consensus among scientists that climate change is real.”

Wrong. There is nearly 100 percent agreement among scientists. Moreover, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says that global warming is accelerating, and [will reach 1.C above pre-Industrial levels around 2030](#)—a full decade earlier than previously forecast.



MYTH #3:

“Plants and animals can adapt.”

Wrong again. Because human-caused climate change is happening so rapidly, species [simply don't have time to adapt](#). Frogs tell the story best: With their semi-permeable skin, unprotected eggs, and reliance on external temperatures to regulate their own, they are often among the first species to die off when ecosystems tip out of balance—and they're dying off in droves. The Rainforest Alliance chose a frog as its mascot more than 30 years ago precisely because it's a bio-indicator: A healthy frog population signals a healthy ecosystem, which is what we've been working to promote—along with thriving communities—since 1987.

MYTH #4:

“Climate change is good for us.”

It's hard to even know where to begin to address this statement, especially when you think about the human cost of a warming planet. The evidence points to a clear [link between climate change and a surge in modern slavery](#): When crop failures, drought, floods, or fires wipe out livelihoods and homes, people migrate in the hopes of improving their lot—but can find themselves vulnerable to human trafficking and forced labor and other human rights abuses. And the overall economic cost is staggering: [The global economy could lose \\$23 trillion to climate change by 2050](#).



MYTH #5:

“OK, maybe climate change is real, but there’s nothing to be done—it’s too late.”

It’s true that we don’t have a moment to waste, but it’s not too late. If governments, business, and individuals begin taking drastic action now, we can keep warming within the 1.5C target set by the Paris Agreement. What can you do to make sure that happens? A lot. Here are [actions you can take](#)—both to make your daily life more sustainable and to push governments and companies to act—to secure a better future.

***Source:** Rainforest Alliance article: [“6 Claims Made by Climate Change Skeptics - and How to Respond.”](#) [rainforest-alliance.org](#), November 1, 2021.

...ACT LOCAL

What Local Resources are Available?

We have a number of local organizations that consult, educate, and provide opportunities for individuals to become active in their communities as stewards of our environment and our earth:

*[The Detroit River Coalition](#), [Friends of the Rouge](#), [Great Lakes Now](#), [Belle Isle Conservancy](#) are just a few.
We invite you investigate.....*



Image: Detroit River Coalition website (<https://www.detroitrivercoalition.com>)



Dearborn First UMC Climate Consciousness Survey

Are you and or family members interested in becoming more aware of the challenges we are facing in our world because of climate change, pollution and their effects?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you believe we can actively change behaviors that can mitigate pollution and climate change?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you and or family members be willing participants in church activities, presentations, work days, field trips constructed around climate change education or in stewardship of our grounds and facility here at Dearborn First UMC?

Yes _____ No _____



Would you be willing to become a member of a task force at church to discuss ideas, actions our church community might take to help educate and become actively involved in behaviors or processes that can help our church “Act Locally” ? (i.e.. Styrofoam cup ban, tree plantings, highway/community litter pickup, plastic lid recycling, volunteering with aforementioned non-profit conservancy groups, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, please provide:

(name) _____

(email) _____

(phone) _____

Our first planned “kick-off” event will be an EARTH DAY tree planting and Church Grounds workday scheduled for April 23rd from 10am - 12noon with emphasis on our gardens, their pathways, the rose & shrub beds surrounding the church. In addition, our youth began a plastic lid collection years ago that we’re considering restarting with the intention of sending them to be made into a garden bench or two for use in our church gardens. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please drop off the survey in the church office or copy and email to Doug Marks:

Dptrout23@yahoo.com OR complete the survey online at DearbornFirstUMC.org/climate