

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S COMMITMENT TO THE EARTH

Our Concerns

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Dear Sisterhood of Grace,

It was so wonderful to greet a lot of you at SEE, Epworth by the Sea. Now I want to greet you as coordinator for Education and Interpretation, NE District United Methodist Women.

One of the present concerns of United Methodist Women is for our EARTH. To paraphrase the Prayer of Confession and Pardon (page 8, U.M. Hymnal). Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved the earth you have given us with our whole hearts. We have not used the resources you have given us wisely. We have carelessly put trash where there should only be the beauty you have prepared for us. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The months of March and April are "Earth months". Arbor Day can be celebrated at various times, March 22 is World Water Day, April 19 is designated as Earth Day. So, this is the perfect time to give some thought to our treatment of our Earth. It seems as if the Earth is a big project to tackle and maybe our influence doesn't reach very far, but remember that United Methodist Women is the largest faith based organization there is. So- if we all do the small things that make a difference, together we can make a BIG difference. These things are all done at home where we are all stuck at this time and I'm sure you are doing many of them.



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What can we do?

To save electricity:

1. Unplug electronics, including cell phone chargers when not in use.
2. When cooking or just boiling water cover the pan.
3. Set water heater on 120 degrees/F
4. Turn air conditioner up 1 degree in warm weather and down 1 degree in cool weather.
5. Use cold water for laundry.
6. Switch off lights when leaving a room.

To save water:

7. Turn off water when brushing teeth.
8. Set timer for 5 minutes before shower. Try to finish in that amount of time.

Miscellaneous:

9. Use cloth napkins. (Wash clothes do well)

10. Save disposable plastic ware from take out meals which we are all getting now. Give to a food pantry serving homeless people.

Well, these are 10 simple things we have mostly heard before. What was your score?

Give yourself 10 points for each thing you already do regularly. No cheating!

Oh Wow! Am I ever embarrassed! I only got 50 points. An F on anybody's grading scale. Hope you did better. Let's pledge to do better in the future. It's our planet we want to save.

I'll send a new list when we can leave our homes.

Dear God, help us to truly love you and all the gifts you have given us. Amen.