

Eco Congregation

January

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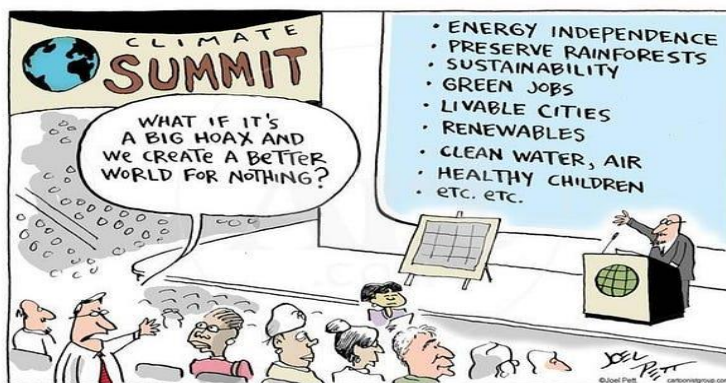
As we move into a new year, we plan to add a new section to the Announcements as a way of supporting each other in our commitment to being an Eco Congregation. What we hope for is a weekly entry, not lengthy or complicated, linking to the areas of activity that Eco Congregation Ireland (ECI) regard as environmental good practice for faith communities: Spiritual – Practical – Community – Global.

We would like if contributions could come from the congregation as a whole, based on whatever people feel is worth sharing - reflections, observations, experiences, practical tips, images, quotations, statistics - anything that helps us better understand and motivate ourselves to action for Christian stewardship in the climate and biodiversity crisis.

So please start thinking about contributions you would like to share. In case we are swamped (!) Maureen Rowan will coordinate their inclusion in the Announcements. Please email Maureen with your ideas at maureen.rowan@irishmethodist.org

Just to confirm we are not the only ones declaring a crisis - as of December 2023, 2,351 jurisdictions – including Dublin City Council - in 40 countries - have declared a climate emergency.

We begin with a cartoon shared by Canon Trevor Sergent at the recent Leinster Gathering of ECI



Cartoon by U.S. cartoonist Joel Pett for USA Today, before the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit (COP 15)

And a prayer following Covenant Sunday

*Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it.
Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures.
Help us to become instruments of a new creation,
Founded on the covenant of your love.*

- From *The Cry of the Earth*

24th January 24



The first daffodil appeared in our garden this week but it was broken by Storm Isha. Ireland is experiencing a sustained period of storminess with seven named storms in just four months. The science is telling us, however, that this not directly related to global warming. According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) quantifying the climate effect on such storms is “challenging”, “partly because extreme storms are rare, short-lived and local”, and are influenced by a “high degree of random variability”. There is some reassurance in Met Eireann’s ever-improving ability to predict weather and improve preparedness. Storms seem to be something we must be ready for and find ‘alternative energy’ within ourselves to deal with. When electricity is cut off, travel is unsafe, trees fall and rubbish blows around, harnessing human power of creativity and care for others gets us through.

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” Job 23:10