

Solar Panels and Hard Conversations



Rev. John Lund

We have solar panels on both the Ark and Emmaus House buildings!! This has been a long time coming as we first started to dream

about solar panels years ago, and tried grant writing to Northwest Energy in 2017. We finally got there working with a non-profit called RE-volv. RE-volv installed and will own and maintain the panels and transformers for 20 years, while we pay a lease payment comparable to our current electric bill. As local utility rates rise our payments will stay the same. After 20 years we will own the panels free and clear and should get another ten years of use from them. Emmaus put down an initial \$7,000 to keep our lease payments comparable to the savings from our electric bill.

The financial benefits are not immediate: it is definitely a long game. The driving reasoning has

more to do with where our energy is coming from than how much it will affect our budget. When we turn on the lights we know that most of the source of that power comes directly from the sun, rather than a coal burner turning a turbine and pumping out CO². We have a total of 30 panels on both houses which will account for about 85% of our electrical use. (Our beautiful trees block the other 15%).

Last week our students and young adults reflected on what this means for them. We talked about the variety of feelings we carry when we think about the state of the planet and our future together. We talked about the critical time in history that we are in, the changes that will have to be made to cut back on carbon outputs, the many layers of denial and resistance in our country (and in ourselves), the lack of progress that we have made, and the politicized and polarized nature of the conversations.

Common responses included layers of anxiety, sadness, and anger along with times of indifference. Students also talked about times of paralysis, hopelessness and despair. We acknowledged that many of us carry these feelings in our bodies most of the time, almost as a running baseline. If they are not currently present, they are just under the

surface. We thought about the impacts of holding these realities and emotions as we go through our days and our lives. The old phrase, “don’t worry, be happy” just doesn’t cut it anymore. Maybe it never did.

Along with these hard realities, there were also expressions and feelings of hope and resolve. Many of our students believe that change is still possible. They are committed to building the social and political will to cut back our carbon outputs to the necessary levels to ensure longevity for the current species on our planet.

Many are committing their careers and lives to this change. They know this is the most important work of their lifetime, and they want to be part of the process of imagining and building a sustainable world with humans still in it. They also realize that the most impacted people are the poor and disenfranchised. They see their own life stability and education as both privilege and responsibility. They also see their own life experiences, love of the land, faith grounding, and education as resources that give them the drive and opportunity to be part of the healing and change that is needed in the years to come.

Putting solar panels on our roof is a step in reducing our carbon

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Emmaus Campus Ministry is a ministry of ELCA Lutherans in partnership with the United Church of Christ, Episcopalian, and Methodist churches, welcoming of all perspectives. We celebrate diversity in sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Emmaus Calendar

Wednesday Dinner and Discussion

Delicious food and conversations around life, faith, values, relationships, justice and dreams. For students and young adults.
Every Wednesday, 6:15-8
Emmaus House, 532 University

Confluence

A creative and contemplative community grounded in Jesus' vision for liberation. This fall, each Gathering will explore some of the origin stories from the Christian tradition: Void, Creation, Garden, Cain and Able, and Flood. Confluencemissoula.org.
1st and 3rd Sundays, 5 pm,
University Congregational Church, 405 University

Faith and Climate Action Montana

FCAM is an interfaith coalition that works to educate individuals and faith communities about climate science and impacts, create space for spiritual reflection on climate-related social and environmental issues, and facilitate action to address the climate crisis via advocacy and local organizing. See feature, page 4.

Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization

A powerful training put on by Common Good Missoula, primarily for settler leaders in our community. Pastor John is on the leadership team which has a balance of indigenous and settler leaders. Contact John.
October 17, 19, 24, 26, November. 7, 21, December 5, 6:30-8:30 on zoom

10th Annual Oktoberfest

Support Emmaus and enjoy live and silent auctions, delicious food, live music, a program and great company! Tickets available at your local church office, through our website, or at the door. \$15/single, \$25/couple, \$40/family.
Donate or volunteer, see last page.
October 23, 5-8 at the Home Arts Building of the Fairgrounds



("Solar Panels", continued)
 footprint. It's part of building a culture of consciousness and earth-care in all that we do. It's part of revisiting our core values, our understandings of humans in relation to the rest of creation, our spiritual life, our definitions of "the good life", and the role of religion and faith communities in our culture.

As Christians, we know the goodness of all creation, and we know we have been given the job as caretakers and stewards. We are called to deeply love our neighbor, and we know the neighbor extends all humans on the planet, and to all living beings on the earth.

We cannot elevate nor separate ourselves from any of it. Much of the work today calls for spiritual renewal, ethical dialogue, repentance, prophetic voice, and collective community working towards change for the sake of the

whole and for those who come after us. That is all the language of church. Our young adults are waiting for us to step up. Perhaps this is our time to step into the hard conversations and be the church that we are called to be.



Sunday, October 23rd, 5-8

Missoula Fairgrounds, Home Arts Building

Classic fare, live music, live and silent auctions!

Ticket Prices:
 \$15/individual
 \$25/couple
 \$40/family

Tickets available from your church office, through our website, or at the door.

Thanks to our generous sponsors!



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Faith and Climate Action Montana

Cultivating Wisdom

A series of conversations reexamining our relationships to the Natural World.

Starting mid-fall, stay tuned!

The drive behind this series is the acknowledgement that our dominant culture has elevated corporate and personal profits, as well as all human activity and desire, above the long-term flourishing of the waterways, landscapes and ecosystems in which we live. For too long dominant culture has neglected our kinship relationships with and responsibilities to the natural world. As this imbalance has led to a critical time in the earth's history, we offer this series of wisdom speakers and conversations from a wide variety of faith, indigenous, academic, and practitioner perspectives that call on both ancient and new ways of being human on the earth.

We imagine creating collaborative space where courageous listening might happen and where kinship relationships with all life are reimaged for a better world. Our vision is that these conversations will invite and deepen relationships, inspire hope and help lead to the systematic changes that are called for in such a time as this.

Check faithandclimateactionmontanaweebly.com for updates.

Welcome new Faith and Climate Action Coordinator Abigail!

Abigail is a second year Sustainability, Science, and Practices undergraduate working towards a Bachelor of Science. She is passionate about educating others on how we can improve our personal relationships with the land and work to fight climate change. Abigail is from Connecticut and in her free time she enjoys backpacking, camping with her cat, and cooking!



Join us October 9 for a trip to the Bison Range!

We will be meeting at Emmaus at 12 p.m. to carpool to the Bison Range, receive a tour, and go on a short hike. We will learn from experts and local indigenous people about the importance of bison to the land in the area. Email ecmumt@gmail.com to sign up.



We had a fun-filled summer with a thoughtful trip meandering in the Rattlesnake discussing Service Berries, a float of the Blackfoot with discussions led by members of the Blackfoot Challenge, and a hike of Lolo Peak discussing how fire shapes the land.

Welcome Residents!



Peter Martin is from Green Bay, Wisconsin and just graduated from St. Norbert College with a bachelor's in communication and media studies. He moved to Missoula to do a year of service at Habitat for Humanity of Missoula as an AmeriCorps VISTA. With Habitat, Peter will be doing grant writing, social media work, and contributing to internal/external communications to help solve Missoula's affordable housing crisis. His favorite hobbies include hiking, chess, fantasy football, swimming, and relaxing.

Noah Paulson is from Billings, Montana, and is a Junior studying Psychology at the University. He loves how much there is to do in Missoula, both in town and in the great outdoors.



Sloan is from Escanaba, Michigan and moved to Missoula to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition! She recently graduated from St. Norbert College with a bachelor's in Environmental Science and Biology. She loves, vegetables, camping and being outdoors – all great things that Montana has to offer!

Zach is a junior from Portland. He's studying Management Information Systems and Chinese as a member of the Davidson Honors College; after graduation he hopes to stay in Montana and work in Cybersecurity or Data Analytics. In his free time, he is usually skiing or playing the saxophone.



Hello! I'm Gavriella Grace Montoya y Tierney, I am currently a first year graduate counseling student. I recently moved here from Albuquerque, New Mexico and want to get to see everything Montana has to offer! I am excited to live in a vibrant community of other individuals that are open minded and excited to become a better member of my community. My hobbies are reading, music and exploring the outdoors.

I'm Eli Arnold and this is my first year of graduate school for anthropology. I'm originally from Great Falls and at my time at the university I've discovered I really enjoy Hula dancing. I look forward to the community Emmaus provides.



Raina Woolworth is from Mississippi and came to University of Montana to do work on climate change. She loves running, hugs, and red wolves.

Brooklyn Wirt grew up in Corvallis and transferred to Missoula to study Biochemistry. So far she has loved the community built by Emmaus and the many spaces to find community in Missoula. In her free time, she loves listening to live music, reading, and eating good food.



Garrett Miglin grew up and went to college in New Jersey. After two years of service and travel with AmeriCorps (sort of a domestic Peace Corps) he moved to Great Falls in 2019, and is now a third year law student at UM.

x

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NOTE: Forwarding addresses and returned newsletters cost the ministry \$0.60 each.
If you have an address change or wish to stop receiving newsletters or receive e-news instead, please contact us at ecmumt@gmail.com or (406) 549-7821 to update your information.
Thanks for helping minimize this expense!

Support Emmaus

Get involved with Oktoberfest!

Volunteer at the event or donate an auction item. Special homemade items, a weekend at a cabin, and items donated by businesses all make great auction items! Contact Kristen.

Make a Special Donation

to support Confluence or Faith and Climate Action. Write a check to Emmaus with the memo "Confluence" or "FCAM" or give online and include a note.

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member this is a great way to support us. We always have ideas for projects and John will prepare the applications materials. Contact John.

Legacy Giving

If you feel specially connected to the work of Emmaus, you may want to explore making a planned gift. These gifts help ensure a vibrant ministry that will impact students and the community for generations to come. There are many forms a legacy gift can take. Please contact John or Kristen to learn more about supporting Emmaus in this unique way.

