Religion and Ecology News Articles

Dear Forum Colleagues,

Greetings! Below you will find the latest religion and ecology news articles from a number of news sources. For your convenience, I have included short introductions to each story and provide URLs for the full story. I have grouped articles together that pertain to a common topic, but a number of articles belong within multiple sections.

Within this email, you will find news related to the following topics:

1. The Work of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale
2. Yale Partially Divests from Fossil Fuels
3. Article by Bill McKibben on Global Warming
4. Pope Francis, Climate Change, and the Environment
5. Religion and Climate Change
6. Indigenous Traditions and Ecology
7. Religious Responses to the Water Crisis in Flint, MI, USA
10. Newsletters

For recent news articles, visit: http://fore.yale.edu/news/

For the archive of past news articles, visit: http://fore.yale.edu/publications/massmedia

Take care,
Elizabeth McAnally
California Institute of Integral Studies
Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale
Website Manager & Newsletter Editor
http://fore.yale.edu/
elizabeth.a.mcanally@gmail.com
1. The Work of the Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale

Second International Seminar on Religion, Culture and Environment
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
April 23-24, 2016

We are happy to let you know that Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim are participating in the “Second International Seminar on Religion, Culture and Environment,” which will be held April 23-24 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. *Journey of the Universe* will be shown with Persian subtitles at this event. For the seminar agenda, visit: [http://tinyurl.com/jh4d3v6](http://tinyurl.com/jh4d3v6) To read a discussion note prepared for this seminar entitled “Environment, Religion and Culture in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” visit: [http://tinyurl.com/je64h5s](http://tinyurl.com/je64h5s) This conference follows on two conferences on religion and ecology in Tehran in 2001 and 2005 that Mary Evelyn and John also participated in, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Iranian government.

A Radical Alliance of Black and Green Could Save the World
By James Gustave Speth and J. Phillip Thompson III
The Nation
April 14, 2016

*In this article, the authors mention Thomas Berry, the Forum on Religion and Ecology, and the Iroquois Confederacy.*

A beautiful thing is happening: Advocates for racial justice and for environmental protection—too often, movements quite distant from each other—are coming together in a new way. One can see it in the campaign of National People’s Action and the Climate Justice Alliance to push for a just and locally empowering transition to clean energy; in the New Economy Coalition’s inclusive membership and commitment to front-line communities; and in the projects of the Evergreen Cooperatives, in inner-city Cleveland. These new efforts (may they multiply!) are grounded on a strong foundation. When one explores the roots of both the environmental and civil-rights movements, one finds a strikingly similar radical critique. Both movements have called for a deep restructuring of society and the economy; in both cases, that call is based on an affirmation of life and the devoted care that life requires of us.

From the pope to the people: Emerging religious environmental movement faces challenges amid global economic pressures
By Dan Smyer Yü and Mary Evelyn Tucker
Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA)
March 14, 2016
The one bus to the village of Sambha in northeastern Qinghai Province in China leaves in the late afternoon. The setting sun serves as a backdrop as the county bus turns off the provincial highway, and winds along a narrow road between mountainous cliffs and the bluish waters of the Machu River. Nearing the village, the driver honks his horn a few times to warn approaching travelers, and makes one final sharp 90-degree turn allowing travelers to see the entirety of Sambha, an awe-inspiring panorama of wheat fields and diverse flora and fauna embraced by large mountains and flowing water.

An Integrating Story for a Sustainable Future: A Way toward New Human-Earth Relations
By Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker
Center for Humans and Nature
March 2016
http://www.humansandnature.org/to-be-human-mary-evelyn-tucker-brian-swimme

We know that the obstacles to the sustainable development and flourishing of life’s ecosystems are considerable. To meet these challenges, the next stage of evolutionary history will require an expansion of our worldview and ethics. The human community has now for the first time a scientific story of the evolution of the universe and our planet that shows us our profound connection to the evolutionary process. We are only discovering its larger meaning as evolution continues to unfold. This is why we created the Journey of the Universe, namely a film, book and educational series to tell the story of cosmic, Earth, and human as an evolutionary epic.

A Guide to the New Thomas Berry Website: It Will Not Disappoint
By Allysyn Kiplinger
Center for Ecozoic Societies
March 10, 2016

The new Thomas Berry website, http://thomasberry.org/, will not disappoint, be you a veteran scholar or a new disciple. It is a good tool for understanding Thomas Berry, his contribution, and his influence. The site has a number of parts and functions: book store, summary of his contribution to our current moment, original source audio-video library, and highlight of others carrying on his Great Work. It is beautiful and easy to read. I encourage you to experience it yourself.

Earth Charter Netherlands organizes Journey of the Universe youth event
Earth Charter
December 15, 2015
At the end of 2015, the Earth Charter Netherlands network organized a youth event entitled “Journey of the Universe Cinema” to showcase the Journey of the Universe film and guide participants in interactive workshop exercises and discussion. The project received financial support from The Valley Foundation and the Thomas Berry Foundation. A special Journey of the Universe Cinema was organized in A Lab in Amsterdam and welcomed 55 participants plus another several organizers and special guests.

---

2. Yale Partially Divests from Fossil Fuels

Yale Advances in Shaping Portfolio to Address Climate Change
By Geraldine Fabrikant
New York Times
April 12, 2016

Yale University has made progress in minimizing its endowment portfolio’s exposure to less environmentally sound investments such as stocks of companies that contribute to climate change, a letter released on Tuesday showed. Yale generally does not manage its own investment directly but hires outside money managers to make decisions. Nearly two years ago, the Yale University Investment Office asked the firms that managed its endowment, then $20.8 billion, to assess their investments. The office asked managers to avoid investments that did not take sensible steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Yale endowment, while not the largest, is closely watched by other universities and money managers who invest in publicly held companies.

Yale to partially divest from fossil fuels
By Finnegan Schick
Yale Daily News
April 12, 2016
http://yaledailynews.com/blog/2016/04/12/yale-begins-divestment-from-fossil-fuels/

Almost two years after Chief Investment Officer David Swensen added climate change awareness to Yale’s investment strategy, the endowment is starting to divest from fossil fuels. In a Tuesday letter to the Yale community, Swensen reported that after months of talking with Yale’s external investment managers about the potential risks associated with investments in coal, oil, around $10 million of the endowment has been removed from two publicly-traded fossil fuel producers. Although Swensen did not release the names of the investment managers or companies involved, he said that by the end of Fiscal Year 2015, Yale’s $25.6 billion endowment had only minor exposure to the oil and coal industries.
3. Article by Bill McKibben on Global Warming

Global Warming’s Terrifying New Chemistry
By Bill McKibben
The Nation
March 23, 2016

Our leaders thought fracking would save our climate. They were wrong. Very wrong. Global warming is, in the end, not about the noisy political battles here on the planet’s surface. It actually happens in constant, silent interactions in the atmosphere, where the molecular structure of certain gases traps heat that would otherwise radiate back out to space. If you get the chemistry wrong, it doesn’t matter how many landmark climate agreements you sign or how many speeches you give. And it appears the United States may have gotten the chemistry wrong. Really wrong.

4. Pope Francis, Climate Change, and the Environment

Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’: Hope for our Common Home
By Denis Edwards
MN News
April 6, 2016

Every time I read Laudato Si’ I discover fresh insights into the relationship between God and the planetary community of life on Earth, our common home. I find myself renewed in hope, taken by joy at the beauty of Francis’ vision, sobered by the challenges we face and summoned again to see my life as an ecological vocation, radically committed to Earth and all its creatures.

The Environmentalist Monk Who Inspired Pope Francis
By Nick Fouriezos
OZY
March 30, 2016

Browsing through a New York City bookstore in early 1941, influential editor Robert Giroux
bumped into Thomas Merton, an old college pal from his days on The Columbia Review. Merton told Giroux that The New Yorker wanted him to write a piece about Gethsemani, a Trappist monastery in Kentucky where he had “made a retreat.”

My Lent with Pulse Pledge
By Julie Hall, Youth Speak News
The Catholic Register
March 24, 2016
http://www.catholicregister.org/item/22000-my-lent-with-pulse-pledge

I took the Pulse Pledge during Lent and found myself reflecting on how something so small could actually make a difference. Coinciding with Pope Francis’ environmental encyclical Laudato Si’, the United Nations declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses. Pulses, consisting of dry peas, chickpeas, lentils and beans, have many benefits. The UN, along with many researchers, believe that if everyone pledges to consume pulses at least one day a week, then the world will notice a significant improvement in our environment.

Sri Lankan Way of the Cross carries environmental message
UCA News
March 24, 2016

Catholics in Sri Lanka conducted a Way of the Cross devotional event as part of a protest against a controversial port project in Colombo. About four hundred Catholics, including priests and nuns, attended the Way of the Cross event in the city of Negombo, March 22 and urged the government to stop the US$1.4 billion Colombo Port City project and protect the environment.

Vatican to undertake ecological initiatives during Easter season
By Junno Arocho Esteves
National Catholic Reporter
March 18, 2016

During Holy Week and in the Easter season, the Vatican will take part in several initiatives highlighting the importance of ecology and the care for creation.

A Moral Call to Earth Care
Center for Humans and Nature
2016
http://www.humansandnature.org/a-moral-call-to-earth-care
Seemingly divergent perspectives and peoples are coming to the same conclusion: it is wrong to wreck the world, and we have responsibilities to each other and the whole community of life. In response to Pope Francis' June 18th encyclical letter, Laudato Si’, the Center for Humans and Nature has assembled a diverse set of reflections on caring for the Earth and each other. The ideas shared below illustrate many paths that lead to caring and respectful relationships with one another and with all of life. What are your thoughts on the ethics of caring for each other and our common home?

**Eco-theologian Fr. Sean McDonagh: Don't let this 'Laudato Si' moment pass**
By Brian Roewe
National Catholic Reporter
March 9, 2016

On Sunday eco-theologian Columban Fr. Sean McDonagh wrapped up a three-city, 10-day speaking tour of the East Coast focused on his new book on Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home.” The book, similarly titled *On Care for Our Common Home* and published by Orbis Books, takes the encyclical’s full text and adds McDonagh’s reflections on its various themes: among them, climate change, biodiversity, water scarcity and threats to the oceans, and the food crisis.

**Cardinal Turkson addresses GR 2030 on Catholic social teaching, integral ecology, sustainable development**
Independent Catholic News
March 6, 2016

The President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Peter Turkson, delivered an address to the Global Responsibility 2030 conference meeting in Bad Honnef, Germany on Saturday.

**At Catholic Worker house, Sr. Elizabeth Johnson explores human kinship with God's creation**
By Beth Griffin
National Catholic Reporter
February 29, 2016

New York -- While it may come as a shock, humans are neither central nor supreme in the grand scheme of creation. Humans have a place among other beloved creatures of the same living God, and it’s more humble kinship than dominion.
Pope Francis should win this year’s Nobel Peace Prize
By Robert Christian
National Catholic Reporter
February 26, 2016
http://ncronline.org/blogs/distinctly-catholic/pope-francis-should-win-year-s-nobel-peace-prize

Critics of the Nobel Peace Prize often note its glaring omissions, perplexing choices, and selection of those with pasts that are checkered at best. But the award has gone to many extraordinary champions of human rights and genuine peace: Martin Luther King, Jr., Lech Wałęsa, Elie Wiesel, Wangari Maathai, Shirin Ebadi, Malala Yousafzai, Liu Xiaobo, and Jody Williams are just a few of the many worthy recipients.

On climate issue, Catholics urged to 'feel pain of the planet, the poor'
By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service
February 24, 2016

MIAMI (CNS) -- Pope Francis' right-hand man on the environment and climate change issues urged Catholics attending a local academic conference to let Christian spirituality guide their thinking and actions toward preserving the full range of God's creation. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, spoke Feb. 19 in Miami at St. Thomas University as part of the school's two-day International Conference on Climate, Nature & Society. The event was spearheaded by the university's Institute for Bioethics.

Cardinal Turkson speaks on environment, Laudato Si’
Vatican Radio
February 17, 2016
http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/02/17/cardinal_turkson_speaks_on_environment,_laudato_s%26%232382i%E2%80%99/1209341

Mankind is called to participate in “ongoing creation and ongoing incarnation” rather than in the “domination and devastation” of our planet. That’s the message at the heart of a talk given Wednesday in the U.S. by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Mexican Farmers Praise Pope Francis for Continued Advocacy of Environmental Protection and Climate Change Reform
By Karen Lo
As small farmers in Mexico fight to protect biodiversity and resist pesticides, they have found support in a higher power. ‘We thank you for your courage and your commitment to the world’s poorest,’ the farming commission wrote, ‘and we accept your challenge to approach these complex crises by seeking solutions that not only protect nature, but also combat poverty and restore dignity to the excluded.’ In an open letter to Pope Francis, 50 farming and environmental groups thanked the Pontiff for his ongoing support for sustainable agriculture and biodiversity in the face of powerful special interest groups that have downplayed agricultural concerns, like the need to promote greater understanding of climate change.

**Climate Change And Environmental Justice**
By Charlie Shelton & Frank Staio
WUNC – North Carolina Public Radio
February 16, 2016

A conversation with Wake Forest University School of Divinity professor Elizabeth O’Donnell Gandolfo, and Miles Silman, professor of biology at Wake Forest University about climate change. Climate change was a prominent global topic in 2015, with both the Paris climate talks and the Pope’s encyclical stirring up conversation about the future of the planet.

---

**5. Religion and Climate Change**

**Women on the Front Lines Fighting Fracking in the Bakken Oil Shale Formations**
By Emily Arasim and Osprey Orielle Lake
Common Dreams
March 14, 2016
[http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/03/14/women-front-lines-fighting-fracking-bakken-oil-shale-formations](http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/03/14/women-front-lines-fighting-fracking-bakken-oil-shale-formations)

In the rolling plains of North Dakota, companies like Halliburton, Hess, Crestwood Energy, Whiting Petroleum Corp. and Enbridge have crowned themselves king and are acting with a level of impunity beyond measure. There are some crystalline moments in which the challenges we face as a civilization become brutally clear. Moments in which corrupt aspects of American democracy and the fractures in our social, economic and political systems are exposed with unsurpassed clarity.
An Evangelical Movement Takes On Climate Change
By Tik Root
Newsweek
March 9, 2016

John Muir was a fervent believer. Not just in science or conservation or the National Park Service, which he championed. The founder of the Sierra Club and father of American environmentalism also believed in God. “The forests of America, however slighted by man, must have been a great delight to God,” Muir wrote in his 1897 essay “The American Forests.” “[For centuries] God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools.”

Eminent climate change scientist courts religion
By Joshua Emerson Smith
San Diego Union-Tribune
February 24, 2016

Researcher Veerabhadran Ramanathan attempts to galvanize global action on climate change. "The worst consequences of climate change will be experienced by the poorest 3 billion (people), largely living in villages, who had nothing to do with this.”

Connecticut Program Makes Solar Affordable for Low-Income Families
By Zahra Hirji
InsideClimate News
February 25, 2016

Faith groups and churches are working with a third-party solar provider to spread renewable energy to people who normally could not afford it. Churches, synagogues and mosques across Connecticut are supporting a groundbreaking program that aims to make solar power affordable for all homeowners.

6. Indigenous Traditions and Ecology
Murder of Honduran environmental activist sparks outrage
By David Agren
Catholic News Service
March 4, 2016

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- An outspoken environmental activist in Honduras was murdered in her own home, sparking outrage and offering another example of the impunity and violence in the Central American country. Berta Caceres, who won the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize -- an award considered the Nobel for ecological actions -- was murdered at around 1 a.m. March 3 in what police initially called an attempted robbery, but family members denounced as politically motivated murder, according to media reports.

A Martyr of 'Laudato Si'? The indigenous spirituality of assassinated activist Berta Cáceres
By Betsy Shirley
Sojourners
March 18, 2016
https://sojo.net/articles/martyr-laudato-si

Less than two weeks after the March 3 murder of acclaimed indigenous Honduran activist Berta Cáceres, Nelson García, another Honduran activist, was murdered outside his home. Both García and Cáceres were members of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), the indigenous rights organization Cáceres co-founded. Though Honduran police have claimed Cáceres’ murder was the result of an attempted robbery, many believe it was a political assassination, intended to silence her. Cáceres’ family, along with more than 200 human rights organizations and now the Holy See, are calling for an independent international investigation into the crime.

Ecuador drills for oil on edge of pristine rainforest in Yasuni
By John Vidal
The Guardian
April 4, 2016
http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/apr/04/ecuador-drills-for-oil-on-edge-of-pristine-rainforest-in-yasuni

First of 200 wells drilled close to controversial block of forest known to have two of the last tribes living in isolation. Ecuador has started drilling for oil on the edge of a controversial block of pristine rainforest inhabited by two of the last tribes in the world living in voluntary isolation. The well platform known as Tiputini C, which is now operational a few kilometres from the Peruvian border in the Yasuni national park, is expected to be the first of nearly 200 wells
needed to extract the 920m barrels of crude thought to lie below the Ishpingo Tambococha Tiputini (ITT) block.

**Indigenous Peoples Leaders commend the steadfast actions of SAVE Rivers resulting in the scrapping of the Baram Dam**
Indigenous Voices in Asia
April 1, 2016

The unanticipated decision by Sarawak State Chief Minister to revoke the gazettement for land earmarked for the Baram dam site and reservoir has been commended by indigenous leaders around the world. “The decision to halt the construction of the Baram dam is timely with the mounting evidence that the unpredictable and extreme weather caused by climate change would further increase the cost and reduce the benefits of mega dams. With the added irreparable damage to indigenous communities who would be relocated for this purpose, the decision to revoke plans for the Baram dam is exemplary,” said Joan

**Walking the length of the river: Spiritual journey calls attention to contamination of the Minnesota River**
By Tom Cherveny
West Central Tribune
March 27, 2016

MONTEVIDEO — Ask Sharon Day why she and others are walking the length of the Minnesota River carrying a copper vessel holding water from its source, and her answer begins like this: “In the spiritual work of the Ojibwe people the women are responsible for the water.’’

**Sisters of Earth seek planet literacy, look to indigenous wisdom at upcoming conference**
By Sharon Abercrombie
Global Sisters Report
March 15, 2016

In the summer of 1994, 65 religious women gathered at St. Gabriel Monastery in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, to share their emerging environmental dreams with one another. They named their new vision circle the Sisters of Earth. The women pictured themselves opening retreat centers and study programs in earth literacy, based on the new cosmology as written about and taught by cosmologist Brian Swimme and "geologian" Passionist Fr. Thomas Berry. One sister dreamed of co-founding a green "ecozoic" monastery with Berry, her mentor. Another aspired to have her
community open a green-ministry-of-the-arts shop where people could purchase calendars and posters with Earth spirituality themes.

### Survival Under Threat, Canada's Indigenous Unite Against Tar Sands Pipelines
By Nika Knight
Common Dreams
March 14, 2016
http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/03/14/survival-under-threat-canadas-indigenous-unite-against-tar-sands-pipelines

The Grand Chief of the Mohawk Kanesatake First Nation calls the proposed Energy East pipeline 'risky and dangerous' to indigenous peoples' survival. Indigenous people in Canada are rising up together in greater numbers than ever before to oppose tar sands pipelines on their traditional territory, forming fierce coalitions to oppose pro-oil regional governments and fossil fuel industry officials who are pushing for more tar sands infrastructure.

### Aboriginal activist fears B.C. dam project will destroy sacred land
By Joanna Smith
The Star
February 23, 2016

Helen Knott hopes to halt construction of the BC Hydro Site C dam project, but B.C. Energy Minister Bill Bennett says it’s too late. Helen Knott, 28, believes the stories of her people are alive in the Peace River valley of northeastern British Columbia and fears they will be lost in the flood of a $8.8-billion hydroelectric dam project.

### 7. Religious Responses to the Water Crisis in Flint, MI, USA

### A Crime Against the People of Flint
By Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson
Huffington Post
February 15, 2016

Last week, a colleague said, "The Flint water crisis is a crime against humanity." I was taken aback. This is a serious charge, but when the Rev. Jesse Jackson declared that the entire city of Flint was a "crime scene," I thought again. Then, when I learned that officials gave bottled water to government employees in Flint, more than a year before they admitted that Flint River water
was dissolving lead pipes into tap water, how else can it be understood except as a premeditated crime?

**Immigrants have been arrested looking for alternatives to Flint water**

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service  
National Catholic Reporter  
March 21, 2016  
[http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/immigrants-have-been-arrested-looking-alternatives-flint-water](http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/immigrants-have-been-arrested-looking-alternatives-flint-water)

Imagine turning on the tap in the morning and seeing something that's "looked like toilet water coming out of your faucet," in the words of one Catholic leader. That's been the reality facing tens of thousands of residents of Flint, Mich., every day for more than a year.

**Bishop urges all to 'redouble' prayers, efforts to help people in Flint**

By Catholic News Service  
National Catholic Reporter  
February 29, 2016  

Lansing, Mich. -- Especially during the Lenten season, everyone should "redouble both their prayers and their generosity" for the people of Flint still struggling with unsafe drinking water through the city's water crisis, said Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea.

---


**Religion and Ecology Summit Establishes CIIS as Leader**

By Jessica Paden  
California Institute of Integral Studies  
March 18, 2016  

Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion Program Hosts Critical Dialogue. An enthusiastic crowd of 111 people packed Namaste Hall on a rainy Friday for the inaugural Religion and Ecology Summit at CIIS. Hosted by the Ecology, Spirituality, and Religion (ESR) program and sponsored by a grant from the American Academy of Religion, with additional support from the Philosophy and Religion department, the Summit invited leaders from community organizations and academia to speak about the intersection of religion and ecological issues.
Meet the Jeans-Wearing, Nature-Loving Nuns Who Helped Stop a Kentucky Pipeline
By Laura Michele Diener
YES! Magazine
April 7, 2016

As fewer women enter the convent, what will become of Kentucky’s tradition of socially and environmentally engaged religious women? “The easiest way for me to find God is in nature,” Sister Ceciliana Skees explains. Born Ruth Skees, she grew up in Hardin County, Kentucky, during the 1930s. It’s a rural place of soft green hills, where her father farmed his entire life.

Calls for Billions of People to Plant Billions of Trees
By John J. Berger, Energy and environmental policy expert
Huffington Post
March 30, 2016

Brazilian environmentalist. Diana Beresford-Kroeger appears to be following the dictum, “Make no little plans.” The 71-year-old self-described “renegade scientist” has a plan to put everyone on Earth to work planting trees. Her “Bioplan” calls on every able-bodied person to plant a tree a year for six years to bring back the world’s lost forests. Her work was the inspiration for a recent day-long, “Call of the Forest: Water, Climate, Spirit” conference attended by more than 200 people in the Northern California seaside hamlet of Point Reyes. The event featured a special preview of Beresford-Kroeger’s forthcoming feature film, Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees, inspired by her book, The Global Forest.

Getting the Next Generation to Fall in Love with the Planet: An Interview with Dan Siegel
By Andrew Revkin
Garrison Institute
March 24, 2016
https://www.garrisoninstitute.org/blog/getting-next-generation-fall-love-planet/

The first 25 years of my career as a journalist focused on ways to foster sustainable human progress centered on science illuminating the biological and geophysical interplay of people and the planet. But over and over, I came to realize that decisions about addressing, or ignoring, environmental risks were shaped more by communities’ basic needs and individuals’ perceptions than basic scientific “facts.” That understanding led me increasingly to consult with behavioral and social scientists—and even philosophers and theologians—in trying to gauge the merits of different policies or individual choices. One such person is Dan Siegel, who’s blended training in pediatrics and psychiatry with decades of experience and research and produced a body of
insights into ways, through mindful attention to one’s self and the rest of the world, to expand the mind—literally.

**Forward Movement Announces New Video Curriculum on Science and Faith**

Forward Movement  
March 21, 2016  

Are science and faith compatible? Ordained scientists in The Episcopal Church offer insight on this sometimes controversial question through a new groundbreaking video curriculum offered by Forward Movement, now available for free download. The curriculum, offered in partnership with the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith, invites a sense of wonder and discovery to play a part in building care for creation in our faith communities.

**A Humanist and a Theologian Reimagine Nature**

By Andrew Park  
Duke Magazine  
March 11, 2016  
[http://dukemagazine.duke.edu/article/a-humanist-and-a-theologian-reimagine-nature](http://dukemagazine.duke.edu/article/a-humanist-and-a-theologian-reimagine-nature)

Professors Jedidiah Purdy and Norman Wirzba begin an ecological conversation they believe we all should have. On an overcast morning in December, Jedediah Purdy pulls his gray Subaru hatchback into a small gravel parking lot at the base of Occoneechee Mountain, a high bluff about fifteen minutes from Duke’s campus. Purdy, Robinson O. Everett Professor of law, is running a few minutes late and hops out of the driver’s seat carrying only a glass jar of water. The label reads “NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION”—it had originally held the unpasteurized “raw” milk favored by people who believe in getting closer to the sources of their food.

**What If Animals Believe in God?**

By Andrew Aghapour  
Religion Dispatches  
March 7, 2016  

Chimpanzees believe in God. This news, widely reported last week, is only a slight exaggeration. Using hidden cameras, scientists have indeed captured footage of chimpanzee behavior that resembles religious ritual. In the footage below, groups of chimps can be seen throwing rocks into the crevices within trees:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=38&v=_W_VGnp-4bg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=38&v=_W_VGnp-4bg)
Living in a wavy universe
By Ilia Delio
Global Sisters Report
March 7, 2016
http://globalsistersreport.org/column/speaking-god/living-wavy-universe-38196

From the dawn of our species, what we know about the universe has come from the power of observation, that is, what we can observe in a light-filled universe. In the 13th-century Oxford theologian Robert Grosseteste described the beginning of all physical life from light. One of his major works De Luce begins with God's creation of a single point of light which, through expansion and extension, he claimed, evoked the entire physical order into existence. The expansion of light replicating itself infinitely in all directions, he speculated, is the basis of the created world.

Interfaith community to discuss protection of coastal waters
By Rick Snizek, Editor
Rhode Island Catholic
March 3, 2016

PROVIDENCE — Draped in hidden splendor beneath the shimmering blue waters of the Atlantic Ocean lie gorges deeper than the Grand Canyon and mountain peaks as tall as the Rockies. In an area known as Cashes Ledge, located about 80 miles east of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, scientists continue to identify new species where rare, cold water coral reefs more than 1,000 years old are home to one of the most biodiverse areas of the Atlantic.

The Urgent Need to Slow Down: A Conversation with Elizabeth Kolbert and Matthieu Ricard
By Sam Mowe
The Garrison Institute
March 1, 2016
https://www.garrisoninstitute.org/blog/the-urgent-need-to-slow-down/

Journalist Elizabeth Kolbert and Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard each had big books in 2015. Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History—winner of the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction—takes an unflinching look at the history of extinction and the different ways that human beings are negatively impacting life on the planet. Ricard’s Altruism: The Power of Compassion to Change Yourself and the World explores global challenges, such as climate change, and argues that compassion and altruism are the keys to creating a better future. Together these books—filled with grief and hope—feel like two sides of a coin, each necessary for understanding what it means to be alive during humanity’s greatest crisis. I recently spoke
with Kolbert and Ricard to discuss emotional responses to distressing environmental news, the
importance of slowing down, and the role of art in environmental solutions.

---


**How religious cooperation is leading to more toilets in India**
By Allison Pond
Deseret News
March 22, 2016

For decades, one of India’s largest religious festivals left a stinking mess at the mouth of the
Ganges River. Millions of pilgrims gather each January for a dip in the sacred waters of the
Ganges Delta where it empties into the Bay of Bengal. The river has been a symbol of
purification since ancient times, yet the festival, the Ganga Sagar Mela, left its beaches polluted
with human waste from pilgrims lacking sanitary knowledge, a common problem in the
developing world, and access to toilets.

**C'mon, get happy: Denmark leads in latest global happiness index**
By Brian Roewe
National Catholic Reporter
March 21, 2016

The United Nations on Sunday marked its annual International Day of Happiness, and according
to at least one report, the epicenter of the celebration was situated squarely in the state of
Denmark. The title of the happiest nation on earth belongs once again to the Scandinavian
country, which has now held the distinction in three of the four editions of the World Happiness
Report. Switzerland momentarily swiped the “world’s happiest” label in the 2015 report, before
settling for the silver medal this year.

**Holiest of times for water worshippers in Sydney**
By Brendan Trembath
ABC News
March 17, 2016
Hundreds of followers of an ancient Middle Eastern faith have descended on a river in western Sydney for one of the holiest weeks in their calendar. Mandaeans perform an elaborate baptism ritual as a central part of their beliefs.

**India: Asian Buddhist and Christian clergy talk ecology and faith**

Vatican Radio
March 10, 2016

An interreligious workshop in the eastern Indian state of Bihar focused on ways religions can work together to create a healthy and peaceful planet. The Jesuit Conference of Asia-Pacific Region organized the three-day workshop on Buddhist-Christian dialogue, which concluded March 7 in Bodh Gaya, the town linked with Buddha's enlightenment.

**Sustainability Central to International Women’s Day**

Environment News Service
March 10, 2016

International Women’s Day is officially celebrated every year on March 8, but this year, so much is happening that the day has expanded to a week-long series of events throughout the world. The 2016 theme for International Women’s Day is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality.”

**A Buddhist tradition guides seekers to live in harmony with nature**

By Manjula Narayan
Hindustan Times
March 6, 2016

It’s -19 degrees C and you are trudging back to the hotel after a sumptuous thukpa dinner at the Amdo Tibetan restaurant on Leh’s main market street. Your companions are much younger, not given to wheezing as they traverse the frigid streets, not given even to the debilitating episode of altitude sickness that kept you in bed for a whole day, your heartbeat booming in your ears like a murderous foghorn.

**Theologian contemplates environment and spirituality**

By Pat Johnson
Vancouver Courier
March 3, 2016
The ecological crisis is a spiritual crisis, says a renowned theologian coming to Vancouver this weekend. Douglas Christie, a professor of theological studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, blames environmental degradation on human habits of consumption and a lack of feeling for other living beings, including other people.

**Muftis in Perlis Issue a Fatwa against Pollution**
Clean Malaysia
March 2, 2016
http://cleanmalaysia.com/2016/03/02/muftis-in-perlis-issue-a-fatwa-against-pollution/

First came a fatwa by Islamic authorities against the poaching of protected species in Terengganu. Now comes another equally welcome religious edict issued by the Perlis Fatwa Committee: a ruling against polluting the environment. Through that fatwa, the committee has made it “haram,” or forbidden, for Muslims to pollute Malaysia’s environment because doing so would cause harm to humans, animals and plants alike.

**10. Newsletters**

- **Forum on Religion and Ecology Newsletter**
  http://fore.yale.edu/publications/newsletters/

- **Eco-Congregation Scotland Newsletter**
  http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=a37b4ff760ffcc7fd1c3611b4&id=57e0b5c50a

- **Garrison Institute’s Climate, Mind and Behavior Newsletter**
  https://www.garrisoninstitute.org/insights-tools/resources/

- **Green Church Newsletter**
  http://green-church.org/newsletters

- **Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES)/EcoIslam Newsletter**
  http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9e7db8d664e580892ade797bf&id=45f1a8da85

- **Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute Newsletter**
  http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=887c3de8b0&id=e86d980456

- **Voices for Earth Justice Newsletter**
  http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9eb850d03ad7bc11a3bb09576&id=e8a11c035d