

Faith and Climate Change

As we draw to a close on the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team's focus this past church year on "*Fresh Water – Rivers, Ponds & Wetlands*," we wish to thank everyone who participated in the activities we hosted. Those activities included, among others, a "Wonders of our Waterways" presentation by Amy Weidensaul, Director of MassAudubon/Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary; a film screening of *DamNation*, an award-winning documentary on dam removal in this country followed by a discussion of local dam removal; and an Earth Day service that was all about celebrating water with song, stories, poems, and readings with the congregation suggesting favorite hymns that relate to fresh water that we then sang together – creating a wonderful sense of community. The year was capped off with a paddle on the Ipswich River in which 22 members of the church and family in canoes and kayaks enjoyed a picture-perfect spring day celebrating both the river and church community!

While we'll always continue to celebrate fresh water, the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team will be shifting in the fall to focus on a new theme. Believing that we all have a moral, ethical, and survival imperative to learn about climate change and to act appropriately and decisively, the GSMT has chosen as its theme for the 2019-2020 church year "*Faith and Climate Change*." This is also one of the UU Ministry of Earth special topics this year and more information can be found at <https://www.uumfe.org/act/issue-areas/#climate-change>. Across all faiths, there is a belief that we have sacred responsibility to care of the Earth and be its stewards. As we move forward with this new theme, we'd like to hear from *you* on this topic – in particular what you'd like us to bring to the church by way of information and action. You can talk to one of the GSMT members, or e-mail Toni Bandrowicz directly at tbandrowicz@gmail.com. We will also be leaving blank cards by the Green Sanctuary bulletin board in the Parish Hall for you to fill out with your thoughts. And, as always, we welcome you to help organize activities and participate in them. Let us know how you'd like to get involved!