



Communities of faith responding to climate change

July 2020 call summary

Dear Friends,

The sustained advocacy call summary leads with action items. Because [talking about climate change is one of the most important ways you can make a difference](#), we include **discussion hooks** of 1-3 articles or reports that for policy conversations with legislators, Letters to the Editor, **or** conversations with neighbors, friends, and family —or your congregational study group. Our calls take place on 4th Thursdays, from 12:30-1:30.

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ACTION ITEMS:

The August Recesses are times when **both state and federal legislators are in-district and interacting with constituents**, so we are providing helps for town halls, calls, and Letters to the Editor, all of which are timely now through Labor Day. See Federal and State below for a few more specific and timely issues.

Find your legislators

- [Find your Pennsylvania state legislators](#) (who serve in Harrisburg)
- Find [your Representative](#)
- Your Senators are [Sen. Pat Toomey](#) and [Sen. Bob Casey](#).

Speak up and listen

- *Attend Virtual Town Hall Meetings*
- *Write a Letter to the Editor of your local newspaper, and send a published copy to your elected officials at all levels. (Clippings, photocopies, and PDFs are all reasonable formats!)*
- *Follow up with a call or an email to share the [Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update for 2020](#) and share how you are motivated by your faith to work toward climate justice — and perhaps how you are doing so, and how your faith supports you in that work.*

Resources:

- [Excellent letter to the Editor guidance](#)
- [IPL's Town Hall helps](#)

Visit legislators' webpages and Facebook pages, or call their offices to find out when they are holding (virtual) town halls for constituents. Register for a Town Hall if registration is

required. Mark your calendars, and attend. If you are sending “snail mail” send to a district office. Email can be sent through contact forms or via the district office staff.

Listen closely for the things that are most important to your legislators, and take some notes that you can use to ground your conversation in a shared interest or value. As always, we urge you to bring your whole self to these meetings.

Avoid asking closed or “gotcha” questions like “Do you accept climate science?” **Instead, ask more open-ended questions, or ones that invite people into action** (or more bolder or more just action) “You have said that you want your constituents and Pennsylvanians generally to have clean air, clean water, and healthy families. Can you tell me what you are doing to keep our air and water clean, and our climate stable?” “How are you responding to the [climate impacts Pennsylvania is already seeing](#) on agriculture, infrastructure, and clean water access, and how are you working to reduce future harms?”

You can use background from this summary or from previous calls to frame additional questions, and we’ve listed a few areas that may be particularly timely below.

State action items

The state legislature is under enormous budget pressure. The House Majority Leader has already signaled that they will likely try to use state funds for specifically designated for environmental protection for general fund uses, yet the legislature and the Governor have recently agreed to a plan which will give away millions of dollars to fracking-related industry in Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, there is increasing evidence and awareness of [health and safety threats from oil and gas buildout](#), and [our state Constitution](#) says that the people of the Commonwealth have a right to clean air, clean water and more (Article 1, section 27). (We are glad that the new House Majority Leader has also signaled that the legislature should use their “rainy day fund.”)

If you schedule a conversation with your lawmaker, do ask open ended questions about the future folks want: moral imagination questions. Take notes. You can follow up using those hooks later!

Federal action items

Speak with or write to your Senators about principles for a just and sustainable relief and recovery, and urge them to treat policy as a covenant with the future. The [principles for relief and stimulus](#) or the Coalition for Clean Energy and Healthy Communities [1-pager](#), including IPL’s signature, may be helpful. For some lawmakers, it may be helpful to start with concerns and curious questions about [fossil fuel lobbying and bailouts](#) as part of pandemic relief. In the Senate, it is timely to suggest that including the RECLAIM Act in recovery bills is an example of immediate relief with the future in mind. [The Vision for Equitable Climate Action](#) is already sorted by policy area, and can provide policies and entry points in those areas.

DISCUSSION HOOKS for conversations with elected leaders, and with friends, neighbors, and congregational study groups:

COVID is making space for reconsidering the role of cars in our communities, and how we allocate space to all kinds of transportation—including bicycles! — and to public space for people.

This FastCompany piece [Cars are our guests, and they are no longer welcome](#) notes that enacting change now, while traffic levels are still down, may be an opportunity to reap quick gains that could have big impacts. The author says “I believe that a better transport future is within reach by taking advantage of the space dominated by automobiles. This is the time to leverage current low-traffic conditions so that streets and roads can be converted to accommodate new technology and transport.”

This [NY Times opinion piece](#) explores the idea of banning passenger cars in Manhattan, noting that pre-pandemic, average traffic speeds were about 7 miles per hour -- 5mph in Midtown. That’s faster than walking, but not a lot, and it’s slower than bicycling. The author notes that “Rather than stumble back into car dependency, cities can begin to undo their worst mistake: giving up so much of their land to the automobile.”

Finally, [this piece from EHN](#) makes sure we think about inclusivity as we consider possibilities like more bicycling, noting “it’s not as simple as keeping roads closed to traffic and building more bicycle lanes—bicycling and related policies need to be more inclusive.

Black and Hispanic bicyclists are underrepresented in bicyclists counts, as Julian Agyeman, a professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University, points out, because data is often taken in downtown areas neglecting outer neighborhoods. Because of this skewed data, urban planners see the need is greatest downtown and that’s where bicycle lanes and other infrastructure goes. There’s also racial profiling issues: investigations in Chicago and Tampa Bay, Florida, show that Black and Hispanic riders are much more likely to receive bicycle citations than white bicyclists.

COVID-19 and the killing of George Floyd have been a wakeup call for society and have caused tremendous pain and suffering.

Here's to hoping that as we emerge society places more value on healthier bodies, racial equity, cleaner air, quieter streets, a slowing down of our fast-paced lives, and the bicycle, which can help us achieve all of the above.

In our calls we focus our discussion on these questions -- feel free to use them as a launching place for your own conversations:

- What are our opportunities to effectively and strategically support transition goals?

- Where can we shine light on disproportionate burdens?
- How can we remind leaders of their missions and promises?
- How can our faith communities lead in word and example?

POSITIVE NEWS:

A new report says the United States can get to 90 percent clean energy by 2035 in a way that adds millions of jobs and reduces energy bills! The [report](#) is from the University of California, Berkeley, and GridLab. It brings together several important threads in energy policy and economics to show how the country can move almost completely away from fossil fuels. One of the report co-authors said in a conference call that the benefits of this transition could help to repair the economic damage from the coronavirus pandemic.

The House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis finally produced their report, and it reflects more emphasis on justice issues including racial environmental injustice than early sections showed —input worked!

Thanks to IPL national, we have access to [One pagers on each of the 22 sections](#). Our friends at the Friends' Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) note that the report details carbon pricing principles ([which mirror some of their own](#)) that should guide legislators as they work on policy solutions. It also recognizes that carbon pricing is not a silver bullet, and that there must be other complementary policies in place to fully decarbonize our economy and address environmental justice concerns

The House Infrastructure Bill (known as the [Moving Forward Act, H.R.2](#))

The House also passed a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill, with **an explicit climate focus** —. The package contains many recommendations from the report released by the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis!

Some highlights include:

Water Infrastructure and Electrical Grid: almost \$50 billion for improving water infrastructure, including lead pipe removal and regional water cleanups. It would also upgrade the country's interstate electrical grid and direct FERC to improve its interregional transmission planning process, steps that most experts agree are essential for the US to continue its expansion of renewable energy.

Transportation: with almost half a trillion dollars dedicated to transportation, the bill envisions a serious overhaul of the country's transportation network. Electric vehicles are a top priority, with funding for charging stations, a new tax credit for up to 25% of a vehicle purchase, and a plan to start electrifying government vehicle fleets.

The transportation section also has a strong public transit focus, with new flexible grant programs for local governments to reduce transportation climate pollution and

traffic. Other funding is specifically dedicated to upgrading rail and bus infrastructure, including federal assistance to localities buying electric buses.

Clean Energy Tax Credits: an extension and expansion of the many clean energy tax credits that failed to gain approval at the end of 2019. Those credits—including solar, wind, electric vehicles, energy efficiency, and energy storage—have been instrumental to the U.S. clean energy industry, which was one of the country's top job creators before the current economic downturn. Since the downturn, that industry has lost over 600,000 jobs.

RECLAIM Act: one of Interfaith Power & Light's top priorities, the RECLAIM Act, and one that is led in the House by 2 Pennsylvanians: a Democrat from the NE and a Republican from Central and Northern regions. RECLAIM would tap existing, dedicated funding for abandoned coal mine clean up and community job training. The inclusion of the RECLAIM Act in this package bodes well for its potential inclusion in the next round of Covid-19 relief.

COURTS:

2 court decisions and a corporate decision, all in 24 hours!

The Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL) was ordered to halt oil shipments pending a new environmental review.

The Keystone XL pipeline work is frozen pending multiple permits

The Atlantic Coast pipeline project was cancelled by a corporate partnership between two utility companies after lawsuits from greens and landowners help push it billions of dollars over budget -- including a great deal of collaborative work between NC IPL, VA IPL and DC MD and NoVa IPL, particularly amplifying voices from a historically black town (post-slavery settlement) that would have been hugely impacted. Read more: [The New Yorker](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [Politico](#)

NOTE: there are next steps for most of these decisions, they are not final decisions, but they do provide breathing room. The DAPL news also adds pressure to resume shipping caustic Bakken Shale oil by rail again.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (July 16)

A [judge halted](#) the Trump Administration's attempt to roll back the EPA's 2016 methane rule, which limits flaring and leaking of methane during extraction. This is a big win! New Mexico IPL has especially been a leader in this work.

2) FERC [decided against](#) a petition that would have drastically cut net metering and allowed utilities to stop reimbursing home solar owners for the power they produce. This is also a big win! For people with worried legislators (or aunties and uncles): [the Deloitte Grid Reliability Test](#) showed that electricity reliability including renewables during COVID was just fine.

BACKGROUND:

One bit of news that is not positive, but that is relevant to *both* state and federal policy conversation is the clean energy jobs news, so we're parking it here. There was a *slight* clean energy jobs rebound, but it did not come remotely close to making up for previous losses. There remains a nearly 15 percent decline in clean energy employment from the start of the year. The biggest losses were in energy efficiency jobs.

The overview with some clear charts [is here](#).

A by-state appendix from the E2 report includes a bit more that is relevant to Pennsylvania, in addition to the PA line on the chart:

- The Metropolitan Statistical Areas MSAs that have lost the most clean energy jobs are among the largest economic hubs in the US, including NY-NJ-PA;
- Pittsburgh is one of the MSAs that have been hit hard as a percentage of their workforce.
- Hispanic and Latino clean energy workers were hit the hardest of clean energy demographics; the clean energy industry is about 14 percent Hispanic/Latino, but an estimated 25 percent of the job losses in the clean energy industry are Hispanic/Latino workers.

State

WV IPL is leading this [faith-leader letter addressing the 4-state petrochemical buildout in the Ohio River Valley](#) (PA, OH, WV, KY). The format is a template that can be altered or replaced; It includes multi-faith references and speaks of toxic burden, clean water, and current regional impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas pollution

Agencies and Rulemaking:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)

The DCNR is gathering comments about forest lands of all sorts. [Pgh Tribune](#)

A [survey is open to all residents](#) through August 31. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. People may also submit input directly to PaForester@pa.gov. The results will be incorporated into the department's new strategic plan, which will shape leadership in forest management and conservation on both public and private land in urban and rural areas.

We found that the survey lacked specificity on timber/lumber questions (select timbering to as part of invasives or wildfire management is really different from small- or large-scale clearcuts, for example). In the education section, it really does not sufficiently open justice and equity questions around either access or around targeted acquisition and management for flood and water quality control in and upstream from impacted communities. Folks might also want to address post-extraction cleanup, and/or forest fragmentation and taxpayer funding of access for resource extraction, which is a subsidy..

For more on state forest land and Pennsylvania's 20 state forest districts, see DCNR.pa.gov/StateForests.

A bill introduced later this year would commission a study on fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and the feasibility of creating [wildlife corridors](#): [HR 670](#)

DEP

The [Draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Report](#), a regular study of Pennsylvania's streams and waterways was released. It reveals that there was an increase in the number of impaired waters in the state. The DEP's latest biennial report lists 25,468 miles of Pennsylvania waters as being harmed by pollution. That is [5,500 miles more than in the 2016 report](#); nearly 30% of PA rivers and streams do not meet water quality standards for water supply, aquatic life, recreation, or fish consumption. The top three major sources of water quality impairment identified in the 2020 report are: agricultural runoff, 5,765 miles; abandoned mine runoff, 5,559 miles; and stormwater, 3,206 miles. An [interactive watershed viewer](#) from the report is among the copious links in this article.

Relatedly, Senator Yaw has announced that he plans to introduce legislation as part of the PA Farm Bill that will [help fund farmers' conservation efforts](#). The legislation itself is not yet out.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, through the Keystone 10 Million Trees project, is supporting ecosystem appropriate plantings to protect riparian (stream-edge) areas. Expertise, trees, and sometimes tools are available in for Adams, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, and York counties. Some portions of that help may be available in other areas. If you are interested in doing that work as a congregation --- congregational, public, or private lands -- reach out to [Cricket](#), and she will introduce you to the right person at Keystone 10 Million Trees, and can send you a link to hear a webinar from Nov 2019 about their work.

BUDGET and RECESS

House Speaker Cutler now expects the PA House to be on recess until 9/15, though if Federal monies are released, they might be called back into session earlier for allocations.

The anticipated state budget deficit for the current fiscal year and next is \$5-6 billion, which is nearly double the last "normal" annual budget of \$3.2 billion. The State constitution requires a balanced budget. The PA legislature passed a stopgap budget that will carry us through November 30th, but it also creates a "fiscal cliff," as there must be a new budget to cover December 1 to June 30. This means that the legislature will return to do that work during the lame duck period which they have, in recent years, used almost exclusively for reorganizing caucus leadership and not for legislating.

Overall, anticipate a bit of a crazy fall, including deregulatory attempts. Rollbacks Before the election, lawmakers may try to pass companion bills in the Senate to deregulatory bills that the House has already. They include things like creating an "office of the repealer," and

requiring that for every new regulation, the state must repeal 2. They are [SB5](#), [SB119](#), [SB251](#), [SB252](#), [SB 253](#)

Also [anticipate raiding of “special” restricted funds](#), including conservation and environmental funds; House Speaker Cutler is now also hinting at using the \$300 million rainy day fund that the legislature (and former Speaker) had previously resisted considering spending.

The short-term budget that the legislature passed in July is pretty clean (the budget and related codes are places that PA legislators have often tried to stuff in legislation that didn't pass on its own. This is not good practice.)

The short-term budget is essentially an extension of the Fiscal Code of 2019, with flat-level funding for DEP. Unfortunately it also [extended ban on single-use plastic bans](#) (including language linking this extension to COVID). The ban-on-bans does not prevent municipalities from preparing single use plastic bans to go into place as soon as the ban-on-bans ends, nor does it prevent community groups from exploring options or even creating buying groups to make sustainable package purchasing more affordable, or lists celebrating those businesses that have made the switch on their own, or which make it easy for customers to use reusable bags.

The PA Environment Digest describes [2020 as a “make or break year](#) for environmental funding”

RGGI (pronounced “Reggie”)

You will recall from [previous summaries](#) that the Governor wants Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and directed the DEP to prepare the documents for consideration, originally due in July, and extended to September 15 in June. Some legislators do not want PA to join (or even consider joining) RGGI.

The [anti-RGGI bill](#) HB2025 passed the house in mid-July. Lots of work by environmental and health organizations pushed the positive votes down below a veto-proof majority. The bill is now in the Senate Environmental Resources Committee. It is unclear if it will come out of committee unless they think they can get more votes. The house did get hearings with Representative Metcalf specifically including polluters and climate deniers. Did get House hearings with Rep. Metcalf including deniers and polluters. There was lots of pushbacks from some usual climate champions.

Some of you remember HB1100, the proposed gargantuan tax break for fracking-related industry buildouts that passed, but was vetoed by the Governor this spring. A new bill, only slightly changed, HB732 has passed, and the Governor will sign it. [Negotiations were closed door](#).

[HB732](#) provides for a 26 year tax credit (instead of 30), of \$26 million [per year](#) for each of 4 companies and sites (this number was previously open ended, and was one of the Governor's objections to HB1100.) Allies tell us that these tax credits are transferrable to industries or supply chain partners up and downstream. The 2 already proposed sites

(discussed last month are for “fertilizer” -- Ammonia and Urea -- which will come from fracking products, making fracking more profitable. We are told they are also used to make precursors to plastics. Modeling by the PA Manufacturers Association suggests that these plants will land about 150 permanent jobs per plant. The plans do not include provisions that the legislature was considering when they were considering a nuclear bailout, including any provision for funds to land in escrow for a period of time. There is no real requirement for Pennsylvania hiring, nor for Pennsylvania supply chain, other than the raw materials from the oil and gas industry. At 150 jobs each for 4 plants, with \$26 million in tax breaks for 26 years, that comes to about \$1.13 million in tax breaks per job.

As announced last month, the already-proposed sites reported before are in Newport (Luzerne County) on the Susquehanna, and in Renovo (Clinton County), on the West Branch of the Susquehanna

The PA Senate used part of July to approve a bill to limit, reduce, and [repeal various emissions inspections](#) requirements for cars. It was part of a four-bill package aimed at “modernizing the emission inspection rules in the state” that were put in place to reduce air pollution. However, most of the bills require the approval of the federal Environmental Protection Agency before they can take effect.

The positive bipartisan bills we have been following are mostly parked and not expected to move. They have gained momentum this year, and are expected to be re-introduced in the next legislative year. [Past call summaries](#) include lots of information on these bills -- just search-on-page for the bill numbers. We will review specifics when they are likely to move again. The exception is the last one on the list, the EV infrastructure bill could possibly get wrapped into an infrastructure and COVID relief bill before the end of this year.

- **HB 531, SB705** the **Community Solar Bill** is also described in [this letter](#), which we will continue to collect. Bipartisan and bicameral (both PA House and PA Senate)
- **100% Renewable legislation (HB 1425, SB 630)**. Bipartisan and bicameral
- **HB1195** would **raise our AEPS** (Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards) - see [January call](#) summary.
- **SB 596** is the Electric Vehicle infrastructure bill. Full discussion in the [February call](#) summary. *Note that the new State of the Air report includes a clear discussion of the [health effects of traffic pollution](#).* There is a new grant open; see [Upcoming Events](#).

Federal

Next Steps in Green Recovery Work

Since the House passed the Heroes Act in May, negotiations between the Senate, the House, and the White House have gone quiet. However, Leader McConnell has indicated that the Senate will be taking up their next bill sometime after they come back from recess on July 20th. That bill will ultimately be conferenced with the Heroes Act.

That means that now is an ideal time to be contacting senators about a recovery that helps build safe, healthy, clean communities. The Senate bill is likely to focus on tax relief, state and local government assistance, and possibly another round of stimulus payments or an extension of unemployment benefits. However, it's still possible that green recovery priorities like funding for low-income energy assistance, clean energy tax credits, and the RECLAIM Act could be included, among others.

[The Clean Energy and Healthy Communities Coalition priorities](#), on which IPL is a signer, speak to principles and priorities generally, and are not tied to specific legislation..

The latest on Fossil fuel bailouts

More than 5,600 companies in the fossil fuel industry have taken a minimum of \$3bn in coronavirus aid from the US federal government. The \$3billion figure is probably far less than the companies actually received. The Small Business Administration did not disclose the specific amounts of loans, and instead listed ranges. On the high end, fossil fuel companies could have received up to \$6.7billion.

As we discussed last month “neutral” rules changes (that fossil fuel companies are lobbying for) are actually functioning as massive fossil fuel payouts. The [Wall Street Journal published an article](#) on July 20 highlighting the tax credit cash-out fossil fuel companies were about to get if Congress did indeed allow firms to accelerate accumulated tax breaks *“Many large U.S. corporations are sitting on piles of tax credits they may not be able to use for years. They want Congress to let them have the money now. [Duke Energy Corp.](#), [DUK +1.10% Ford Motor Co.](#), [F +1.28% Occidental Petroleum Corp.](#) [OXY +8.89%](#) and others could benefit if Congress includes a tax credit cash-out proposal in its next economic-relief legislation. Such a move, which is among ideas being considered by lawmakers and the Trump administration, could improve corporate cash flow by tens of billions of dollars.”*

Fossil fuel and chemical giants are now also lobbying for [coronavirus liability protection](#), so they will not be held responsible if workers get infected.

Agencies and Rulemaking

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a new proposed leader, William Pendly, who is known to be anti-public land (and/or pro-private landowner). There seem to be attempts to slow his approval process down so he can continue acting in the position. Those who oppose Pendly want required documents to be made public sooner, believing that once his views are public, the public will understand why he should not head up the BLM. His nomination is currently in the [Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#). Documents the Interior Department must submit to the committee include a questionnaire with Pendly's written answers to queries from committee members, as well as his financial disclosure report and his ethics agreement. [More from EENews](#). Before joining BLM last summer, Pendly frequently posted to Twitter under the handle @Sagebrush_Rebel, where he was known to mock climate science.

EPA:

The agency finalized the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rollback which [we commented on](#) at the end of Feb.

Courts and Hearings

These all fall up at the top in positive news this month!

REGIONAL REPORTS:

Representative Conor Lamb (PA-17) reportedly weighed in to shape a portion of the Democratic “unity platform” on fossil fuels and climate change. The [Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#) reports, and if he’s your Rep., you know how to contact him to let him know your reactions, since he cannot read minds.

Peter Winslow let us know that the PA DEP is reaching out to engage environmental justice organizations in the Southeastern Region regarding rulemaking process to allow Pennsylvania to participate in the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#). PA DEP would like to hold virtual meetings to introduce RGGI and hear thoughts from the EJ community. There will be opportunities for the public to comment once draft regulations are released. This invitation is for EJ organizations to engage early providing 2-way education feedback. Contact:

Justin Dula, AICP, Regional Coordinator
Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Environmental Justice
2 E. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: 484.250.5820 | Mobile: 484.661.7996
www.dep.pa.gov

Any time policies propose any kind of pollution credits, we are acutely interested in exactly how rules will be structured in order to reduce burdens first and fastest in historically most-overburdened communities, as well as to prevent future pollution “hotspots”

[Tree planting](#) in the Chesapeake Bay watershed -- with ecosystem-appropriate trees grown in PA native plant nurseries -- is able to start back up again (with masks!).

UPCOMING faith/advocacy events.

Others at paipf.org/events

Save the dates (events that occurred between the call and the summary are not included):

- **August 2-5** [Film and Panel event: Come Hell or High Water](#). View the film August 2-4 on your own schedule, then join an online panel with filmmakers and others on August 5th. Individual tickets (1 connection) and Congregational tickets (150 connections) are available. *Organized by Interfaith Power & Light.*

- The United Church of Christ has been running excellent **monthly [Creation Justice Webinars](#)**. Check out past recordings, or look for [upcoming](#) topics
- **August 1 to September 1** —[Stories from the Road](#)—this online multi-modal monthlong “event” is a celebration of all of the ways that PA IPL’s annual bike trip has helped weave community, seek inter-community connection, model and promote low-carbon transportation, and urge our elected officials forward in creative and courageous action toward climate justice (advocacy).
- Grant window for [Driving Pennsylvania Forward](#): July 2, 2020 to September 4, 2020 and Feb. 26, 2021 for grants that support installation of DC fast charging (for Electric Vehicles) or hydrogen fueling that, when complete, will be open to the public. EV Fast chargers must be installed in Community Charging Hubs, Transportation Corridors, or Destination Locations. Search on page for “DC Fast Charging” for more information and spec sheets. Might your congregation be a good location? Could this be a collaborative project with another local entity? Start imagining!

MEDITATION:

We always end our calls (and call summaries) with a meditation or prayer. Our prayer this month comes to us from Lutheran Disaster response, and is timely as congregations, communities, and denominations consider how to respond to heat emergencies, flood and storm emergencies, and wildfire emergencies in this time when we are also working to keep one another safe by maintaining physical distance. We have lightly edited the prayer to open the door more widely in our interfaith space:

Prepare us, we pray, for what lies ahead.
 Give us the strength and dedication that we will need in order to serve others unselfishly.
 Give us the energy we will need to follow through with the task.
 Give us strength to face our assignment, and put before us people who will support us.
 Open our ears and eyes and hearts, so that we can sustain others and help creation to
 recover from this crisis.
 Bless those who are suffering and give them hope, in the name of all that is holy and
 life-giving,
 Amen and Blessed Be.

—[paipl.org](#)—