

Simpler Living Faith Forum Presentations, 4/11 - 5/2/2021

4/11 Good Neighbor Gardens: Mia Vaughnes is the co-founder and developer of an innovative approach to community gardening aimed at improving access to good food for neighbors grown by neighbors. It's San Diego's first urban garden co-op called Good Neighbor Gardens and there are multiple opportunities for folks to "get in where they fit in". Mia will provide a description of how it works and how you can get involved.

Mia is a former career financial planner who with her team has installed over 280 gardens in front yards and back yards in San Diego and distributed food from them to thousands of families weekly as she has encouraged people to give from abundance. Come listen and learn how to engage.

4/18 Honing Spirituality for OneEarth Ways: Lee Van Ham has selected just three of the many life-issues as core changes as we rise to the challenge of living together within the capacities of our one planet. (1) Bank choices as a spiritual practice; (2) food choices give us the greatest leverage for maximum impact; (3) creation-based theology that includes finding new relationships with all beings and with the meaning of the cross.

Lee has worked at the intersection of ecology, economics, and spiritually during the past decade. He is the author of three books, has pastored three congregations, and has volunteered in co-leading [Jubilee Economics Ministries](#), a non-profit with Jubilee Circles in the U.S. and Mexico.

4/25 Creation Care Sunday Rising in Faithful Challenge: Our Simpler Living ministry members will cover three areas:

- Erika Morgan is an independent clean energy consultant and will discuss her work as the point of contact for the Diocese of San Diego's "Future Bound Solar Initiative". This effort, underway since 2019, is a facilitated program of education, technical and financing resources to enable every EDSD church to explore jumpstarting their Creation Care commitment via solar energy.
- Joan Reese will share her work with SPC Building and Grounds Committee and Landscaping Subcommittee to incorporate sustainable practices throughout the Cathedral campus—in what we think of as the "Greening of the Cathedral."
- Diane Lopez Hughes will address Simpler Living's collaboration with the Diocese Creation Care Task Force in advocating for increased commitment and action in churches throughout our diocese.

5/2 Joyfully Embracing our Vocation to Restore God's Gift of Creation: After a brief review of the state of God's creation, Jim will suggest that God is calling our generation to joyfully embrace being born at just such a time as this (Esther 4:14) -- a time when our commitments, actions and initiatives will impact the lives of countless generations.

[Jim Antal](#) serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Antal's 2018 book, [CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD](#), is

being read by hundreds of churches. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President.

Come join the discussion about how our lives can (and should) be informed by faith-filled and serious consideration of environmental stewardship for now and for future generations. Here is the series Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/323209153>