



## **THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **A Discussion Group for Interested Adults & Youth**

This seven-session series will be held in the congregation's building on 2nd Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, beginning in September 2019, and continuing monthly (except December) through April 2020. Session dates and topics are listed below for each session.

**Randy Hilscher** will lead this series ([rhilscher@gmail.com](mailto:rhilscher@gmail.com) or text 330-949-9580).

#### **An Introduction to "The Challenge of Climate Change" Discussion Group September 10, 2019**

Overview: Group leader Randy Hilscher will briefly discuss what led him to propose this series, and his hopes for this shared journey. He will preview for participants planned session topics and resources that will be referenced during the series. Participants will be invited to share what motivated them to participate, as well their questions, concerns, and hopes. The group will also seek consensus about what will best enhance participant comfort, enjoyment, and learning.

#### **Perspectives on Global Climate Change in the Long History of Earth October 8, 2019**

Overview: This session will locate current climate-related challenges in the larger context of similar events in earth's long history, with highlights from Peter Brannen's 2017 book *The Ends of the World: Supervolcanoes, Lethal Oceans, and the Search for Past Apocalypses*, and Elizabeth Kolbert's *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, published in 2015.

#### **Perspectives on Climate Change History in the Late 20th Century November 12, 2019**

Overview: In his 2019 book *Losing Earth: A Recent History*, writer Nathaniel Rich looks back on the decade of 1979-1989 when climate change and what needed to be done about it were largely understood, but that knowledge was squandered. This session will look at that history as well as the perspective of long-term environmental activist Bill McKibben as articulated in his groundbreaking 1989 work, *The End of Nature*.



**Recent Projections and Warnings About Climate Change Threats  
January 14, 2020**

Overview: In this session participants will examine conclusions and recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 2018 Special Report, *Summary for Policymakers*. In addition, the group will focus on Bill McKibben's more recent perspective on climate change from his 2019 book, *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*

**Dire Challenges from Climate Change for Future Generations  
February 11, 2020**

Overview: This session will be devoted to some of the detailed predictions of possible dire conditions humans will face in coming decades as presented in David Wallace-Wells' 2019 book *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*. The group will also look at Jeremiah Purdy's view (from his 2015 book, *After Nature: A Politics for the Anthropocene*) that since human and environmental fates are inseparably intertwined, we must now face the hard choice between becoming either more deeply democratic or more unequal and inhumane.

**Exploring Unusual Perspectives in Literature Old and New  
March 10, 2020**

Overview: Utilizing selections from the adventuresome travels Robert Macfarlane narrates in his 2019 book *Underland: A Deep Time Journey*, the discussion leader will invite participants to join the author who repeatedly references our journey "through the Anthropocene, an epoch of immense and often frightening change at a planetary scale." This will include reference to some ancient Finnish poems Macfarlane cites, which were published in 1849 by Elias Lönnrot in *The Kalevala: An Epic Poem after Oral Tradition*, and translated from the Finnish by Keith Bosley in 2008.

**Celebrating What We Learned and What We Hope to Do/Change  
April 14, 2020**

Overview: Participants will reflect together on their shared learning experience, identifying new perspectives gained about the causes and consequences of climate change, as well as any hopes or plans they have to address or respond to the challenges and threats they now recognize. Participants will also be invited to share feedback on the series in general.

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Whoever heard of a church encouraging you to think for yourself? *We did!*

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