

HARRISBURG CLIMATE VIGIL

This weekend, people around the world will hold climate vigils and rallies to get the attention of world leaders. The vigil for the Harrisburg area will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, November 29, 2015, at Grace United Methodist Church, 216 State Street. These global vigils are all planned to begin at 1 PM in the local time zone on the day prior to the start of the International Climate Summit. The international leaders have it in their power to determine the future of humanity and civilization. Parking is free and readily available in Harrisburg on Sundays.

Harrisburg's interfaith service and rally for climate justice and peace will begin at the church, followed by a drumming ceremony on the state capitol steps, weather permitting. Speakers will include former Senator Franklin Kury, Father James Podlesny, and Professor John Dernbach, a delegate to the Paris Summit. Concerned citizens of all faith traditions are warmly invited to join people around the world as they all rally, march, and pray that leaders do the right thing.

In addition to brief presentations by the main speakers, prayers, reflections, chants and musical selections will be offered by a variety of faith traditions representative of the community.

After years of negotiations, world leaders of more than 190 nations are set to strike a new international climate agreement when they convene for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. The conference will convene in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015.

Scientists warn that if emissions continue to rise at their current rate, the world will soon pass the threshold beyond which global warming becomes catastrophic and irreversible. The consequences are enormous, including food and water shortages, floods, and droughts--all leading to increased conflicts and violence.

If global leaders can agree on equitable climate goals, it will be a triumph for international cooperation, for the well-being and security of the planet, and for faith in the future.

