



We Are Responsible.....

Eco-Justice News for Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery.
Water, Water, Everywhere, Posted Do Not Drink!!

Prayer Vigil on March 22, World Water Day

Stand with our Peruvian partners

REBECCA BARNES-DAVIES

Next Thursday, March 22nd, religious and community leaders in Lima, Peru are gathering from 6-8 p.m. for a prayer vigil in order to oppose attempts to re-open the controversial multi-metal smelter, Doe Run.

This smelter, currently closed, operated in a small Andean Mountain city where, it is documented, more than 90 percent of the children now have lead poisoning.

In addition to the possible re-opening of this polluting smelter, the lives of several people of faith working to protect the public health and the environment were recently threatened.

Many faith groups across Peru are calling for the government to require the installation of the appropriate pollution controls before re-opening the plant in La Oroya, one of the most polluted sites in the world.

Our partners in Peru are asking U.S. Christians to join our voices with their voices on March 22, World Water Day. For more information on our partners, read about the [Joining Hands network in Peru](#) [here](#).

You may pause and say a silent prayer.

Gather church members in a sanctuary.

Write letters of support to the children of La Oroya.

Or, contact the Presbyterian Hunger Program to join with advocacy efforts already under way at 502-569-5828.

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Simple ways to celebrate World Water Day.

1. **Repair a Drippy Faucet:** Did you know that a drippy faucet loses around 30 gallons of water a day? Which comes up to about 10,950 gallons a year!! If it happens to be the hot water, then your gas or electric bill is effected to, Fix a leak save money and water.
2. **Lay down some Mulch in the garden:** 2-3 inches of Mulch is enough to keep the ground cool and save on water all year. Check your community waste management department to see about free mulch.
3. **Water in the evening:** Watering after the sun goes down, gives the water time to soak in rather than evaporate.
4. **Use a Tuna Can:** The lowly empty tuna can, is one inch deep and the perfect way to gage when the sprinkler has watered you lawn an inch. Cans full, one inch of water has fallen on your yard!!
5. **Take the car to the car wash:** If you must wash your car today. Take it to the car wash, they use less water, and are on the whole better for the environment than washing at home.
6. **Toss a plastic water bottle in the toilet tank:** If you still use bottled water refill an old one and toss it in the tank it a painless and simple way to save a couple of cups of water every time you flush.

Giving Up Bottled Water

Giving Up Bottled Water, is the easiest, most environmental friendly thing you can do. Just don't purchase it the next time you go to the grocery store. Buy instead one of the millions of "fill your own bottles" that are now available. Most are priced lower than a case of bottled water(just think you could have one to coordinate with ever outfit!) Now there is some hassle involved with this, you have to fill the bottle yourself before you can use it. If you're like me, you need to wash it on occasion, and for some reason or the other I lose the lid to mine at least once month and have to search it out. There is a chance you live in a house with 100 plus year old pipes and don't quite trust

them either, so that may involve the purchase of a Brita or some other filter system. to go on your faucet or in a pitcher in the refrigerator, to catch whatever is in your tap water you don't want to drink. No one in our Presbytery lives where the municipal water is unsafe to drink however so that step is purely optional

There are reasons to keep bottled water on hand. Hurricanes, Tornadoes and breakdowns in the community water system.; These are all good reasons for the water that comes so neatly packaged. During Hurricane season we always have several gallons of water tucked away in the pantry –just in case. Then there is the three days without water while your significant other fixes the water leak in the bathroom that is flooding the entire house so the water has to be turned off. Thank heavens for bottle water.....!! In other words keeping bottled water around for emergency use is a good idea. Using it on a daily basis, is environmentally unfriendly, costly, and unnecessary.

Some interesting facts: We use in America enough bottles of water to circle the earth one and a half times annually. The guess is that it takes over 500 years for a plastic bottle to decompose. Not one bottle we have used will decompose in our life time or the lifetimes of our children. In 2009 (most current figure I could find) One Billion Pounds of Plastic bottles and Jars were available for recycling. Can you imagine what the figure must be now if we have continued to use at that rate??

World Water Day Challenge: Give up Bottled Water for the Year, save money, save the environment. Save the pollution of dealing with the bottles. And celebrate the fact that the majority of us have clean municipal water piped into our homes, a luxury; many people in the world do not share. Pray for clean water worldwide. And remember one bottle at a time we can make a difference.

Roxanna Hauschild

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Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team

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**Interested in what the PCUSA is doing about Water?
Check out the following web sites.**

Eco-Justice Journey: www.pcusa.org/blogs/eco-journey

Solar Under the Sun: www.pcusa.org/news/2012/1/9/bringing-power

SwordsIntoPlow Shares: www.pcusa.org/blogs/swords-plowshares/2011/1/17/give-the-gift-of-water

Mission Presbytery Eco-Justice News.

First Presbyterian Victoria recycles, all office waste paper. They have two new energy efficient dishwashers, and have gotten back to using china on occasion rather paper and Styrofoam all the time. All of Victoria Texas is learning to use our new Recycling Program, which is curbside and wonderful.

SHARE WHAT YOUR CHURCH, YOUR COMMUNITTEE , YOUR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE DOING FOR ECO-JUSTICE. LET ME HEAR FROM YOU. RLHAUS5@ATT.NET. SO THAT I CAN POST IT IN THE NEXT NEWS LETTER.

Hope you enjoyed this if you have any suggestions for future Eco-Justice articles or areas of interest you would like to see addressed let me know. Thanks Roxanna Hauschild, Eco-Justice Coordinator, Mission Presbyterian PW CT.

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