

Dear Leaders of Pittsburgh's Faith Community:

As we share this Invitation, asking your support of a Student Climate Strike on September 20th, residents in the Bahamas are shifting through the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian. Their tragedy and suffering is heart-breaking and unprecedented. And in Georgia and the Carolinas others are now bracing for high winds and 3-8 foot storm surges as well. The true face of climate disruption is becoming very real.

Our faith – in all our traditions – calls us to action, to compassion, to be present, to take a stand for Life. We hope that you can join us in this stand for the future of all life. **A Summary flyer of What, When, and Where can be [found here](#).**

About the Strike

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in New York City, young people and adults in more than 4000 cities worldwide, will strike to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. Here in Pittsburgh, as elsewhere, students will walk out of their classrooms and adults will walk out of their workplaces and meet for a collective Strike gathering at City Hall.

This Student Movement, known as #FridaysForFuture, began in August 2018 after 15 year-old Greta Thunberg sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks, to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. She posted what she was doing on social media, and it soon went viral. Here in Pittsburgh, high school and college students have organized a city-permitted gathering at the City/County building. The students will be reciting poetry, reading essays, and playing music from 12 -3pm.

Join with other people of faith to support young people around the world, and here in Pittsburgh, as they bring this call to national and global attention.

Why should the Pittsburgh multi-faith community organize in support of the September 20th Climate Strike?

The Climate Strike is a unique opportunity for the Pittsburgh's faith community to step up and use our moral voice to fight for our children's children. Now, especially as the tragedy is still unfolding from Hurricane Dorian, more people than ever are attuned to the climate crisis and looking for a path forward.

For more information about the Strike Action, visit: globalclimatestrike.net.

Thank You!

Wanda Guthrie, PA Interfaith Power & Light Pittsburgh Chapter

George Hoguet, Laughing Rivers Sangha, in the Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism

Instructions and guidance for Interfaith friends for Sept 20. Agreed on the following:

- All Interfaith members are invited to practice peacefully at any or all of the actions.
- Clergy & Ministers are encouraged to wear their formal vestments/robes
- Buddhist members, or others, are invited to bring their small meditation bells.
- Arrive Trinity Cathedral by 11:00 am, for a brief Gathering Service. This will be a 20-30 minute sharing, not a full Service, with details to be determined. The purpose is to allow us to come present to our shared vision for peace, anchoring the students in prayer and purpose. We can be peace in our very presence.
- We want to then offer a Peace Walk, starting at ~ 11:30-11:40 AM, from Trinity Cathedral to City Hall, about 10 minutes. We will carry a [poster inviting the Public to join us](#), and also so that the Students may know that we are in support of them. If individual faith groups have signs to also carry, that would be wonderful. [Here is an example](#) from the Plum Village (Thich Nhat Hanh) Buddhist community.
- Basic practice at City Hall will be sitting in silence (if feasible) and/or a silent walking meditation (if feasible). We wish to be offering our meditation for the Students as they arrive. You might want to bring a portable chair/stool for physical comfort, as needed.
- If there is an appropriate moment, we may invite some bells together.
- We agree to practice non-violent, calm, peaceful, attentive presence.
- As many as possible are asked to stay and join the Students in support of their Climate Strike event, which runs from 12:00 - 3:00 PM.

From the Youth Organizers worldwide:

OUR DEMANDS

NO FOSSIL FUELS -- We demand an immediate end to fossil fuel extraction and consumption, and on the industry's lobbying and intrusion into our media, democracy, and day-to-day lives.

JUST TRANSITION -- We demand the prioritization of frontline communities, workers, and those least responsible for the climate crisis. We demand globally equitable climate solutions in the transition to a 100% renewable economy.

HOLD POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE -- We demand accountability from fossil fuel executives, the Global North countries and institutions most responsible for causing the climate crisis. We demand the exclusion of big polluters from decision-making spaces. We demand they make reparations both by paying for climate damages and investing in a just transition to renewable energy.