

## Climate Science Facts and Resources Earth Day 2021

On April 22, the world will celebrate its 51st Earth Day, an annual event focused on environmental protection and the beauty of our planet. According to [EarthDay.org](http://EarthDay.org), about 20 million people participated in the first Earth Day. This year, more than 1 billion are expected to join the celebration.

This Earth Day comes at a time when conversations about environmental health and climate change are intensifying around the world. Wespath's Sustainable Investment Services team seeks to empower these conversations by providing you, our participants, with a few interesting climate facts and helpful educational resources.

### Three Quick Facts about Climate Science



1. The “greenhouse effect” describes warming that results when Earth’s atmosphere traps heat radiating from Earth toward space. Scientists believe an expanding greenhouse effect created by higher levels of gases like carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane is causing global temperatures to rise.
2. The average global temperature has increased nearly 1.5°F in the last century. About 97% of climate scientists agree that human activity is contributing to this rise.
3. The Paris Climate Agreement was originally signed on Earth Day 2016. This landmark global accord established goals for countries to address climate change. It sets targets related to limiting a further rise in global temperatures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. announced in January that it would rejoin the agreement.

### Three Great Resources to Check Out



1. **Wespath Climate Change webpage ([wespath.org/r/climate](http://wespath.org/r/climate)):** This webpage describes Wespath’s work to incorporate climate considerations in our investments. You can find information about our team’s approach to low-carbon investing, shareholder engagement and certain investment exclusions.
2. **Ways United Methodists can combat climate change ([www.umc.org/en/content/ways-united-methodists-can-combat-climate-change](http://www.umc.org/en/content/ways-united-methodists-can-combat-climate-change)):** Published by UMC.org, this article outlines useful steps individuals can take to make an impact on climate in their everyday lives. It also includes a link to the **Faith and Facts Card on Climate Justice** created by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.
3. **Katharine Hayhoe on faith and climate ([www.katharinehayhoe.com/wp2016/category/faith/](http://www.katharinehayhoe.com/wp2016/category/faith/)):** Katharine Hayhoe is a climate scientist, professor and writer who frequently discusses the intersection of her Christian faith and her career. Katharine received the “United Nations Champion of the Earth” award in 2019.



## Rev. Anna Guillozet Knows the Importance of Giving

The Reverend Anna Guillozet, Senior Pastor with Linworth UMC, spoke with Wespath about her role as the co-host of, and participant in, *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being*. This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q:** How did you become involved with *Saving Grace*, specifically as the co-host?

**A:** I serve on the Young Leaders Advisory Board with Wespath. In one of our very first meetings we talked about the need for a specifically Wesleyan financial wellness curriculum. We articulated to the Wespath team that one of the best community outreach programs we knew was Financial Peace, the Dave Ramsey curriculum. However, there's a lot that must be adjusted for those theologically-educated in the Wesleyan tradition. It's not egregious.

The program isn't un-Christian. But a Wesleyan understanding of financial wellness is a bit more nuanced.

**Q:** Can you give me an example of something that is different for Methodists than non-Wesleyan Christian faiths?

**A:** According to John Wesley's teachings, the reason for your earning, hard work and saving is so that you can take care of other people in the Christian community.

**Q:** In the first *Saving Grace* video, you mentioned a personal experience that affected you financially. Are you comfortable going into a little bit of detail about that?

**A:** At the end of my freshman year of college, my mom died unexpectedly. So what little financial help my parents were able to offer was suddenly removed. It wasn't simply tuition and books, it was a matter of paying my own rent and cellphone bill. I was uninsured for the last two years of college. There was even one time I went to the grocery store and I was standing in the aisle looking at a box of macaroni and cheese

trying to decide, would the macaroni and cheese be better without the butter or without the milk? Because I couldn't afford both. Thank goodness my college chaplain's wife, who was passing me in the aisle, picked up my entire grocery bill that day.

Visit **Clergy Financial Well-Being Initiative webpage** on [wespath.org](https://wespath.org) to read the rest of Rev. Guillozet's interview. To learn more about *Saving Grace*, visit [abingdonpress.com/savinggrace](https://abingdonpress.com/savinggrace).



Reverend Anna Guillozet

## April is Financial Literacy Month

Learning about financial matters informs your goals and equips you to make better financial decisions. In honor of Financial Literacy Month, we challenge you to find time to focus on your financial education. Need a place to start? Consider talking to a financial planner at EY Financial Planning Services to learn more about steps you can take toward financial freedom. Calls with EY are available at no additional cost to eligible participants in Wespath-administered retirement plans.\*

Call them today at **1-800-360-2539** or visit [wespath.eynavigate.com](https://wespath.eynavigate.com).

### Three Misconceptions About Financial Planning

1. *"Financial planning is only for wealthy people."* Actually, everyone can benefit from working with a financial planner. Planners can help you save (e.g., for a home, car or retirement), pay down debt (e.g., credit cards and student loans) and plan for your financial future.
2. *"I need to figure out where to start or what to ask before I call."* In fact, you can just make the call. Your EY financial planner will guide the discussion, asking you questions to get the conversation started.
3. *"It will take too long to gather all my financial documents."* In reality, you don't need to have all your information at your fingertips. Your EY planner will help you determine what information is needed. After determining your goals, he or she will work with you to gather the details needed for your planning sessions.

\*EY Financial Planning Services are available to active participants and surviving spouses with account balances, and to retired and terminated participants with account balances of at least \$10,000. Costs are included in Wespath's operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.

# How Much Time Do You Have?

You know planning for your future is important, but it may seem impossible to find time with all of the urgent situations you face every day. There are several small steps you can take when you find a spare moment. Before long, you'll have made strides toward your financial goals.



Less than 15 minutes	15 minutes – 1 hour	1-2 hours
Register at <a href="http://wespath.eynavigate.com">wespath.eynavigate.com</a>  Utilize one of 90+ Financial Calculators on EY Navigate™  View an animated educational video on EY Navigate (3 minutes)  Register to attend an upcoming <b>live educational webinar</b>  Download the EY Navigate mobile app (available in the App Store and on Google Play)  Complete Confidence Checkup (HealthFlex participants receive 25 Wellness Credits)	Link your online financial accounts in EY Navigate  View an OnDemand EY "hot topic" webinar in EY Navigate (30 minutes)  Read an educational article in the Learning Center on EY Navigate	Call your EY financial planner to ask a financial question or discuss a concern (many topics and questions can be discussed in less than an hour)  Complete a financial goal on your own at EY Navigate  Call EY to create or modify a financial plan tailored to your needs and goals

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## Wespath

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENTS

### Do you sit on a United Methodist Board or Investment Committee?

Helping Institutional Investors Make Informed Fiduciary Decisions

Did you know that **Wespath Institutional Investments (WII)**, a subsidiary of Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath), **offers United Methodist-related organizations investment solutions for their endowment assets** (assets unrelated to benefit plans)?

It's true! In addition to Wespath managing over \$23 billion in assets related to benefit plans, Wespath and its subsidiaries manage nearly \$5 billion on behalf of more than 130 UM-related institutions, including:

- Foundations and endowments
- Higher education organizations
- Healthcare organizations

#### More Time to Focus on What Matters

WII's solutions help United Methodist organizations manage their investments in alignment with their values and financial objectives. By working with WII, organizations have more time to focus on bigger picture strategic decision-making, rather than the daily tasks required to run a diligent investment program.

Our **service offering** provides investment committees with access to investment expertise, investment manager due diligence, investment program governance and controls, and risk management.

With more time to dedicate to the success of your organization's mission, consider the positive impact your committee can have on the community. WII's priority is to help keep our clients on the path to achieving their financial goals, enabling them to elevate their good work.

If you think WII is the right solution for your organization, visit us at [wespath.com](http://wespath.com), call us at **1-847-866-4100**, or email us at [investmentinfo@wespath.org](mailto:investmentinfo@wespath.org).

## Wespath Helps You Prepare when the Future Is Uncertain

The Reverend Bob Clipp typed a plea for help on his phone. During a vacation in Barbados, Rev. Clipp awoke in the middle of the night and could not fall back asleep in his resort room. The markets were tumbling as the coronavirus outbreak spread across the globe. His plans for retirement in fewer than four months felt in doubt.

Rev. Clipp first emailed Karen Conroy, a human resources and benefits administrator for the Baltimore-Washington Conference at 2:03 a.m. on March 4, 2020. She forwarded his concerns directly to Bob Christophel, Wespath's Manager of Benefits Education.

"My panic was not so much, 'Can I retire?'" Rev. Clipp said. "The panic was more, '(Will) I have to serve as a part-time pastor (in retirement)?' Emotionally, I had come to the point where I thought, 'OK, I have been doing this 42 years. I want a break... I may not get the break.'"

"They had already appointed (a new pastor to my) church. So, I couldn't say, 'Hold on. Let's wait. I won't retire this year.' That was all very scary to me emotionally."

Read the rest of Rev. Clipp's account of how a Wespath benefit education consultation eased his fears about retirement and see a video where he shares retirement advice at [wespath.org/hark](https://wespath.org/hark).

**“ I have been doing this 42 years. I want a break... I may not get the break. ”**



Reverend Bob Clipp and wife, Katherine

## Stop Stressing: Take Steps Toward Financial Health

Wespath talks a lot about the connectivity of your five dimensions of health. If one dimension suffers, so do the others, while success in one gives you a boost all around.

Consider, for example, financial stress. It is common—72% report it intermittently while 88% attribute it to COVID-19—but the impact on mental health can be significant. In fact, people with debt are three times more likely to be at risk for depression, anxiety and even suicide.

### **So what should you do if your finances are keeping you up at night?**

Start by taking small steps to improve your financial situation. As a Wespath participant, you can access financial planning and debt management assistance at no additional cost\* from EY Financial Planning Services (**1-800-360-2539** or [wespath.eynavigate.com](https://wespath.eynavigate.com)). You may also have an EAP that covers the cost of counseling in person and/or virtually (HealthFlex offers 8 free visits and can be accessed by calling **1-866-881-6800** or online through [benefitsaccess.org](https://benefitsaccess.org)).

**Don't accept financial stress as a fact of life. Take action to improve your financial and mental health today!**

