Dear Fellow Members,

The volume of news on the coronavirus may be making us news weary, but the good news this week was reading Gov. Wolf's plan for reopening Pennsylvania! That means we're making progress, but it sure takes patience, which, by the way, is my "Star Word" and Laurie covered it so well in yesterday's message, thanks, Laurie and thank both you and Bert for reminding us of our Star Words!

As mentioned last week I must address the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, which was three days ago, Wednesday, the 22nd. As you recall, at the end of her message on Wednesday Mary Lou reviewed the US federal government positive responses in the early 1970s and encouraged each of us to take action!

The online website earthday.org states that a billion people were mobilized for action on Earth Day this year and more than 190 countries were engaged. That's really good news!

It further states that the first Earth Day in 1970 gave voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet, and by 1990 Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. In 2000 Earth Day digital media moved the environmental concerns to more than 180 countries, and by 2010 the Earth Day Network launched A Billion Acts of Green and The Canopy Project and grew to involve over 190 countries.

Unfortunately, we all know that many of the environmental protections here in our country have been reversed or weakened by our federal government in recent years, so this year's theme of Climate Action really needs our support!

Therefore, as Mary Lou said in her message on Earth Day, do some research and find out how you can make a difference.

I have a suggestion, as you know the first action on our UCC "Be The Church" list is PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT so please consider joining our brothers and sisters in the UCC's campaign now under way to plant 50,000 trees for this 50th Earth Day anniversary. Take climate action!!! Plant your own trees at home, at church, or perhaps as a gift to someone who would like a tree.   If this is of interest you will find more possibilities, including making a donation at https://www.ucc.org/plantatree. Thank you for considering this project, and please let me know if you choose to plant a tree or trees, so that I may report your trees to add to the final tally.

Here's another of my favorite fun songs, especially for Earth Day, but fun every day because if we take Protect The Environment seriously we'll take action every day: "The Green Grass Grew All Around"

"1. (leader) There was a tree (group echo) (leader) All in the wood (group echo)

   "The prettiest little tree "   "That you ever did see"

   (all)   The tree in a hole and the hole in the ground And the green grass grew all around, all around, and the green grass grew all around.

2.   And on that tree (echo)   There was a limb (echo)

    The prettiest little limb (echo)   That you ever did see (echo)

   (all)   The limb on the tree, And the tree in a hole And the green grass grew all around, all around, and the green grass grew all around.

3. And on that limb ... there was a branch…
4. And on that branch… there was a nest…
5. And in that nest… there was an egg…
6. And in that egg… there was a bird…
7. And on that bird… there was a wing…
8. And on that wing… there was a feather…
9. And on that feather… there was a bug…
10. And on that bug… there was a germ…"
Then finish with the first verse

If this is a new one for you, there are plenty of great videos on line.   Enjoy!
Also enjoy this beautiful day and take good care! Miss you !!!

Bob