

Session 4:

100 Year Flood

The Flood of 2021 damaged thousands of homes. It was the 2nd historic flood to hit the city in just 7 years, and scientists expect more floods to come in the future. Residents who live in areas of concentrated poverty tended to be more impacted by the storm. So, what does all this mean for the future? Will people change their lives to reduce the likelihood of events like this for their neighbors in Detroit and around the world?



NOT JUST A RAINBOW

In Sunday School classes, the story of Noah is often said to end on the high note of the rainbow, with God promising to never again flood the entire world. But, the end of Noah is more complicated than that. It ends on not just the promise of God's goodness...but also with the acknowledgment that human nature makes it hard for people to change.

BIBLE NOTE:

The Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church echo Genesis 8:21, stating: "Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually."



Did You Know?

Scientists believe the next 10 years will determine whether or not humankind will avoid some of the most devastating effects of climate change.

Read Genesis 8:20-9:17

Discuss

- According to the Bible, did humankind learn anything from the Great Flood?



Who are we called to be?

The biblical Christian tradition views human beings as stewards of God's Creation, who are called to care for the earth and each other.

- **Read** the following excerpt from the United Methodist Social Principles, paragraph 160, on The Natural World:
 - "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it."
- **Watch** *100 Year Flood*.
- **Discuss**
 - How many climate-driven disasters do you think it will take before humankind learns from its mistakes?

The reality of climate change...

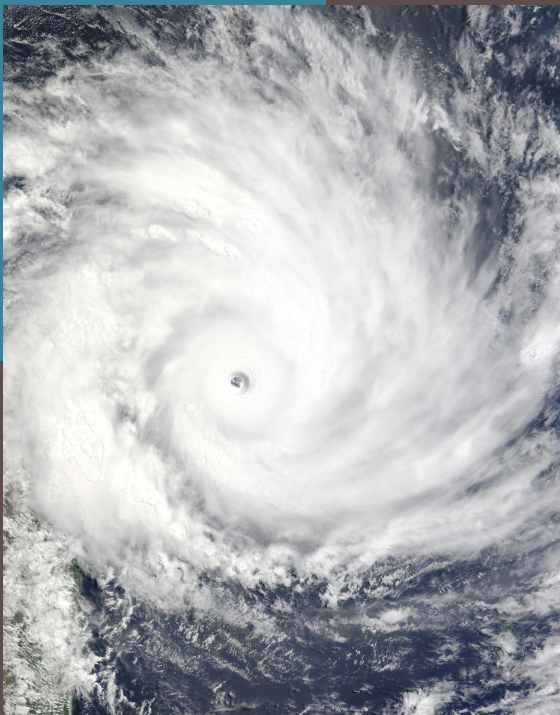
Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future. It is a concrete problem impacting the lives of real people today. Across the globe, the number of disasters occurring each year is on the rise.

Discuss

- Do you know anyone whose life has been affected by a climate disaster?

Footprint Fact: 71% of millennials in the U.S. consider climate change the most important issue facing our nation.





Learn More...

- Reread all of Genesis 6:1 - 9:17 to view the story of Noah as a whole.
- Find resources and information from the United Methodist Creation Care (www.umccreationcare.org) and Creation Justice (www.umcreationjustice.org) networks.
- Check out *A Non-Expert's Guide to Living More Sustainably* to get ideas about practical ways to practice local sustainability.

Consider this...

- As our climate changes around us, why do you think so few people connect their own use of fossil fuels to the floods, hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires they see on the news?
- The United Methodist Church is a global leader in responding to disasters after they happen. Yet, many Christians are unwilling to make changes to their lives that could prevent future disasters before they even take place. Why do you think this is?
- Would you be willing to make changes in your life to create a world that is more just, more green, and more sustainable? Changes in your church? Changes in your community?