



*Enjoy the sunshine!*  
*June 2022 Social Justice News*

In the face of another school shooting, we wonder what we can possibly do. It seems so hopeless. But even if our faith wavers, even if our seeds are tiny - God makes great things from them. And if we feel too tired or overwhelmed to do the work, there are groups we can support. One group forging peace is Raw Tools. Click here to learn more: <https://rawtools.org/>

This month, I encourage people to reflect on what your grief is motivating you to do and also to take care of yourself. Sometimes the most important thing you can do is rest.

**Some Good News:**

The 2022 legislative session is behind us. Although many bills have been watered down, and late-night filibustering meant that some bills died before a vote, we do have some good results to celebrate. For a list of the 21 bills we supported that have passed and are headed to the Governor's desk, go to <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/important-pending-state-legislation-and-policy>

**Inspiring Women:**

These young ladies are leading the charge in climate justice.

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/young-methodists-raising-climate-change-awareness>

## Speaking of Inspiring Women...



Over 2000 women were in attendance at National Conference in Orlando, and about 1000 viewing online. Mountain Sky consecrated three Deaconesses and one Home Missioner. The general sessions were inspiring and uplifting. The all female band was amazing. Even the stage background was awesome as it kept changing colors with each new segment. If you have never attended an Assembly you should put this on your bucket list. In 2026 we will gather in Indianapolis, Indiana. Come join your sisters from Mountain Sky Conference and be reminded why you are a United Women in Faith.

### **Action Item:**

I think a lot of us are really good about recycling, bringing our own cup or bottle to reuse, and using cloth grocery bags to reduce plastic bag waste. I was reminded of another step in the reuse, recycle, reduce cycle this week.

This past week, a big heavy box arrived at my house. I dragged it into my entryway, opened it and found 24 soft-ball sized crystal balls! I checked the label - yes, it was addressed to me. I checked my Amazon orders - no, I didn't order them. I called and they said it was a mistake and to just toss them. Just toss them. Into a landfill where they'll stay forever.

I'll generally donate those items, but in this case, I called friends and asked if they might want one. (You can ask me for one if you like too - I still have them here.)

My son dropped by and I offered one to him. He thanked me and refused, saying that he doesn't have need or desire for it. He joked that there was probably a group of fortune tellers wondering where their crystal balls wound up but they wouldn't be able to figure it out without the crystal balls!

But it made me think how often I forget the first rule of reuse, recycle, reduce and that is refuse. So often, a shop or store will have a “free gift” or “BOGO.” Maybe there’s a door prize being given or gift bags at an event. It is always okay to gently say “no thank you” and it’s a simple habit creates a ripple. Change begins with us.

## **REFUSE   REDUCE   REUSE   RECYCLE**

### **You’re Invited:**

One of the best things about attending Assembly is networking with folks in person. Visiting with Eloise Sykes from Atlanta was inspiring! As we exchanged memories from the 60’s, I discovered she went to church with Civil Rights activist, Ralph Abernathy, and heard Rev. Martin Luther King speak. She added my name to her book review contact list and asked me to share the invitation. Contact Eloise at [eksykes181@gmail.com](mailto:eksykes181@gmail.com) to join her next book review on Friday, June 24, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The book is **Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion** by Gregory Boyle.

### **If you’re inspired to do more, visit our national website for ideas:**

For more on climate justice: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/climate-justice/>

For more on racial justice:

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/mass-incarceration/>

### **Please join me in prayer:**

Lord, we are in awe and gratitude for the beauty that abounds as we move into summer. It’s such a blessing to be outside more and to see our communities coming together. We pray that we are able to live more like your beloved Son and that we are able to see God in every living thing. Lord, we ask that you bring your love and comfort to all of those impacted by gun violence and that you help to bring kindness and common sense to all our hearts as we address this issue. Amen