

“CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION”

Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers and Programs during Lent Supper ~ 6:30 p.m. Program ~ 7:00 p.m.

March 11 – The Rev. John Hall “If It’s God’s Creation, What’s the Problem? ~ If there is a problem, what can humans do about it?” John grew up in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He was the Senior Minister at First Church of Christ in Middletown from 1990 to 2011. Prior to that, he served churches in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and Lehigh, Pennsylvania. In 2004, John founded the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, a local environmental nonprofit. The Jonah Center works with the Town of Portland and the City of Middletown to make our community more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly, as well as to encourage more sustainable living and protection of natural resources. John has preached several times at our church and on March 11, he will lead us in exploring our role and responsibility in protecting creation.

March 18 – Dr. Gary Yohe “The Paris Accord, the U.S., and Our Grandchildren” Gary is the Huffington Foundation Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies at Wesleyan University; he is now Emeritus. He has been involved since the early 1990’s with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As a senior member of the IPCC, he received a share of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Gary is the Co-editor-in-Chief of Climatic Change. He has written and lectured extensively on the issue of climate change and he has served on numerous panels and committees. Currently he is working with America’s Climate Choices that will focus attention on responding to financial risk, propagating emissions reduction technology across the economy, sustaining employment in a carbon free world, and accounting for issues of environmental justice.

March 25 – Mr. John LeShane “The Middlesex Land Trust” John LeShane lives in Portland and serves on the Board of Directors of the Middlesex Land Trust. The land trust is committed to conservation, and it owns and preserves over 1000 acres in Cromwell, Durham, East Hampton, Haddam Neck, Middlefield, Middletown, and Portland. John shares his passion for conservation in numerous ways. 22 years ago, he founded the Meshomasic Hiking Club. Each year he leads Portland’s third grade students on a nature walk. He has served on the Portland Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission. He was the first chairperson of the town’s Recycling Committee, and he is a recipient of a Certificate of Honor from the Rockfall Foundation.