

In Search of Living Water

As we progress through our Lenten journey, the readings for the [Third Sunday of Lent](#) remind us that hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. What wonderful news in these times where we see so much violence, lack, and degradation.



The Samaritan woman at the well had hoped that one day her people would encounter the One who is to come, the One who will tell them everything. Her hope did not disappoint as she was speaking to the very One who told her everything she had done. Although this woman was an outcast in more ways than one, she was chosen to receive living water from the very One she and her people had been waiting for.

Of all the things we cannot live without, water is the most vital. Our bodies and our earth are made up of mostly water and we cannot survive without it. The Israelites grumbled to Moses because he brought them out into the desert where they had no water. Our bodies immediately feel it when we are thirsty. You know the feeling when you are thirsty and in need of a drink of water. Imagine those who have no water or no clean water to drink. Imagine not being able to turn on your faucet and experience the flow of clean water. Unfortunately, this is the situation in many parts of the world. It is equally unfortunate that although water is one of God's precious resources, water has been commoditized and put out of reach for many people around the world.

The Samaritan woman went to the well in the middle of the day when it was the hottest because she was considered an outcast. Yet, she was not exempt from needing water. When Jesus promised her living water, she immediately accepted this invitation to not have to go to the well each day to draw water. Just as the woman at the well had the hope that she would receive Jesus' living water, we too live in this hope.

This month marks the 30th anniversary of World Water Day, observed to raise awareness about the importance of water and to educate people about conserving it. Water is one of God's precious resources and we need to understand that we have the power to waste it and the power to conserve it. Part of our daily examination should be to ask ourselves which one we are doing: Am I conserving this precious resource or am I wasting it?

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Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
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Suggested Actions:

Try turning off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth or shaving.
Think about taking shorter showers.

Run the dishwasher only when it is full.

Learn more about the 6 to 10 million lead service lines in the USA's water infrastructure and [efforts to replace them](#).

Suggested Petitions:

May we allow our hearts to be open to the living water of Christ, we pray...

May we recognize the gift of water and work to conserve this precious resource, we pray...

Prayer:

God of living water,

We give you thanks for the precious resource you have blessed us with;
the flow of pure living water.

And yet, we know that so many of our brothers and sisters have no access to your living water.

Grant us the wisdom and the strength to treat our Sister Water as the precious gift she is.

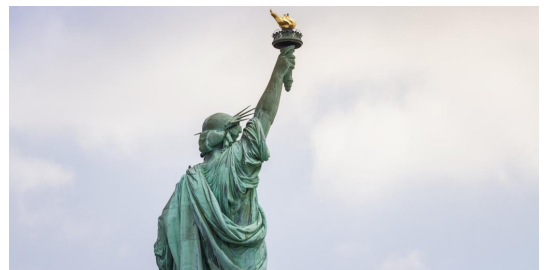
Fill our hearts with the compassion to conserve as we help those who go without.

Through the intercession of your patron, Francis of Assisi, we make this our prayer.

Amen.

Submit Comment on the New Asylum Rule

On February 23, 2023, the Biden Administration proposed a new rule that will establish a near-total ban on access to asylum at the U.S. southern border. The rule will be open for public comment for 30 days. We urge our network to please **take action and submit a comment before March 27**.



This new rule will require that people:

1. prove they applied for and were denied asylum in countries through which they traveled or
2. have an appointment confirmed at a port of entry using the notoriously glitchy CBP One app.

This rule and other changes to the asylum system will have a discriminatory impact, favoring those with access to technology and wealthier immigrants who can access visas, have sponsors in the United States, and travel by plane. While announced as a two-year, temporary measure, this rule may cause the long-term erosion of the right to access asylum as we know it in the United States.

Comments to the proposed rule made **must be individualized** in order to count. In other words, **one can not copy and paste the same wording**. To help in composing a unique message, use the suggestions and talking points from the Episcopal church [here](#) and from [this petition](#) to the Biden Administration from LIRS. [Use this link to submit your comment](#).

Educate Yourself on the 2023 Farm Bill

The US government has until September 30, 2023 to pass a [new Farm Bill](#). Because most of us are not farmers, it can be easy to dismiss the Farm Bill as something we need not pay attention to, but it will have profound effects on the food supply and the environment.

The Farm Bill deals with much more than just farming; it covers jobs, nutrition, research, infrastructure, conservation and innovation. **In these next months, people of faith have an opportunity to raise their voices for a food system that is equitable and sustainable, one that focuses on the needs of those who are poor as well as the needs of our Common Home.** Ideally, the 2023 Farm Bill will ensure the right to food for all as well as support the workers and farmers who provide food.

With these goals in mind, the Presbyterian Mission created the [2023 Eater's Guide to the Farm Bill](#). This comprehensive guide explains the bill in easy-to-understand pictures, details the current food and farming situation in the U.S., and includes questions for local, state or federal candidates.

Use this great resource with your congregation, your family and others in your community. FAN will keep you informed as Congress works out the details of the 2023 Farm Bill.

Urge Congress to Restore the Assault Weapons Ban

Assault weapons are weapons of war that are designed to have sustained, high-power rapid fire shooting in order to shoot a large number of people in a very short period. These dangerous weapons have no place in schools, grocery stores, nightclubs, or communities.

Restoring an assault weapons ban would [save hundreds of lives](#) in the United States every year. In the years that the assault weapons ban was in place, the number of mass shootings went down. In the years since it expired in 2004, mass shootings have become a 'new normal' in the U.S.

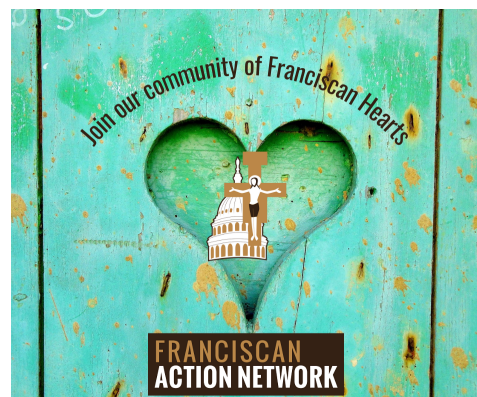


Please [take action](#) and ask Congress to pass an [Assault Weapons Ban](#).

Join our Franciscan Hearts: Become a Monthly Donor

Giving monthly is one of the best ways to support FAN's work, which channels and unites the cries of our Franciscan hearts for peace and justice.

Through monthly contributions from justice-minded people such as yourselves, FAN will be better able to serve you, our network. We will be able to grow our [community of Franciscan hearts](#) to ensure that Franciscan values are heard in our capital and across the country. We hope you will consider [joining us](#).



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Have you considered the opportunity to connect locally with other Franciscan hearts interested in engaging in advocacy around environmental and social issues in your community? There are over 20 [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) throughout the country and we invite you to come and see what they're about. This week alone there are many meetings happening:

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tuesday, March 7 at 12pm
Eastern over zoom

National Monthly Call: Wednesday, March 8 at 4pm
Eastern over zoom (not location based)

Northern California FJC: Wednesday, March 8 at 7pm
Pacific over zoom

NYC-area FJC: Thursday, March 9 at 7:30pm Eastern over zoom

Kansas FJC: Thursday, March 9 at 7:00pm Central over zoom

Boston FJC: Friday, March 10 at 7:00pm Eastern

Washington DC-area FJC: Saturday, March 11 at 10:00am in-person

For more details and to get any of the links, please [contact Nora Pfeiffer](#).



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