



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ohio Senator to join activists on Zoom April 22, for town hall on ‘Earth Day at Cleveland 50 years later’

WHO: U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown; Sierra Club of N.E. Ohio; N.E. Ohio Black Health Coalition; United Church of Christ Environmental Justice Ministry; Center for Environmental Health, Case Western Reserve Univ.

WHAT: A public, online town hall: “An Epicenter of Change: Earth Day in Cleveland 50 Years Later”

WHEN: Earth Day, Wednesday, **April 22**, from **11 a.m. to noon EST**

WHERE: Via the webinar platform Zoom. Register [here](#).

WHY: To mark Earth Day’s 50th anniversary and call on local, state and federal agencies to protect today’s health and environment

VISUALS: Reporters may capture screen shots of the online event

REPORTERS AND EDITORS: Noting Cleveland’s historic role in cleaning up the nation’s water and air, a public Zoom “town hall” on Earth Day’s 50th anniversary will discuss new environmental challenges and what people and government agencies can do.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown will join activists and experts for “An Epicenter of Change: Earth Day in Cleveland 50 Years Later” from **11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 22**. Environmental aspects of today’s crises – including climate change, COVID-19, racial disparities in public health, and local food insecurity – will be addressed.

“Cleveland was an epicenter of change 50 years ago when the response to the Cuyahoga River catching fire played a central role in igniting a nationwide movement that led to the first Earth Day,” said the Rev. Brooks Berndt, environmental justice minister with the Cleveland-based United Church of Christ. “Just as the environmental crisis 50 years ago called for large-scale, impactful government action from local, state and federal levels, the same is true today.”

Media and the public can attend the event by registering at this link:
https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Ea7kX5pStySUAukI9xXgQ

SPEAKERS ON APRIL 22:

- U.S. Sen. **Sherrod Brown** of Ohio
- **Michelle Mahon**, National Nurses United
- **Yvonka Hall**, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition

- **Darcy Freedman**, Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health, Case Western Reserve University
- The Rev. **Brooks Berndt**, Cleveland, Minister for Environmental Justice, United Church of Christ (host and moderator of event)
- Chad Stephens, Sierra Club of Northeast Ohio

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The [United Church of Christ](#), a mainline Protestant denomination, has nearly 900,000 members and 5,000 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, it is a church of many firsts: the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American. More on the UCC's justice ministries is [here](#).