



JANE LAPING

&

JO RANDOLPH





**EARTH
CARE**
CONGREGATIONS

“The earth is the
Lord’s and all that
is in it, the world,
and those who
live in it.” Psalm 24:1



Presbyterian Mission
Compassion,
Peace & Justice



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM
certifies

**Grace Covenant
Presbyterian Church**

as an

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

on this

10th+ year of certification

*for its outstanding environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education,
facilities and outreach in the life of the church.*

Through February, 2024

Signature

Jessica Maudlin

Date: 3/15/2023

Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns



"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

—Genesis 1:31

THE
GREEN BIBLE

Understand the Bible's Powerful Message for the Earth

FOREWORD BY DESMOND TUTU

NRSV

New Revised Standard Version

- Green-letter edition—over 1,000 verses highlighted
- Green topical index and Green Bible Trail Guide for further study
- Inspirational essays by scholars and leaders
- Environmentally friendly—cotton/linen cover, recycled paper, soy-based ink, and water-based coating

“The Call to Restore the
Creation approved by the
1990 General Assembly”

RESTORING CREATION For Ecology and Justice



A Report
Adopted By The 202nd General Assembly (1990)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

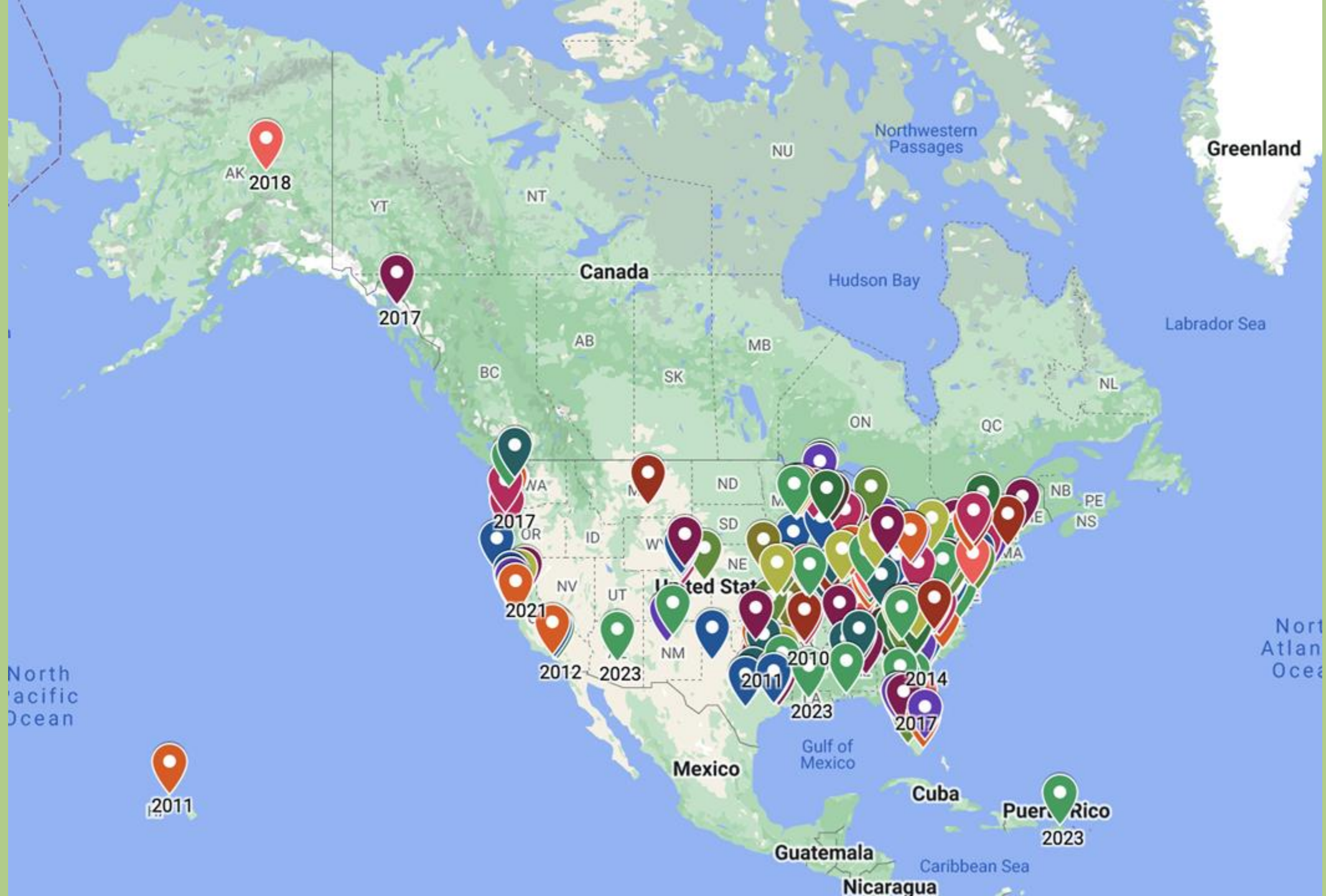
DISPLAY ONLY



What is the Earth Care Pledge?

- A four-part response to the Call to Restore the Creation
 - Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation
 - Our **education** will encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation
 - Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation
 - Our **outreach** will encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth







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Earth Care Congregations

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Is your church active in earth care or interested in becoming more involved in being stewards of God's earth? Use "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches" to find ideas for earth care projects. [Disponible en Español](#)

To become certified as Earth Care Congregations churches take the "Earth Care Pledge" and complete activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach. Submit your application (see below "getting started") January 1-February 15 of the calendar year in which you'd like to be certified.

[Download an Earth Care Congregations bulletin insert.](#)

Getting started: Earth Care Congregations applications

Get started on the path to becoming an Earth Care Congregation or find re-certification materials by downloading "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches."

NOTE: The annual enrollment/recertification period is January 1-February 15. You may begin submitting your application at the start of the new year. Applications are accepted through February 15.

To become certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation in the first year, a church fills out the Earth Care Pledge and tracks its commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. The Earth Care Congregation First Year Application (excel form) is to be submitted between January 1—February 15, by online form which can be found at: <http://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application>.

To become r **Screenshot** USA) Earth Care Congregation, a church tracks its continued commitments to earth care in the areas

Give Now
Restoring Creation For Ecology & Justice

Learn More

- [Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Congregations](#)
- [First Year Application for Earth Care Congregations](#)
- [Recertification application \(must be done annually\)](#)
- [Map of Earth Care Congregations](#)
- [Stories of Earth Care Congregations](#)
- [Eco-Journey blog](#)

Follow PC(USA)

Presbyterian Justice and Peace Newsletter
News and information about the church's work on such issues as the environment, hunger and food, child advocacy, human

4 Steps To Becoming An ECC



Form an Earth Care Team of at least two people who are interested in your church becoming an Earth Care Congregation (ECC).



Complete an ECC Environmental Audit to see if your church earns 25 points in each category.



Use the audit to recommend next steps to either earn 25 points in each category for initial certification.



Present the results of the audit and your recommendations to your congregation's session. Ask the session to make and approve a motion to approve the Earth Care Pledge, which needs the signature of the clerk of the session and submit the application to become a certified Earth Care Congregation.

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Cambria (Headings) 12 A A

B I U

General

Conditional Formatting

Format as Table

Cell Styles

Cells

Editing

Analyze Data

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
41		EARTH CARE CONGREGATION AUDIT (25 points needed in each section for initial certification, for overall 100 point total. 5 points needed in each section for recertification, for overall 50 point total.)						
42		Worship						POINTS
43		Number of Actions	1	2	3	4	5	Points
44	1.	Number of Sundays devoted to earth care in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	
45	2.	Number of worship services conducted outdoors in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	
46	3.	Number of sermons on earth care in the past year	5	10	15	20	25	
47	4.	<	5	10	15	20	25	
48	5.	Number of trees/shrubs planted for new members, baptisms, confirmations, etc	2	4	6	8	10	
49		Number of Actions	1	5	10	25	50	Points
50	6.	Number of Sundays that worship services had an intentional earth care component (prayers, hymns, readings) in the past year	2	4	6	8	10	
51	7.	Number of Sundays that an earth care themed banner or other art was displayed in the past year	2	4	6	8	10	
52	8.	Number of Sundays that locally grown, pesticide free flowers were used in the sanctuary	2	4	6	8	10	
53	9.	Number of Sundays that a Minute for Mission on earth care issues was presented	2	4	6	8	10	
54	10.	Number of Sundays with a paperless service	2	4	6	8	10	
55		Number of Actions	Yes	No				Points
56	11.	Did your church purchase Eco-Palms (or other sustainably sourced greenery) for Palm Sunday?	5	0				
57	12.	Did your church promote and participate in an earth care-focused Lent discipline?*	10	0				
58	13.	Does your church use glass communion cups or regularly do communion by intinction?*	10	0				
59	14.	Does your church have an outdoor meditation labyrinth or prayer garden?	10	0				
60	15.	Has your church sponsored an event for members to write a creation care song, sermon, or prayer?	10	0				
61								Subtotal Worship Points
62		Subtotal for worship:						0
63	16.	** If you recommend particular worship resources or sources for glass cups, devotional materials, share here:						



Microsoft Excel Worksheet

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

AUDIT

First Year PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation: Fill out the Earth Care Pledge and track commitments to earth care in each of the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

To re-certify as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation: Track the progress in each of the areas since the previous year certification in each area of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. The Earth Care Congregation Recertification

ALL Applications are to be submitted between January 1—
February 15.

ONLINE form can be found late fall -

<http://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application>

FACILITIES



Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Overland Park, KS



Limestone Wilmington DE

WORSHIP



Crescent Hill Louisville KY



First Presbyterian Asheville NC

EDUCATION

St. Andrews Tucker GA



Bradley Hills Bethesda, MD

OUTREACH

First Presbyterian of Chicago IL



Westminster Springfield IL

Workshop Sunday October 8, 2023

Sunday, October 8 will be GCPC's 5th annual Workshop Sunday event. We'll start with a brief worship service at 9:30. From 10:00-12:00, we'll pursue the service projects listed below. At approximately noon, we'll gather for lunch (a free will donation will be collected).

Please save your plastic grocery bags for the Project Starfish team, even if you aren't planning on joining that project. Bags can be left in the big barrel outside the sanctuary anytime before October 8.



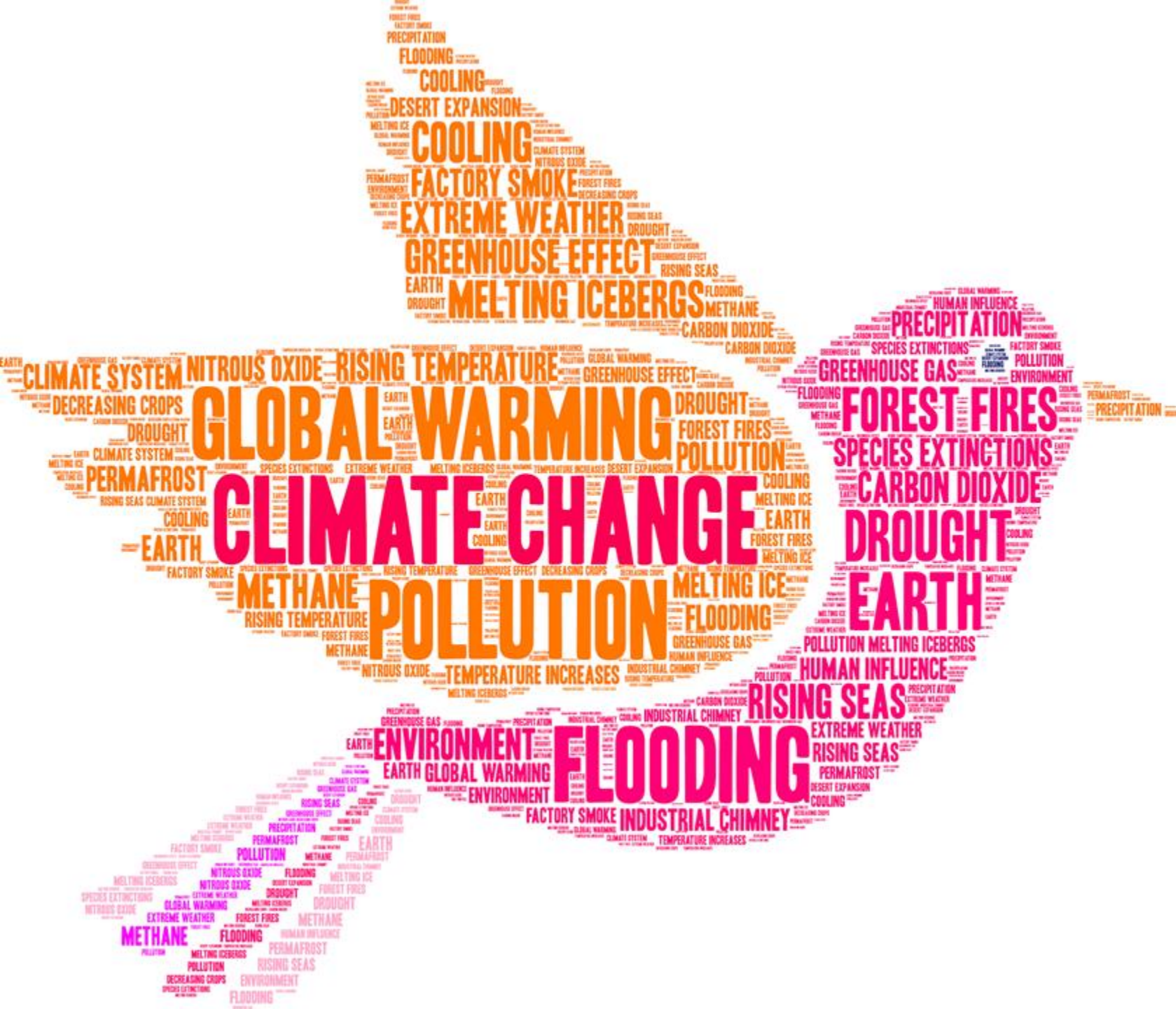
Sign up for a Project Between Sept. 10 – October 1

Please choose one of the following service projects and sign up for it online at www.gcpc.org/workshop. Each member of a household needs to sign up for a project and indicate whether they'll be eating lunch!

- **The Whole Person Fall Lean Clean Up** – The Whole Person provides services to people with disabilities to ensure they are able live to independently in their communities. We'll be traveling to the homes of some of their clients who need help with fall landscape maintenance. Bring your workgloves, and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- **Beautify and Improve GCPC** – With the help of Facilities team, we'll do many tasks to tidy up and make improvements in and around our own building: washing windows, cleaning under pews, sweeping, dusting, clearing fallen sticks and other chores. Bring a pair of workgloves if you want to work outside!

- **Mission Quilts/Tactile Quilts**– Help tie and bind a quilt for homeless relief, or make tactile quilts for nursing home residents with dementia. No sewing experience or supplies are necessary; we'll teach you what to do for either project. (If you have a sewing machine and want to bring it to make tactile quilts, that's great! But you don't have to bring a sewing machine to do either project.)
- **Tour the Project Living Proof House at Metropolitan Energy Center** - Join this project to tour a historic demonstration home in KCMO and learn how sustainability and efficiency are possible and affordable, even in older homes. Visit <https://metroenergy.org/programs/project-living-proof/> for more details.
- **Starfish Project Plastic Bag Mats** - Sarah Stolberg from Project Starfish will teach us how to make mats from plastic grocery bags. Project Starfish distributes these mats to unhoused individuals to ensure they won't have to sleep on the bare ground. No experience is necessary!
- **Stream Clean-up** – We'll do a stream clean-up for the city of Olathe. This project requires some scrambling up and down steep creek banks and lifting, as well as shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting wet and muddy. Volunteers should be at least 8 years old, and volunteers under 18 will need to complete a waiver. Please complete the waiver for any minors you're signing up and send a PDF or picture of it to michala.walker@gmail.com by October 1.
- **Lunch + Clean Up** - Hungry people are going to come back from these projects and need lunch! Join this project to help prepare and serve lunch, set up Heartland Hall, and clean up afterwards. Everybody on this team gets lunch for free!

We hope to see everyone there! Contact Mikki Walker at michala.walker@gmail.com with any questions, or if you have any difficulty with the online sign-ups.



Challenges & Questions

Earth Care Congregations

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