

The Future of Water: Too Little, Too Much or Enough

This seminar will focus on the current state of water availability in the various regions of the US and review science-based forecasting to predict the availability of water in the future including key steps to take for water conservation and community resilience.

Linda K. Smith is a “mostly retired” chemical engineer with a passion for pragmatic environmental action. From 2009-2020, she worked as the Community Director for the U.S. Green Building Council for four states promoting LEED sustainable design and construction. In 2021, she was named the Director of Sustainability for Central Arkansas Water focusing on development and implementation of the Net Zero Carbon 2050 Climate Action Plan for 500,000 drinking water customers surrounding Little Rock. She is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), and a Board member of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center.



When the Earth Cries Out: Disasters and Creation Care

This will be a workshop that explores the deep interconnections between environmental changes and how it has led to an increased frequency of disasters, while encouraging faithful action rooted in justice, resistance and compassion. Through theological reflection, analysis of data, sharing real-world stories, and ideas based on the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, participants will be equipped to respond to the cries of creation with hope, resilience, and care.

The Rev. Edwin A. González-Castillo serves as Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, leading global efforts in disaster response, long-term recovery, and humanitarian support. A native of Puerto Rico, Edwin brings years of experience in pastoral care, community engagement, and disaster recovery coordination rooted in compassion, resilience, and faith-driven service.



Spiritual Practices and Personal Renewal in a Threatened Creation

These are trying times. Because we care deeply for the gift we've received as caretakers of creation, it can be challenging and wearying to continuously advocate for environmental justice. It is discouraging and definitely frustrating when we see attacks on the earth's well-being and the injustices that are occurring in our backyards and worldwide. Come away awhile, as Jesus suggested and let us explore practices that can nourish and refresh us in our work as advocates.

Rebecca Bradburn Langer is a retired PCUSA minister. Her work has been as Adjunct Professor in the Program for Christian Spirituality at San Francisco Theological Seminary and service in both large and small congregations. She currently serves as a spiritual director and supervisor of spiritual directors and teaches contemplative practices in the congregation where she attends. Her love of the natural world has sustained and strengthened her in her call.



Exploring Ferncliff's Inspiring Stream Restoration Project

Join us for a hands-on exploration of Ferncliff's stream as we dive into why restoring this vital waterway matters for both ecological and spiritual renewal. Learn about the steps it has taken to reach this point and how this bold project can inspire action and engagement in your own congregation and community.

Joel Gill is the Executive Director of Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Arkansas, where he leads programs that connect faith, ecology, and community. A longtime advocate for creation care, Joel brings a passion for bold, hands-on ministry that inspires faithful action.



Applying the Precautionary Principle to Restoring God's Water

Water is the foundation of God's Creation — essential, sacred, and entrusted to our care. This talk offers a practical toolkit for you and your congregation to become more faithful stewards of this precious gift. Drawing from firsthand experience, biblical teachings, and the Precautionary Principle (a proven and widely-used model for guiding environmental decisions), we will explore how small, deliberate actions can protect and preserve water for generations to come.

Tom Pakurar, a Ph.D. chemical engineer, has devoted his career and his retirement to protecting water through the Precautionary Principle. He applied this approach inside one of the world's largest chemical companies to reduce environmental harm, helped strengthen water policy in Chesterfield County, Virginia, and led conservation efforts at The Brandermill Church, located beside the 5B gallon Swift Creek water reservoir. With decades of real-world experience, Tom offers practical and proven advice for anyone seeking to safeguard water on their own.



Water: Essential Resource for Health Yet Vulnerable to Contamination

This workshop will enhance understanding of the sources of water and their unique vulnerabilities. We will consider the impacts of climate change, combined sewer overflow, emerging chemicals, building infrastructure and deforestation on water quality. Opportunities for improving drinking water quality will be addressed.

Dr. Marilyn Howarth is an Occupational and Environmental Medicine physician who is the Deputy Director of the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health and the Director of Community Engagement for the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. She works with researchers, regulators, legislators, and communities to lower environmental risk and improve environmental health.



Soil to Soul Awakening

A blending of regenerative agriculture with Native bio-cosmology, guiding participants to rethink dualistic thought and embrace ancient earth-centered wisdom for a resilient future.

James and Joyce Skeet are the co-founders of Spirit Farm, a 501c3 non-profit organization. They are passionate about reconnecting all peoples to the land through Indigenous Regenerative Intelligence that integrates the ancient wisdom of Native cosmology to create a haven where soil health, nutrient rich foods, human health, and free markets can prosper for another 10,000 years.



The Environmental Crisis As A Spiritual and Theological Crisis—Moving From the Apocalyptic To Hope

In a series of keynote addresses, Presbyterian Minister Reverend Andrew Black of EarthKeepers 360 helps us prophetically address important questions facing our church and world?: 1) How do we faithfully interpret and address difficult Biblical texts regarding the environment?; 2) What role must the church and faith leaders play in addressing environmental problems and reimagining the role of responsible stewardship of creation?; 3) What is happening with regards to America's land, water and wildlife and what are we seeing in terms of U.S. policy impacts in these areas?; 4) What role must churches play in shaping and challenging policy and why? 5) What can local congregations do right now to make a difference?; and 6) Why must congregations and faith leaders be at the forefront of bridging environmentalism and social justice and how do we stand with Tribal and frontline communities?

A New Mexico native, Andrew witnessed first hand the healing nature of God's creation while fishing the rivers of the west with his grandfathers, both WWII veterans. Andrew currently serves as an associate pastor to First Presbyterian Church Santa Fe, is a Commissioner to the Synod of the Southwest and is the National Wildlife Federation's Public Lands Field Director. He is an avid fly-fisherman and passionate about the intersection of culture, community, collaboration, conservation and spirituality. For a more detailed bio, [CLICK HERE](#).

