

Creation Care & Sustainability

For the year ending 2022, Springdale completed seven years as a certified PCUSA Creation Care Congregation. Our committee, members, and friends have achieved this goal by meeting targeted objectives in four areas of focus: worship, education, outreach, and facilities management.

Worship. For our Lenten study we read A Time to Grow by Kara Eidson, which speaks to re-connecting with our food sources and ecological themes of soil, light, and water, in addition to fasting and feasting. These themes were carried forward in sermons during Lent. For Earth Day, one of our member families created a multimedia video while reciting the Earth Care Pledge. In late summer, we held an earth care themed service using the Haudenosaunee Prayer in liturgy, along with projected photos of flora and fauna. We held our annual worship and picnic at The Parklands of Floyd's Fork in Louisville and another outdoor picnic following worship in our parking lot. We serve communion by intinction, eliminating plastic waste and print only a limited number of bulletins as needed for those congregants leading worship. Our stewardship campaign included a minute for mission on environmental stewardship during worship.

Education/Spiritual Nurture. We featured newsletter articles that tied into our Lenten theme (A Time to Grow, mentioned above): (composting (soil); timing for garden clean-up (order); reducing (water) usage; ways to reduce (light) pollution.) We featured additional articles, including testimonies on following a plant-based diet, reducing purchase of, or not buying new clothes, and maintaining a pollinator garden. For our summer day camp, the children performed the musical "In the Image" by Mark Burrows and learned about creation and the interconnectedness that all living things share. We supplied and taught eco-friendly crafts (pinecone feeders and eggshell seed planters) to camp attendees. Our book club read Disasterology: Dispatches from the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis by Samantha Montano and Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest by Suzanne Simard.

Outreach. Springdale hosted a local garden club's sale in our front lawn and our members donated plants. We also served as a weekly pick-up point for a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), owned by a member. One of our creation care team members volunteers regularly at the CSA farm. As indicated by road signage, Springdale has adopted a highway and our men's breakfast group picks up trash along a section of Highway 22 near the church.

Facilities. Creation Care team and additional members watered and maintained the church's gardens and re-vamped our front pollinator garden for greater year-round interest. We added signage to call attention to our two pollinator gardens. Our Building & Grounds team oversaw installation of two EV stations and replaced office HVAC with more efficient units. We use ceramic mugs for our coffee hour and re-usable service ware for meals.

We welcome new members and earth-friendly ideas. If you are interested in joining us, please contact info@springdalechurch.org