



### **Foothills Presbytery Highlights:**

Is Christian faithfulness expressed in ...

#### **Energy Use:**

Is waste avoided in heating, cooling, and lighting? Is insulation ample? Have you moved to fluorescent or LCD lighting? What alternative energy possibilities are being pursued? Have you seriously considered solar energy and hot water on demand energy saving equipment?

#### **Resource Conservation:**

Does the church minimize consumption of petroleum ... metals ... plastics ... paper ... water? Does it recycle paper, glass, and metals? Does it repair equipment instead of replacing it? Have 6 gallon per flush toilets been replaced with 1 gallon per flush toilets? Is your parking lot surface able to allow rain to seep into the aquifer?

#### **Property use:**

Are meeting rooms available to outside groups? Is church land used for garden plots, farmers markets, or other community needs? Is new construction avoided if possible?

#### **Meetings and Menus:**

Are accommodations and meals kept modest (sufficient, not extravagant)? Are transportation demands minimized? Is consideration given to the symbolic character of the location of meetings? Do you consolidate meetings to save energy and to make us of more people to serve?

#### **Cooperative relationships:**

Are programs, staff resources, and mission projects as well as buildings, equipment, vehicles, and camps, shared or developed with other churches? Are you working with other churches in hosting special programs and training?

#### **Organization:**

Are decisions made democratically? Is the organizational structure kept effective for mission? Do you utilize consensus decision-making?

#### **Investments:**

Are banks and corporations in which money is invested examined concerning their social impact? Are shareholdings used to press for corporate responsibility? Have you voted for fossil fuel divestment?

#### **Salaries:**

Do secular ideas about supply and demand, hierarchy, advancement, and success prevail; or is weight given to considerations of need and sufficiency? If the latter were given greater weight, whose salary would be raised, whose lowered? How would you rate the adequacy of your health care program? Are your pension plans available to all staff?

#### **Community:**

Does the church nurture community among members – fostering values of cooperation, interdependence, and sharing? Does it encourage projects whereby people work together to gain control over their lives (such as food co-ops, citizens' advocacy networks, and worker-managed business)?

#### **Mission:**

Is the church preoccupied with self-preservation and the servicing of its present membership, or is it reaching out in love to the world to address the issues of the quality and the survival of life? Does it identify primarily with the wealthy and powerful or with the poor and lowly, or with all classes of people?

**Stance Toward World:**

Does the church incorporate into its own life the culture's devotion to material success, size, financial stability, outward display, and national power; or does it play a servant role and speak with a prophetic voice?

Authentic lifestyle change for institutions requires challenging the way power is held and used, the way plans and decisions are made, and the way support is given to the weakest member of the institution.

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**Environmental Ministries Eco-Notes     by Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries (PCUSA)**

**Advent 2015 resource is now available for free, to download!** Find the color pdf under "Resources" at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/>. Sample below.

**Special Offer from Presbyterians Today: FREE ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION OFFER**

We at Presbyterians Today would like to offer you a free one-year subscription to the magazine. No strings attached!

Named in 2015 as the best denominational magazine in North America by the Associated Church Press, Presbyterians Today offers the very best Presbyterians are doing to bring Christ's love into the world. A non-profit magazine of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Presbyterians Today is full of inspiring stories, devotionals, Bible studies, practical tools for daily living and ministry, colorful photos, online bonuses, and thought-provoking commentary on church and society. Paired now with an exciting collaborative digital project called One Church, Many Voices ([pcusa.org/blogs/today](http://pcusa.org/blogs/today)), Presbyterians Today is bringing together a diverse creative team of people of all generations to talk honestly about real-life spiritual struggles, justice, and the future of the church.

To sign up: [cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=ptm&f=socialmed&s=GSM0815](http://cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=ptm&f=socialmed&s=GSM0815). To gift this subscription to someone else you care about: [cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=PTM&f=gegs2014](http://cambeywest.com/subscribe2/?p=PTM&f=gegs2014)

If you're interested in receiving a past issue, such as our young adult issue, please be in touch: [editor@pcusa.org](mailto:editor@pcusa.org). Together, we will discover how to be faithful Christians in the 21st century.

Grace and peace, Patrick Heery, Editor, Presbyterians Today

P.S. You can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/presbyterianstoday](https://facebook.com/presbyterianstoday) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/presby\\_today](https://twitter.com/presby_today). And if you have an interest in writing, art, or multimedia or have a story to tell, please do reach out to me.

**Upcoming Ecumenical Advocacy Days**, Apr 15-18 2016, "Racism, Class and Power": <http://advocacydays.org/>. Join Presbyterian Hunger Program and Environmental Ministries and many others for powerful days of sharing, networking, learning, and advocating together!

**Earth Care Congregations process update for Jan-Feb 2016:**

January 1-February 15, open enrollment/application process for recertification and for new first year certification of Earth Care Congregations! The 2016 applications are very nearly finished, and should (we're trying!) be available in an excel worksheet as well as the fill-in pdf form. With meeting and vacation schedules, we hope to have these forms up by end of October. They will be VERY similar to all the ones you've done before, but we did need to redo them just slightly. Apologies for the delay, and great thanks to all of you for your patience in this transition time! The awesome part of the change is we should be able to merge all applications together so that we can read corporately what impact we're having (how many bike racks, gardens, recycling, worship services, etc) as Earth Care Congregations. **I will email current Earth Care Congregations as soon as we have the new applications up and running!**

## **Fossil Free Divestment**

Fossilfreepcusa.org offers bible studies, overture sample, and more for those who feel called to learn more and consider encouraging the national church to divest from fossil fuel resources. Faithful Alternatives for Engagement with Climate Change (Faithful Alternatives to Divestment from Fossil Fuels), is another initiative of Presbyterians, from the Synod of the Sun and you can learn more, request study resources and overture information, by contacting Mike Cole at [mcole@pbyofnewcovenant.org](mailto:mcole@pbyofnewcovenant.org).

## **Climate Justice/upcoming climate negotiations at COP21:**

October 14 marked opportunities to gather in local community. PCUSA employees celebrated a [bike/bus/rideshare to work focus in worship](#). Various US communities held marches. And World Council of Churches shared this great piece on [German pilgrims marching for climate justice](#). Don't forget to watch the [blog for climate actions](#), ways you can participate in Paris talks, and read blog entries from PCUSA staff attending parts of the talks! The blog also has a link on the papal encyclical, for those of you who haven't seen the study guide and other resources there.

## **Sample:**

### **Advent Calendar 2015**

We are entering this holy season of Advent to consider how God came to earth through Jesus to love and save the world. How might God's incarnate love help us, as God's people, to love the material world around us even better? Using the Advent hymn "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" as well as suggested actions, prayers, and reflections, let us communicate God's saving love through Jesus Christ to all the

### **1st Sunday of Advent: Nov 29**

Sing verse one: "Comfort, comfort, now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare is over."

### **Mon Nov 30**

Read about international peacemakers with the PC (USA), who offer comfort in God's creation where it is drastically impacted by human violence and warfare:

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/meet-international-peacemakers/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/meet-international-peacemakers/).

### **Tues Dec 1 World AIDS Day**

Wear red today. Issues of human suffering are eco-justice concerns, and issues of environmental care are part of social justice. [www.worldaidsday.org/](http://www.worldaidsday.org/)

### **Wed Dec 2**

Donate a diversity of culturally-appropriate and/or local, healthy foods to food pantries, so that immigrants, refugees, and all who are hungry might find comfort in familiar, good foods.

### **Thurs Dec 3**

Pray, individually or with others, for effective climate action, in solidarity with the United Nations COP 21 climate negotiations, as the international ecumenical community prays together at Notre Dame in Paris this evening.

## Fri Dec 4

Write your legislators about the Green Climate Fund so that vulnerable communities, most heavily impacted by climate change, can have access to funds to mitigate and adapt. Visit Creation Justice's ask page here: [bit.ly/1JpTFRu](http://bit.ly/1JpTFRu).

## Sat Dec 5

Volunteer with a local ministry that offers services for refugees or immigrants as they flee affects of warfare, climate change, and other disruptive events.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Dec 6

Sing verse two: *For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.*

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## Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)



**PEC Conference updates:** The Presbyterians for Earth Care conference in Montreat in September was a wonderful gathering. See <http://presbyearthcare.blogspot.com/> for some conference reflections as well as Presbyterians News Services articles from Sept 22 on [anniversary of PEC](#), Sept 17 [inspiring challenge from J Herbert Nelson](#), or Sept 16 story on [opening of PEC Conference](#).

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Updates from Green Congregations: from Ellie Taylor, [elptyl@bellsouth.net](mailto:elptyl@bellsouth.net), [www.FeedingTheKids.com](http://www.FeedingTheKids.com)

\_We gathered at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, in Clemson, this past Monday to discuss Blessed Tomorrow resources. This includes a section for clergy and one for the congregation at [BlessedTomorrow.org](http://BlessedTomorrow.org). We will not be meeting again until January 18, 2016 due to the holiday season.

We also discussed a recent conversation with Ron Robinson, SC organizer for Interfaith Power and Light. His vision is to create a network of Green Congregations. He started a very active group in Spartanburg and would like to start one in Greenville. He would also like to create an event for the Upstate that would reach all congregations in Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties concerning Earth Care. Frank Powell will help Ellie reach out to the Greenville area via the Greenville UU Fellowship Green Team to see about starting a Greenville Green Congregations group. We can explore these ideas in 2016.

Please remember Earth Dialogue this Monday since we are sponsors:

## **EARTH DIALOGUE, MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH**

You are invited to attend the next Earth Dialogue on Monday, October 26th from 6-7 p.m. at Moe Joe's Coffee Shop and Wine Bar in Clemson. Earth Dialogue is a free and open public conversation on sustainability sponsored by several environmental organizations including Upstate Forever and Foothills Sierra Club. Experts this month will include Scott

Bunn (Seneca Treehouse), Alex Petitt (SCDNR) and Dr. Robert Lund (CU Mathematics Professor). They will share perspectives on "Saving South Carolina Water Resources" which will include a discussion on the relationship between our recent catastrophic South Carolina flooding and climate change. Drinks and food available starting at 5 p.m.

The Pope's recent Encyclical has drawn greater attention to Earth Care issues. His focus is on **creating community dialogue as a means for changing minds and inspiring action**. We hope that Earth Dialogue contributes to an in-depth conversation in our local area that will result in collaboration and greater involvement in sustainability initiatives. Please help by encouraging people to attend this event with you. For information, join the Clemson Earth Dialogue Facebook page.

Other area events:

**Foothills Sierra Club** will meet on Tuesday, November 3rd at the UU Fellowship of Clemson on Pendleton Road at 7 p.m. The topic will be Wind Turbine Research. Everyone is welcome.

**OLLI Panel on MORAL RESPONSIBILITY For CARING FOR OUR EARTH:** Mark your calendar for November 12th at 4 p.m. for an incredible panel of experts who will dialogue with attendees. More later.

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## **National Council of Churches of Christ - Eco-Justice Program Office**

<http://www.creationjustice.org/>



JUSTICE FOR GOD'S PLANET  
AND GOD'S PEOPLE

### **FEATURED RESOURCE**

*Have You Anything Here to Eat?  
Sustainable Food in a Changing  
Climate.*

Our Earth Day resource for 2015 is here! [Click here for a resource on the intersection of food and climate change](#) as well as materials like sermon preparation, Christian education ideas, song suggestions and more.



### **TAKE ACTION**

**A Faithful Call to Address Climate Change**

[Join people of faith across the country as we call on our political leaders to address climate change issues](#) and be leaders in the UN negotiations to help craft a moral global framework for the climate negotiations.



### **STORIES from Around the Church:**

The Presbyterian Church (USA) sent a delegation to Lima, Peru in December during the United Nations conference on climate change to explore climate change and other environmental justice issues. Watch this beautiful video to get an sense of their trip, what they learned, and what they will be bringing back to their congregations.

[https://youtu.be/Qr\\_pcgpQ22A](https://youtu.be/Qr_pcgpQ22A)

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## **Interfaith Power & Light**

**<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/>**



World Food Day was established in 1945 to draw attention to the problem of hunger and food insecurity in our world. Since then, the day has been used to inspire advocacy and cooperation on the personal, organizational, and national levels to unite us in one goal: to end hunger.

Many faith traditions hold alleviating hunger as a central moral cause. Interfaith Power & Light is honoring World Food Day by challenging people of faith to address the ties between food insecurity and climate change. The ways we can help reduce the causes of hunger often reduce our impact on the environment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that an American family of four wastes more than two million calories worth of food every year.<sup>1</sup> All that wasted food ends up in landfills which produce one fifth of our country's methane emissions. Imagine the difference that could be made if all those families wasted less food.

**[Click here to learn how you can reduce your food waste and eat more sustainably.](#)**

Climate change has already started to take a toll on crops, and a hotter, drier climate will continue to reduce food production and increase hunger. Add to this the amount of food that the U.S. wastes every year and all the energy wasted to produce and transport this food, and **the food system ends up contributing 33% of the total emissions causing global warming.**<sup>2</sup>

Our Cool Harvest program was started to help provide you with resources to make more climate-friendly food choices. From eating local, to growing organic, to educating others, taking these small steps can help reduce your impact on the environment and address one of the root causes of hunger.

**[Click here for resources on how you can eat more climate-friendly, and for stories of what others are doing to create a more sustainable food system.](#)**

Happy World Food Day! Eat something climate-friendly, and eat it all!

Susan Stephenson  
Executive Director  
Interfaith Power & Light

1. [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/09/0257.xml&navid=NEWS\\_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST\\_RELEASES&deployment\\_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/09/0257.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&deployment_action=retrievecontent)

2. <http://www.sustainabletable.org/982/agriculture-energy-climate-change>



New Features:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/>

\* Snowpack in the Sierra Nevada

[http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/WorldOfChange/sierra\\_nevada.php?src=eo-features](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/WorldOfChange/sierra_nevada.php?src=eo-features)

Wet and dry years cause the snow cover to fluctuate, but the overall trend has been downward for nearly a decade.

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Latest Images:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/>

\* Sierra Nevada Snowpack in a Wet Year, Dry Year

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86838&src=eo-iotd>

\* Landslide onto Steele Glacier

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86826&src=eo-iotd>

\* Saltillo and the Sierra Madre Oriental

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86819&src=eo-iotd>

\* 2015 Antarctic Sea Ice Extent

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86822&src=eo-iotd>

\* The Chesapeake Watershed

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86815&src=eo-iotd>

\* Poeppel Corner, Australia

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86811&src=eo-iotd>

\* Fall Color Arrives in the U.S. and Canada

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86805&src=eo-iotd>

\* The Growth of Manila <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=86780&src=eo-iotd>

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Recent Blog Posts: <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/>

Earth Matters \* October Puzzler

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/?p=5650&src=eo-blogs>

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NASA's Earth Observatory Where every day is Earth day.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

## Our Mission: conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends

*The Nature Conservancy is working with you to make a lasting difference around the world in more than 35 countries, all 50 states and your backyard.*



Get Your Hands Dirty

Find a volunteer opportunity near you.



[Connect With Nature](#)

### Photo Contest Winners!

View the beautiful (and winning!) imagery that you shared with us. [View the Gallery](#)



## The Nature Conservancy's Impact



**60**  
Years



**600**  
Scientists



**35**  
Countries

[JOIN US >](#)



**1,000,000**  
Members



**120,000,000**  
Acres Conserved

## Conservation News & Stories





**Their Migration is in Jeopardy.** Red knots fly 18,000 miles a year, but their single stopover spot in Delaware is in danger. Without it, and other endangered spaces around the world, these birds won't survive.

[Help Save Endangered Spaces](#)



## The Great Elephant Census

The 1st pan-African census in 40 years is underway now. We need specifics if we want to save these land giants from extinction.

[See What's Involved](#)



## 9 Billion...and Counting

Our planet is the one and only home we have. A first-of-its-kind study from The Nature Conservancy now offers a glimpse on how to get development right.

[These Images Tell the Story](#)



## ***Not Mark Twain's Mississippi Anymore***

The first-ever report card for the entire Mississippi River Basin was recently released by America's Watershed Initiative with an overall grade of a D+.

[Learn More](#)

## **Connect with The Nature Conservancy**

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<http://justiceunbound.org/> Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice

[https://www.facebook.com/UnboundJustice?ref=stream&hc\\_location=stream](https://www.facebook.com/UnboundJustice?ref=stream&hc_location=stream) (PC USA)

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Upstate Update

Upstate Forever



## **Rocky River Nature Park Field Trip**

When: Sat, October 24, 9am – 12pm

Where: 1311 Old Williamston Rd, Anderson, SC 29621, USA ([map](#))

Description: Join us, as Tom Kozel, PhD in biology from Anderson University gives us a guided tour of the Rocky River Nature Park! We will be walking through parts of the 160 acre park learning about how the park was transformed. There have been at least 106 species of birds sighted in this area and call the upstate their home. After we explore the upland

and main wetland areas of the park, please feel free to bring a lunch and a chair or blanket and enjoy the view. Tour should last between 2 & 3 hours. This is a member only field trip so if you haven't already, become a member: <http://upstateforever.org/membership/> Parking is available off of Old Willaimston Rd, look for a small sign and gate next to the Athletic Campus and Cox Creek. RSVP [ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org](mailto:ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org)

## Thrift Lake Field Trip

Sat, October 31, 10am – 1pm

**Where** Sumter National Forest, Andrew Pickens Ranger District, 112 Andrew Pickens Circle, Mountain Rest, SC, 29664

[map](#)

**Video call** [Join meeting: thrift-lake \(upstateforever.org\)](#)

Join Upstate Forever for a tour of a micro-hydro plant and a hike. The micro-hydro project is located on Thrift Lake, a private lake surrounded by the Sumter National Forest in Mountain Rest, SC. Visit the first micro-hydro system in the Upstate providing residential power. We will see how the system is put together from tapping into the lake, setting up the power house with DC generation and converting into AC power at the residence. After the tour (approximately 1 hr) we will hike a short section of the Foothills Trail past Pigpen and Licklog Falls and down to the beginning of the Rock Gorge with the possibility of looping back via an old logging road. This is rated as an easy hike. Allow 3 hours for time to enjoy the views and lunch. Pack a lunch, bring water, and wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the hike. RSVP [ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org](mailto:ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org) <http://www.sctrails.net/trails/alltrails/waterfalls/Licklogpigpen.html>

## Annual Membership Meeting

When: Sat, November 14, 9am – 3pm

Where: Greenbrier Farms, 766 Hester Store Road, Easley, SC 29640, United States ([map](#))

Description: UF Members are invited to join us at Greenbrier Farms at 9am on Saturday, November 14 to hear about the many accomplishments that you have made possible during this year and to meet other members, board and staff. We will begin the day with a morning social and then convene our meeting with a Welcome to the Farm message from Amy Bishop, Co-Owner. Brice Hipp, Upstate Forever's Board Chair, will call the meeting to order followed by reports from our Program Directors, our Treasurer and an election of new board members for 2016. We will also hear from our new Executive Director, Andrea Cooper. The meeting will adjourn around 11:30am at which time lunch will be served: Freshly made Pizza, prepared with local ingredients, and baked in the farm's fabulous wood-burning oven; salad; brownies, coffee, tea, lemonade and water. After lunch there will be two alternative activities available: a walking tour of the farm with Amy or a hands-on food preparation class learning proper knife techniques and the basics of making dough. We plan to end the day at 3pm. To register: [ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org](mailto:ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org) <http://www.greenbrierfarms.com/>

### *Resources and Opportunities*

Online accessibility to locate parks statewide (city, county, state, and federal parks) and for all states: [www.recreationparks.net/SC](http://www.recreationparks.net/SC)

[www.recreationparks.net/state](http://www.recreationparks.net/state)

Online accessibility to locate trails, parks, recreational facilities, farmers markets:

<http://letsqosc.org>.

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Want to find local produce and free range beef and chicken products, check out the website: <http://www.certifiedscgrown.com/>. This website allows a search by SC county and type of products, other options as well. The Certified South Carolina program is an exciting cooperative effort among producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) to brand and promote South Carolina products. Our goal is for consumers to be able to easily identify, find and buy South Carolina products.

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The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) has a sponsored tool. Explore the outdoors! Find parks, trails, and other nature sites and events. Easy to use, enter zip code and number of miles you wish to explore at the time. <http://www.nwf.org/naturefind/>

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Join in on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stewardship-of-Creation-Foothills-Presbytery-SC/138564229544090?ref=hl>

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