



**Foothills Presbytery Highlights:**

Are you interested in brainstorming about the use of a mobile nature unit to share your love of God’s creation with children and youth in our Presbytery? If so, please send me an email and let me know as soon as possible! [mhc@clermson.edu](mailto:mhc@clermson.edu) or call me: 864-940-6060.

**Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)**



**Why Advocacy?**

**“To see the world through the eyes of Christ as we are called to do, we must acknowledge, understand and accept responsibility for our connectedness to each other in the human family. Decisions of public policy have an effect for good or ill on our brothers and sisters. Politics is the business of structuring how we behave in out life together. It is the inevitable means by which we as individuals and as groups love our neighbors.”** *from How Should Christians Be Involved in the Public Area: A Study Guide for Presbyterian Congregations, by Elaine Saum, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.*

Presbyterians for Earth Care engages in advocacy in several ways. As an organization we sign petitions, endorse campaigns and write letters to decision-makers. We also encourage and support members to engage in the public policy advocacy. In addition, PEC helps to draft overtures for General Assembly and informs membership of how they can be involved in supporting and developing resolutions and actions at the presbytery level. PEC’s Advocacy Team helps to guide the organization’s advocacy efforts and develops action alerts and resources to help Presbyterians be faithful advocates for God’s creation and God’s people.

**Overtures for 2016 General Assembly**

PEC is working with its members to prepare and present the following overtures at the 222nd General Assembly, June 18-25, 2016 in Portland, Oregon:

- [Overture to Divest from Fossil Fuels](#)
- [Overture to Ban Fracking](#)
- [Overture for Ecological Conversion](#)
- [Caring for God’s Creation Overture](#)
- [Confined Animal Feeding Operations Overture](#)
- [Fossil Fuel Extraction Injustices](#)

## The Journey Toward Becoming Fossil Free

April 22-23, 2016

Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point, NY

[Download the flyer](#)



The PEC Advocacy Committee has set four priorities: **Hydraulic fracking, mountaintop removal coal mining, Keystone XL pipeline, and Coal export.** [Click here](#) to read more about how and why the policy priorities were chosen, and read the full set of priorities here: [PEC Policy Priorities](#) and an [executive summary of the priorities here](#).

### PEC Official Comments

PEC [submitted comments](#) to the EPA concerning the proposed carbon emission limits for power plants that is part of its Clean Power Plan.

### PEC Advocacy Papers and Resources

Read former PEC NE Regional Representative and author, Rev. John Preston's article on Presbyterian perspectives on environmental advocacy: [Social Policy Advocacy from a Presbyterian Earth Care Perspective](#)

PEC member, Rev. Richard Krajewski has written an extensive bibliography on Wetlands Theological Education: [Select Bibliography for the Wetlands Theological Education Center](#)

PEC Treasurer, Sue Smith, prepared a slide show of the Presbyterian Hunger Program trip to Lima, Peru for the United Nations COP20 climate talks: [Climate of Conflict](#)

*“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” – James 2:17(NRS)*



[EARTH-Keepers](#) [Events](#)

[Eco-Theology](#)

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

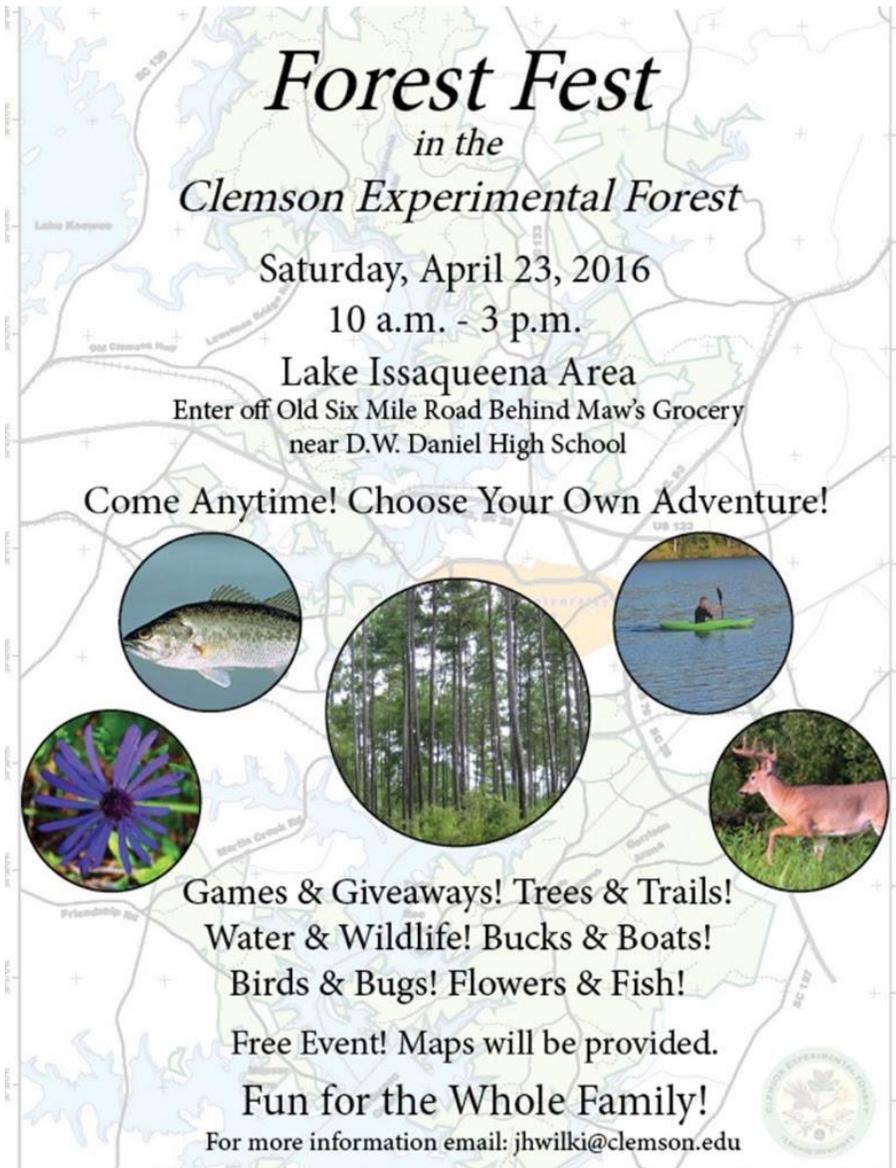
### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM: FRIDAY, APRIL 15

A very special Environmental Justice Symposium will be held at Clemson University featuring Sierra Club President Aaron Mair. Details will be emailed to you later.

**EARTH DAY: FRIDAY, APRIL 22 Clemson University 2-4 p.m.**

Visit the many displays and activities, including our Foothills Group Sierra Club table. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Frank Powell at [fmpowell3@gmail.com](mailto:fmpowell3@gmail.com).

**FOREST FEST: SATURDAY, APRIL 23 10-3 p.m.**



*Forest Fest*  
in the  
*Clemson Experimental Forest*

Saturday, April 23, 2016  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lake Issaqueena Area  
Enter off Old Six Mile Road Behind Maw's Grocery  
near D.W. Daniel High School

Come Anytime! Choose Your Own Adventure!



Games & Giveaways! Trees & Trails!  
Water & Wildlife! Bucks & Boats!  
Birds & Bugs! Flowers & Fish!

Free Event! Maps will be provided.  
Fun for the Whole Family!

For more information email: [jhwilki@clemson.edu](mailto:jhwilki@clemson.edu)



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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

### ***Download Earth Day Sunday 2016: Care for God's Creatures***

Every year, Creation Justice Ministries releases a free Christian education resource before Earth Day (April 22). [Download it! »](#)

April is Earth Month, and the Creation Justice community is focusing on the needs of God's creatures. Species are vanishing at a rate faster than any time since the dinosaurs' demise. Now is the time for Christian communities to better understand, and respond to, our Genesis call to dominion.

In addition to our Christian education resource, we offer many invitations to take action, including:

- praying for God's creatures with a [Blessing of the Animals ceremony](#).
- creating habitat by [building a bat house](#) or [planting a pollinator garden](#).
- Signing and sharing a [petition to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#), home to an abundance of creatures, including the porcupine caribou on which the Native Alaskan Gwich'in people rely
- contacting Congress to [defend the Endangered Species Act](#).

Our Christian education resources are made possible by people like you.

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*Living and working together as the Body of Christ*

<http://sccouncil.net/>



SOUTH CAROLINA  
*Christian Action Council*

### **A Shared Journey**

The “Good News” of Jesus resounds with the Truth that God desires to be with us.

**Jesus lived as one of us.** He ate, he slept, he cried, he laughed, he suffered. He gathered and taught followers of The Way while on his way. The Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, and Luke each tell the story when Jesus said to his disciples “Let us go to the other side [of the lake].” Not ‘meet me over there.’ Not ‘you go over

there.’ But rather, ‘Let **us** go over there.’

**Living with one another at the large and diverse table of the South Carolina Christian Action Council**, its members and supporters strive to journey together with Jesus to the other side where life is full and free for all persons. Our journey is much like the one the Gospel writers tell: it is a journey of peril as well as a journey of destination.

Together we lift in **concerted prayer** the Christian community and its leading servants. We pray that with one heart we will speak truth for the common good. Throughout history, prophets have lived perilous lives, their calls for justice demanding and hard to hear.

Together we challenge each other **to live fully in relationship** for we are related through our one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Our journey together is a **witness of the oneness** we receive from our Lord Jesus Christ and for which he prayed “...That **they may be one**....”

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### **Interfaith Power & Light**

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



The **Faith Climate Action Week** (formerly known as the Preach-In on Global Warming) will take place during Earth Week, April 15- 24, 2016.

Celebrations, sermons, service projects, events, and nature walks will be held, all week, around the signing of the landmark Paris Climate Accord in New York City at the United Nations. [\*\*Learn more and sign up now to be the first to receive information.\*\*](#)

In honor of the pledge we have made as a nation along with the rest of the world in Paris to limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, we will be focusing on ways we can green our facilities and homes, take action locally, and advocate nationally for positive steps towards a sustainable, 100% renewable energy future.

Join us for a whole week of Creation celebration and carbon-cutting activities. [\*\*Sign up to receive\*\*](#) information and activities around this exciting event.

**NASA's Earth Observatory** Where every day is Earth day. <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

The latest from NASA's Earth Observatory (05 April 2016)

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## 2016 Tournament Earth Champion

Tournament Earth 2016 has come to an end and the image that has come the furthest has taken the crown. From one million miles away, an EPIC view of the Moon transiting the Earth has won the day. Thank you all for voting!

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/2016/04/05/2016-tournament-earth-champion-the-dark-side-of-the-moon/?src=ea-ann>

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## Latest Images:

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

\* Fort Raleigh National Historic Site

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87804&src=ea-iotd>

\* OMG: Is the Ocean Melting the Ice?

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87813&src=ea-iotd>

\* Dunes of the Grand Erg Oriental

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87798&src=ea-iotd>

\* Pavlof Erupts Again

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87782&src=ea-iotd>

\* Grass Fires Char Kansas, Oklahoma

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87790&src=ea-iotd>

\* Picturing Arctic Permafrost

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87794&src=ea-iotd>

\* Clouds Streets and Comma Clouds Near Svalbard

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87749&src=ea-iotd>

\* Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=87778&src=ea-iotd>

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## Recent Blog Posts:

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



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**From field trips to volunteer events, we have a wide range of activities for you to get involved with nature in South Carolina. Sign up today and get outside!**

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- [Events](#)

### ***Special Events***

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- [\*\*\*Banff Mountain Film Festival\*\*\*](#)

April 16, 17 – Charleston, SC  
March 16, 2016 - April 17, 2016

Will you be at the Banff Mountain Film Festival as it tours South Carolina? We will—and we want to meet you! Be sure to stop by our table before the Columbia, Greenville and Charleston showings so we can thank you for being a supporter and share upcoming... [Learn more](#)

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- [\*\*\*Volunteer Day: Living Shoreline Reef Prep\*\*\*](#)

Goldbug Island  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
April 20, 2016

The Nature Conservancy needs your help constructing a living shoreline reef at Goldbug Island in Mt. Pleasant, SC. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the preparation, construction, and clean-up for the project. This reef is an expansion of work started in 2... [Learn more](#)

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- [\*\*\*Volunteer Day: Living Shoreline Reef Construction\*\*\*](#)

Goldbug Island  
Mt Pleasant, SC  
April 23, 2016

The Nature Conservancy needs your help constructing a living shoreline reef at Goldbug Island in Mt. Pleasant, SC. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the construction of a reef using pallets, oyster castles and bagged oyster shell. We are also recruiting vo... [Learn more](#)

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- [\*\*\*Volunteer Day: Living Shoreline Reef Clean Up\*\*\*](#)

Goldbug Island  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
April 24, 2016

The Nature Conservancy needs your help constructing a living shoreline reef at Goldbug Island in Mt. Pleasant, SC. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the preparation, construction, and clean-up for the project. This reef is an expansion of work started in 2... [Learn more](#)

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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

For the details see: <http://upstateforever.org/upstate-forever-events-calendar/>

Thursday, April 14 8:00 am

[Ups, Downs, Ins and Outs of a Small Town, Big Growth Scenario](#)

Thursday, April 21 5:30pm

[Flynn's on Maxwell Book Signing](#)

Saturday, April 23 10:00am

[Spartanburg Earth Day Festival. Clemson Forest Festival, Discover Your Watershed, Lyman, SC](#)

Tuesday, May 3 5:30pm

[Envision Landrum: Your Dream is Our Future, 2nd Public Mtg.](#)

Sunday, May 15 10:00am

[Member Field Trip to SC Botanical Garden - Clemson](#)

Saturday, June 4 10:00am

[Land Trust Day at Mast General Store](#)

[\*\*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/\)

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

<http://letsgosc.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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