



Foothills Presbytery Church Highlights:

Eco-Palms <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/enough/eco-palms/>. It's not too late to plan for an eco-justice Lenten season. Consider ordering Eco-Palms for your congregation in order to help with fair labor and good forest management.

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 a new, 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.

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)

We enter into Lent in gratitude for God's graciousness. We are in awe of the beauty of this sacred space with which God has gifted us.

At the same time, we come in grief; with deep sorrow for the losses which Creation has borne...loss of topsoil, clean water, habitats of species; loss of clean air and pristine wilderness, of opportunity for fuller health and healing; and much more.

With [this Lenten Devotional](#), Presbyterians for Earth Care invites you to enter into Lent with us ... seeking... reflecting ...pondering... "Feasting and Fasting." Each devotional will contain Scripture, Prayer, and a Reflection. There is a reading for each holy day and one for each week of Lent.

The reflections are based on "Feasting and Fasting." A 2006 set of devotionals from (then) Presbyterians for Restoring Creation followed a similar theme. Members explained, "We are called both to attend to the sacredness of Creation and to respond to it by active

participation in the protection of Creation”.

[Click here to access our 2012 Lenten Devotional on our blog.](#)

[Click here to access the devotional in PDF Format.](#)

We Presbyterians are blessed with excellent collaborators on our eco- and social justice journey:

--Environmental Ministries

[\[http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/\]](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/environment/),

--Office of Public Witness

[\[http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/about-us/\]](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/washington/about-us/),

--Presbyterian Hunger Program

[\[http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/what-we-do/\]](http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/hunger/what-we-do/),

--Eco-Stewards

[\[http://ecostewardsprogram.wordpress.com/\]](http://ecostewardsprogram.wordpress.com/),

--Presbyterian Camps and Conference Centers

[\[http://www.pccca.net/\]](http://www.pccca.net/)...

Check out new “Unbound: An interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice” [\[http://justiceunbound.org/\]](http://justiceunbound.org/)).

Our upcoming GA (the 220th) will be in Pittsburgh, PA June 30-July 7. The theme is “Walking, Running, Soaring in Hope” (Isaiah 40:31).

Presbyterians for Earth Care will be there!! We sponsor a booth in the Exhibit Hall... The PEC luncheon will be Thursday, July 5 at the First Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be The Rev. Randy Bush, pastor at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh. Randy submitted the winning sermon in the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance’s Food for Life Sermon Competition.

We will also hold our annual membership meeting and present our annual awards. Individuals receive the William Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award. Congregations, governing bodies, ecumenical agencies, and Presbyterian-related entities receive Restoring Creation Awards. Both of these awards are given to individuals and groups whose work for the environment is particularly praise-worthy and creative. The congregational (etc.) is generally awarded to a group who is in the general area of the meeting. You are encouraged

to nominate an individual or group!!! You may access the nomination form [here](#) and on the PEC website.

Below is the first of nine Lenten devotionals. this Ash Wednesday devotional is written by Rev. Holly Hallman, *Northwest Regional Representative for PEC.*

Feasting on God's Gifts; Fasting in Sorrow

Ash Wednesday Devotional

By: Rev. Holly Hallman

Psalms 51:1-17

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Morning Prayer:

Creator of all, we stand at this in-between place, recalling the advent wonder yet standing on the road that leads to the passion and cross. The Book of Common Prayer tells us that we are ash, dust, earth. Let us pause and find afresh the meaning of those words—a meaning that links us, earth, ash and dust, to that all-that-was-and-is-and-ever-will-be. ...Words that place us neither over nor under all of your good works, simply pieces of your great whole.

Ah, the feasting is over. Mardi Gras has come and gone, the fat from Fat Tuesday has moved from lips to hips where it joins the Christmas cookies, New Year's salty treats and Twelfth Night's lovely crepes. It is Ash Wednesday with its solemn assembly and dusky cross on our foreheads. Our Lenten journey, this year will lead us to thoughts on how to feast from the table God sets before us in creation and how to fast from the things in our lives that tear at that lovely repast. But, for a moment let us consider the liminal space that comes between any two things. In Latin, liminal is the word for threshold. Ash Wednesday is that Day. It is the time/space between the feast and the fast but is neither. An image that explains liminality is that of a trapeze artist. Picture the person "flying" through the air and then letting go of the bar but still far from the bar that is coming from the other direction. That moment when one thing is gone and the next has not arrived. In the air. Not here and not there. Ash Wednesday is that day. There is the power and beauty of creation and there is our use/misuse



of that. Between the two is liminal space and an invitation to pause and know, to hear the whisper of the still small voice, to let go of human "doing," to wait.

Evening Prayer:

Do we really have to do this? Can't we just buy daffodils and wait for the Easter Bunny? Advent is so nice. Now you are asking us to wear the soot of last year's palms on our faces, marking us as different—as fellow travelers with The Twelve. Keep us from spinning off into the activities that buffer us from feeling the pain of the journey. Hold us, each day in the liminal space that reminds us of timeless earth, dust and ash.

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

Wed, March 14, 5pm – Sun, March 18, 12pm

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

The Caring for Creation experience provides the Biblical and theological support for developing opportunities for faith communities to be caretakers of our home Earth. It also offers plenary sessions provided by outstanding leadership to challenge us to move forward in our efforts to care for Earth. The Rev. Sally G. Bingham, IPL Founder and President, will be one of the featured speakers. <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/caring-for-creation/> Download the 2012 Caring for Creation brochure (PDF).

[http://www.lakejunaluska.com/uploadedFiles/Lake_Junaluska/Upcoming_Events/Spiritual_Enrichment/Caring_for_Creation/Caring-for-Creation\(1\).pdf](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/uploadedFiles/Lake_Junaluska/Upcoming_Events/Spiritual_Enrichment/Caring_for_Creation/Caring-for-Creation(1).pdf) Call 800-222-4930 to register for event programming and lodging. Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center 91 N. Lakeshore Drive Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

From: http://chreader.org/contentPage.aspx?resource_id=404

For additional resources for Lent.

[Seasoning Lent Vol. 2](#)

Following the Common Lectionary Year B, this resource focuses on the daily practice of making healthful meals. But this year, we added the additional focus of food and community

and offer practical ideas for ministries both at home and at church. For previous year, [see Volume 1 here](#)>>

[Walking to the Cross](#)

Just as Jesus traveled the long journey to the cross, we believe that walking is an act of spiritual and physical devotion. This 40-day devotional invites you to make walking, reflecting and prayer a part of your daily Lenten practice.

[Updates from Environmental Ministries Network \(PCUSA\)](#)

[Preview a new children's curriculum](#)

Environmental Ministries and the [Office of Child Advocacy](#) are partnering to create a new a 4-session curriculum to engage older elementary children in discipleship. *God's Creation, Our Health: Taking Action Together*, is in final production right now and should be posted soon at the Child Advocacy website and in the parent/leader section of [Presby Kids4Kids](#).

The resource will use a children's advocacy group, [CAMBIALO](#) in La Oroya, Peru, as an example of how children can work as advocates for themselves in the field of eco-justice. Through a virtual partnership with peers in Peru, children will:

- Explore what our faith has to say about environmental stewardship
- Speak out about environmental contamination and what it does to children's health
- Learn how to be advocates for children's rights and environmental justice
- Take action to protect God's creation and children's health

[Learn more about this resource](#) and look for more information in the coming months.

[Tread Lightly for Lent, 2012](#) - PC(USA) is offering action-oriented daily devotionals in the [Tread Lightly for Lent calendar](#).

[Download this simple Lenten calendar](#) from the Environmental Ministries program as a reminder of ways we can fast and feast during Lent to bring us closer to God and to God's creation.



Join the Eco-Stewards Program

For young adults interested in becoming leaders in eco-justice ministry through gaining practical skills, engaging community building, and learning about new issues, see the summer [2012 Eco-Stewards Program](#).

Other links of interest

[Learn about Earth Care Congregations](#) →

Here are items for education and action to further share:

- Rio+20 Preparations begin now for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development this summer. This will be a significant event. Go to: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/rioplus20/>
- National, ecumenical petition on Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining: The National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice programs invites us to join them in taking a stand for local communities' health and environmental wholeness: <http://nccecojustice.org/energy/MTRPetition.php>
- [Compassion, Peace and Justice training and Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) in March are a great opportunity to meet one another, to share stories, and to advocate for change.

NCC Eco-Justice's Environmental Program

Last year, we heard some amazing stories, received a lot of questions, and did a lot of thinking and praying about energy. As people of faith, how do we use energy wisely, sustainably, and in keeping with our Biblical teachings? It's a challenging question with no easy answer.

We thought the best way to tackle this and other questions would be to devote this year to exploring the Ethics of Energy:

- Dedicate our Earth Day Resource to energy ([click here to reserve](#) your copy of "The Ethics of Energy")
- Host 5 remaining webinars exploring different energy challenges and opportunities being addressed around the country
- Feature congregations and communities undertaking creative responses to energy use and in turn helping us understand and answer some of these hard questions

- Mountaintop removal coal mining is dramatically damaging God's good Creation and impacting the health, homes, and lives of our neighbors in Appalachia. At the same time, mountaintop removal mining can be difficult and controversial for a community to discuss.
- The National Council of Churches has created two new resources to help your faith community talk about mountaintop removal and pray with our sisters and brothers in Appalachia to end the destruction of God's beautiful mountains. Our worship resource contains prayers and sermon starter ideas for talking about mountaintop removal in a worship context. Our faithful reflection guide contains questions for reflecting on mountaintop removal as people of faith. You can download both resources [here](#).

If you'd like to learn more about ways your community can talk about mountaintop removal, email william@nccecojustice.org.

This year, 2012, we are entering into a spirit of reflection regarding Ethics of Energy. This is the theme of our Earth Day Sunday resource and a series of six webinars we will host throughout the year. Learn more in the current edition of [Capsules](#).

Download the 2012 Earth Day Sunday resource, and find an abundance of eco-justice Lenten resources.

Check it out at http://www.nccecojustice.org/capsules/capsules_current_edition.php

Get Involved

- Tell Congress: Only God Should Move Mountains.
- Voices of grandparents, great aunts, and great uncles needed: Speak up for Children's Health.

Resources and Events

- Download free resources to preach, pray, and dialogue about mountaintop removal coal mining.
- Energy Stewardship: Using Smart Grids and Emerging Technologies for Protecting God's Creation
- Earth Day is Sunday, April 22. Download your copy of our "Ethics of Energy" Earth Day resource now.
- Get a list of Lenten eco-justice devotional and study resources

[Click here](#) for this and more.

Simple Living Works!

*** DO ONE THING DIFFERENTLY - Think about your finances. Your lifestyle. Your wants versus your needs. What one thing can you change today with your financial life and see the impact tomorrow? Sometimes all you need is a push in the right direction and you're on your way!

For. . .

* Daily Tips

* Find a Workshop

* Fun Quiz

* Do One Thing Calculator

Visit. . .

<https://service.thrivent.com/content/members/dotd/index.php>

You don't need to be Lutheran or a member of Thrivent to use these tools.

Life in our world today is challenged by how we care for the gift of Earth given to us by God. The Christian faith challenges us to be caretakers of Earth. Caring for Creation helps members of faith communities learn how we can better care for the Earth. The Caring for Creation experience provides the Biblical and theological support for developing opportunities for faith communities to be caretakers of our home Earth. It also offers plenary sessions provided by outstanding leadership to challenge us to move forward in our efforts to care for Earth.

*** For information about January-April celebrations,

<http://simpleliving.startlogic.com/indexoth.php?place=archives/TreasCeleb/TOCJanApr.php>

*** Easter is April 8 this year. Lent begins Feb. 22. For a selection of free, daily Lenten calendars (English and Spanish), visit

<http://simpleliving.startlogic.com/indexoth.php?place=archives/Lent/LentCalIndex.php>

*** For a collection of free resources for Lent & Easter, visit "Who's Risen from the Dead, Anyway?" at

<http://simpleliving.startlogic.com/indexoth.php?place=archives/XRisen/index.php>

Resources and Opportunities

Are you interested in working together as a Foothills Presbytery EMAN Taskforce to help our churches become more knowledgeable and active in saving money and resources? The Taskforce's first task will be to finalize a Guide to assist Foothills Presbytery Churches' Facility, Buildings and Grounds Committees with energy and water conservation.

With prior arrangements, I am available to lead Wednesday night programs or other opportunities to learn more about environmental concerns we all share. Program topics include "Sustainable Agriculture, and the step to Agroecology", "Made in the Image of God: A Campaign for Safe Cosmetics" and "Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining – Dirty Business: Why the Faith Community Believes it must end." Contact Manella at 864-224-0677 or email id mhc@clermson.edu.

The *National Wildlife Federation* has a new 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/>

South Carolina Upstate Forever - <http://www.upstateforever.org/>
