

EARTH CARE UPDATE 2025



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STEWARDSHIP JOURNEY

As a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation, Westminster Presbyterian Church has made meaningful strides in caring for God's creation over the past five years. Central to our efforts has been our Care for Creation committee, which led a variety of initiatives to reduce our environmental footprint and engage our congregation in sustainable practices.



Early Steps

Gleaning Garden, Earth Sunday & Education

Our journey included the creation and recent expansion of a gleaning garden that donates fresh produce to our local Food Cupboard for more than five years. Since then we have engaged our congregation with successful Earth Sunday events, introducing the congregation to the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Refuse. This sparked a series of projects, including a Lenten Challenge to reduce plastic water bottle use, printing our own reusable grocery and produce bags, and supporting local creek clean up events.

Reducing Waste & Promoting Sustainability

To minimize waste, we replaced disposable paper cups with real mugs, thanks to donations from the congregation. We installed a compost bin for church food waste, manage the collection of batteries for recycling and promote the recycling of oral hygiene products for congregation members and the local community. Additionally, our Shop for Hope Alternative Christmas Markets promoted sustainable gifts like bamboo utensil sets, laundry detergent sheets, composting etc. which not only raised awareness but also sparked eco-friendly habits in the community.



Educating & Inspiring Action

Our most recent Earth Sunday included speakers from environmental organizations to deepen our understanding of creation care. In addition, our biweekly Nerve to Serve newsletter continues to share practical tips on sustainable living, keeping the congregation informed and inspired. In worship we have shared our Earth Pledge and ideas for good stewardship of creation in both sermons and our Minute for

Solar Power Initiative

One of our largest projects has been exploring solar power for our church building. Though still in the works, we invited experts and connected with local officials to explore our options for a more sustainable energy future.



Looking Ahead

Earth Sunday 2025

This April, our Earth Sunday focus will be “Restyle,” encouraging more responsible buying and reusing of clothing, including a sneaker recycling drive. This initiative underscores our ongoing commitment to mindful consumption and reducing waste.

Sustainable Facilities

Our church building has made significant strides in sustainability, including the installation of LED lighting to reduce energy consumption, replacing our windows and doors with more energy efficient ones, reducing printed materials around the building and more planned in 2025. These efforts reflect our commitment to environmental stewardship in all aspects of church life.



Continuing the Journey

Looking back, we're proud of the progress made, but we know caring for creation is an ongoing effort. We're grateful for the leadership of our Care for Creation committee and the active participation of our congregation. Looking forward we are proud of our ongoing efforts to reduce single use plates, cups and utensils for receptions and events at Westminster and identifying more volunteers to staff the dishwasher!

As we continue this journey, we invite everyone at Westminster to remain engaged and to keep making small but impactful changes in their everyday lives. Together, we can make a difference in protecting the creation that God has entrusted to us.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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