

# EARTH CARE UPDATE 2026



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## EDUCATE. ENGAGE. IMPACT.

In 2025, Westminster embraced the call to care for God's creation with renewed energy, faithful intention, and joyful participation. Through education, hands-on engagement, and measurable impact, our Care for Creation ministry helped transform concern into action—faith lived out through stewardship of the earth.

## EDUCATE

### Growing Awareness and Faithful Understanding

Education is foundational to creation care. We reflected on scripture, theology, and practical environmental action, sharing stories, data, and upcoming opportunities through articles featured in our bi-monthly emails and moments in worship. This helped members see sustainability not as an add-on, but as an expression of discipleship.

We **visited a local recycling facility**, gaining firsthand understanding of what happens after items leave our homes—and how careful sorting truly matters. Fellowship groups heard a **The Life of Trees** presentation, which explored ecological systems through both scientific and spiritual lenses.

We curated **donated books** focused on overconsumption, sustainability, and faithful responses to climate challenges for our church library which invites reflection beyond Sunday mornings.



## ENGAGE

### Growing Awareness and Faithful Understanding

Education led naturally to engagement. In 2025, creation care became visible, participatory, and communal. We introduced **living plants** into the sanctuary, reminding us each week that creation is alive and present among us. We **reduced printing**, **replaced disposable cups** with ceramic mugs, donated by our congregation and encouraged sustainable practices in fellowship and hospitality. Our **Blessing of the Animals** service reminded us that all living beings are part of God's beloved creation. Our **Alternative Christmas Market** featured sustainable wrapping and gifting ideas and promoted experience-based gifts instead of physical items.



# IMPACT

## Westminster Made a Difference

The collective actions of Westminster in 2025 led to meaningful, measurable impact. Together, we reduced waste, supported neighbors, and honored God’s creation in concrete ways. We kept hundreds of pounds of materials out of landfills, including:

- **750 pairs of sneakers** collected and responsibly reused
- **2.5 tons of scrap metal** recycled
- **200 pounds of batteries** diverted from hazardous waste
- **30 pounds of oral care products** responsibly recycled
- Nearly **1,000 pounds of produce** from our Gleaning Garden donated to **two local food banks**
- **100 choir robes** donated to another congregation for reuse

These numbers represent more than statistics—they reflect faith in action, compassion for neighbors, and care for future generations.



# LOOKING FORWARD IN FAITH

Our 2025 theme — **Educate, Engage, Impact** — continues to guide our vision. Creation care is not a one-year effort, but an ongoing spiritual practice. Through faithful leadership, active participation, and God’s sustaining grace, our congregation is becoming more attentive to how daily choices reflect love of neighbor and love of creation.

We celebrate this work with gratitude and humility, recognizing that every action—large or small—matters. As we seek certification as an **Earth Care Congregation**, we do so not as a finish line, but as a milestone along a shared journey of faithfulness, hope, and care for God’s good earth.



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