

# 50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020

April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. This day was created on April 22, 1970 to bring awareness of the environment and to support ways to help make the earth clean and healthy.

The Oakland "Green Team" would like you to do things at church and at home to be good stewards of God's creation. Here are some things that we can do:

**Reduce**-Cut back on the things you buy and the amount of trash you make. Think before you buy. Lots of food waste ends up in the landfill.

**Reuse**- Find a new way to use something so that you don't have to throw it out. Repurpose items to use in decorating or making crafts. At church we are reusing ceramic mugs for coffee on Sunday mornings. You could also use reusable shopping bags and water bottles to reduce the big problem of single use plastic.

**Recycle**- You can recycle paper, plastic bottles, jugs, chipboard, cardboard, cartons, and cans in recycle bins. Trash that is not put in a recycle bin goes to a landfill (York County trash goes to the Screaming Eagle Landfill outside of Columbia) where it is buried and never has a chance to be useful. We have also been collecting plastic bags and wrap plastics as part of the Bags to Benches program. We will continue to collect plastic bags, plastic over wrap, sandwich bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, plastic mailers, etc. to be made into a park bench. We have a glass collection station behind the dumpster in our church parking lot where you may put your glass from home. A church volunteer will take the glass to a York County Collection Center for recycling. When you shop, buy items that have been made out of recyclable materials.

**Compost**- You may have noticed our "Earth Machine Composter" behind the dumpster in the church parking lot. We are composting coffee grounds, tea bags, flowers, leaves, and kitchen scraps from our Wednesday night suppers. If you would like to buy a compost bin like this for your home, a limited number are available for \$50 which is half-price retail through the City of Rock Hill. Call (803)329-7027 and ask for Elizabeth Morgan if you'd like to buy one.

**Conserve energy**-Turn off lights, TV's, and computers when not in use. Unplug things like toasters, coffee makers, lamps and phone chargers at the wall when not in use. Use compact fluorescent light or LED bulbs.

**Don't drive**- Walk, ride your bike, carpool, or ride Rock Hill's free electric buses.

**Plant a tree**- Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen for people to breathe.

**Turn the faucet off**-You can conserve a lot of water by turning off the faucet when you're washing your hands for those 20 seconds or brushing your teeth.

**Don't Idle in your car**-An idling vehicle wastes gas and produces harmful emissions that negatively affects air quality.

**Try Vegetarian Meals**-The meat industry is a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. Our excessive demand for meat creates an excessive strain on environmental resources.

**Pick up Litter**- When you're out walking, take a bag and pick up any litter you see. Pick up litter near your neighborhood, school, or business. Wear gloves and wash your hands when you're done.

**Spread the message**-Talk to your friends and family members about steps you're taking to help the planet and ask them to help.

Please remember that "We are God's hands, Stewards of all his bounty," so make every day **EARTH DAY!**