

## Steps Along the Journey: The Kairos Call to Action at First Congregational UCC in La Crosse

In recognition of the urgent need to address the intertwined crises of climate and inequality, the UCC Council for Climate Justice has defined the next ten years as a kairos window of divine opportunity in which people of faith are called to an all-out mobilization of their gifts and resources. The UCC has delineated ten steps that churches can take to mobilize their efforts. **Step 1 is Enter a period of study and immersion.** Through visits, immersive experiences, readings, educational forums and reflection, allow these learning experiences to form the foundation of your work moving forward.

As its congregation transitions back to a more “normal” summer schedule, staff and lay leadership at **First Congregational UCC in La Crosse** are thinking creatively about how to make Creation Care and the Kairos Covenant central to the life of the community.

“We have created YouTube **videos of our Faith Formation events** on creation care so that more of the congregation might participate. We are attempting to provide the resources in multiple formats so that all can benefit in the congregation,” said Rev. Laura Wright, Minister of Faith Formation and Congregational Life at First Congregational UCC in La Crosse.

According to Rev. Wright, “We’re doing bags on the porch of every kid in the congregation every two weeks. Recently, the activity was **Holy Hikes with the Psalms**: we dropped off small picnic bags on each porch with snacks for a picnic.”

[\*\*View the activity sheet provided.\*\*](#)

First Congregational’s Creation Care team has also organized and recorded events such these:

- A basic scientific discussion of climate change with Dr. Rob Tyser. [View here](#).
- How to use a carbon calculator to determine how to reduce most effectively your carbon footprint. [View here](#).
- Testimonies from the congregation showing individuals at different places on their journey to care for creation so that everyone feels welcomed into the journey whether they are new to the task or further on their journey. [View here](#).

First Congregational’s Creation Care team is chaired by Sue McBride.



Families received small picnic bags that were left on each porch with snacks for their picnics during the Holy Hikes with the Psalms activity.

First Congregational UCC members enjoy spectacular views of the Mississippi from the bluffs above La Crosse during **Holy Hikes with the Psalms**.