

Foothills Presbytery Area Highlights:

Ministry represents committed and faithful service of Hispanic/Latino-a Presbyterian leaders *By Gail Strange / Presbyterian News Service*

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo recently received the [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) Annual Eco Justice Award.

Astudillo, who works with [GreenFaith](#), an organization with a mission to inspire, educate, organize and mobilize people of diverse religious and spiritual backgrounds globally for environmental action, is a leader in the ministry of environmental justice.

The organization's work is based on beliefs shared by the world's religious and spiritual traditions. [GreenFaith](#) believes that protecting the Earth is a sacred act and that environmental stewardship is a moral responsibility.



Astudillo is a Venezuelan-American, an ecotheologian and Presbyterian pastor who has taught eco-theology for theological seminaries in Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, México and the United States. Additionally, she co-founded the [Angelic Organics Learning Center](#), a farm-based nonprofit organization in northern Illinois where people connect with food, farming and caring for the Earth.

“As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, we take pride in one of our own, the call and the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo,” said the Rev. Rosa Miranda, Associate for Hispanic/Latino-a Intercultural Congregational Support in the office of [Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries](#). “Her ministry represents in many ways the committed and faithful service of our many Hispanic Latino-a Presbyterian leaders across the mainland and Puerto Rico, all of them serving God and God's people in such a time like this.”

Astudillo explains ecotheology this way: “Ecotheology is reflecting on our faith from a belief in God as Creator. It seeks to find faith-based solutions to the environmental challenges of our time, lifting up Creation care as an act of faith.”

Astudillo says it was a childhood experience that lead her to specialize in Ecotheology.

“When I was young, we moved to Argentina during a time of political turmoil,” she said. “Despite my young age I experienced a church trying to be a witness to Christ's Good News in solidarity with those suffering persecutions.”

“We spent vacations on the beach and the countryside,” she said. “In the realm of nature, I met peace and beauty. As a young woman now back in Venezuela, the killing of dolphins by the shark and tuna industries opened my eyes to the groaning of Creation, but I found a church silent to this kind of injustice.”

Referencing [Romans 8:22](#), Astudillo stated, “I like to say, the groaning of Creation led me to seminary in the U.S., to find the Good News Creation needs to hear, and to continue working with the church to be a witness to Christ’s Good News for all Creation.”

Astudillo says climate scientists tell us we have less than 10 years to reverse climate change or else millions of people around the world will suffer the consequences. “Our faith calls us to love our neighbors,” she said.

She provided a list of five simple things faith communities can do to support Creation care.

- Encourage people to vote: We must elect local and national candidates who care about the environment and seek to create a society where sustainable and ecological choices are the norm, available to all people.
- Teach about Creation care: Each congregation can be a model of what it is to live sustainably, being grateful for God’s Creation, confessing when we fail, including Creation care in our Christian education and stewardship.
- Include a community garden with your food pantry: Works toward building communities of care and resilience and uproot the real causes of hunger.
- Green your congregations: Free your church from plastic use, increase opportunities to serve, reusing, reducing; place recycling bins around your church.
- Join local environmental efforts: Be the church in the world. Learn about your own environment and do what you can to protect, clean, heal and care for it as part of your faith.

For additional resources on the subject visit the following organizations’ websites:

- [The Presbyterian Mission Agency’s Earth Care Congregations](#)
- [GreenFaith](#)
- [Living the Change](#) (Cambiando nuestro modo de vivir):

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)

<https://presbyearthcare.org/>



Toolkit available to help people become better stewards of God’s Creation *by Darla Carter / Presbyterian News Service*

LOUISVILLE — [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) has a new program and toolkit to promote the creation of Earth-care teams at the presbytery level to address issues such as climate change.

The Presbytery Earth Care Program was touted in a “Green Your Presbytery” webinar that was conducted recently with help from the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#).

“Some of you may have an Earth-care team at your church, or you may wish you did,” PEC Coordinator Jane Laping said during the February webinar. “Our strategy involves forming such a team at a higher level that includes many churches, not just one.”



The teams would reach out to congregations in their presbyteries and provide them with resources and encouragement to include Creation care in various aspects of church life, Laping said.

The ultimate aim of the program is for PEC to collaborate with individuals and churches to become better stewards of God's Creation, Laping said.

"Climate change is now a crisis situation, and people are literally ready to do something," Laping said. "What is lacking are leaders. You could be a leader of your presbytery's Earth-care team. Think of the impact this could have for earth care in the Presbyterian church and in the country."

Presbyterians for Earth Care Coordinator Jane Laping, standing, is shown during PEC's national gathering last summer at Stony Point Center. (Photo by Rich Copley)

PEC's new program dovetails with PHP's [Earth Care Congregation certification program](#), which calls for congregations to take an "[Earth Care Pledge](#)" and complete activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach.

"The Earth Care Congregation certification program has gained a lot of traction over the last 10 years," said Jessica Maudlin, PHP's Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns. "We've seen that in certain presbyteries we have larger numbers of ECC's and often that's because of coordination that is happening at a presbytery level."

Earth-care teams can play a broad role in helping to protect the planet, according to PEC.

"It isn't just about solar panels or recycling or Styrofoam cups," Laping said. "Creation care is about how we recognize Creation and praise the Creator in worship; how we teach our children, youth and adults about taking care of God's Creation and finding spiritual enrichment in nature; how we share our resources with others in the community, partner with environmental organizations and advocate for laws that protect the awesome planet that God has given us."

For those who need help or ideas to get an Earth-care team off the ground, PEC has posted a Presbytery Earth Care Program Guide, containing directories of resources, information on how to use the Presbytery Earth Care Team Toolkit and more, [online](#).

"I'm so excited that PEC has stepped in to offer this helpful guide for churches to be more intentional about working across the presbytery," Maudlin said. "Even if there aren't certified ECCs in a presbytery, we know that Earth care issues still are often a concern of congregants."

During the webinar, PEC noted that it's a good idea for those trying to start an Earth-care team to identify a few people to form a core group and brainstorm ideas about what the team could look like. Drafting a description of the team and creating a mission statement also were suggested.

Potential activities for such teams include bringing in speakers, holding panel discussions, doing book studies and hosting training events.

"Keep in mind that these activities are for the entire presbytery, not one church," Laping said. "So if you decide to have your event at church, be sure to invite all churches in the presbytery."

Barbara Overton of [Riviera Presbyterian Church](#) talked about an effort to initiate an Earth-care team at the [Presbytery of Tropical Florida](#). She stressed the importance of making connections, establishing good communication and seeking out information, including useful statements and tools available through PEC and at pcusa.org/climate. [Some](#) are related to 2020 being the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

“I want to kind of caution you, as you start doing this work, you’re going to get overwhelmed with information, and that’s really not the point,” Overton said. “The point is to start the conversation because you’re never going to have an Earth-care team if you don’t just get started.”

The work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program is possible thanks to your gifts to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#).

Center for Development in Central America (CDCA) – Jubilee House Community Inc.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/>

Earth Care Congregations in South Carolina

Dorchester Presbyterian Church / *Summerville, SC*

First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg / *Spartanburg, SC*

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church / *Columbia, SC*

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church / *Bluffton, SC*

North Anderson Community Church Presbyterian / *Anderson, SC*

Shandon Presbyterian Church / *Columbia, SC*

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church / *Charleston, SC*

God created the earth, and it is sacred. As Psalm 24:1 proclaims, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it.” Therefore we are called to stewardship of the earth. When we work to protect creation, we are answering God’s call to till and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15). In the face of deepening ecological crises caused by the earth’s warming, our call to act as earth’s caretakers takes on more meaning. Our efforts will curtail the shrinking of sacred waters, the endangerment of living creatures of every kind, and the vulnerability of our brothers and sisters in developing countries.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has identified food, transportation, and energy as the three key personal areas that need action to help stem climate change. Browse the tabs across the top of this page to find links to learn more about these issues, get ideas on how to take action, and access theological reflections below in order to help your congregation care for God’s creation.

[RECENT resources and ways to take action on climate on our blog!](#)

National Council of Churches of Christ ~ Eco-Justice Program Office



JUSTICE FOR GOD’S PLANET
AND GOD’S PEOPLE

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

Due to financial stressors of the pandemic, many households are losing access to water. **We encourage you to [take action](#) by calling on policy-makers to halt all water shut-offs.**

Water is a gift from God for the sustenance of all of life. Sadly, not all people have access to water necessary for cooking, drinking, and sanitation. While water shut-offs have been a problem for a long time, many more families are suffering economically now, and are unable to make utility payments.

People should never be without water, ever. We invite you to **take action today** to urge policy-makers to set a moratorium on water shut-offs. [Sign the petition here](#), and we will deliver it to decision-makers.

*"If anyone is thirsty, let them come; whoever wishes it may have the water of life as a free gift."
Revelations 22:17*

#CareForCreation

This year, Creation Justice Ministries is excited to share with you our first [52 Ways to Care for Creation](#). This campaign shares weekly tips and tricks to make caring for creation part of your every day life. We share these weekly tips on social media, as well as through monthly bulletin inserts that we hope you will share with your communities. Follow us @CreationJustice on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to see our weekly updates and please share with us your tips as well!

Interfaith Power & Light



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

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

"Interfaith Power & Light" - 2 new articles

1. [POLL: Voters of Faith Support Fighting Climate Change](#)
2. [Voters of Faith Support Fighting Climate Change](#)
3. [More Recent Articles](#)

Stand With Us

We believe that caring for the Earth is an important moral responsibility. Many faith communities have long utilized public declarations of faith, which can solidify common values, a strong sense of community, and a shared commitment toward living morally.

A moral commitment to caring for the Earth is something we should all share, but we have to make it known publicly if we want others to embody it. That is why we ask congregations and individuals in our network to consider filling out SCIPL's Earth Care Covenant. Please join us today in making our voices heard as people of faith who are committed to Earth Care.

[Sign the Earth Care Covenant](#)

South Carolina Christian Action Council - <https://www.scccouncil.net/>

The Council Is Looking for It's Next Executive

The South Carolina Christian Action Council, Inc., the state's largest ecumenical agency representing 13 Christian denominations, congregations, and individuals, is **seeking an Executive Minister/CEO**.

The Council engages its constituents in Prayer and the pursuit of Racial Justice and Healing, Social Justice, and Peace-making which lead to Unity. The organization, based in Columbia, SC, seeks a leader with experience in ministry, ecumenical relationships, and fundraising. Find more information about the Council at www.scccouncil.net. Also, here is the [job description](#).

Interested applicants should submit the following to jtheodjac@gmail.com:

- Letter of interest
- Resume/CV/Ministry Profile (including your most recent position)
- Three letters of reference

Applications will be received through November 6, 2020.

US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Calls for Nominations for the 2021 President's Environmental Student and Teacher Awards

Applications due by February 19, 2021

WASHINGTON (October 28, 2020) — Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced that EPA's Office of Environmental Education is now accepting applications for the 2021 President's Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) and Presidential Innovation Awards for Environmental Educators (PIAEE).

"Environmental education is paramount to providing students with the skills and tools they need to be the next generation of Americans caring for our nation's air, water and land," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Success in the environmental education program hinges on teachers' ability to employ modern approaches to this important field of study. EPA remains committed to supporting America's teachers and students to promote environmental stewardship – both now and in the future."

Established by the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, PEYA recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects from Kindergarten through 12th grade by promoting environmental awareness and encouraging community involvement. Also established by the 1990 National Environmental Education Act, PIAEE recognizes outstanding K-12 grade educators who integrate environmental, place-based experiential learning into school curricula and school facility management across the country. The White House Council on Environmental Quality, in partnership with EPA, administers the PIAEE awards program.

Additional Information on the 2020 Awards

EPA is seeking 2020 PEYA and PIAEE award applications for projects on a variety of environmental topics, including (but not limited to):

- Reducing food waste and loss and excess food recovery efforts.
- Reducing contributions to ocean and marine litter.
- Solutions in recycling.
- Using science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to teach environmental education.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Sustainable agricultural practices.
- Healthy school environments.

For the PEYA awards, EPA will select up to two winners in each of the agency's 10 Regions – one regional winner for grades K-5 and one regional winner for grades 6-12. The winning projects will be highlighted on EPA's website. All student projects must be sponsored by at least one adult over the age of 21. And, if the sponsor is not a teacher, the project must have a teacher as a co-sponsor. The application and eligibility information are available on [EPA's PEYA page](#).

Up to two teachers from each of EPA's 10 regions, from different states, will be selected to receive the PIAEE award. Teachers will receive a presidential plaque and an award of up to \$2,500 to be used to further professional development in environmental education. Winning teachers' local education agencies will also receive awards of up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs. Next year's winners will be highlighted on EPA's website. The application and eligibility information are available on [EPA's PIAEE page](#).

Applications for both awards programs are due no later than February 19, 2021.

For more information on the youth awards (PEYA), please contact: PEYA@epa.gov.

For more information on the teacher awards (PIAEE), please contact: PIAEE@epa.gov.

A close look at our Earth! <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

The latest from NASA's Earth Observatory (27 October 2020)

Latest Images:

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/topic/image-of-the-day>

* Molave Heads Toward Vietnam

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147456/molave-heads-toward-vietnam/?src=eo-iotd>

* East Troublesome Fire Spreads to the Rockies

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147452/east-troublesome-fire-spreads-to-the-rockies/?src=eo-iotd>

* Iran's Rainbow Island

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147428/irans-rainbow-island/?src=eo-iotd>

* Snowy and Icy Peaks with Very Different Origins

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147424/snowy-and-icy-peaks-with-very-different-origins/?src=eo-iotd>

* Fall Color in Ottawa

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147448/fall-color-in-ottawa/?src=eo-iotd>

* California's Rising and Sinking Coast

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147439/californias-rising-and-sinking-coast/?src=eo-iotd>

* Record-Setting Fires in Colorado and California

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147443/record-setting-fires-in-colorado-and-california/?src=eo-iotd>

From our sister site NASA Earth Observations (NEO):

<https://neo.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

* Create and Apply the Right Color Palette in Adobe Photoshop for your Map Visualization (Part 2 of 3)

Part two of a three-part series focused on creating a map that is color blind friendly.

<https://go.nasa.gov/37KXiZE>

From our partners at Earthdata:

<https://earthdata.nasa.gov/>

* Commercial Satellites Shed Light on Small-Scale Agriculture

Researchers are using commercial, high-resolution imagery to map small-scale agriculture in Africa and Asia.

<https://go.nasa.gov/3jxzTgM>

NASA Earth Observatory -- Where every day is Earth day.

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>



<https://www.nature.org>



You Can Trust the Conservancy!

There has never been a more urgent time to protect our planet. Study after study shows that we cannot afford to wait to act on climate change, species loss and destruction of our natural world.

Your voice can make a difference. Every single action you take in your community can have a real impact on how we meet the needs of our Earth and everyone on it.

Pledge to Speak Up for Nature by taking one or more of these powerful actions:

- **Learn!** Science shows us the steps we need to take to protect nature now. Learn what the top conservation issues are to hold your government officials accountable.
- **Share!** Help your family and friends understand how high the stakes are for our natural world, and how they can Speak Up for Nature too.
- **Vote!** Laws and policies are critical, and voting is your way to choose leaders who will champion a sustainable future for our planet.

To help you get started, we'll send you resources so you can plan ahead to vote and learn more about the issues.

Together, we have the power to make our voices heard. Be part of our united community of Nature Conservancy supporters and do your part to chart a better course forward for the one and only Earth we all share.

Take the pledge below:

I Will Speak Up for Nature

I agree that immediate action to protect our planet is critical. I pledge to Speak Up for Nature and join with thousands of people around the world in calling for action. I'm doing my part because I believe my voice can have a real impact on how we meet the needs of our Earth and everyone on it.

I pledge to do even more to protect our most important lands and waters by making an urgent donation to The Nature Conservancy.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/south-carolina/>

Here's the thing: without strong advocates like you, the future is uncertain for the treasured places you care about, the water you drink and the air you breathe. But when we come together to raise our voices in support of conserving land and protecting natural resources, we can *choose a better path forward*.

Again and again, we've demonstrated the power we have in numbers. Together, let's [send the undeniable message to our leaders that nature must be protected.](#)

Learn. Share. Vote. [Pledge to Speak Up for Nature now.](#)

SIGN THE PLEDGE »

<http://justiceunbound.org/>

Healthcare is once again in the public eye with the confirmation hearings of Amy Coney Barrett to be seated on the United States Supreme Court. In the past, she has sided with many conservatives to denounce the [Affordable Care Act](#) which protects people with preexisting conditions and allows people 26 years old and younger to stay on their parents' insurance. We have also seen many people of faith (in our context we will focus on Christians) join conservative efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act and to abolish it. Many reasons for these actions claim that it catapults us into a socialist model of governance, or it takes away our choices. However, as insurance companies expand their pockets on the backs of people's health and as medicine skyrockets in price, these arguments fall short and are antithetical to Christian values. In fact, Christians should be fighting for expanded universal healthcare especially for those who are poor, marginalized, and sick while advocating for a more holistic view of health.

Here are just 6 Reasons Healthcare is a Christian Issue:

1. Our bodies are divine. [Genesis 1: 26-31](#)

We are created in the image of God, the *imago dei*. God created us: mind and flesh. Every ounce of our physical existence is intertwined with a divine fabric that was breathed into. God sees our bodies as holy and they should be treated and respected as such. **How do we create a healthcare system that respects our holiness?**

2. We are called to love our neighbor. [Deuteronomy 15: 7-11](#); [Matthew 22: 34-46](#)

Second only to God, we are called to love our neighbor. We are called to take care of the sick, the orphan, the widow, the stranger, our enemies, and those who are on the outskirts of society...it is written in the text. We are told to give what is needed and to not expect payment. **How can our healthcare reflect this type of care?**

3. Humanity over profits. [Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18](#); [Matthew 10: 8-11](#)

In today's society, human health is sacrificed for profit and money. We have seen this reflected in an economy that has opened up too soon during a pandemic which is responsible for thousands of lives lost and/or infected with COVID-19. We see insurance companies' pockets expand, gaining more and more money off of the health of people. **What ways can healthcare change, so we are not profiting off the blood of our neighbors?**

4. Healing is a foundational belief. [Matthew 9](#)

The biblical text is full of healing narratives. Jesus healed those who needed it, whether that had faith or not. He taught his disciples how to heal and cast out illness as a foundational tool of discipleship. Meeting the physical needs of the people is foundational to the Christian faith. **So, we must ask: Why are people of the Christian faith so against healthcare for all people?**

5. We believe in wholeness. [Jeremiah 33:6](#)

The scriptures not only speak to physical health, but to mental health, security, prosperity, respect, and societal need. Our faith teaches us about a holistic approach to our health and we must heed the calling for a better healthcare system that meets all of our needs. **How can healthcare meet the holistic need of our full selves?**

6. Life overcomes death. [Matthew 28](#)

To live into a faith that tells us that life overcomes death, we have to lean into the ways in which we are to live

our lives abundantly, as God calls us to do so, and how we are to truly live in healthy and meaningful ways. The resurrection teaches us that no matter the death dealing theologies and actions, we must fight for legislation and organizing that brings about meeting the needs of all people.

[action](#) [advent](#) [church in the public square](#) [climate change](#) [community organizing](#)
[divestment](#) [eco-justice](#) [economic justice in action](#) [economics](#) [ecumenical](#) [Ecumenism](#) [education](#)
[environment](#) [environmental spirituality](#) [food justice](#) [GA221](#) [GA222](#) [gender justice](#) [immigration](#)
[Indigenous Rights](#) [Israel](#) [LGBTQQI](#) [mission](#) [music](#) [Office of Public Witness](#) [palestine](#) [peace](#) [peacemaking](#)
[poetry](#) [poverty alleviation](#) [prayer](#) [Presbyterian Church \(USA\) General Assembly](#) [Racial Justice](#) [racism](#) [scripture](#) [seminary](#) [sermon](#) [sexuality](#) [theological](#)
[education](#) [United Nations](#) [urban ministry](#) [white privilege](#) [Women's Rights](#) [worship resources](#) [young adults](#)

National Audubon Society (<http://www.audubon.org/>)

[Help Birds With Native Plants](#)

[Search our database to find native plants for your ZIP code »](#)



Audubon Society of South Carolina (<http://sc.audubon.org/>)

If you are stuck indoors and need a birdy-distraction, [For the Love of Birds](#) is a beautiful page filled with Audubon South Carolina’s favorite bird photos, videos, and stories!

<https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids?site=sc&nid=4141>

In many ways every child is born a scientist—exploring their world, leading small experiments, asking questions, searching for answers. That innate curiosity and drive to inquiry is what Rachel Carson, the groundbreaking conservationist and author, called a sense of wonder. “A child’s world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement,” she wrote. “It is our misfortune that for most of us that clear-eyed vision, that true instinct for what is beautiful and awe-inspiring, is dimmed and even lost before we reach adulthood.”

This page aims to bring together activities from across Audubon’s national network of environmental educators, including the classroom curriculum *Audubon Adventures*, plus related DIY activities and content from Audubon’s editors. These activities can be done at home or in a yard or park, sometimes with the help of a computer. The goal isn’t to teach a child how to name and identify bird species, but rather to give them space to explore and feel connected to the natural world. If you’re a parent or caretaker, that means you don’t need to worry about your own knowledge of birds or plants. All you need to be is a companion to your child’s curiosity.

“If a child is to keep their inborn sense of wonder, they need the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with them the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in,” Rachel Carson wrote in 1956. We hope these lessons, which we’ll refresh each week with a new theme, will help you find awe and inspiration in nature together. *Disponible en Español: [¡Audubon para niños!](#)*



<https://www.upstateforever.org/>

Recreation & Education

Connecting People to Nature

With its breathtaking landscapes, award-winning parks, and scenic waterways, there's plenty to love about our little corner of South Carolina. At Upstate Forever, we want to help everyone enjoy the outdoors and take pride in our natural resources through recreation. That's why we've worked with community partners on projects like the GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail, Adopt A Stream, and Blueway Mapping. Whether you like to hike, cycle, paddle, or just lounge in the park, the Upstate is one of the best places around to connect with nature.

The *National Wildlife Federation*

<https://blog.nwf.org/topics/wildlife-facts/>

<https://blog.nwf.org/topics/conservation/>

<https://blog.nwf.org/topics/garden-habitats/>

<https://blog.nwf.org/topics/students-and-nature/>

<https://blog.nwf.org/topics/students-and-nature/>

<https://blog.nwf.org/2020/07/the-links-incorporated-and-garden-for-wildlife-support-stem-education-for-black-and-other-minority-youth/>

<https://www.nwf.org/en/Kids-and-Family/Connecting-Kids-and-Nature>

Green Hour Program

The National Wildlife Federation’s Green Hour program is designed to encourage, parents, schools, childcare centers, park agencies, camps, grandparents, and others to adopt a goal of an hour per day of time for children to play and learn outdoors in nature.

The idea of a "green" hour comes from research on creative play and health by the Centers for Disease Control and the Academy of America Pediatrics. Research also shows the best way to connect young people to a lifelong concern for nature, wildlife, and the outdoors is through regular positive experiences.

Older Green Hour program resources:

- Parent and caregiver support—[Green Hour Tips and Resources](#)
- Greener childcare centers—[ECHO program](#) and [Nature Play Space Guidelines](#)
- Park agencies—[National Recreation Park Association partnership](#)
- Nature time with Ranger Rick—[Ranger Rick's Kids Support](#)
- Kids Hook on Fishing—[Guide to a Great Fishing Experiences](#)
- [Educator tools](#) and [programs](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Online accessibility to locate trails, parks, recreational facilities, farmers markets:

[//letsgosc.org](http://letsgosc.org)

Want to find local produce and free range beef and chicken products, check out the website:

<http://www.certifiedscgrown.com/>.

<http://www.certifiedscgrown.com/where-to-buy-local/certified-markets/>

This website allows a search by SC county and type of products, other options as well. The Certified South Carolina program is an 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.

Join in on Facebook:

God has provided us with a vibrant world in which to live. He wants us to appreciate and take care of His Creation, which includes each of us as well!

<https://www.facebook.com/Stewardship-of-Creation-Foothills-Presbytery-SC-138564229544090/>



..... is an environmental education experience that will travel to your site.

VBS, Festivals, Specially designed Classes, and more!

For more information, email Manella Calhoun and/or other Board of Directors at

crittersandmore8@gmail.com.

<https://www.facebook.com/crittersandmoreonthego/>

<https://crittersandmoreonthego.org/>