



Foothills Presbytery Area Highlights:

“... God’s work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated ... Restoring creation is God’s own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore ...” —PC(USA) Environmental Policy

2020 marks the 50th year anniversary of Earth Day!

Celebrate Earth Day Every Day! Our lives depend on it!

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

Is your church interested in becoming more involved as stewards of God’s earth?

Join with the other churches in South Carolina who have formalized the commitment and become an Earth Care Congregations!

Dorchester Presbyterian Church, *Summerville, SC*

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, *Columbia, SC*

James Island Presbyterian, *Charleston, SC*

Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, *Bluffton, SC*

McGregor Presbyterian Church, *Columbia, SC*

North Anderson Community Church Presbyterian, *Anderson, SC*

Shandon Presbyterian Church, *Columbia, SC*

Use [“Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches”](#) to find ideas for earth care projects.

To become certified as Earth Care Congregations churches take the [“Earth Care Pledge”](#) and complete activities and projects in the fields of worship, education, facilities and outreach. Submit your application (see below “getting started”) January 1-February 15 of the calendar year in which you’d like to be certified.

[Download an Earth Care Congregations bulletin insert.](#)

Getting started: Earth Care Congregations applications

Get started on the path to becoming an Earth Care Congregation or find re-certification materials by downloading “[Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches.](#)”

To become certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation in the first year, a church fills out the Earth Care Pledge and tracks its commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. The Earth Care Congregation First Year Application (excel form) is to be submitted between January 1—February 15, by online form which can be found at: <http://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application>.

To become re-certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation, a church tracks its continued commitments to earth care in the areas of worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Progress in each of the areas should be marked since the time of the last certification. The Earth Care Congregation Recertification Application is to be submitted between January 1—February 15, by online form found at <http://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application>.

Excel formats of the application questions for preparation of submission can be found for download in the Learn More menu.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/Earth> Day is celebrated on April 22 each year, and Presbyterian churches are urged to celebrate Earth Day Sunday near this date or to use the resource for any other worship with a theme of Environmental Justice. **2020 marks the 50th year anniversary of Earth Day.** The resource is written to be useful year-round. Some dates to consider include: Earth Day Sunday on April 22, World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on September 1, or October 8, the Sunday before Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) produces Earth Day Sunday resources each year. The 2020 theme focuses on “The Fierce Urgency of Now.” It features stories of congregations taking climate action, liturgical resources, and faith-rooted interpretation of recently released dire Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. The resource and accompanying web-based materials are available for free download at www.creationjustice.org/urgency.



<https://presbyearthcare.org/>

Creatures of the Same Creator

*The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.*

*All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you....*

*The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.*

*You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.*

Psalms 145:8-10, 15-16

As Psalm 145 says, God's compassion is over all that God has made! "You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing" (v. 16).

We humans tend to think of the world as our oyster. But is that really the intention of our God who creates and cares for the world?

Most of us in the developed world can spend entire weeks not noticing that the planet teems with more sentient, vibrant life than humans. Stepping outside ourselves (literally) reveals a complex world made up of billions of God's creatures. Squirrels and opossums, dandelions and oysters, clay and sun—all works of the One who is "abounding in steadfast love" (v. 8b).

Our "world is our oyster" mindset may free us to live full lives, at least as defined by human society, but is this mindset satisfying to our God who cares for everyone, biped and bivalve alike?

Let's consider the oyster world. Although oysters may seem like simple organisms, they are not just sources of pearls and lunch. Oysters are a keystone species, integral to the health of an entire ecosystem. Oysters are champion recyclers, too,

Introduction to PEC's Lenten Devotional

See and read Trisha Tull's
[Intro on PEC's Blog](#)

Today's 2nd Sunday of Lent Reflection

Share it with your friends
and family at [PEC's blog](#)

each filtering gallons of water every single day. Their shells provide refuge for other creatures. Oysters have oyster feelings. Scientists are discovering that even “simple” organisms demonstrate an awareness of their circumstances. For example, even though they do not have ears, oysters “hear.” Human-generated noise pollution harms their health and the health of their offspring for generations.

Our world is as complex and marvelous as is our Creator who delights and provides sustenance and “steadfast love” for all creation. As followers of Jesus Christ, let us embrace one another in celebration of and compassion for all God’s works. Let us endeavor to live in wonder, care and compassion.

Prayer

Holy One, your world teems with complexity and beauty, and you are “good to all,” human, daisy and oyster alike. During this season of Lent, we vow to sharpen our focus and soften our hearts so that we can more fully appreciate You as we seek *shalom* with one another, your beloved creation.

Amen.

by **Carissa Herold**



PEC's 2020 Lenten Devotional

Read [online](#) or [print](#) the complete document.

Artwork by [Lorraine Rich](#).

PEC is on UK website!

[Worship Words](#) has posted PEC's Lenten Devotional.

Lenten Calendar from Presb Hunger Program

[Tread Lightly for Lent](#) calendar is ready for you.

Last chance for Eco-Palms is March 13

[Read about the Eco-Palm](#) project **and** [order here](#).

PEC Annual Awards nominations are open

Members/donors [use this form](#). Non-members' [form](#).

Earth Day Toolkit



***from Creation
Justice Min.***

[The Fierce Urgency of Now](#)

***Green your
presbytery***

See PEC's new [guide and
resource directory](#)

***Ecumenical
Advocacy Days
April 24-27***

in Washington DC. [Save the
date and register](#)

***Presbytery seeks
overture
concurrence***

Presbyterian [Climate Accord](#)
from DesMoines

***Pledge to be a
Faith Climate
Voter***

[Sign-up](#) with Interfaith
Power and Light

***Building a
movement to
stop climate
change***

[Bill McKibben, March 17, at
Westminster Pres in
Minneapolis](#)

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-do/advocacy-social-justice/>

Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns is a part of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/earth-care-congregations-guide-greening-presbyteri/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/mission-resources/mission-toolkits/mission-committee-toolkit/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/churches-in-europe-urge-a-coordinated-humanitarian-response/>

[Tread Lightly for Lent – Lent Calendar](#)

In Lent, we reflect on Christ’s ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us. The Presbyterian Hunger Program strives to walk with people in moving towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of... [Read more »](#)

[National Council of Churches of Christ ~ Eco-Justice Program Office](#)



JUSTICE FOR GOD'S PLANET
AND GOD'S PEOPLE

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

Creation Justice Ministries has resources ready to equip your faith community to celebrate Earth Day Sunday 2020. This year's theme is *The Fierce Urgency of Now*.

[DOWNLOAD EARTH DAY SUNDAY TOOLKIT](#)

Each year before Earth Day, Creation Justice Ministries provides materials to help faith communities explore themes related to God's creation.

Our 2020 materials include theological insights on what it means to live in this *kairos* moment for God's creation, stories of faith communities taking action, sermon starters, liturgy ideas, and action steps.

The landing page and supplemental materials are at www.creationjustice.org/urgency.

Spread the word on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Use our [Earth Day Sunday 2020 Facebook event](#) to connect with peers who are also planning worship services and community events.

Find more information about Earth Day Sunday, including materials from previous years, at www.earthdaysunday.org

TAKING ACTION

Before us is a ten-year window of opportunity to demonstrate how we will respond to God's call. Each church can discern the best ways it can address climate and inequality with all of the means and opportunities before them. To generate thought and conversation in the discernment process, here are a few ways churches can mobilize:

- Pray for people who are currently affected by environmental degradation in all its many forms, and pray to discern ways that you can minister in solidarity with those most impacted.
- Prioritize creation care as a ministry through how you worship. Plan inspired services that continually focus attention on creation care, especially in the present season of *kairos*.
- Complement your worship with educational programming and public forums that develop a robust and informative conversation about the present climate crisis. Enter a period of study and immersion on the climate crisis. Study what the Bible and other theological sources say about creation care.
- Cultivate a climate positive landscape. Through tree planting, gardening, and habitat restoration, pull carbon out of the air through how you make use of your church's landscape.
- Make every election a time to call for values-based voting that expresses care for creation and justice for
- Become an advocate in your neighborhood, community, or beyond. With the help of local partners, learn about and engage in environmental advocacy issues near you. Write or visit your congressional representative and local officials. Champion legislation that reflects the urgency of our times.
- Become a *kairos* mobilization hub. Through the use of your church building and the actions of your members, provide hospitality and solidarity for those working to address climate and inequality. Prepare your houses of worship to serve as places of refuge during times of natural and human-made disasters.
- Activate a Creation Care team comprised of laypeople, facility management staff, clergy, and respected community leaders. Task them with responsibility for designing and implementing actions that address our climate crisis.
- Invest church money responsibly. Not all banks are equally prudent in what they do with their money, so make sure your church invests and banks with financial institutions that prioritize sustainable, ecologically responsible investments.
- Tell your story! Whether it is your church website or a press release, make what you do for God's creation a visible example of action and hope.

[Interfaith Power & Light](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/)



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

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

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



Order your 2020 Faith Climate Action Week Kits! These kits equip you to engage your congregation in Sacred Activism during Interfaith Power & Light's Faith Climate Action Week, April 17 – 26.

Faith Climate Action Week is IPL's annual program of climate-themed worship services and sermons that spans ten days of activities in celebration of Earth Month. This is IPL's premier event to create a mass movement of people of faith making the moral call for climate action.

This year's Faith Climate Action Week theme is, "Love Made Visible: Engaging in Sacred Activism" to protect the people we love and care about who are most impacted by climate change.

[Click here to order the limited supply of pre-printed kits.](#)

- The kit includes a Sacred Activism guide on the importance of people of faith taking part in civic engagement, plus suggestions and tips for activism challenges including planning a prayer vigil, taking part in a rally or march, conducting a voter registration drive in conjunction with your local election officials, and more. Use the Sacred Activism Art Guide included in the kit to create eye-catching banners, placards, street paintings, and more with faith-based messaging.
- [Click here to post your event](#) on the IPL calendar to show the world that people of faith and conscience are taking action.
- In this election year IPL invites you to collect pledges from your community members to vote with the climate in mind using the kit's **Faith Climate Voter Pledge postcards and stickers for all who pledge.**

Add a film to your events to inspire your congregation to action. This year's film, *The Human Element* by James Balog of Chasing Ice fame, relays captivating stories of everyday Americans on the front lines of climate change; inspiring us to reevaluate our relationship

with the natural world. [Click here to order the film.](#)

- [Click here to order your copy of the 2020 Faith Climate Action Week kit today.](#)

Together this Earth Day, we can joyfully do the sacred work of taking climate action.

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

Where Justice & Mercy Meet
Abolishing the Death Penalty

March 17, 2020
Suber Marshall UMC
3900 Live Oak Street, Columbia, SC 29205

MEMBER BODIES

[The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Seventh Episcopal District](#)

[The Alliance of Baptists](#)

[The Baptist Educational and Missionary Baptist Convention of SC](#)

[The Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in SC](#)

[The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston-Columbia District](#)

[The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in SC](#)

The Episcopal Church:

[The Episcopal Church in SC](#)

[The Upper Diocese of the Episcopal Church in SC](#)

[The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, SC Synod](#)

The Presbyterian Church (USA):

[Charleston Atlantic Presbytery](#)

[Foothills Presbytery](#)

[The Presbytery of New Harmony](#)

[Providence Presbytery](#)

[Trinity Presbytery](#)

[The Protestant Episcopal Church in Diocese of SC](#)

The Religious Society of Friends
Palmetto Friends Gathering

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

The United Church of Christ

The United Methodist Church, SC Conference

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NASA's Earth Observatory Where every day is Earth day. <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

The latest from NASA's Earth Observatory (10 March 2020)

Latest Images:

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

* Fire in the Pantanal

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146409/fire-in-the-pantanal/?src=eoaiotd>

* Hints of Spring in the Atlantic

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146412/hints-of-spring-in-the-atlantic/?src=eoaiotd>

* A Textbook Weather Front

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146392/a-textbook-weather-front/?src=eoaiotd>

* Shelter Cove

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146403/shelter-cove/?src=eoaiotd>

* The Largest Solar Power Plant in Europe (For Now)

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146374/the-largest-solar-power-plant-in-europe-for-now/?src=eoaiotd>

* Habitat at Risk for Snow-Dependent Organisms

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146396/habitat-at-risk-for-snow-dependent-organisms/?src=eoaiotd>

* Cloud Streets Over the Labrador Sea

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146387/cloud-streets-over-the-labrador-sea/?src=eoaiotd>

Recent Blog Posts:

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

Earth Matters

* How the Coronavirus Is (and Is Not) Affecting the Environment

As people have changed their everyday behaviors to contain or avoid the coronavirus, there have been subtle

effects on the environment.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/2020/03/05/how-the-coronavirus-is-and-is-not-affecting-the-environment/?src=eo-blogs>

Notes from the Field

* The (Historic) Journey To Polarstern

Standing just a few meters from the sea ice, one can see just how dynamic, variable, and beautiful the ice cover can be.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/2020/03/05/the-historic-journey-to-polarstern/?src=eo-blogs>

** Help Earth Observatory Choose Our All-Time Best Image **

Since its launch on the web in April 1999, NASA Earth Observatory has published more than 15,500 image-driven stories about our planet. In celebration of our 20th anniversary -- as well as the 50th anniversary of Earth Day -- we want you to help us choose our all-time best image.

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/earthmatters/2020/03/03/best-of-earth-observatory-nominate-your-favorites/>

NASA Earth Observatory

Where every day is Earth day.

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



<https://www.nature.org>



You Can Trust the Conservancy!

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

https://blog.nature.org/science/?src=e.cgs.eg.x.loc_h&lu=4273527&autologin=true

The Nature Conservancy's response to the Australian Bushfire Crisis



The Nature Conservancy is greatly saddened by the unprecedented bushfire crisis in Australia. The scale and severity of the fires as well as the stories of human and wildlife suffering are devastating.

Our heartfelt condolences go to the people and communities who have suffered losses and to those who continue to be harm's way. Our deep gratitude and respect go to the fire and emergency services personnel who continue to fight the fires and lead emergency recovery efforts, and the thousands

of family members and others whose vital support makes their work possible. It is important to acknowledge that the crisis isn't over, with months left in this year's fire season.

With as much as 10 million hectares (25 million acres) of land burned thus far – more than the 2019 Amazon fires and the 2018 California wildfires combined – the effects have been horrendous from loss of human life to the loss of native Australian plants and animals to the devastation on communities and habitat.

More than one billion mammals, birds, and reptiles are estimated to have been killed, along with countless insects, fish, and frogs. It is possible, even likely, that all of the known habitat for a number of endangered species has burned, placing their futures in a perilous state.

What The Nature Conservancy is doing

In addition to supporting emergency relief efforts, The Nature Conservancy is focusing our attention on partnering with Commonwealth and state agencies, as well as partner organizations, to deliver three key initiatives in the near-term:

1. Work to identify, manage and protect critical unburned habitats within the fire zone. These areas have become extremely important refuges for native species;
2. Help fund and deliver the restoration of habitats affected by fire; and,
3. Help inform an appropriate response to [managing fire in a warming climate](#).

Longer-term, we will redouble our efforts to tackle the climate crisis, including advocating for stronger policies to accelerate the pace and scale of climate action. This includes the critical climate role played by our forests, grasslands and wetlands, so many of which have been lost in this fire season. To do this, we will continue to partner with public and private landowners and managers, including Indigenous people and communities, to protect, manage, and restore the natural systems so critical to the stability of our climate and so fundamental to our way of life.

What you can do

While the fires remain active, the immediate priority is on securing the safety of people and property, supporting those who have suffered, and supporting rescue efforts.

To that end, you can make a donation to an emergency relief appeal such as the [Australian Red Cross](#), [WIRES](#) (New South Wales Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.), or [Zoos Victoria](#). Additional information can be found via the [Government of South Australia](#).

<http://justiceunbound.org/>

Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice is an online journal and community that examines, expresses, and provokes social justice as inspired by the prophetic gospel of Jesus Christ. As both a journal and a forum for conversation, action and community building, Unbound seeks to be an inclusive and welcoming

platform no matter gender, sexuality, race, religion, age, ability or creed. We seek to experience and express different perspectives that further the Kingdom of God and moves us toward the arc of justice.

Tags: [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](#) [Israel-Palestine](#) [LGBTQIQI](#) [mission](#) [music](#) [Office of Public Witness](#) [palestine](#) [peace](#) [peacemaking](#) [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/>)

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> (by zipcode)

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



[These Beloved Warblers Migrate North Almost a Week Earlier Than 50 Years Ago](#)

If you've been paying close attention to the comings and goings of your backyard birds lately, you may have noticed some spring migrants returning a bit earlier than they used to—[but is climate change the culprit?](#)

A new study on Black-throated Blue Warblers adds to a growing wealth of research showing that **the timing of bird migration is indeed changing—and**

the implications are pretty serious. The main concern with early migration is food supply. If birds are not arriving at their breeding grounds at the right time, then there won't be enough insects and seeds to feed their young.

Keep reading to learn how these early arrivals may indicate larger ecosystem issues and whether or not climate change is the cause.

[Read More](#)



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

How will development impact future flooding and water quality?

Every day in the Upstate, 65 acres of land (the equivalent of Greenville's Haywood Mall *and* its parking lot) are paved over for development. Much of this development is occurring near the Upstate's waterways — whether tiny creeks or major rivers — a trend that could have a major impact on our water quality.

Upstate Forever's Clean Water Director **Erika Hollis**, as well as Frank Holleman, senior attorney with the **Southern Environmental Law Center**, recently shared the potential effects of development on future flooding and water quality in the Upstate with the readers of the Greenville Journal: **How will development impact future flooding and water quality?**

[Read the article](#)

[Support our Clean Water work](#)

Honoring Black History Month

This month we are highlighting the many African American leaders who are changing the face of the conservation conversation. These trail-blazers are making strides to engage a more diverse audience in the critical goal of protecting and connecting to our natural world. [Follow along on Facebook](#)

Upstate comp plan updates

The cities of Greenville, Greer, and Spartanburg are all in the process of updating their comprehensive plans, plans that will provide the framework for growth and development in the decades to come. Our Land Planning & Policy team has the latest updates. [Read more](#)

Congrats, grad!

Executive Director [Andrea Cooper](#) recently completed The Riley Institute at Furman University's *Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI)*. This five month program equips Upstate leaders with tools to drive positive change in their communities through diversity and inclusion. [Learn more about the DLI](#)

Trivia night at Liability Brewing

Mark your calendars for **Monday, March 23** and join us at Liability Brewing Co. (109 W Stone Ave Suite D, Greenville) for some Upstate-themed trivia starting at 6:30 pm. A portion of the proceeds from this evening's beer sales will benefit UF. [Scroll down for more details!](#)

March into Earth Day

Drop by Greenville County Square from 10 am – 2 pm on **Tuesday, March 17** for an early Earth Day celebration! Upstate Forever and other community organizations will be on hand at this free event for Greenville County employees and residents. [Learn more](#)

Why wetlands matter

In honor of World Wetlands Day on February 2, Clean Water Advocate [Megan Chase](#) recently shared the many benefits of this unique ecosystem — and where in the Upstate you can get up close and personal with them — on our blog. [Read the blog post](#)

Conservation Lobby Day

On **Tuesday, March 24**, we will carpool to Columbia, joining citizen-advocates from across the state for advocacy training before speaking with legislators about conservation issues at the Statehouse. We'll end the day with a fabulous oyster roast... And it's all *free*! Email srobbins@upstateforever.org for details.

Upcoming Events

- **Climate and Environmental Justice Town Hall** – Join [Conservation Voters of South Carolina](#) in Charleston on **Saturday, February 21** for a discussion about the impacts of climate change and pollution on SC communities. Speakers include Martin Luther King III, former Flint Mayor Dr. Karen Weaver, and South Carolina State Representative J.A. Moore. [Learn more](#)
- **ForeverGreen Annual Awards Luncheon** – **Monday, February 24** at the Embassy Suites on Verdae Blvd in Greenville. [Join the waitlist](#)
- **Mozart for a Cause II: Planet Earth** – On **Monday, March 2**, volunteer musicians from the Greenville Symphony, Spartanburg Philharmonic, SC Philharmonic, and Converse College will donate their time and talent for Planet Earth! Seated tickets range from \$15-95. [More details](#)
- **March into Earth Day** – Stop by our table at Greenville County's 3rd Annual March into Earth Day on **Tuesday, March 17** from 10 am – 2 pm. [Learn more](#)
- **Trivia Night at Liability Brewing Co.** – Join the Upstate Forever team at Liability Brewing Co. (109 W Stone Ave Suite D, Greenville) on **Monday, March 23** for a night of Upstate-themed trivia! The fun starts at 6:30 pm and a portion of the proceeds from this evening's beer sales will benefit UF. Prior to the event, watch Liability Brewing & Upstate Forever social media accounts for details on a virtual Upstate scavenger hunt. The hunt ends at the trivia night!
- **Conservation Lobby Day and Oyster Roast** - **Tuesday, March 24**. Join our carpool to Columbia for an action-packed day of advocacy. Contact UF's Energy & State Policy Director Shelley Robbins at srobbins@upstateforever.org or (864) 921-0293 for more information.
- **Happy Hour at Liability Brewing Co.** – **Wednesday, April 15** from 5:30 - 7 pm. *Stay tuned for more information!*
- **Volunteer Work Day: Cancer Survivors Park** – Join us from 9 am - 12 pm on **Saturday, April 18** as we clean up the protected land around Greenville's Cancer Survivors Park. We are partnering with [TreesUpstate](#) and the City of Greenville to remove invasive species and trash from this place of respite and rejuvenation. Please email ggoldsmith@upstateforever.org for more information and to sign up.
- **16th Annual Spartanburg Criterium** – Mark your calendars for "**Spartanburg's fastest night**" on **Friday, April 24!** Join us in the Upstate Forever tailgating tent for a front row view of the cycling action. *More details to come!*

Do you know about our mailing lists?

Greenville County Comprehensive Plan Updates

Upstate Forever wants to help demystify and empower citizens to influence the Comprehensive Plan update process. Join this dedicated mailing list to receive updates and alerts for all Greenville-based comp plans.

Planning & Growth Updates for Spartanburg County

Spartanburg County is growing rapidly, with more than 60,000 new residents projected by 2040. Whether you live or work in Spartanburg County or just care deeply about its future, our Land Planning & Policy team will keep you informed and actively engaged in shaping Spartanburg's future growth.

SC Legislative Updates

While the State Legislature is in session from January through May of each year, we dispatch a weekly Legislative Update recapping each week's important energy and conservation news. We also issue Action Alerts on critical, time-sensitive issues and provide the tools you need to contact your elected officials.

The Water Log

Water is our planet's most precious natural resource, and Upstate Forever is working to safeguard both the quantity and quality of water in our region. Our Clean Water team sends out a periodic newsletter dedicated to clean water issues and advocacy.

To sign up for one or all of the above lists, [please click here and select the list\(s\) you'd like to join.](#)

The *[National Wildlife Federation](#)*

<https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work>

As in nature, we have strength in numbers. Our ability to help wildlife is inextricably linked to the diverse efforts of the individuals and groups that support our mission. Across the country we engage with communities, schools, governments, and other organizations to build and nurture a common commitment to conservation. As we continue to grow, we're fostering relationships with valuable partners that share our mission, working collaboratively with 2,500 organizations by 2021. We'll engage millions more Americans in supporting our mission, including 25 million future generation conservationists in 20,000 schools across the country.

Through our hands-on programs, policy work, community outreach, and more, we forge a conservation army of millions of people that work each day to build a better future for both people and wildlife—because in saving wildlife, we save ourselves.

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

Our Approach

The National Wildlife Federation is working with the major influencers of children's time to make the outdoors a bigger part of their everyday lives.

Spending regular time outdoors is great for kids so why aren't all children doing it— every day? It's different for every family, but between busy schedules, exciting gadgets, concerns about safety, and lack of green spaces it's tough to Be Out There!

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.

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.

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