

August 2025 Issue

Manella Calhoun - mhc.clemson@gmail.com

Foothills Presbytery Area Highlights:

Interested in becoming Certified as an Earth Care Congregation?

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/hunger-program/sustainable-livingearth-care-concerns/earth-care-congregations>

<https://pcusa.org/resource/earth-care-congregations-guide-greening-churches>

<https://surveys.pcusa.org/s3/Earth-Care-Congregation-Application>

Let us know if you can assist in your efforts!



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.

There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Roman Catholic Church in 2015, and in 2019 started celebrating the Season of Creation as well.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

If you have any questions about the Season of Creation, please feel free to [email us by clicking here](#).

Rebutting the top five myths on climate change

Myth 1: it might not be human activity

Yes, it is. Scientists are very, very sure that humans are causing global warming. The physics is fairly simple: dead plants and animals containing carbon were buried for millions of years, forming coal and oil underground. When we started digging the coal and oil out and burning it, we also started releasing carbon back into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide. More carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere means higher temperatures — and carbon dioxide levels are currently at their highest level in 800,000 years. Natural effects like variations in the sun's rays or volcanic eruptions do influence the planet's temperature. But, right now, these are easily outweighed by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities.

Myth 2: the climate has changed in the past, and we've coped

Not while civilization has existed. The world's temperatures have fluctuated over its history. But, during the past 12,000 years — the period during which humanity has started farming, settled down in villages and towns, and built civilisations — we've had a pretty steady climate. The global average temperature has varied up and down by only about a degree. Now it has risen by half a degree in about 25 years. On our current track, it could rise by 4°C by the end of this century.

Myth 3: it will be a problem for poorer people, but not the rich world

It will affect all of us. Climate change is likely to hit poorer countries harder than richer countries, particularly in the tropics. This is unjust — but it doesn't give wealthier people a get-out clause. An airport flooded in Osaka, Japan. Parts of Manhattan were underwater during Hurricane Sandy. Cape Town, in South Africa, is coming perilously close to running out of water. All of these recent events show that rich countries, too, are unable to ignore extreme weather. And the evidence shows that we are already experiencing more, and in some cases more severe, extreme-weather events. Project forwards 80 years — to a time only as distant from us as now as from the Second World War — and the climate could be “incompatible with any reasonable characterisation of an organised, equitable, and civilised global community”, as one scientist has put it.

Myth 4: we cannot tackle climate change and poverty at the same time

We cannot do it separately. Rising temperatures have the potential to reverse development gains in the poorer parts of the world, driving 122 million people into poverty over the next decade alone. At the same time, renewable technologies such as wind and solar power are now cheaper than coal and gas in many places, and often the most realistic way of getting electricity to people living in rural areas without electricity. Women's education is also one of the most important ways of reducing population growth and tackling climate change.

Myth 5: it is too late, we can't do anything about it

We can do something, and what we do matters. Climate change is happening, and more climate change is certain. But the level of change, and the damage done, is up to us. Whichever outcome ensues will be affected profoundly by the choices that we make over the next five to ten years. No one's actions are insignificant, particularly because we all look to each other to guide our behaviour. What can you do? Do whatever you do: write, paint, preach, create a climate-change computer game, plant a wildflower meadow, join a campaign group, fix someone's bike. Or read the [list of options](#) that Joe Ware, of Christian Aid, has contributed.

**Reformed & Always Being Reformed - Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.)** <https://pcusa.org/>



Reformed & Always Being Reformed

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website!

We're thrilled to welcome you – whether you're a church member, leader, or someone curious about faith. Find inspiration and resources that support PC(USA) communities and deepen your relationship with God. Let's explore, connect, and embark on a journey of faith together.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Author - John 13:35 (NRSVue)

<https://pcusa.org/daily/devotion>

Get Daily Prayer app

The PC(USA) Daily Prayer app (available for Android and Apple devices) offers daily Bible readings and simple services for prayer throughout the day, appropriate for individuals or small groups. A minimum fee is required to download an app.

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)

<https://presbyearthcare.org/>



Upcoming Events:

[Rewiring America.](#)

[Click Here for Info & Registration](#)

PEC Earth Care Conference – REGISTER NOW!

Oct. 8 – 11, 2025

Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Little Rock, Arkansas

[CLICK HERE](#)

Past Events: Recordings and Resources

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

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



JUSTICE FOR GOD'S PLANET
AND GOD'S PEOPLE

In this Action Center...



Reflection: The Danger Season: When Disasters Become Normal



Action Alert: August Recess Toolkit



Fresh Resources: Season of Creation Preparation, A Living Hope Sermon Rewind



Sacred Stories: From Data to Dignity: St. Petersburg Thriving Earth Project Charts a Path Forward



According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, 288, 250,111 people in this country are facing an extreme weather warning as of the time of this writing. 98% of those people have been under a warning of some kind since May 1. There was a week in early July that had four once in a thousand year storms. These same scientists are now calling the months between May and October, “Danger season”. Whether it’s drought, wildfires, extreme storms or excessive heat, the middle of the year has become a time when it feels almost impossible to avoid news about some natural occurrence that is putting lives at risk...

... and that has become the new normal. What were once thought of as “disasters” are now being considered to be regular occurrences. We’ve forgotten that it wasn’t that long ago that these events were more rare.

We've talked ourselves into thinking that it's always been this way. The truth is that in most of our lifetimes, weather patterns have changed dramatically and, like the proverbial frog in a boiling pot, we've adjusted as the temperature rose. The phenomenon in which we gradually begin to change the idea of what "normal" is, is called shifting baseline syndrome. As Bryan Hamilton wrote in this 2022 article on the National Park Services website, "*Our tolerance for environmental degradation increases and our expectations for the natural world goes down*".

- We cannot conform to a world that has become complacent in its struggle for environmental justice. We can't allow the extremes of weather that we are experiencing to become normalized to the point of invisibility. We can't continue to hide behind our temporary adaptations while frontline communities are consumed, especially not as the frontline is getting closer to each of us everyday.

- The renewing of our minds can happen in many ways. For some of us it will be actively seeking information about what is happening to our climate while authorities actively work to silence that information. For some of us it will mean finding ways to be of service to those dealing with the aftermath of the climate disaster nearest you because, make no mistake, there has been a climate disaster near you this summer. For many of us it will be remembering that it hasn't always been this way and considering what has been lost for our children and grandchildren.

- Whatever that renewal looks like for each of us, it should lead to the kind of transformation that softens our hardened hearts and fills us for compassion for those for whom adaptation is either costly or impossible. For a deeper reflection, [click here to head to our blog.](#)

In Faith,



Derrick Weston
Director of Theological Education and Formation
Creation Justice Ministries



Action Alert



Your Voice Matters- Even During Recess

Congress may be in recess, but it's the perfect time for action. Download our *August Recess Toolkit* to learn how your faith community can engage with lawmakers through meetings, town halls, congregational tours, and local events. Whether you want to advocate for creation justice or highlight your community's sustainability efforts, this guide offers templates, tips, and inspiration to make your voice heard.

Download August Recess Toolkit



Books & Resources



Webinar Rewind: Season of Creation (2024)

As you begin preparing your community for the upcoming Season of Creation, revisit this insightful webinar hosted by Creation Justice Ministries in partnership with *One Home, One Future*, a coalition of U.S. faith denominations and organizations committed to visible and collective climate action. The webinar introduces the meaning and significance of the Season of Creation and highlights how churches and denominations are uplifting it as a vital part of the liturgical calendar. It also features the *Faith and Climate* resource from the SALT Project, which can be used as a guide throughout the season. Click here to watch.



Sermon Rewind: A Living Hope (Preaching on Climate Crisis)

How can we proclaim the good news of the Gospel in this time of despair and devastation? In this sermon, our Executive Director Avery Davis Lamb draws on the language of "Living Hope" from Peter to explore the connection between hope, suffering, and action.

and offer preachers and teachers a Biblically-rooted roadmap to talk about climate change in a congregational setting. [Click here to watch.](#)



Resource: Power of God- From Extractive Theology to Transformative Faith

If you haven't yet had the chance to explore *The Power of God* resource, summer is the perfect time to dive in. Whether during vacation or a quiet moment of reflection, we invite you to revisit this guide and reflect on how your faith community can respond to the climate crisis—including the rising threat of extreme heat—with transformative hope and action. [Click here to download the resource.](#)

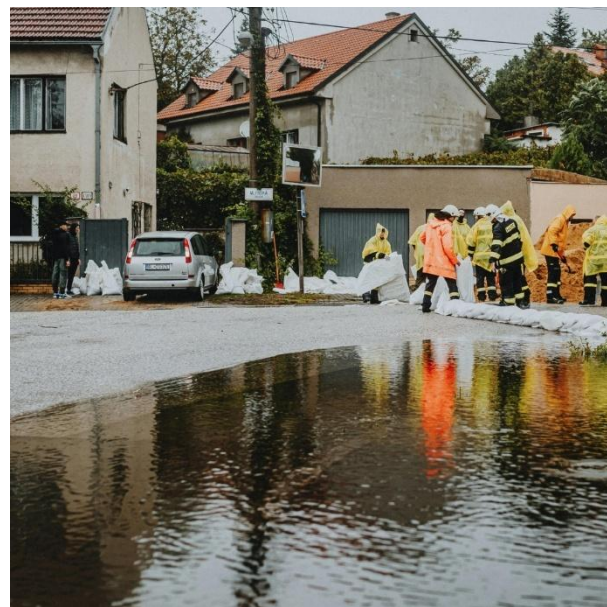


☐ August 52 Ways to Care for Creation

Use this resource to deepen your congregation's commitment to creation justice. Each week highlights a creation justice idea for action or reflection for yourself and your community. Every month, we will include a bulletin insert for you to print and share with your church. You can download the entire year by [clicking here.](#)

Sacred Stories

Located in a region facing rising heat, severe storms, and aging infrastructure, St. Pete is no stranger to climate-related challenges. And like many communities across the country, these environmental hazards don't impact everyone equally. The legacy of redlining and economic exclusion has left many historically Black and Brown neighborhoods with fewer protections and greater risk.



The Thriving Earth Exchange

project in St. Pete set out to address just that.

By identifying “areas of persistent poverty and social vulnerability,” this project used data modeling to map environmental injustice across the city. What it revealed was no surprise to residents who have long lived with the consequences—but what was once anecdotal is now evidenced in detailed maps and reports. This means more than just information; it’s a tool for action.

[Read More](#)



[What's Your Story?](#)

At Creation Justice Ministries, we believe in uplifting the voices of those doing the sacred work of protecting God’s creation. Whether it’s a moment of advocacy, a worship initiative, or a community effort—your story can encourage and equip others. Email us your story at info@creationjustice.org

[CARE FOR GOD’S PLANET & PEOPLE](#)



<http://fronteradecristo.org>

Frontera de Cristo <office@fronteradecristo.org>

<https://fronteradecristo.org/>

Dear friends,

Immigrants: Friends or Enemies? This question is a variation of a question I, Mark, was asked to address in a church 24 years ago: Mexico: Friend or Foe? The question is both provocative and deeply relevant, echoes in the hearts and minds of communities across our nation. As we encounter individuals and families who have journeyed from distant lands to become our neighbors, we are called to pause and reflect—how do we see those who are different from us? Are we building bridges of understanding, or do we allow walls of suspicion and division to rise?

Throughout the [pages of Scripture](#), we find ample guidance on this matter. In Leviticus 19:34,

we read, “The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” Jesus Himself reminds us of the greatest commandments: to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. These divine words challenge us to move beyond fear and prejudice, embracing the immigrant as a beloved neighbor, worthy of respect and compassion.

Let us choose friendship over fear. Let us open our hearts and our homes, seeking to learn from one another and to support those who have come seeking safety, opportunity, and community. Together, may we reflect God’s boundless love by becoming true friends to our newer immigrant neighbors remembering that almost all of our families were immigrants at one time. Let us see our newer immigrant neighbors not as strangers, but as companions on the journey.

Peace,

Jocabed Gallegos and Mark Adams

Coordinators

PS Join us in person or in spirit on August 16 for [Friends Across Borders](#) events (see flier below for AP/Douglas events).

The Marvel of Mutual Mission

by Rev. Greg Allen Pickett, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska

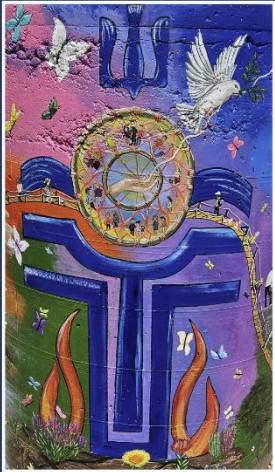
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TRUTHS OF OUR FAITH is that God chooses to work with us and through us. In 1 Corinthians 3:9, the Apostle Paul writes, “For we are co-workers in God’s service...” That simple phrase, co-workers in God’s service, offers a profound theological foundation for what we call mutual mission.

Mutual mission is not about one group giving and another receiving. It is not about one church going to “help” another. Mutual mission is rooted in the belief that all of us, regardless of geography, language, culture, or economic circumstance, are invited to participate together in God’s mission of love, justice, and reconciliation. It is about giving and receiving, learning and teaching, serving and being served. It is about sharing life, faith, and hope, side by side.

This summer, we experienced the marvel of mutual mission in a truly joyful way—but I need to back up a few months for some context. In October 2024, our congregation sent a delegation of 20 pilgrims to the US-Mexico border to participate in the 40th anniversary celebration of Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry based in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. ...

[Continue reading Pastor Greg's story](#)

[See images of Frontera de Cristo's delegation to Hastings](#)



SAVE THE DATES!

*Rising Out of the Ashes:
A Celebration of New Beginnings*

**First Presbyterian
Church of Douglas**

1020 D Avenue, Douglas, AZ 85607
Rev. Peggy Christiansen & Rev. Joca Gallegos, pastors
fpcdouglasaz@gmail.com

Open House: Saturday, September 20 ♦ 11am — 4pm
Dedication Service: Sunday, September 21 ♦ 10:30 am

Support Mission Co-workers Serving With FDC



Mark Adams & Miriam
Maldonado Escobar

A WAY IS BEING MADE FOR Miriam Maldonado and Mark Adams to continue to serve with Frontera de Cristo! Presbytery de Cristo and the Presbytery of Grand Canyon have entered into a covenantal relationship with Frontera de Cristo to call Mark and Miriam as Mission Co-Workers to serve with Frontera de Cristo in 2026.

Mark and Miriam have been a part of the FDC team that has helped lead to the substantial growth and impact of the Frontera de Cristo ministry on the US-Mexico border. Due to recent changes in mission co-worker funding worldwide by the Presbyterian Church (USA), churches and individuals now have [an opportunity to support the salaries of these mission co-workers.](#)

Beginning in 2026, FDC's budget will increase substantially not only because of the financial responsibility of the two mission co-worker positions but also because of the exciting expansion in the Children's Enrichment Ministry and continued growth of the Love Mercy, Do Justice ministry. [Donate today](#) to Frontera de Cristo's general budget so that FDC will be well positioned to finish this year strong, and be able to expand its impact in 2026.

October 3-5, 2025

The US-Mexico Border: Toward a More Peaceful Path Forward

[Register and Pay Online](#) or

[Download the Individual Registration Form for the event listed above and pay by check](#)

October 31-November 8, 2025:

Border-to-Border Delegation: Coffee, Migration, & Faith

2025 BORDER-TO-BORDER DELEGATION:
Coffee, Migration & Faith

Join with people on both sides of the border for a pilgrimage from the US/Mexico border to the Mexico/Guatemala border, exploring the connections between coffee, migration, and faith.

From Douglas, Arizona & Agua Prieta, Sonora to Salvador Urbina, Chiapas

- Walk the migrant trails where coffee farmers walked
- Visit the Café Justo roasting facility
- Get an overview of the US border policy
- Enjoy meals with families who have migrated from Chiapas to Agua Prieta
- Spend time in biblical reflection and prayer
- Enjoy a fiesta with members of the coffee cooperative
- Participate in harvesting coffee
- Enjoy fellowship and meals with the co-op families
- Talk with parents whose children have migrated
- Participate in a grower meeting
- Visit members of the Café Justo Cooperative in El Aguila
- Tour the Mexico/Guatemala Border
- Visit the Scalabrini Migrant Center in Tapachula
- Visit local markets and a butterfly sanctuary
- See local waterfalls and popular sites
- Drink lots of great coffee!

Oct 31-Nov 8, 2025

- Cost: \$1,800
- \$200 to reserve a spot
- \$800 due September 1
- \$800 due October 1
- Limit: 15 participants

For more information, contact Mark at 520-364-9257 or mark@fronteradercristo.org

All expenses included from Douglas, Arizona, except for two meals on travel days. Based on round trip air travel between Hermosillo and Tapachula. We may be able to arrange for a flight on November 8 back to the airport of your choice from Mexico City at no additional cost if we know by September 1. If the cost is more, you would be responsible for the difference.

THIS YEAR'S BORDER-TO-BORDER DELEGATION "COFFEE, MIGRATION & FAITH" will be held October 31 through November 8. Travel to the Guatemala border and learn about the Café Justo cooperative. Dates include an introductory visit with all of Frontera de Cristo's ministries.

- Download the [flyer](#) here.
- Descargue [el flyer](#) en español.
- Download the [registration form](#) in English and pay by check.
- Descargue [el formulario de inscripción en español](#) y pague con cheque.
- [Register and pay online.](#)
- [Registrarse en línea en español.](#)

Love, Mercy, Do Justice, Order Coffee

Coffee and Compassion (see details below photo)

March 1, 2022 @ 12:30PM — December 31, 2025 @ 11:30PM Arizona

Enjoy a cup of Café Justo today!

Enjoy some delicious, aromatic Café Justo. When you order Café Justo, a part of your purchase will be used to provide Café Justo to migrant shelters in Agua Prieta, Nogales, Sasabe, Sonoita, Tapachula, Gomez Palacio, and Matamoros in Mexico, as well as shelters in Columbus, Ohio, and in Silver City and Deming in New Mexico -- through our "Love Mercy, Do Justice" ministry. That's the "compassion" part of the "coffee and compassion." On this ordering page, buying one "ticket" equates to buying one pound of coffee. Order by 8:00am Tuesday (Mountain Standard Time) for shipment that week. Please note the 2-pound minimum purchase.

Café Justo makes a great cup for you and me. Sandra is one of the growers in Salvador Urbina. Here she is doing the morning task of spreading out the coffee, so it dries in the tropical sun. Many hands go into the processing of your coffee before it ever reaches your cup. Coffee is one of the most labor intensive crops. Your purchase here helps communities in Mexico thrive.

Helpful tips for placing an online order:

- 1) Because of the way the Network for Good platform works, one "pound of coffee" is considered a "ticket." When you buy a ticket, you are buying a pound of coffee. The receipt you receive will reflect those words.
- 2) Please note that we request a **minimum purchase of two pounds** due to the high cost of shipping a single pound. The cost of shipping is normally included in the price of the coffee, but if you should have to order only 1 pound, we appreciate an additional donation of \$5 to cover shipping.
- 3) On the order page that follows, credit card or debit card numbers should be entered with no spaces between the numbers.
- 4) **Please note that the ordering deadline each week is Tuesday at 8:00am** (Mountain Standard Time) for Thursday shipment. Orders placed after Tuesday at 8:00 am are processed the following week.
- 5) If you'd like to place a **gift order**, enter the words "SHIP TO:" in the box labeled "**Street Address 2**," followed, in that box, by the recipient's name, address, city, state, and zip code. Then enter your credit/debit card billing address in the boxes marked with asterisks.

If you prefer to order by mail and pay by check, [click here to download the order form](#).



Jubilee House Community, Inc.

**Jubilee House Community – Center for
Development in Central America**

<https://jhc-cdca.org/>

Founded in 1979 to work *with* the poor to help improve their lives, our organization continues to carry out this work today in Nicaragua.

[Our Mission](#)

The Center for Development in Central America (CDCA) is a project of the [Jubilee House Community, Inc.](#), (JHC), which has 501(c)(3) non-profit status in the U.S. and International Mission status in Nicaragua.

The CDCA's mission is to enable communities to become self-sufficient, sustainable, democratic entities.

Freedom From Hunger: Celebrating Nicaragua's Gains & Feeling Anguish for Gaza

Jubilee House Community — August 3, 2025

1999: Hurricane Mitch Aftermath

The image is forever seared in my mind: Francisco was two years old, his thin legs and swollen feet were covered in sores. Straw-blond hair stuck to his head as he listlessly nursed from his teenage mother's breast.

He weighed 13 ½ pounds.

It was the summer of 1999, and I was weighing babies in Nueva Vida. I'd come to Nicaragua in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch to help in any way I could through the Jubilee House Community and its project in Nicaragua, the [Center for Development in Central America](#) (JHC-CDCA...Little did I know I'd still be here, working with the same amazing people, 26 years later!).

With its main office located just a mile down the road from the largest Hurricane Mitch resettlement camp in the country, the folks at the JHC-CDCA were *busy*. Nine months after the hurricane, the 12,000 people in Nueva Vida – who had been moved from Managua's flooded lakeshore – were still sleeping on the ground in black plastic tents. There were water spigots throughout the camp where families could haul water for cooking and washing and electricity was connected to the tents via a spiderweb of pieced-together barbed wire.

Mitch's Malnutrition

Families had lost their sources of income – many had been fishermen in the lake, or dug through Managua's trash to find recyclables to sell. In Nueva Vida, there was no lake and no dump.

Without work, there was never enough to eat. Aid trucks from the big humanitarian organizations had stopped coming – undoubtedly moved on to the next disaster – and families were left struggling to put food in their kids' mouths.

We'd been meeting with the leadership emerging from the chaos that was Nueva Vida in the early days, and a list of priorities for the community had been drawn up. Top on that list was a health clinic – at that time, Nicaragua's neoliberal government had essentially privatized health care, and the people of Nueva Vida had no access to doctors or medicine. Although we were still a few months away from setting up what would become the permanent Nueva Vida Clinic, nurse Linda Mashburn came down to Nicaragua that summer and led a nutritional census of the children to get a better idea of the scope of the malnutrition.



Tiny Francisco - Linda checking children in Nueva Vida

That was how I came to be in the tent with Francisco and his mother in a gut-wrenchingly intimate moment where I knew that a child's life hung in the balance as he suffered from starvation in front of my eyes. That image, and that feeling, has haunted me for 26 years, and will be with me for the rest of my life.

2025: Nicaragua's New Generation

What was Francisco's fate? We don't know. We brought immediate food aid to the family, but they soon moved on, and we lost track of Francisco as we lost track of so many others in that refugee camp.

Fortunately, I *can* tell you the fate of Nicaragua's new generation. Earlier this year, our clinic participated in a nation-wide nutritional census, helping to weigh and measure children in Nueva Vida and the rural areas where we work. Our health promoters registered 185 children to receive micronutrients from the Ministry of Health every month to help with their growth and development.

Last week, as we handed out the first packets to our tiny patients, the results of the nutritional census came back:

[46.6% reduction](#) in acute malnutrition, from 5.8% in 2016 to 3.1% in 2025.

56.9% reduction in chronic malnutrition, from 13.7% in 2016 to 5.9% in 2025.



2025 - weighing infants in Nicaragua - micronutrient aid

In 2025, Nicaragua has free universal health care, free education with a hot meal daily for 1.2 million school children, and a host of poverty reduction and income generation programs. This integral approach by the Sandinista government and its herculean efforts to ensure that these programs reach every corner of the country help guarantee that Nicaraguan children today won't know the type of hunger that Francisco suffered in 1999.

1990-2006: Hunger in Neoliberal Nicaragua

There is no stronger fear than hunger. Hunger has been used historically to control people: if your children

are hungry, you will be willing to work for little and accept bad working conditions just to feed them. During the 16 years of Nicaragua's neoliberal government rule, big business required a cheap, docile workforce in order to further enrich the wealthy. The government's complete abandonment of the poor led to chronic malnutrition in children under 5 years old, which had reached 21.7% by 2006.

1970s: Hunger in Nicaragua Under Somoza

Further back, under the cruel Somoza dictatorship, malnutrition rates were even higher. Keeping the Nicaraguan people hungry was essential to quell uprisings and ensure Somoza's continued reign. In 1970s, a group of poor peasants met to discuss and interpret the gospel, and these conversations were recorded in *The Gospel in Solentiname*. During a discussion of the Slaughter of the Innocents from the Book of Matthew 2:16-18, an astute young observer said, "[In Nicaragua] there is so much infant mortality, and so many stunted, undernourished children. I think that is persecuting children. I think the same thing is happening here as happened to Christ when he was persecuted as a kid."

Today: Gaza's Slow Starvation

The persecution of children through forced hunger continues today.

As I celebrate the victory of historically low malnutrition rates and feel joy for Nicaragua's children, I simultaneously feel anguish for the children of Gaza: in the past 10 days, the daily death toll from forced starvation has increased alarmingly.

With Palestinians unable to leave Gaza, no farming due to constant attacks, and fishing banned by Israel, all food must be brought in to Gaza from outside. These food shipments are controlled by Israel, and carefully calculated to allow people to slowly starve, designed to control the Palestinian people through hunger.

Right now, it feels as if the whole world is standing inside a black plastic tent, watching all of Gaza's children desperately trying to latch on their mother's breast. We are all in a gut-wrenchingly intimate moment where we know that the lives of these children hang in the balance as they suffer from starvation in front of our eyes. This genocide will surely haunt the world forever. The question is, will we move to stop it?

— Becca Renk

[To Donate Online: https://www.jhc-cdca.org/donate-now](https://www.jhc-cdca.org/donate-now) THANK YOU!

Becca Renk is originally from Idaho, USA. For 25 years, she has lived and worked in sustainable community development in Nicaragua with the Jubilee House Community and its project, the [Center for Development in Central America](#); she coordinates the solidarity work of [Casa Ben Linder](#)

[View original post](#)

Visit and/or Work with us? Want to organize your own group? Volunteer as an individual?

Write casabenzaminlinder@jhc-cdca.org with any questions!

2025 Brigades:

November 2025: [Salud & Solidaridad](#): Hands-On Healthcare in Nicaragua

Email casabenzaminlinder@jhc-cdca.org to apply



A close look at our Earth!

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



Latest Images of the Day

[view the archive](#)



[Browns Canyon National Monument](#)

The remote and rugged landscape in central Colorado is known for outdoor recreation by day and exceptional stargazing by night.



[Sprawling Gifford Fire Scorches California](#)

The fast-growing blaze charred more than 100,000 acres in the span of a week.



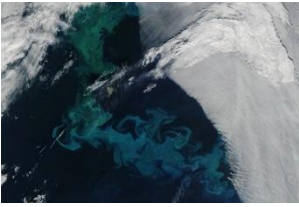
[Lost Towns of the Quabbin](#)

Forests play a key role in filtering the waters of a reservoir in central Massachusetts that's home to submerged towns and nesting eagles.



[Nighttime Over the Eastern Pacific](#)

A long-exposure photo taken from low Earth orbit captured the brilliant illumination coming from airglow, lightning, and stars.



[Bloom Time in the Barents Sea](#)

Arctic waters near Norway's Bear Island teemed with tiny plant-like organisms that painted the seas turquoise-blue and green.



[Wildfire Sweeps Through Southern France](#)

The Aude fire rapidly burned around 16,000 hectares in August 2025, becoming the country's largest fire since 1949.



[Fleeting Glimpse of Rare Snow](#)

A short-lived storm dropped some of the largest accumulations in decades on Australia's Northern Tablelands.



<http://justiceunbound.org/>

[The Intersections of Faith and Justice](#)

The podcast where we respond to your questions and comments on issues of faith, social justice and church life: <https://www.amatteroffaithpodcast.com/>

Right click on word for open Hyperlink to access more information:

[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](#) [gun violence](#) [immigration](#) [Indigenous Rights](#) [Israel](#) [Israel-Palestine](#) [LGBTQQI](#) [music](#) [palestine](#) [peace](#) [peacemaking](#) [poetry](#) [poverty alleviation](#) [prayer](#) [Presbyterian Church \(USA\) General Assembly](#) [Racial Justice](#) [racism](#) [scripture](#) [seminary](#) [sermon](#) [Setting The Inner Compass](#) [sexuality](#) [theological education](#) [United Nations](#) [urban ministry](#) [Women's Rights](#) [worship resources](#) [young adults](#)



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

More Light Presbyterians' mission is to center and celebrate the lives, gifts, and leadership of LGBTQIA+ people in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond. We accomplish this by igniting the prophetic witness of our ministry partners and by cultivating relationships rooted in mutual accountability and care. Together, we journey toward God's promised liberation and flourishing for all creation.

Welcome to More Light Presbyterians

More Light Presbyterians is a non-profit organization dedicated to allowing the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. You are welcome here, and you are loved.

We seek to serve Christian communities and center God's abundance in all we do and all we are.

We are currently in a stage of transition and will be working on a brand-new website. In the meantime, you may contact us for more information or locate a congregation / campus ministry near you.

We would love to connect with you! Whether you are interested in starting a conversation on inclusion in your congregation, would like to have a More Light staff-member visit your church to preach or teach a class or workshop, or if you are looking for a resource and can't locate what you need, we'd love to hear from you.

<https://sites.google.com/mlp.org/tempsite/find-a-church-or-ministry>



**COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS**

<https://covnetpres.org/> Office Address: [Kansas City, MO 64109](#) Contact: [816-605-1031](tel:816-605-1031)

<https://covnetpres.org/find-a-church/>

info@covnetpres.org

Confident in God's hopeful future and grateful for the ever-widening welcome of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Covenant Network of Presbyterians seeks an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society, by

- Engaging the church to invite all of God's children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces of affirmation, healing, dignity and purpose;
- Educating the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people, to affirm their gifts for ordained office, and to uphold marriage equality for all; and
- Equipping the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism at the international, national and local church levels; speaking a prophetic word in anxious and divided times; and standing with others in fighting hate and oppression against any of God's children.

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice.

Interested in joining the Covenant Network of Presbyterians? By affirming the above statements, a church Session can make the decision to affiliate with our inclusive network of congregations. Executive Director Brian Ellison would love to answer any questions you may have and talk to you or your church's Session about this decision.

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

[Help Birds With Native Plants](#)

[Bird-Friendly Communities](#)

[Get to Know Native Plants](#)

Whether you're looking to attract birds to your home or increase your awareness outdoors, let this primer be your guide.

[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!



The *National Wildlife Federation* - <https://www.nwf.org/>

<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>

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

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

Keep South Carolina Wild



“We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.”

This Native American saying conveys the importance of making decisions now to have a long-lasting positive impact for wildlife.

Contact Angi Fuller Wildt at 803-256-0670 or angi@scwf.org to learn more about smarter ways to give that benefit you now and build a legacy for the future!

***Thank you** for ensuring that we can continue our work to restore key habitats and advocate on behalf of wildlife well into the future.*



National Environmental Education Foundation

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

<https://www.neefusa.org/nature/>

Animal Migration Activity Guide

Designed for elementary age kids, this activity guide can be used in a classroom or at home for fun and easy ways to learn about animal migration. [Read More](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Online accessibility to locate trails, parks, recreational facilities, etc:

See links: <https://upcountrysc.com/explore/>

https://www.traillink.com/?gclid=CjwKCAiAqIKNBhAIEiwAu_ZLDkxoXaDsNKO0_zubejkEHPIZpfmizNyOZDehbEIC7AIjQwyunrWOpXoCm-oQAvD_BwE

SC Health and Planning Tool Kit

<https://www.dph.sc.gov/sites/scdph/files/Library/SCHealthPlanningToolkit.pdf>

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

<https://certifiedsc.com/>

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 and Website

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/>



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