



Foothills Presbytery Area Highlights:

North Anderson Community Church Presbyterian (4200 Liberty Highway, Anderson, SC 29626), encourages participation from other churches to learn more about the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA), a project of the Jubilee House Community, Inc., (JHC). If you would like to learn more about CDCA and perhaps have items brought to your church to help CDCA, please call Manella at 864-940-6060 for more info. See page below for more information on CDCA.



Welcome to EcoPalms.org

<https://ecopalms.org/index.php>

Palm Sunday is on Sunday, April 10th, 2022

Our Website Opens for 2022 Palm Sunday orders on January 19th!

About Us

The University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) is working together with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood to certify palms harvested from the forests of Mexico and Guatemala for sale to Christian congregations in the United States and Europe.

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) provided the initial financial support enabling CINRAM to start the project. Today, partnerships with wholesaler Continental Floral Greens and distributor Greenwing have enabled Eco-Palms to be distributed throughout the United States for Palm Sunday. In addition, partnerships with faith-based organizations such as Lutheran World Relief (LWR), United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUSA) and others have helped expand awareness of the Eco-Palms program.

By choosing Ecopalms for Palm Sunday you can promote environmental and social justice through your congregations palm purchasing decisions!

Promote Social Justice

- Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price

- Gatherers will receive a higher price for their “fair trade” palms improving their income.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.
- Palms will be “sustainably” harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

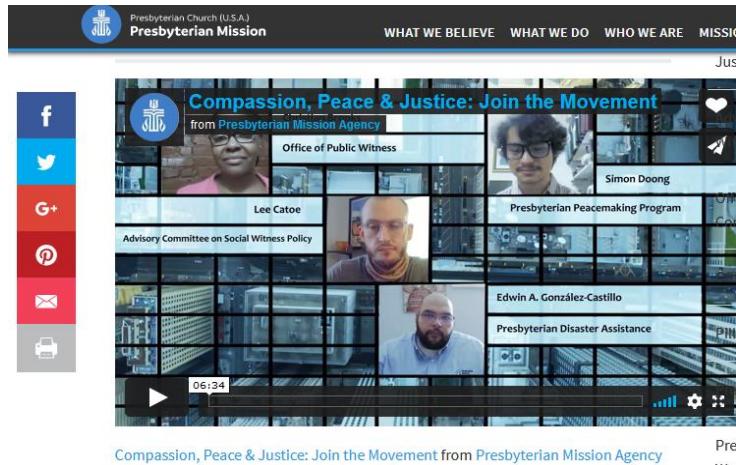
Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

- To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.
- To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Did You Know?

- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.
- Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars/year.
- A congregation of 1,100 to 1,500 members will order approximately 700 palm fronds for Palm Sunday services.
- Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.
- At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/>



Alleviating Hunger and Eliminating Its Causes

“Enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation.”—Book of Confessions, 9.46

Fighting hunger is at the heart of our Presbyterian understanding of mission. Jesus fed the hungry and told his disciples to do the same. Yet, we know that hunger is an extremely complex phenomenon with economic, political and social causes. A local congregation can make a huge impact on local hunger. Thankfully Presbyterian churches are feeding hungry people in their neighborhoods with food pantries, soup kitchens, community meals, community gardens,

backpack programs and more. This important hunger ministry is vital to people who are hungry today. As the national Presbyterian Hunger Program we celebrate this vital work of local congregations and we complement it by doing “root cause” work to help address the underlying questions of why people are hungry in order to reduce ongoing hunger.

When the world tolerates the vicious suffering of hungry people, the church is called to speak out and share all that we have. When powers and principalities regularize exploitation, the church stands with the exploited and witnesses to the fullness of life God intends for all. When people are made poor and vulnerable or reduced to objects of pity, the church builds relationships of dignity and equality among all. Even at the risk of losing its own life, the church is called to point beyond ourselves to the new reality in Christ. Praying and working with Presbyterians and other partners, that it may be “on earth as it is in heaven” the Presbyterian Hunger Program helps the church respond to the violence of hunger and poverty.

Presbyterian Hunger Program’s mission is clear: alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. There is no one size fits all solution. PHP complements the work of Presbyterian congregations through strategic partnership collaborations, print and web educational and worship materials, and participatory programs so that Presbyterians Go, Join, and Act to end hunger for our neighbors next door and across the planet.

We approach hunger holistically with 5 tools:

- Direct Food Relief combined with Root Cause Work
- Sustainable Development
- Advocacy
- Intentional and Sustainable Living
- Education

Employing these tools alongside congregations, partners and local communities, together we can end hunger.

Get Serious about Ending Hunger!

Take the Hunger Pledge as a Congregation—[Click here to read how.](#)

<https://pcusa.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=639d79cc857a6c76c2723b7e014fccb0.3355&s=72d678b3a7e89bf457a6311941fb789b>

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC)

<https://presbyearthcare.org/>

WHAT WE DO



I Corinthians 4:1 Thus should one regard us: as **servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) invites individuals and congregations to participate in the growing earth care movement within the PC(USA). PEC is a national eco-justice network that cares for God’s creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring Presbyterians to make creation care a central concern of the church.

Presbyterians for Earth Care cares for God’s Creation by:

Connecting members through a grassroots network of people seeking to keep the sacred at the center of earth care, advocacy and action both inside and outside the walls of the church.

Equipping members with resources, ideas and information for a shared journey toward a healthier planet by growing and sharing theological understandings and perspectives on eco-justice issues.

Inspiring members through stories of individuals and groups who have responded to the sacred call to care for the earth – stories told person to person at events, and by newsletter, email, social media and devotions.

Presbyterians for Earth Care was formerly called Presbyterians for Restoring Creation.



<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/chapters>

Believe in the power of your own voice. The more noise you make, the more accountability you demand from your leaders, the more our world will change for the better" - AL GORE Founder and Chairman, The Climate Reality Project

Join a Climate Reality chapter today and join the fight for a sustainable, just, and equitable future.

Cause for hope: Forests are finally getting the attention they deserve

- Over 100 countries with 85% of the world's forest [cover pledged to end deforestation by 2030.](#)
- Critically, the pledge comes with \$19.4 billion in funding.
- The challenge is to ensure these efforts don't displace Indigenous communities or lead to human rights abuses or land grabs.

Cause for hope: Some real progress is happening

- More than 100 countries have joined [the Global Methane Pledge](#) with \$300 million in funding to cut dangerous methane emissions.
- The US EPA [announced bold rules](#) to cut methane emissions at home.
- New commitments mean the developed world [could reach the goal of \\$100 billion for climate finance](#) for developing nations a year early in 2022.
- [Wealthy nations](#) and [billionaires](#) promise billions to support green tech, end deforestation, end coal use, and more but *much* more is needed.

South Carolina Upstate

The South Carolina Upstate Chapter is a dedicated group of over 500 climate activists hailing from ten counties. The chapter began following the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Atlanta in 2019 and grew substantially by organizing the Global Climate Strike in September 2019. Since their inception, the chapter has focused largely on moving Greenville City Council to adopt the 100% Committed pledge. The city has recently applied for 2MW of solar power. The chapter currently has active tree, women and girls, presentations, and environmental justice campaigns. If this is your local chapter, be sure to get involved!

Chapter Leadership:

Tandy Taylor (Chair)
Hirak Pati (Vice Chair and Campaign Chair)
Terry Walker and Clare Carpenter (Campaign Chairs)
Mike Ferney (Communications)
Edward Pickering (Nominations)

[JOIN THIS CHAPTER](#)

If you have a win you'd like us to highlight in the coming chapter newsletters, or just have feedback for our team, please reach out to us at chapters@climatereality.com.

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

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



The [Blue Theology Mission Station](#) is a place where current science in marine biology meets a theology of creation care. As a partner of Creation Justice Ministries, Blue Theology provides opportunities for youth groups to have learning and serving experiences in ocean stewardship.

Youth groups from across the country are invited to attend a week of camp to learn and serve God's Marine Creation. Currently, Blue Theology has openings for its Mission Outpost in Texas City, TX.

Do you have a youth group you'd like to take to the Blue Theology Mission Station?

[Send in an interest form by clicking here!](#)

Sign up your youth
group for
Blue Theology here!

[Watch our June 2021 "Resilient Ocean" webinar](#) to learn more about Blue Theology Mission Station:

Other Blue Theology Opportunities:

We are looking for congregations to support Blue Theology outposts on the North Carolina coast and in the Cape Cod area. If you would be interested in learning more, email Blue Theology Director Rev. Daniel Paul (pgchurch@pacificgrovechurch.org).

<https://creationjustice.salsalabs.org/saveoursacredseas/index.html?eType>EmailBlastContent&eId=e2e66a21-d93a-4379-97db-ca071d38b34c>

<https://www.creationjustice.org/resilience.html?eType>EmailBlastContent&eId=26c97702-5475-4a4e-9ea0-4c5215efbd48>

Faithful Resilience

The climate crisis has arrived. Faith communities must not only react, but also prepare.

Over the last decade, hurricanes have intensified, wildfires have burnt stronger, and heat waves have baked our cities. These events can only be expected to get worse in the next decades. Most of our faith communities are not ready for these climate-driven disasters. Yet, the communities who will be most threatened by climate change also have an opportunity to play a pivotal role in building resilience in their towns and cities. Whether a church community has a large facility, land, social capital, or something else, those assets can be channeled into building climate resilience in preparation for the coming physical and spiritual storms of the climate crisis.

Frontera de Cristo --- Cultivating Relationships and Understanding Across Borders

Mark Adams mark@fronteradecristo.org

A Taste of 2021, A Peek at 2022

[Photo Journey Through 2021](#)

In much the same way the sun set at our board and family retreat in Puerto Peñasco in July (see photo below), the sun has set on a productive 2021 in the borderlands and we look forward to even greater opportunities in 2022. We continue to be able to accompany our community in times of joy and times of suffering because you care, you pray, and you give. Thank you. Because you give—

- **70 children** each day receive breakfast, lunch, help with schoolwork, and a chance to play, learn, and grow in a safe environment;
- **43 families** of the enrichment ministry have pastoral, spiritual, and emotional support
- Our **binational seminary interns** can learn from our partners and guests of CAME shelter and provide educational, emotional, and spiritual support individuals and families seeking asylum.
- More than **30,297 men, women and children** were welcomed in 2021 with a cup of coffee, a hot meal, a shower, a change clothes, and medical care this year alone at the Migrant Resource Center;
- **68 men & women in recovery** from addictions at Casa de Vida 'Raul Garcia' (formerly CRREDA) have a chance for a new beginning, and receive physical, emotional, and spiritual nourishment;
- **Our staff accompany the women at DPT**, providing emotional and spiritual support, supporting leadership development and and helping facilitate the opportunity to grow healthful, organic food for their families.
- **Each Tuesday at 5:15 pm since December 10, 2000**, we hold the "Healing Our Borders" Prayer Vigil in which we remember the 350 people we know to have died in Cochise County while migrating, pray for their families, pray for our governments, and commit to working for an end of death in the desert. Join us in person or online.

- As anchor organization of the [Southern Border Communities Coalition](#), we hosted [Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick in Douglas](#), and Agua Prieta continued to advocate for a [New Border Vision](#), engaged with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and participated in the immigration advisory teams of Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick and Senator Mark Kelly.
- We facilitated a 6-week [binational leadership development summer program](#) for **18 young adults** from the US and Mexico.

Plans for Ministry Expansion in 2022:

- Expanding the children's enrichment ministry to a third site in partnership with Lirio de los Valles Church
- Launching an industrial kitchen business that will provide jobs for people in recovery and whose profits will be used to expand the children's enrichment ministry
- Doubling the [Love Mercy, Do Justice Ministry](#).

One of our greatest joys in this new year is that we can, again, begin welcoming delegations from across the country who want to learn more about the borderlands and how they can help change lives. This month we are pleased to welcome delegations from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Elon University, and Prescott College in person.

We are grateful to God for your partnership in this ministry that has been entrusted to us. Please enjoy [these photos](#) from events in 2021.

Ministry Quick Links

[Our Mission Connections Page](#)

[Frontera de Cristo Facebook Page](#)

[Café Justo y Mas Facebook Page](#)

[Migrant Resource Center Facebook Page](#)

[CAME Facebook Page](#)

Coffee & Compassion

Frontera de Cristo and Café Justo developed the Coffee and Compassion program in 2020 in response to the economic downturn due to COVID and the concurrent drop in sales of Café Justo when churches stopped meeting together in person. The program has been an amazing success, and we thank everyone who participated.

You can continue to [order your coffee online here](#) and help your sisters and brothers during the pandemic. You will receive delicious 100% organic coffee cultivated, roasted, and shipped by the Café Justo cooperative and you will also be helping families affected by COVID-19. To order by mail instead of online, just download [this form](#).

Jubilee House Community – Center for Development in Central America <https://jhc-cdca.org/>



Thank you for giving to the #GivingTuesday fundraiser for solar panels at the Nueva Vida Clinic. To those of you in the States... we hope you had a good, safe Thanksgiving. And here in Nicaragua, we met our Giving Tuesday goal of funding solar panels for the clinic... thanks to so many of you!!!!

Our newsletter has gone out. If you have not received it, please contact Sarah@jhc-cdca.org and she will make sure you get one and can read about all the news that you have helped accomplish with your gifts.

We have been posting more and more blogs, you can go to jhc-cdca.blogspot.com and subscribe. They will come into your email box. If you are interested in learning more about Nicaragua or all the good you do, or need some inspiration, or are concerned about climate change...these are our main topics.

And the last bit on social news...our website has a new fresh look and is much more stream-lined thanks to Daniel...www.jhc-cdca.org.

The Nueva Vida Health Clinic has become one of the main sources of family planning for the barrio of about 12,000 people. We are also the only family planning for the remote, rural coffee cooperative of 52 families. Women being able to plan their pregnancies is giving them more freedom, the family members themselves more financial security, and the existing children more care and attention. But as inflation hits around the world, it is hitting here as well. We need help keeping this project going.

The Clinic is also sponsoring two boys' and two girls' group that each meet weekly. The therapist works with them, they are learning health safety, they are also learning vocational skills as well as self-esteem, responsibility, social skills and the list goes on. This is a highly successful program even with COVID restrictions. If you go to our blog you can read about them as we post information. The problem is that for the 80 kids attending, it costs \$900/month and we do not have that pledged.

The rains are still sporadically here which is a bit of a problem for the organic sesame that needs to be drying in the fields. The peanut growers have met with the peanut buyer over Zoom to work out solutions to problems.

Thank you for your gifts. You are the backbone behind this work. We hope that you will have happy celebrations as the year comes to an end.

Thankfully,

Kathleen Murdock, For the Community

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

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

DVDS of Kiss the Ground are still available. – Download free for Formal and Informal School Teachers.



Additionally, we would like to bring to your attention exclusive access to The Interfaith Power & Light Network's "Other Side of the Hill" film. This film provides a hopeful and inspiring look into local leaders in rural America who are paving the way to climate action.

The film will be available for free online viewing July 10-25th. Congregations are encouraged to share the film over Zoom or stream it for an in-person Covid-safe event.

"Interfaith Power and Light" - 1 new article

1. [We Can't Protect Our Climate Without a Functioning Democracy](#)
2. [More Recent Articles](#)

We Can't Protect Our Climate Without a Functioning Democracy

By Susan Stephenson, IPL Executive Director

As people of faith and conscience, we believe that all human beings have inherent dignity and worth. And therefore all Americans should have equal access to the ballot box.

Voting is the very foundation of representative democracy. By ensuring people a voice in their government, the right to vote promotes a more equitable society and provides an essential safeguard against tyranny. But this most basic right has been undermined by courts and politicians to make it harder for citizens to participate in the political process. Erecting obstacles to voting is a violation of our most sacred values, and weakens our democracy.

In a highly controversial decision, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned key elements of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. Since then numerous state legislatures have put up roadblocks to voting, including purging registered voters from the voter rolls without notifying them, closing hundreds of polling places in communities of color, restricting voter registration time periods, and requiring voters to show forms of ID that many people don't have. In 2020, the Supreme Court even denied extending voting by mail in Wisconsin during the Covid 19 pandemic, forcing many to choose between risking their health at crowded polling places or sacrificing their vote.

In 2021, we saw state after state whittle away at voting access – enacting new restrictions and requirements to vote, shortening the time period to vote, limiting vote by mail, and even making it a crime to give water and food to people waiting in line at polling places.

Some of the very people most affected by carbon pollution and climate change – people of color, low-wealth communities, and young people – are the people most likely to be targeted by politicized redistricting and voting restrictions. This is wrong. Their voices deserve to be heard equally with others.

Fossil fuel industries are polluting our democracy by spending millions to advance their own short-term profits, elect their allies, and suppress voting rights at the expense of people and the planet.

When the fossil fuel industry has an oversized impact on our elected leaders with their political donations they overpower the voices of the people and corrupt our democracy.

That's why voting rights protection is a top policy priority for Interfaith Power & Light this year. Not only is it the right thing to do, it's necessary for equitable climate action.

We cannot effectively tackle the critical issues our nation faces – like combating climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting our air, lands, and waters – without legislative action.

Tell your Senators and President Biden to move quickly to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The **John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act** would protect voters against discriminatory changes to voting rules that target communities on the basis of race or background. The **Freedom to Vote Act** would protect and expand voting rights, take steps to remove dark money from political campaigns, and limit partisan gerrymandering — all steps that help us tackle the climate crisis.

People of faith were at the forefront of the civil rights movement, which helped win key voting rights and protections for people of color; now those rights are being eroded. Today people of faith and conscience have a moral duty to protect democracy, racial justice, and equity for all people. Voter suppression targets and disproportionately harms people of color, poor people and young people, the same people disproportionately harmed by fossil fuel pollution and global warming.

These bills ascribe to one of the most basic principles of many faith traditions—that we must value the voices of everyone in our communities, not just the most powerful.

The fact is, we can't protect our climate without a functioning democracy. Join us today to pass urgent democracy protections: **the Freedom To Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.**

- [Faith groups celebrate new Clean Cars Rule](#)
- [Interfaith Power & Light Statement Celebrates EPA Finalization of Clean Cars Rule](#)

[Join us on January 22nd](#) for a briefing from our policy team on our 2022 policy priorities.

South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light

2022 Reflection

January 6th has been a time for prayer and reflection. As Dr. King reminds us: "But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of LOVE that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this LOVE which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men." We pray for healing and for everyone working to create a more just, equitable and sustainable future.

Climate Revival! Launching a year of climate justice and resilience

Thursday, January 20, 2022

7:30pm-9:00pm EST

Register [Here](#)

We need a climate revival!

After another year of record-breaking climate disasters, environmental injustices are degrading our communities, God's Creation, and democracy. This year, we're changing the script. Let's move from degradation to resilience, from brokenness to restoration, from death to revival!

Join us virtually on January 20, 2022 to launch a year of "Resilient Creation & Restored Communities: Voting for Climate Justice in 2022"!

At this event, we will LEARN what's at stake for our communities and climate in 2022, COMMIT to a year of engagement for resilience and restoration, and PRAY for a revival of climate justice.

Speakers include:

Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley is a public intellectual, author, activist, farmer, scholar, speaker, and wisdom keeper. He is a recognized leader in the fields of Indigenous and Intercultural Studies, Ecology, Spirituality, Race, Theology, and Missiology. Through his teaching and leadership, he invites Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to decolonize and Indigenize their worldview and practices so they can learn to walk on this earth in a good way.

Karenna Gore is the founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics (CEE) at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Karenna formed CEE in 2015 to address the moral and spiritual dimensions of the climate crisis. Working at the intersection of faith, ethics, and ecology, she guides the Center's public programs, educational initiatives, and movement-building. She also is an ex officio faculty member of Columbia University's Earth Institute.

Rev. Emmanuel Duncan is the senior pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Greenville, SC. Rev. Duncan has led his congregation in a deepening connection of climate and faith and he works with the congregation and community to apply this understanding in practical application including organic gardening, energy efficiency projects and social justice ministries. Rev. Duncan serves as a co-chair of the Greenville County Interfaith Justice Network.

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr. is the President & CEO of Hip Hop Caucus, a minister, community activist, U.S. Air Force veteran, and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. He entered the world of Hip Hop Politics as the Political and Grassroots Director for the Hip Hop Summit Action Network in 2003 and 2004, and as a key architect of P. Diddy's "Vote Or Die!" campaign in 2004. In 2008, he led Hip Hop Caucus' launch of Respect My Vote!, a campaign and coalition that works with Hip Hop artists to engage young people in the electoral process. He is a leader in campaigns calling for divestment from fossil fuels causing climate change, increasing diversity in the climate movement, ensuring everyone has clean water and air, and international efforts to address climate change.

Register [Here!](#)

Register Here

The Year of Climate Justice and Resilience will continue with SCIPL's
Faith Leaders Civic Engagement Academy Cohort 3!
February - April 2022

Facilitated by Brenton Brown, Chief of Staff for SC Office of Minority Affairs and Bradley Williams, Campaign Coordinator for Audobon SC this academy targets religious and grassroots leaders across the state. Topics build a foundational understanding of policy, politics and advocacy. Participants learn about elected offices, advocacy basics, and participate in practical application of information and skills learned. The program aims to empower people of faith and conscience to build awareness in their respective communities, better understand major state and federal policies, and incite collective action. In addition to the virtual training, participants receive an advocacy toolkit and they are invited to participate in an Audubon hosted legislative bird walk and a National advocacy event.

Testament to the power of the faith community as a catalyst for social justice is the work of academy graduate and SCIPL Leadership Council member, LaRahna Hughes. LaRahna is working with elected officials, businesses and nonprofit partners to build a community faith-led partnership that finds solutions to food and housing insecurity for marginalized community members. "I was first attracted to the idea of a faith leaders oriented Civic Engagement Academy because it is perfectly aligned with my philosophy of community engagement" she commented. "I believe in the unique ability of the faith community to address social and environmental injustices." When asked what her favorite part of the Academy was, Hughes replied: "It was very encouraging to be in a class with like minded individuals with similar values and principles. The Civic Engagement Academy helped connect me to a network of faith leaders committed to social and environmental justice."

2022 Academy Schedule

Session 1: Civics 101 (Date: Feb 11, 2022 Time: 12 - 1pm)

Session 2: Advocacy 101 (Date: March 11, 2022 Time: 12 - 1pm)

Session 3: Conservation Coalition Lobby Day (All Day on March 22, 2022)

Session 4: Putting it Together (Date: April 8, 2022 Time 12 - 1pm)

Register Here

A close look at our Earth!

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

The following sections have been updated in the past 7 days.

-- FLOODS (1 updated event1, 1 new image) --

2022 EXTREME WINTER WEATHER IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

Rising global temperatures are leading to more extreme weather events.

* Flash Floods Swamp Iran (Image from Jan 7, 2022; Posted Jan 13, 2022)

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149325/flash-floods-swamp-iran/?src=nha>

-- WATER COLOR (1 updated event, 1 new image) --

2022 PHYTOPLANKTON BLOOMS AND RED TIDES

Floating, plant-like organisms reproduce abundantly when there are sufficient nutrients, sunlight, and water conditions. Extreme blooms of certain species can become harmful to marine animals and humans.

* Red Tide off Rio (Image from Dec 26, 2021; Posted Jan 12, 2022)

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149316/red-tide-off-rio/?src=nha>

-- TEMPERATURE EXTREMES (1 updated event, 1 new image) --

2021-22 SUMMER EXTREMES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Climate change has amplified rainfall and floods, heatwaves, drought, and wildfires.

* Southern Hemisphere Scorchers (Image from Jan 11, 2022; Posted Jan 14, 2022)

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149331/southern-hemisphere-scorchers/?src=nha>

Natural Hazards is a service of NASA Earth Observatory.

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

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us:

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

NASA Earth Observatory

Where every day is Earth day.

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

Webb Telescope's Mirrors Are Now Fully Deployed

The James Webb Space Telescope has completed the last of its nearly 50 major deployments.

On Sat. Jan. 8, NASA ground teams coordinated the multi-day, multi-step process of unfolding and locking into place Webb's two primary mirror wings, after they had been folded back initially to fit inside the Ariane 5 rocket that brought the observatory into space.

Next in the telescope's six-month commissioning process is:

- Traveling to its final orbital destination, known as Lagrange point 2
- Moving its mirror segments to align the telescope's optics
- Cooling the 'cold side' of the telescope to the frigid temperatures necessary to detect faint heat signatures from across the universe
- Calibrating the telescope's science instruments

Once fully operational, Webb will explore every phase of cosmic history – from our own solar system to the most distant observable galaxies. Join us as Webb reveals new and unexpected discoveries and helps humanity understand the origins of the universe and our place in it.

[Explore Our Webb Mission](#)

Global Temperatures Rising – 2021 was the sixth-warmest year for Earth on record, according to independent analyses by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Watch our video to learn more about the year's findings and our work monitoring the Earth's changing climate.

[How NASA Studies the Climate](#)



<https://www.nature.org>

Will you finish this sentence about why you've made a commitment to protect nature? Choose the answer that resonates best with you:

"I'm doing my part for nature because..."

- [I am inspired by the beauty that surrounds me »](#)
- [I love animals and want to save their homes »](#)
- [I appreciate the life-giving resources nature provides »](#)
- [I want to make a difference in the fight against climate change »](#)

3 Keys to a More Sustainable World in 2022

We need to talk about participation, policy and paying up to transform environmental ambition into effective action this year. [the change we need](#)

TNC Announces its Largest California Preserve

The Frank and Joan Randall Preserve, a 72,000-acre wildlife corridor at the Tehachapi Mountains, will protect endangered and sensitive species, including the California mountain lion. [Read the Announcement](#)

A Year in Review: 2021 in Five Trends

Change doesn't happen overnight, but here's how the past year could affect the critical decade ahead.
[What we learned this year](#)

A Future Where People and Nature Thrive

The actions we take this decade will define the planet's path over the next century. We are taking on the dual threats of accelerated climate change and unprecedented biodiversity loss; and maximizing resilience and benefits for our most precious ecosystems and vulnerable communities. By letting science guide our focus and equity guide our execution, we can shape a better 2030 for people and our planet. [Who We Are How We Work](#)

<http://justiceunbound.org/>

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

[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/en/Kids-and-Family/Connecting-Kids-and-Nature>



National Environmental Education Foundation

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

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

Nature

Nature is the phenomena of the physical world collectively, including plants, animals, the landscape, and other features and products of the earth, as opposed to humans or human creations. From the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, nature safeguards our health and ensures our survival. The better we understand our relationship with the ecosystems and environments we live in, the more effectively we can take steps to protect them.

Education

[Learning Expedition Toolkit](#)

The toolkit proceeds step-by-step from planning, to conducting, to presenting place-based projects. Additional resources and tips are included.

[Learn More](#)

[Hands on the Land Educator Toolkit](#)

This toolkit features activity guides, lesson plans, and curriculum for all ages incorporating public lands from wetlands to urban forests to caves.

[Read More Rooted in Math Educator Toolkit](#)

This educator toolkit has lesson plans, activity ideas, and informational resources to help bridge the gap between mathematics and the natural world.

[Read More](#)

Resources and Opportunities

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

<https://www.sctrails.net/trails>

https://www.traillink.com/?gclid=CjwKCAiAqIKNBhAIEiwAu_ZLDkxoXaDsNKo0_zubejkEHPlZpfmizNy0ZDehbEIC7AIjQwyunrWOpxoCm-oQAvD_BwE

https://americanhiking.org/hiking-resources/?gclid=CjwKCAiAqIKNBhAIEiwAu_ZLDhVj9n11q2aMB2MNfP37sNg5P46UR7xKqX_5MA5dwdN9IvVsogS4lxoC7IIQAvD_BwE#hikes-near-you

SC Health and Planning Toolkit

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiH6KHfILvxAhWwneAKHe3iBNwQFjABegQIBhAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scdhec.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FLibrary%2FSCHealthPlanningToolkit.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1jNefwQn0BWOWI1aWS5fO2>

Want to find local produce and free range beef and chicken products, check out the website:
<http://www.certifiedscgrown.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:

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, Church suppers, specific designed Classes, and more!

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

crittersandmore8@gmail.com.

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

Website: <https://crittersandmoreonthego.org/>