



Down To Earth

January 2021 – September 2021

And other helpful information

Down to Earth is a series of weekly articles published by the Earth Care Action Group as helpful tips in First Matters, the weekly newsletter sent by The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York to its membership.

Jan. 29, 2021

We're almost out of time. Our window is closing to impact global warming. If our global temperature reaches 1.5 degrees Celsius, the quality of life on our planet – and even life itself – will be irrevocably changed. We can each do what we can to reduce our footprint and care for our planet. This can be composting, recycling, or eating more plant based meals. What can YOU do, starting today?

February 5, 2021

Help curb the recycling disaster. A bold new bill is going before the NY State Legislature this spring that switches the responsibility and cost for recycling packaging from the consumer to the manufacturer. It will also compel manufacturers to reduce their packaging and use far more recycled materials in their packaging from the start. Please join us in writing the NY Senate to support this bill called E.P.R. #S1185.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S1185>

February 12, 2021:

As a Matthew 25 church focused on dismantling structural racism, we are mindful that communities of color are exposed to far more environmental hazards than their white counterparts. This year, we are exploring ways that our members, our action groups, and our whole church can reduce our environmental footprints to contribute to the goal of creating a more just and equitable world for future generations. We hope you will join us on our journey.

February 19, 2021:

Money talks. In December 2020, NY State announced that it will divest all fossil fuel investments from its \$226 billion pension fund. To honor our pledge as an Earth Care congregation, our trustees are looking into following suit. Won't you please consider what you can do with your financial portfolio to care for our resources, too?

February 26, 2021:

Do you have a large sunny roof with a brand-new solar panel array? (Neither do we.) But thousands of New Yorkers save money on their electric bills through community solar programs. Electric companies have installed community solar gardens at offsite sunny rooftops to provide clean energy to our local grid while passing on clean-energy discounts to their subscribers. Anyone who pays your own electric bill can participate. Learn more about community solar here.

March 5, 2021:

Composting. Did you know that food scraps in American landfills emit as many greenhouse gases as 37 million cars? And smell really bad? FPC helps by composting half of our organic waste. If you live near Union Square, please join the effort by taking your scraps to the

compost drop-off at the Farmers Market on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, or Saturdays. Other locations are [here](#). And some intrepid congregants compost at home, as described [here](#).

March 12, 2021:

Fix a Leak Week is next week! The EPA's annual Fix a Leak Week is March 15-21. Household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water in the U.S. each year. Finding and fixing leaks in your home will save you water and money all year long. 10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, so get ready to fix yours. For more info and events, click [here](#).

March 19, 2021:

Reducing meat consumption helps. Once a week, consider omitting meat from your menu. You will be caring for [the planet, the animals, your finances, and your heart](#). Demand for inexpensive meat drives the destruction of forests to increase grazing lands. Forest loss leads to the extinction of species, water and air pollution, increased carbon dioxide, and global climate change. Animal agriculture [rivals vehicle emissions](#) in production of climate warming greenhouse gases. Check out <https://www.mondaycampaigns.org/meatless-monday> for wonderful alternative recipes.

March 26, 2021:

Bring a reusable water bottle with you. If you use a reusable water bottle, you'll reduce the 315 plastic bottles used every year per person in the US: over 100 billion bottles in total. It will cut into the 800 million tons of plastic that end up in our oceans annually, and the microplastics that last forever in our environment. Aim for metal or glass bottles to reduce plastic manufacturing and disposal waste.

April 9, 2021:

Eco-Friendly Dishwashing Tips. An Energy Star-certified dishwasher uses only three gallons of water per load (handwashing your dishes can use up to 27 gallons). To maximize your dishwasher's efficiency, run it when it's full. If you handwash, turn the water off as much as possible, start with minimal water in the sink, and rinse quickly. Also consider using eco-friendly dish soap: many standard products emit toxic waste in both the water and the air. *Source: Natural Resources Defense Council.*

April 16, 2021:

Earth Day Celebration at First! Join us Sunday, April 25th, from 1-3 as we honor the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. We'll clean up the trash on our grounds and on Fifth Avenue from

14th Street to Washington Square Park. This family-friendly gathering will include a scavenger hunt, mural painting, and snacks. Wear your mask, bring gloves if you have them, and we'll provide the trash bags. Can't wait to see you in person!

April 23, 2021:

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York Earth Care action group wants to know about your environmental profile – and also let you find out about us. We invite you to take our survey [here](#).

Meatless Monday Recipes:

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/top-meat-free-monday-recipes-435719>

April 30, 2021:

Earth Care Pledge: Won't you join us in taking our FPC Earth Care 30-Day Challenge?

Pledge to do one (or all) of these five actions over the next 30 days:

1. Take our Earth Care Survey, (survey has ended)
2. Don't use or purchase any plastic straws, or water bottles of any size.
3. Practice Meatless Mondays (plant-based meals) Meatless Monday Recipes- see below
4. Start the process of looking at eco-friendly investing options
5. Join any Earth Care meeting or event.

Many thanks for taking care of God's Earth

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/top-meat-free-monday-recipes-435719>

May 7, 2021:

Check Out Your Local Library. Instead of buying a book, use your local library for your next read, either in-person or virtually. Chances are you'll only read the book once, so no need to purchase a copy. And libraries are valuable community centers. If you like using e-readers and have a valid library card, the **Libby app** allows you to borrow books from many libraries digitally.

<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

May 14, 2021:

Honor Endangered Species Day on May 15, 2021. Did you know that an estimated one in five species is threatened or endangered? And one million plants and animal species are in danger of extinction? There are many things we can all do to save God's creation from the threat of extinction. Check out [this article](#) to find materials to raise awareness about endangered species.

May 21, 2021:

Make Some Changes on Laundry Day. Here are some tips for helping our planet: Reduce energy use by using cold water and opting for a shorter wash cycle. Wait to do laundry until the load is full to save water, electricity, money, and time. And consider using a laundry line or drying rack instead of the dryer to conserve energy from the clothes dryer and cut down on your electricity bill too!

May 29, 2021:

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Paper Goods. Toilet paper, paper towels, and tissue paper made with virgin wood pulp are hurting our boreal forests and planet. Try to use less. For many projects, you can use reusable cloths. And recycled paper products require less chlorine bleach and sulfur dioxide (a main cause of acid rain), use less water, emit less gases and hazardous air pollutants, and avoid harming wildlife and Indigenous communities' way of life. Find more information and recommended products [here](#).

June 4, 2021:

Reduce Our Food Waste: Part 1. The U.S. is the global leader in food waste, the single largest component in our landfills. Americans discard nearly 40 million tons of food annually. What can you do? Buy only what you need and eat what you buy. Learn labels: the "use by" date is for perishable goods, while it's often still safe to consume products whose "best by" date has expired. Freeze what can't be eaten immediately. And share the wealth: donate food to food pantries.

Friday, June 11, 2021:

Reduce Our Food Waste: Part 2. The average American family spends \$3,000+ a year eating out. While dining out is fun, food waste in restaurants in the U.S. adds up to \$162B every year. All-you-can-eat buffets create huge quantities of discarded food. You can help by only ordering what you will eat, taking any leftovers home (ideally in your own containers), and staying informed!

June 18, 2021:

Air Conditioning: Use Sparingly. Nothing feels nicer than walking into an air-conditioned room after spending hours in the heat. But A/C is a key driver of the growth of electricity demand, accounting for 10% of all global electricity consumption. And it's often produced by the burning of fossil fuels. So please, set your A/C to 75F; use only when needed, not continuously; and turn it off when you leave home. *Source: International Energy Agency (IEA).*

June 25, 2021:

Avoid Single-Use Plastic. Shockingly, in the last 10 years we have produced more plastic than in the entire last century. A plastic bag has an average "working life" of 15 minutes. More than one million bags are used each minute, contributing to the 10 million+ tons of plastic dumped into our oceans each year. Please shop with your own reusable bags, avoid plastic food packaging, and buy loose fruits and vegetables in their natural state. *Source: plasticoceans.org.*

July 2, 2021:

Keep Your Smart Phone for Longer. According to environmental-action.org, New Yorkers dispose of 23,000 cell phones each day, and discarded devices are part of the electronics making up 70% of waste going into landfills. New phones require mining precious and limited resources that are destroying habitats around the world. If we each kept our phones for one

year longer than our normal upgrades, it would be like taking 37,300 vehicles off the road. Let's be smart about our smart phones!

July 9, 2021:

Visit Ghost Forest in Madison Square Park! Maya Lin, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer, has created a new work: *Ghost Forest*, an installation of 49 dead trees that were removed from the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Ghost forests are trees that were killed by saltwater. With rising sea levels, they are becoming more common along the East Coast of the U.S. This moving, free exhibit reminds us that the effects of climate change have already reached our front door.

July 16, 2021:

The Impact of Fashion. In her new book, Unraveled: The Life and Death of a Garment, Maxine Bédat discusses the “fashion horror stories” of current clothing consumption, from cotton fields, to toxic waste from acid-washing blue jeans, to one landfill filled with chemicals used to destroy 2.8 million items of clothing a week. We can each help by buying less clothes, buying them second-hand (Levi's and Patagonia's websites both sell used clothes), wearing them until they are worn out, and donating worn-out textiles.

July 23, 2021:

COVID-19 Has Produced More Food Insecurity. One of the many impacts of the novel coronavirus in the US is increased food insecurity, which is predicted to affect more than 42 million people, 13 million of whom are children. Many households experiencing food insecurity now have less access or don't qualify for federal nutrition programs. Please help provide extra support through local food banks and programs.

July 30, 2021

Take a Few Minutes to Listen to the Birds! Last year during the height of COVID-19, The New York Times ran a piece on how so many of us noticed the abundance of birdsong here in New York. This on-line version lets you enjoy listening to 13 local species. And give yourself extra credit if you can also spot them in nearby trees and gardens!

August 6, 2021

All life is interrelated. The Earth Care Action Group has been inspired in our quest for environmental justice by these words from Martin Luther King's Christmas Eve sermon, 1967: “It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

August 13, 2021

Movie Night: *Extinction: The Facts*. Join Earth Cares and Membership on Monday, August 16th, for an old-fashioned movie night—with popcorn! We'll gather at church to watch David Attenborough's sobering 2020 documentary *Extinction: The Facts*. Humans are causing animal and plant extinctions far faster than has previously occurred, which means that one million species are at grave risk of extinction by 2100. There will be a Q&A afterward.

August 20, 2021

Gifts for Children - Consider a museum outing instead of a plastic or battery-operated toy.

Plastics are choking our planet—they find their way into oceans and are deadly for sea creatures. (Plastic is not recycled nearly as much as we would like to believe.) If you give a child an experience instead of a toy, you'll get to know them, create a memory, and hopefully both have a good time. You'll also reduce waste from plastic packaging, manufacturing, and disposal.

August 27, 2021

American Diet and the Environment. Americans take the slogan “bigger is better” seriously—especially when it comes to food. Unfortunately for our health and the planet's, our diet is one of the least sustainable and most harmful in the world. Meat consumption caused a whopping 10% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. If the whole world ate like we do, we would need another Canada-sized piece of land just for food production. Choosing to eat less meat helps keep the food supply and the planet safe.

September 3, 2021:

Participate in the Joy of Daffodils! The Daffodil Project was started 20 years ago with an original donation of 1 million bulbs from the city of Rotterdam, Holland to support the rebirth of our city after the 9/11 attacks. It is now the largest volunteer effort in NYC, with over 8 million bulbs planted in our open spaces. You can help distribute or plant bulbs this fall or donate to the project, and see them bloom in the spring!

September 10, 2021:

Welcome Back to Earth Care's Fall Programs! As an Earth Care congregation, we have pledged to be stewards of God's earth. As is written in Job 12: 7-10:

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
⁸ ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
⁹ Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.”

September 17, 2021:

SAFE Disposal Event this Sunday, September 19th, Union Square, 10am-6pm. The NYC Department of Sanitation regularly hosts household products and e-waste disposal events. This Sunday, you can safely discard automotive products, electronics, solvents, and flammable materials (no appliances or tires). Register or go here for more information and other dates.

September 24, 2021:

Save Water: Buy Products Without It. Shampoo, conditioner, window cleaner, body lotion, multi-purpose cleansers, self-tanners, and laundry detergent are just some of the products you can now buy in bar, sheet, powder, or tablet form. Just one bottle of regular shampoo can contain 80% water. You'll save packaging and shipping costs and may simultaneously support our environment.

October 1, 2021:

Learn About Native Plants and Their Stories. From now through November 7, you can visit the [Brooklyn Botanical Garden](#)'s new exhibit, Ohkehteau (Plants of the Earth): A Shinnecock Oral History. As you walk through the exhibit listening to the self-guided audio tour with Chennae Bullock, a Shinnecock Nation tribal member, you'll hear ways that indigenous peoples use native plants for medicine and health ailments.

October 8, 2021:

Please Help: Drink Less Bottled Water. Three reasons to stop: 1. Americans increasingly drink more bottled water than milk or beer in a year. 2. Fill a plastic water bottle a quarter full, and you'll see the approximate amount of oil required to produce that plastic bottle. 3. Each week, it takes 40,000 18-wheeler trucks on our roads to deliver our bottled water. [Source: healthyhumanlife.com](#)

October 15, 2021:

Birdbrain No Longer Applies. For a deeply moving, inspiring, and educational read, there's [the wonderful account](#) of Alex, an African Grey parrot, and his scientist friend, psychologist Irene M. Pepperberg. Pepperberg's research with Alex demonstrates a stunning scientific breakthrough in birds' ability to grasp and communicate complex ideas. This tribute is a remarkable love story and brings us closer to sharing the planet more equitably with our fellow non-humans.

October 22, 2021:

Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle Electronics. "The value of the raw materials contained in the e-waste produced in the U.S. during 2019 was ~\$7.49 billion," per Earth911.com. To address the issue, many large apartment buildings accept e-waste recycling. So do many major retailers, including Staples, Verizon, and Best Buy, regardless of whether you purchased the product from them. Please - recycle, give away, or keep your electronics a little bit longer.

October 29, 2021:

Replace Plastics and Disposables With Sustainable Alternatives. Think about your toothbrush, your shopping bags, your coffee cups, your water bottles. Many of our commonly used materials can be replaced with biodegradable, reusable, or other sustainable alternatives. Some creative solutions are made from bamboo, glass, coffee berry shells, and coconut water. Every little bit helps!

November 5, 2021:

Saving our planet. As the world hopes and prays for bold action from the UN climate change conference in Glasgow this month, people are taking action. To further align its investments with its values, the Ford Foundation has [announced](#) that it will divest from fossil fuels. Many endowments are managed with the goal of preserving the institutions they support in perpetuity. But as the foundation's president, Darren Walker, observes, "There is no perpetuity without a planet."

November 12, 2021:

Love thy neighbors. We New Yorkers have a lot of neighbors to love. Some would say 8.4 million, but that's just the humans. Our neighbors are feathered ([bald eagles](#)), furry ([bobcats](#)), nocturnal ([bats](#)), arthropodin ([monarch butterflies](#)) and seafaring ([sea horses](#)). [According](#) to Kathryn Heintz of the NYC Audubon Society, New York is now "the greenest big city on earth." We encourage you to take a trip to your local park and find some neighbors to love!

November 19, 2021:

Switch to energy-efficient lighting. As the season changes, we can all do some things to lower our electric bills and our carbon footprint. One way is to use LED lightbulbs, which use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Switching over can make a big difference in reducing your use of energy and helping your finances.

November 24, 2021:

More reasons to stop drinking bottled water. It takes almost 2000 times more energy to manufacture a bottle of water than it does to produce tap water. Every second, 1000 people open a bottle of water in the U.S., and every day, people in the U.S. throw away more than 60 million plastic water bottles, which often end up in landfills, or as litter in our streets, parks, and waterways.

November 31, 2021:

As seasons change, what can you do? Caulking, sealing, and weather-stripping any cracks and openings around your windows, doors, or other openings helps keep air from leaking in or out your home and lets your heating and cooling systems run at optimum capacity. And inspecting, cleaning, and servicing your heating and cooling system once a year helps it work at maximum efficiency.

December 3, 2021:

Enjoy Our flora and fauna. Amid many stories about species in danger of becoming or already extinct, this beautiful book of essays by poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil stands out. It's called *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments*, and as you learn about axolotls, catalpa trees, and fourteen new species of frogs in India, you will be transported to a land of hope, imagination, and awe.

December 10, 2021:

Wolves' amazing impact in nature. For years, scientists have explored *trophic cascades*, an ecological process triggered by adding or removing predators at the top of the food chain. This five-minute video demonstrates one such cascade in Yellowstone National Park, when wolves were re-introduced into the ecosystem. Benefits to all abounded: trees quintupled in size, birds, beavers, and amphibians flourished, and the wolves literally changed the course of rivers.

December 17, 2021:

Sharing the Costs of Recycling. Maine and Oregon have paved the way for the nation by passing laws this year requiring manufacturers to help bear the costs of recycling their packaging waste. In Maine, it's estimated that these materials contribute one third of the solid waste in landfills, and the law will now redirect them to recycling. We hope this positive trend will sweep the country and help us care for our earth.

December 24, 2021:

The Kea Bird That Relearned How to Preen. Bruce, a Kea parrot in New Zealand, has a broken upper beak. While he could still eat, he wasn't able to groom himself by preening his feathers, a process crucial in cleaning out parasites, dirt, and grime. So Bruce has invented a whole new way to conduct his ablutions that scientists say is both unique and remarkable. Read the full story [here](#).

December 31, 2021:

Plastics Overwhelmingly Account for Marine Trash. Four kinds of plastic account for 44% of all trash in the ocean. That's right, plastic wrappers, bags, cutlery, and bottles are the largest contributors to marine trash, and only 9% of these materials get recycled. Please keep that in mind and when possible, try not to buy bottled water or get plastic utensils with your takeout. Let's try to reduce our consumption of plastic to reduce what goes into our oceans.

January 7, 2022

Recycle your holiday plants. It's certainly possible to get some holiday plants to rebloom, but if you don't have the time, space, or green thumb, you can still help Mother Nature and not add to landfill. Recycle or reuse the pot, and then compost the plant on your own or take it to a composting dropoff station. LES Ecology Center has more than a dozen around the city—see the list here—including at many local greenmarkets.

January 14, 2022

Happy New Year from Down to Earth! Just over a year ago, the Earth Cares action group started posting weekly items in First Matters. We're now planning this year's entries, from tips about reducing consumption and volunteering to food for thought about the bigger environmental picture. Also in the works: a Meatless Mondays Recipe Contest. Have a suggestion and/or want to help with writing? Let us know at earthcare@fpcnyc.org. We look forward to being in touch!

January 21, 2022

Clean Up Cigarette Butts. We know about smoking's deadly effects, but cigarettes are also terrible for the environment. Of the 5.7 trillion sold annually worldwide, 65 percent are deliberately littered, and their filters contain more than 7,000 chemicals that can be toxic to people and animals. In addition to being carcinogenic, cigarette butts also contribute more than one million tons of microplastic waste annually and seep into waters and soils. See how to help [here](#).

January 28, 2022

What Climate Change Looks Like from Outer Space: Gavin Smith, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s senior climate advisor, has been studying the effects of climate change. These satellite images published by the New York Times show global impacts from the 1970s to today and document the long-term changes caused by greenhouse emissions. As the earth warms, our air, oceans, and land have all been affected. Let's protect our home.

February 4, 2022

How to Be a Climate Advocate: February 9th from 7-8 p.m. on zoom. Stop talking about climate change. Start taking action. Brooklyn-based Jennifer Allyn leads this webinar on how you (and/or your children) can become climate advocates at work. She is the Dir. of Programs & Campaigns for ClimateVoice. Follow the climate journey from anxiety to activist as Jennifer will outline concrete ways you can make an impact, no matter how much or little time you have. For more details email info@comingofage.org.

February 11, 2022

Plastics Are Contaminating the Planet. [As the BBC reported](#), microbeads of plastic and the chemical polyethylene—which are both common byproducts of single-use plastics—have been found in seagulls’ nests and stomachs. Further, [Smithsonian reported](#) that [snow samples](#) from Mount Everest were filled with microplastics. Plastics wreak havoc on our ecosystem; please avoid single-use plastics and bottles whenever possible.

February 18, 2022

Wildfires and Climate Change. Climate change has resulted in hotter temperatures, more forested areas becoming arid, and more fuel (dead trees, brush) building up on the forest floor. When a spark—such as from a lightning strike, downed power line, or gender-reveal party—ignites this fuel, it can [cause extreme wildfires](#), and more of them. Wildfires are also worse due to [fire-suppression policies](#) and because invasive species that kill trees are surviving the winter.

February 25, 2022

National Presbyterian Group on Divestment. The national Presbyterian Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has [recommended](#) divesting from a small group of fossil fuel companies. Although other [Presbyterian churches](#), [presbyteries](#), and [synods](#) are already divesting from more such companies, MRTI’s recommendation was the first national action. Rev. Kerri Allen, MRTI chair, called it one step in what this church and we as Christians must do to address climate change and environmental racism and to support communities disproportionately impacted by them.

March 4, 2022

Protect Sea Trees. A new show created by Salesforce+ called [The Ecopreneurs](#) features creative business solutions for environmental challenges. The first 11-minute episode focuses on [SeaTrees](#), an organization committed to restoring kelp, mangrove, and seagrass growth. Once restored, these populations can contain an estimated two billion tons of carbon a year, helping to mitigate climate change impacts on the planet and protect all kinds of sea life.

March 11, 2022

Crisis in Ukraine. Equality and justice are key pillars of sustainability, yet our world is torn by war with its concomitant humanitarian and environmental crises. If you are looking for ways to support Ukraine, please consider supporting the [Presbyterian Disaster Relief Program](#) and donate to our special collection. Details for that can be found under announcements.

March 18, 2022

Save Our Composting! NYC was set to finally expand curbside composting citywide, but Mayor Adams wants to [suspend that expansion](#). Curbside composting is an easy way to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce landfill, improve soil health, and keep rats away. Contact your [City Council member](#) and [Mayor Adams](#) to ask them to save the program! And this Sunday, stop by the Earth Care table for more info and to write letters—or contact earthcare@fpcnyc.org.

March 25, 2022

Composting for All New Yorkers (Part II)!

Curbside residential composting recycles nutrients and reduces waste and greenhouse gas emissions, especially potent methane. City Council is holding budget hearings but Mayor Adams wants to suspend the program. How can you help? Contact your City Council Member and Mayor Adams, stop by the Earth Care table on Sunday for a stamped packet, or email earthcare@fpcnyc.org. Please send us a note about how it went!

April 1, 2022

Come Garden With Us! Help beautify our grounds at our monthly gardening sessions, beginning Saturday, April 9, 1-3 pm. No experience? No problem! The church gardener will be on hand to advise on what needs trimming, pulling, composting, and more. If you have them, bring gardening gloves and a kneepad, but no worries if you don't. Gardening equipment and a snack are provided. These sessions continue on the second Saturday of each month through the fall, and you are invited. Questions? Contact earthcare@fpcnyc.org.

April 8, 2022

Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday. We're joyful about singing Hosanna and waving palms to remember Jesus entering Jerusalem. Harvesting those palms, though, can have negative environmental consequences. So since 2019, our congregation has partnered with Enough for Everyone of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to use eco-palms. This program provides fair wages, supports local communities, and teaches conservation techniques. So as we raise our branches, we'll be helping harvesting communities. We'll also recycle the leftover palms to help our garden!

April 22, 2022

Happy Earth Day! Since the original holiday in 1970, milestones like the US Clean Air and Water Acts have been enacted, and natural areas and endangered species protected and restored. However, major challenges in environmental health, climate change, and biodiversity loss remain. To help, join us this Sunday, April 24th for prayer at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Earth Care Earth Day Sunday Celebration from 1-3 p.m. Stop by to pray, de-litter the neighborhood, and more! Contact: earthcare@fpcnyc.org.

April 29, 2022

Earth Care Recertification. Good news: First Church has been recertified as a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation. That means we've been working—and will continue to work—to make sure that in worship, education, facilities, and outreach, we are good stewards of the earth. This is the fourth year we've received this certification and we're proud to have been the first church in our Presbytery to do so. Find out more and read our pledge here.

*The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York
is a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation,
and has signed the following pledge:*

EARTH CARE PLEDGE (PART OF THE EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS PROGRAM)

The Social Justice and Peacemaking Unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in consultation with congregations and presbyteries across the denomination, developed a five-part resolution as a model for mobilizing congregations to respond to the General Assembly's "CALL TO RESTORE THE CREATION." The resolution was simplified to a four-part pledge in 2010. Churches applying to be an Earth Care Congregation must have the Earth Care Pledge affirmed by their session and signed by the clerk.

Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our **worship** and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In **education**, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our **facilities** will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our **outreach** will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.