

Snip Seven Presentation



GREEN
CHALICE

Disciples Home Missions &
The Christian Church in Kentucky



Fellow: McKenzie Snellgrove



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Community Need

At the beginning of this summer, our faith community needed an opportunity to reconnect with nature and be reminded of the wonder of God's creation. Many people in the White Oak Pond community have a deep passion for creation care and needed to be given the space to share that passion with others.



(Ryan C. Hermens/Lexington Herald-Leader via Richmond News)

Richmond during a flood in 2022 ↗

Additionally, being located in Eastern Kentucky, White Oak Pond is part of an active and tight knit community that has lived through many devastating floods. This community needed people to bring them hope for the future of the climate and their community.

Ministry Response

Call to Worship:

In the beckoning of
branches, in the whispers of
the wind

Lord, you call to us

In the rushing of the rapids,
in the stillness of a stream

Lord, you call to us

**Let us listen to your glory
and find your love in
everything we see**



Fellow Leading Worship



Creation Care Children's Workshop

This summer, our program focused on cultivating conversations around creation care and helping our community reconnect with nature through workshops, writings, and worship. Many people in our faith community work with the land as farmers or grew up in close connection with nature and were able to share their wisdom about creation in discussions with others. We also fostered this connection to God's creation in our children's ministry by going on nature walks and making sustainable art projects that spoke to their connection to nature.

In addition to our conversations and worship around creation care, our community was inspired by poems, essays, and calls to worship that centered on our connection to God through creation. As the fellow, I provided readings from authors discussing climate justice and living in harmony with nature that were included in the newsletter and bulletin.

Green Chalice Film Viewing



Coffee Chat with Green Chalice Fellow

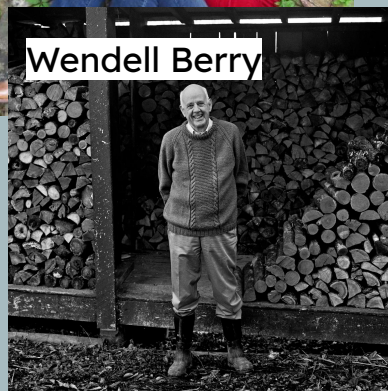
Collaborators and Partners



Mary Oliver



Barbara Kingsolver



Wendell Berry



For our program, writings and readings were integral to our conversations around creation care. As a community situated on the edges of Appalachia, we were particularly drawn to and inspired by Appalachian writers like Barbara Kingsolver and Wendell Berry. These writers explore questions of connection and belonging in relation to nature in a way that feels deeply tied to our faith as Disciples.

We also pulled from Green Chalice resources such as the Faith + Climate Film Series and news sources such as The Daily Climate-Good News to inspire our congregation and community with hope for the future. We worked with many people within our faith community to foster discussions and action around creation care.

Impact and Ripples



Cultivating Hope for Creation Workshop

Our program was impactful to many of our faith community, inspiring conversations and actions around creation care. Some people were even moved to write their own poems in response to the writings and readings that we read. Through the grant, our church continued to care for our Monarch Waystation, built a little library to distribute information about creation care and climate justice, and cultivate discussions around the things we can do to take action with the climate crisis.

- Workshops held: 6
- Original poems written and dispersed: 11
- Newsletters: 8
- Group Nature Walks: 2

Spirit of God



A rock found on a nature walk

As the Green Chalice Fellow, I most noticed the presence of God in the small discussions I got to have with people in our faith community about creation care and the climate. Getting to connect with people over poems, art, and the natural world inspired me with hope for the future and an impulse for action. One exercise our program presented that seemed to resonate with many people in the congregation was asking people to share moments from their life where they saw God in nature. Getting to hear everyone's stories moved me and showed me the Spirit of God in a transformative way. These discussions opened my eyes to the power of God's Spirit to connect people in new and unexpected ways.

To Love Another Person is to See The Face of God

By McKenzie Snellgrove

To love another person is to see the face of God,
So I look into my brother's eyes
And see the sun cresting over the hills of a quiet field
And the reeds of my soul rustle in the wind.

To love another person is to touch the face of God,
So I run my hands through my dog's soft fur
And feel the perfect warmth of a summer's day
And the leaves of my heart stretch up to the sun.

To love another person is to hear the voice of God,
So I talk to my sister about the hardest parts of life
And hear the wind chimes singing in the breeze
And the rivers of my blood become the softest brook.

To love another person is to smell the air of God,
So I bake a cake with my best friend
And smell fresh rain on grass
And the flowers of my body blossom in the dew.

To love another person is to taste the word of God,
So I split an orange with a new friend
And taste crisp apples jumping down from fall trees
And the fruits of my spirit multiply in the harvest.

To love another person is to know God—
So I take every chance I'm given to love
And as my soul grows closer to God
With every friend I meet and love I hold
I feel the beauty of the world bloom at my feet
God's love growing right alongside me.

Poem written by Green Chalice Fellow

Beloved Community



Cultivating Hope for Creation Workshop

Over the course of this program, the White Oak Pond community has become more connected to each other, God's creation, and their wider faith community. This program has raised awareness about climate issues and connected our community to resources that help them take action on the climate. In our workshops and discussions, we were able to share our thoughts and fears about the climate crisis, then move towards finding hope for the future in God. We recognized that, though we are only individuals, when we come together in the name of God we are able to do so much to care for creation.

The writings from this program are to be collected into a devotional/poetry book and shared within our congregation and beyond. Additionally, our little library will provide resources on creation care, faith, and this program's impact that we hope will ripple through the community and further our ministry's reach.

Thank You!

Peace be with you



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)