

Justice and Creation Fellowship Story



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Mentor: Tammie Sanders

First Christian Church

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**GREEN
CHALICE**

**Disciples Home Missions &
The Christian Church in Kentucky**

Community Need

- My focus this summer was to provide education and service opportunities for the low income youth and elderly. Each class being rooted in a few specific topics; gardening for physical and mental health, food as medicine, and food insecurity solutions/making the most out of your garden.
- A big part of my class planning was figuring out the best way to reach out to the community, I wanted to include members of the community who don't normally feel called to participate.
- I decided it would be best to diversify the types of classes over the summer, all connected by the common theme of creation with natural materials.



Ministry Response - Action and Initiative

- I created a class schedule that included weekly classes and service projects. We had work days planting and taking care of the garden and we had monthly food deliveries to over 30 elderly and low income families around our town.
- Each class we explored new topics centered around natural living. A few community favorites were the holistic medicine class where we made fire cider and elderberry syrup, making and decorating bee houses, exploring tea blends, and bread making.
- During the bread class we made over 40 loaves of bread that we were able to include in one of our food deliveries.
- I was in awe of the community's willingness to try new things and how much of a need/interest there is for this kind of education. It's definitely inspired me to continue classes even after the summer, I've already planned more activities for the fall.





Collaborators and Partners



- I had a few people who were a massive help this summer. My mentor, Tammie Sanders, being my biggest resource and inspiration. She has been a huge part of my growth the past several years through her venturing crew here in Princeton, Kentucky. She has shown me how to garden and the importance of volunteering and giving back to my community. She is an amazing role model for anyone who meets her, child or adult. I also had a few friends that were vital in helping me prepare, whether it was gathering materials, setting up for classes, or just showing up!
- One of my biggest goals this summer was to reach as much of the community as possible, I did that through social media advertisements but also switching my class locations. My solution for that was to do several classes at The Princeton Art Guild. I really appreciate the director's help with extra advertising and helping my vision come to life. I definitely achieved my goal of reaching out to a larger portion of the community. The majority of which ended up also visiting the church and helping with service projects. I even had a mother and daughter who ended up joining the venturing crew on a mission/service trip in Colorado.
- I also of course greatly appreciate the help of the church and the congregation, I could have done it without them providing the foundation for me to grow and give back.



Impact and Ripples



- It was so impactful to see how excited both children and adults were to create something. The want to connect and be a part of something is very strong in my community, but people don't always know how to do it. So it was incredibly rewarding to give the community a place to explore creation together.
- During this summer I was able to participate in 2 food deliveries to our local low income and elderly. Between our church garden, donations, and local farmers, we harvested, made, and bought enough food to have 30+ boxes each delivery.
- I was able to host 9 classes total at both the First Christian Church and the Princeton Art Guild, with a total of 97 participants.
- I hope that this fellowship positively impacted both the congregation and the church this summer and I hope it inspires other young adult members to continue to give back and possibly do their own fellowship in the future.



DIY birdhouses made from natural and recycled materials



30 containers of veggie soup made for a food delivery

Spirit of God - Awe Moments

I think the presence of God was incredibly strong in the garden this summer. Being surrounded by such abundance reminds you what a blessing it is to share. Having the chance to provide that experience for people who had never been in a garden before was such an honor. You definitely gain a new appreciation for fresh produce when you see where it truly comes from, the dirt, the sun, the rain, it's real connection to God's creation.



Beloved Community

I believe this fellowship has helped by inviting the congregation and community in celebrating nature and creation. It brought people from different backgrounds together to make beautiful things with summer abundance and protect God's most vulnerable creatures that make it all possible. By taking things in their raw form and making them into something edible, medicinal, useful, or even just decorative, we develop a better understanding of how everything is connected. Sometimes something as small as teaching someone to make bread, can spark a whole new way of living. It provides a new skill to share and bring us all a little closer to each other. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to teach, develop, and give back. This fellowship has made a lasting impact on my viewpoint of the garden, the congregation, and the community. I believe I have so much more to share and I will continue to host classes at the church and the art guild. I also hope to inspire others to share their knowledge the same way I have this summer. I am already planning on how to make the garden even more productive and accessible for next year!

