

In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around. This Lenten calendar begins with ways to prepare ourselves for the Lent and Easter season and then moves to weekly foci of women, creation, water, consumption, and social justice. Ideas for action can be used by congregations as well as individuals.

The calendar was created by the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)'s Environmental Ministries and Enough for Everyone offices. Please visit us at pcusa.org/hunger to learn more about ongoing opportunities for simple living, environmental justice, alleviating poverty, and eliminating root causes of hunger. Support PHP's programs through giving to One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday or Easter! For more information, contact php@pcusa.org.

March

Wednesday

1
Ash Wednesday
Read Matthew 6: 16-18. Decide to adopt Lenten practices that draw you close to God, and that help you live your faith.

Thursday

2
Download and begin the Presbyterians for Earth Care Lenten devotional for use alongside this "daily action" calendar: presbyearthcare.org/devotional-and-worship-aids.



Friday

3
World Day of Prayer
Set aside a special time for prayer today, on how to incorporate your Lent actions throughout God's creation. Then join women around the world and pray with a resource written by women in the Philippines at wdp-usa.org.



Saturday

4
Plan for meatless Monday during Lent - visit meatlessmonday.com. If the world reduced meat consumption by 15% it would save the same greenhouse gas emissions as taking 240 million cars off the road each year.



Sunday

5
Celebrate the Gifts of Women
Women are disproportionately affected by climate disasters and are wise leaders of environmental movements. Celebrate and pray with women today!

12
Plan with others at church for an Earth Day Sunday celebration, on or around April 22. Resources available at creationjustice.org/earth-day-Sunday.html.



Monday

6
Women who harvest palms for Palm Sunday are often not paid a fair price, nor are they able to harvest them sustainably. Learn more and order "Eco-Palms" before March 18: pcusa.org/eco-palms.

13
Say a prayer for God's creatures as you print an Endangered Species coloring book for children to color during worship or Sunday School: fws.gov/nativeamerican/pdf/endangered-species-coloring-book.pdf.

Tuesday

7
Write a note on recycled paper or make a card from reusable sources to give to a woman of faith who inspires you.



14
Download and share a poster about intersections between climate change and water: presbyterianmission.org/resource/climate-change-water.

8
International Women's Day
Take local action on women's concerns, as we help to make a better world for all: internationalwomensday.com.

15
Watch the Creation Care: Basic Bible 101 webinar and share with others: youtu.be/wkp_80Lff1Q or pcusa.org/phpwebinars.

9
Read about and pray for women and their communities struggling for justice around the world: presbyterianmission.org/together-justice.

16
Give away unneeded clothes, bakeware, and other goods to people who could use them, and rethink, reuse, and recycle other items. Learn more at earth911.org.

10
Go out of your way to make contact with someone who differs from you by gender, race, nationality, creed, faith, or life-style. Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

17
Read about churches using solar energy as part of their mission: pcusa.org/solar.



11
Set aside a quiet time for prayer, remembering all those who have encouraged you to care for God's creation and giving thanks for those blessings.



18
Discover Presbyterian energy efficiency loans (bit.ly/creationloan) and options for positive environmental investments (bit.ly/investpdf). Follow fair work and labor rights: laborrights.org

WOMEN

CREATION

Sunday

19

Remember your baptism today. What does it mean to you to be baptized? What happens to this sacrament when the world's waters become polluted and inaccessible?

26

Avoid using any disposable items today. Use real cups, cloth napkins, reusable bags for groceries, and water bottles instead. Try not to add any items to the landfill today.



2

Learn about Self-Development of People (pcusa.org/sdop) and the Office of Public Witness (pcusa.org/washington), and/or use the "Holy Discontentment" devotional from OPW, while considering your commitments to justice this year.

Monday

20

Do a "water fast" by flushing your toilet half as often. Around the world, many people have access only to the amount of water each day that Americans use in one toilet flush.



27

Read Duane Elgin's essay Choosing a New Lifeway: Voluntary Simplicity.

3

For Easter baskets, buy Fair Trade chocolate, dried fruit, tea and coffee or small gifts made by women's cooperatives! Fair trade helps farmers and workers around the world. pcusa.org/fairtrade.



Tuesday

21

Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth. Also see waterfootprint.org.



28

Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees.



4

Watch a video about how a mission partner in the Philippines rebuilds after Typhoon Haiyan, and think about the increasing climate disasters and their affect on all creation: pda.pcusa.org/page/stories-hope-videos.

Wednesday

22

Mar 22 World Water Day
Observed annually, today is a day to recognize how people around the world are affected by water related issues and to prepare for how we manage water: un.org/en/events/waterday.

29

Watch the "Story of Stuff" online video at storyofstuff.org.



5

Join the Campaign for Fair Food in asking for fair wages for laborers: pcusa.org/fairfood.



Thursday

23

Say a prayer of gratitude every time you sip water today.



30

Give up two degrees: for every degree the thermostat is below 68 in the winter or above 78 in the summer there's a 3-5% savings in energy use and cost.

6

Read about indigenous rights, environmental justice, land and treaty rights, and more related to the Standing Rock Sioux standing against the Dakota Access Pipeline: presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/standing-rock.

Friday

24

Choose a reusable water bottle and commit to using it instead of purchasing individual, disposable water bottles.



31

The average adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail annually. This requires 53 million trees and 56 billion gallons of water to produce. Visit 41pounds.org to stop unwanted junk mail.



7

One of the major causes of damage to God's creation and injustice in our world is the pattern of human consumption. Take the Human Slavery Footprint survey at (slaveryfootprint.org). Consider ways to decrease your participation in modern-day slavery.

Saturday

25

Pick up trash from a local stream or storm drain.



April

1

Learn where your food comes from. Calculate your food footprint at eatlowcarbon.org.



8

Speak to the powerful. Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice and creation-care a priority. Visit capwiz.com/pcusa/home to take action now.

Sunday

9

Palm Sunday HOLY WEEK

Read Psalm 31. As we think about Christ’s journey this Holy Week, may we recognize the lament, grief, and despair of the world around us. Climate injustice, overwhelming poverty, insatiable hunger, and human suffering seem insurmountable. May we pray and cry out to God, as Jesus taught us, trusting that God hears us.

16

Easter

Matthew 28:1-10 Do not be afraid! Go out into God’s good world, holding onto God’s steadfast love and joyfully answering the call to be Christ’s disciple. Give with joy to the One Great Hour of Sharing.



Monday

10

Plan to attend the September 2017 Presbyterians for Earth Care conference to join together for Sabbath, community, and justice—learning: presbyearthcare.org.



Tuesday

11

Join ecumenical brothers and sisters in Creation Justice Ministries (creationjustice.org) in setting priorities for caring for God’s creation in the coming years.

Wednesday

12

Plan or plant seeds for a garden, even a window garden, to remember hope and new life in Christ: almanac.com/content/beginners-vegetable-garden.



Thursday

13

Apr 13 Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17, 31b-35. How does creation participate alongside humanity as Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper and washes the disciples’ feet? How can we love one another—and God’s whole world—as Christ has loved us? Write down your commitment to show love to a person or part of creation today.

Friday

14

Good Friday

Hebrews 4:14-16. In confidence of God’s presence and attention, may we confess all that we have done and failed to do, willing to be made new in Christ for a reconciled and reconciling world.

Saturday

15

Great Vigil of Easter

Choose one of the practices from this Lent that may be meaningful to you to adopt for the year ahead, as a way you care for all God’s creation.

For further learning and action

- Celebrate *One Great Hour of Sharing*, an offering that strengthens earth care ministries, disaster response, and hunger and poverty alleviation: pcusa.org/oghs.
- Sign up for the *Presbyterian Justice and Peace e-newsletter*: pcusa.org/subscribe.
- Lead your church in a study on the biblical and theological basis for eco-justice using resources from pcusa.org/environment.
- Find a more complete list of ideas for congregational earth-care activities in the *Earth Care Congregations guide*: pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.
- Become a member of the grassroots organization *Presbyterians for Earth Care*: presbyearthcare.org.
- Connect to ecumenical programs: creationjustice.org.
- Follow fair work and labor rights: laborrights.org.
- Help build ecological and equitable local food economies in your town and globally. Find resources at pcusa.org/fairfood.
- Stay up-to-date on public policy concerns through the *Office of Public Witness*: pcusa.org/washington.
- Support *Environmental Ministries*, *Enough for Everyone* and *Presbyterian Hunger Program* through gifts to the *Hunger Fund H999999*: Plan ahead to have a study group for next Lent using the *Lent 4.5 study materials*. Email php@pcusa.org for copies.

