



Faith to Forest

An initiative by and for faith communities focused on the significant role that trees play in our call to tend creation and to care for the least of those among us.

Celebrating all that we enjoy about trees and act on our responsibility to care for them, particularly in this changing climate.

Offering opportunities including worship, education, stewardship and advocacy, within our faith communities and across the Lincoln community.

Each faith community is invited to participate as best fits its particular interests.

Plans to date include:

- Encouragement for each faith community to **have a Tree Sabbath worship service**, preferably in January or February 2022. The *Faith to Forest* website offers some suggestions for scripture, prayer, music, liturgy, etc.
- A call for individuals and faith communities to **plant and care for trees** in 2022 and/or to make a donation to plant and care for trees in Lincoln or globally.
- An invitation for volunteers to be trained by the Lincoln Park Department as *Prairie Pruners*, to **help young city trees get a good start**.
- **Discussions** within your congregation or in city-wide gatherings of a practical, inspiring book, *The Future We Choose*.
- Five Zoom presentations:
 - **Jan 6—Out on a Limb in God's Forest** Rev. Dr. Jen Strickland and Rev. Dr. Jacob Buchholz discuss why trees and the environment are issues requiring attention and action by people of faith
 - **Jan 13—Trees: Our Superhero Friends** Justin Evertson with the Nebraska Forest Service and Nebraska Statewide Arboretum gives a fast-paced overview of the economic value and physical and mental health benefits of trees, the value of native species, and how trees impact and are impacted by climate change.
 - **January 20—The Nitty Gritty of Tree Selection and Care** Sarah Browning, Nebraska Extension, and Bob Hendrickson, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, talk about choosing and caring for trees in Eastern Nebraska
 - **January 27—Introduction to Prairie Pruners** Lorri Grueber, Lincoln Parks Department, provides an overview, initial training, and next steps to joining "Prairie Pruners," a new volunteer program in our city parks
 - **February 3—The Future We Choose, The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis.** Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, and Martha Shulski, Nebraska State Climatologist, offer their perspectives on the book chosen for community-wide discussion
- One or two **advocacy steps** for individuals and faith communities.
(Participating in other aspects of *Faith to Forest* will not obligate a faith community to take a public policy position.)

The **Faith to Forest website** is evolving: <https://www.firstplymouth.org/catforest> Watch there for:

- Updates on *Faith to Forest* events, relevant zoom links and support for your congregation's observance
- Access to a range of faith/creation/tree-focused resources

And the **Faith to Forest Facebook Page** is now live: <https://www.facebook.com/FaithToForest> Post your news!

Participating faith communities to date:

Vine Congregational United Church of Christ ~ Antelope Park Church of the Brethren ~ Heritage Presbyterian Church ~ First United Methodist Church ~ Contemplate Lincoln ~ St. David's Episcopal Church ~ Lincoln Friends Meeting ~ Eastridge Presbyterian Church ~ Grace Lutheran Church ~ The Unitarian Church of Lincoln Green Sanctuary Committee ~ Trinity Chapel Church ~ Fourth Presbyterian Church ~ Christ United Methodist Church ~ Bethany Christian Church ~ Saint Paul United Methodist Church ~ First-Plymouth Congregational Church ~ Prairie Home United Methodist Church ~ New Hope United Methodist Church ~ Aldersgate United Methodist Church ~ St. Luke United Methodist Church ~ Our Saviour's Lutheran Church ~ Neighbors Community United Methodist Church ~ St. Mark's United Methodist Church ~ First Baptist Church ~ Westminster Presbyterian Church ~ St. Matthew's Episcopal Church ~ St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church ~ First Mennonite Church ~

Interested? Questions? Suggestions? Please contact

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