

Forest & Fables



WALTER SCOTT
CAMP & LEARNING CENTER

A Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL-WI

Greetings!

Take in a deep breath, wherever you are, count to five, then slowly release it. Time has flown by in September and we decided to release this newsletter a day late rather than rushing its contents. Taking time for ourselves to re-center, even if a long breath, is living into the Sabbath and joy God has created us for. This month at Walter Scott there has been plenty of Sabbath and joy. We hosted a workday, other volunteers, half a dozen fishing trips, a K9 search and recovery training group, the Fall Disciples' Women's retreat and more. At the same time, our goats have made a visible impact on the invasive underbrush around shelters 6-8, the yurts, cabins, and along the south shore of lake.

Looking ahead, we will be continuing to provide a place of Sabbath and joy for many! This weekend a 35+ year biannual family fishing trip to Walter Scott will take place while we also are visiting everyone at the Joint Illinois-Wisconsin-Michigan Disciples Regional Assembly (make sure to stop by our booth, we have a lot of brand new materials we're unveiling!) Our friends from DeColores will be back in their fifth decade of partnership on these grounds for two weekends, a family reunion will return for another year, and another group of K9 trainers will spend time here to round out the month.

We continue to be excited about the ways God is moving at Walter Scott, through Creation and through the many people who support this ministry. I always like to remind folks, I might live here, but this is a place we steward together. All of us. As always, feel free to reach out with an email, message, or phone call to chat and if you're in the area - hot tea, coffee, and conversation are great additions to any day. I'll be seeing you soon!

Peace on the Journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clayton Summers'.

Resident Minister and Caretaker

The Dock is Complete!



After our contractor completed the water portion of the dock in August, in September about ten volunteers over the course of three weeks constructed the land portion of the dock! Its 1.5x wider than the previous dock, has a larger platform at the end, and with its construction should last for the next generation of children, youth, and adults at Walter Scott. With the dock complete, our beach updates are not done entirely, but the largest project is. Fixing the aerator, rebuilding the beachfront, updating storage for watercraft and the life jackets, and more still will be happening in the months ahead. By Summer 2026, our beach will look different, but still allow access to God's Creation on the water as it always has.

Fireside Fall Retreat



Join us for the FIRESIDE FALL YOUTH RETREAT—a weekend designed for youth in grades 6–12 to connect, unwind, and grow. With great food, fun games, and fall vibes all around, we'll gather for community and conversation that matters. Inspiring keynotes will spark fierce conversations and help us explore what it means to live with fearless faith. Don't miss this unforgettable fall getaway!

November, 2025 | 6:00 PM CT Friday 21 to 12:00 PM CT Sunday 23
\$150 per participant
Includes program, lodging, meals, and t-shirt.

For youth who are currently in grades 6th to 12th in the 2025-26 school year + Adult Sponsors*

*Each youth attending must attend with a sponsor. Multiple youth are able to have the same sponsor.

[Register for Fireside!](#)

Friendsgiving Table Worship



Join us for a new way of being church - one that gathers friends from near and far around a shared table of food, faith, and community.

Friendsgiving Table Worship is an alternative, inclusive gathering held at Walter Scott! Come enjoy a free, fully catered meal and experience meaningful table worship with music, liturgy, and a message of hope - no pressure, no preaching, just presence.

All are welcome. **All** means **all**.




Let us know you're coming so we can save you a seat!

[RSVP for Friendsgiving Table Worship](#)

Climate Ambassador Training



We're hosting a free, virtual training to help you talk about climate change in ways that inspire real action. Whether you're just getting started or already active, you'll gain tools, confidence, and community.

 January 10, 2026
 10:00AM-2:00PM (Central)
 Virtually (Zoom)

At Walter Scott we care deeply about all of God's Creation and know this training enables us to be the best stewards we can. Like the resurrected Christ, we hope we may be mistaken as gardeners.

We'll watch short videos, join in small-group discussions, and take part in hands-on activities to:

- ☒ Understand key climate science and impacts
- ☒ Connect climate issues to your values and community
- ☒ Explore practical, real-world solutions
- ☒ Build confidence in communication and advocacy
- ☒ Craft your personal message for action

After the training, you'll be invited to join a national network of nearly 5,000 Climate Ambassadors with access to resources, events, and ongoing support.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

[Register for Climate Ambassador Training](#)

Green Justice at Walter Scott



Green Justice is a brand new opportunity provided through the Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center.

This opportunity will provide hands-on education over five nights and four days with opening and closing forest church worship experiences. Food for meals and snacks will be provided and prepared communally as a cohort for the experience. During this time together we will focus on climate change mitigation, better caring for (and knowing) our Creation-kin neighbors, restoring biodiversity, and advocacy across all topics.

We will be rooted in our common human vocation as laid out in the opening of Genesis, to steward the rest of God's Creation of which we are a part. As stewards of Creation, we are called to find the spots we have worn thin and the threads we have frayed so we may repair them and restore the whole to the best of our ability. Through weaving together Scripture, Science, and Story with hands-on activities, this opportunity will equip participants to care gently and justly for God's Creation in their communities.

This experience will be led by Rev. Clayton Summers, the Minister in Residence at the Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center.

[Learn More & Register!](#)

Even More Opportunities!



This fall at Walter Scott, our programming lineup has something for everyone (really, we mean it!)

- The Disciples' Women have another opportunity on November 8th with their Ties That Bind Quilting Retreat!
- Workdays are a way to give back to this sacred place to so many - Nov. 1 & Jan. 17
- Over 18 events are already on the calendar for 2026, take a peek!

Take some time this autumn to reset, take a bit of Sabbath, and spend some time in God's Creation at Walter Scott. We're here for you.

[Sign Up for the Ties That Bind Quilting Retreat](#)

[Learn More & Sign Up for a Workday!](#)

[Look Ahead at 2026 Programming](#)

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) NSI K9



This past month we had the pleasure of hosting NSI K-9's 15th Search and Recovery Seminar. It was a wonderful group of people who operate this nonprofit dedicated to training and certifying canines and their handlers. They had folks from North Carolina to Texas with everywhere in between in attendance. We made them meals, provided housing to the staff, and they made good use of the grounds (as well as other locations in the county) for training and certification. We are grateful to be able to partner with them in their mission.

Photo Gallery...Follow us on Instagram for more!



Meet the Neighbors!



Meet another one of our neighbors, White Boneset. White Boneset (or the *Eupatorium Serotinum*) is a member of the aster family (family *Asteraceae*). The perennial plant pollinates via insect and is a vital late season food source to monarch butterflies!

As stewards of God's Creation, we can only properly care for what we know, and a great place to start is learning a bit about our neighbors.

Sowing Wild Seeds



[Ways to Give](#)

[Book Your Group](#)

[Wishlist](#)

The Land Beneath Our Feet



Quick Creation Care Tip

Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; plant for pollinators; consider rewilding at least a portion of your property. On a larger scale, examine your agricultural practices (cover crops, low till, no chemicals...) for changes that will regenerate the fertility of the soil.

The opening book of the Bible reminds us, “God saw everything God had made and indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). The first commandment given to humanity is to tend and care for the garden God gave us (Genesis 2:15). Regenerative agriculture practices are proven ways to do so. - UMC Justice Movement

Unsubscribe from this list

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Since you stuck around this long, enjoy the goats. And care gently for God's creation.



