



Greetings!

October has passed us by just as the leaves making their way from the branch to the ground. In similar fashion, the month of October is not just gone but like the leaves is full of nutrients which give back to this ministry over time. In October we hosted a family fishing trip, a family reunion, two weekends of our friends from DeColores, our friends NSI K9 once again and still managed to spend time in community and relationship with the Disciples of Christ regional church at the joint regional assembly! Our soil is blessed with this fertile compost.

Looking ahead, November will feature a quilting retreat, Friendsgiving (there's still time to RSVP!), a college retreat group, a family craft group and our Fireside Fall Youth Retreat! At the same time we will be working on finishing up our fall tasks for the grounds and a few projects we need to complete before the deep freezes settle in. Goat hay will be stocked for the winter and pedal boats will be removed from the lake as we live into the rhythms of our seasons.

As we fix our gaze on the horizon, much continues to be ahead of us. In the winter we are hosting our first winter workday, we are offering a climate ambassador virtual training, and we will be working on policy and planning which holds true to our identity for the past 63 years and which will set us up up for our next 63 and beyond (stay tuned in the December edition for one of these opportunities in which to be involved!) Physically onsite we will be undergoing a bathroom renovation in our main building, some electrical updates, and several other repairs that both function as good stewardship and make this a hospitable place for all who spend time on this Holy Ground.

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

Friendsgiving RSVP Today!



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 from 5-7PM on November 9th.

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 plate by filling out the less than 1 minute form below!

[RSVP for Friendsgiving Table Worship](#)

Fireside Fall Youth Retreat



Before the holiday season starts in earnest, we are offering a retreat weekend for youth currently in 6th-12th grade along with an adult sponsor at Walter Scott!

Decompress with friends old and new, hear from our two keynoters about how faith intersects with the work of justice, and participate in engaging games and workshops.

Sign up is still open and we do have scholarship assistance available (just send us an email if you or a youth you know is in need).

[Register for the Fireside Retreat](#)

Climate Ambassador Training



**JOIN OUR
CLIMATE
AMBASSADOR
TRAINING**

Learn how to talk about climate change in ways that motivate others and spark real solutions in your community and beyond.

[> Register Now](#)

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!](#)

Look Ahead to 2026!



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

- Workdays are a way to give back to this sacred place to so many - Jan. 17, Apr. 18, Nov. 7
- 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.

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

Look Ahead at 2026 Programming

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) Dead Trees



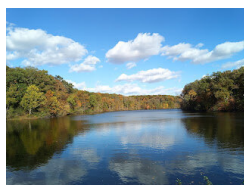
For the past four years, a dead tree has stood watch at the entrance to the grounds here at Walter Scott before finally falling a bit over a week ago. It was never going to hit a building or a person so we instead left it standing. While some might say it was unsightly and needed to be taken down to increase curb appeal – this isn't the ethos to which our faith calls us. We are called to be stewards of the rest of Creation and for dead trees like this one, this means allowing them to stand. In death they become even more vibrant ecosystems than those which are living. Insects take up residence to begin decomposing them, moles and voles create more homes under them, woodpeckers create nooks and crannies as they feed which woodland creatures move into.

Admittedly, dead trees don't always meet human standards of aesthetics, but theologian Wendell Berry offers a faith filled perspective on our role in Creation,

"We have lived our lives by the assumption that what is good for us is good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us."

This is what leaving a dead tree up until eventually it falls and we can use some (not all of it) for firewood is – doing what is good for the world knowing it will be good for us too.

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



Meet the Neighbors!



Meet another one of our neighbors, Sugar Maple. Sugar Maple is a tree of the *Acer* genus which you most likely know from its namesake product, maple syrup! However, most of the syrup sold in stores today is not genuine maple syrup but instead corn syrup. Genuine maple syrup can only be harvested from trees at a specific point in the late winter/early spring when it is below freezing at night and above freezing in the day. As the trees draw up their sap from their roots during the day and send it down at night, a tap on the tree collects the flowing sap into a bucket (not too much to harm the tree however).

This sap is too weak on its own to be used on pancakes and has to be reduced down (removing the water) so that only 2.5% the original volume of what was collected is left! That means to make 1 gallon of maple syrup, 40 gallons of maple sap is required. In many modern contexts, the water is removed through boiling, but indigenous people for many years removed the water content through leaving it in shallow troughs (hollowed out limbs) overnight and would remove the ice that formed in the morning. This was (and is for those still practicing) living into the seasons and making use of how the only time of year maple syrup can be harvested also being the only time of the year that water can be removed via ice by leaving the sap outside!

Maple trees of all varieties offer many benefits to the ecosystem. They house insects and birds, produce protein rich seeds to be eaten by wildlife, and in groves like other trees they regulate their micro climate by maintaining their desired humidity all while cooling their surrounding area.

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

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are part of our culture of relentless advertising and overconsumption, which fills our landfills. Be thoughtful about what you buy and from whom. Discern wants versus needs. Look for environmentally focused companies with ethical practices. Consider packaging, durability, and sustainability in the products you choose. - 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.



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