



Greetings!

The year is drawing to its close here at Walter Scott and it has been yet another good trip around the sun. Between offering new programs, installing geothermal wells for all our buildings, and continuing to welcome campers and guests, new and old, to these sacred grounds, 2025 has been a year of blessings. We are grateful for the many partners that empower this ministry through their time, talents, finances, and trust.

This will be a shorter version of Forest & Fables as many are deep into the throes of Advent; may this be a season of preparation for the renewing of hope and coming of love incarnate once again. We'll be back in 2026 with plenty of ways to be involved in this ministry throughout the year and throughout all walks and circumstances of life. If you're able to visit us physically, all of our programming from 2025 will be taking place again in 2026 with several new offerings added (many of which are free!). For now, we wish you hope, peace, joy, and love - the hallmarks of Christ. Be well and be with God.

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,

Clayton Summers

Resident Minister and Caretaker

Bathroom Renovations Continue



At the time of writing, our main floor bathrooms at Walter Scott are well on their way to completion! The framing is done and the replumbing will be finished by the end of the year! At the beginning of January, wall coverings, flooring, and fixtures will be installed. We hope to share the finished product in the January edition of Forest & Fables as long as time tables hold. Stay tuned!

ICYMI: Walter Scott Received a Pickup



The generosity of those who care deeply for this sacred space continues to overfill our cup. A few weeks ago, we put an article into our November Forest & Fables Newsletter, seeking a donation to the camp of a used pickup truck to replace the personal staff cars have been using at Walter Scott (ask us later about moving 10' lumber in a sedan). We had planned to go wider with the ask that coming week on social media and our regional newsletter, but within a few hours, we had an anonymous donor offer their used pickup. We could not be more thrilled for this gift and the ways it will assist the ministry over the coming years. It will haul supplies for projects, move pedal boats, pickup materials, carry tools, and do so much more that helps us be a respite for people and the rest of Creation alike. We are grateful.

2026 Workdays



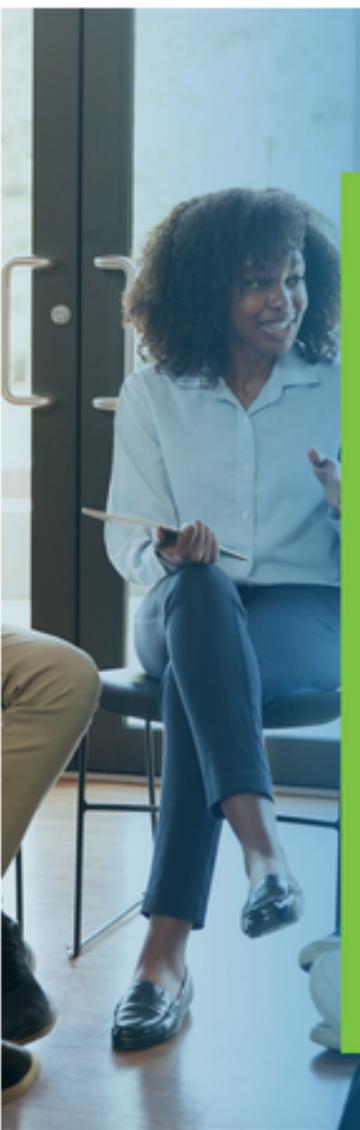
Believe it or not, we're only a few weeks away from our next workday at Walter Scott! This will be our first winter workday (at least in recent memory) and will focus on indoor tasks in our heated buildings. Depending on what skills you bring, there will be opportunities to put carpentry, plumbing, electrical, organization, cleaning, cooking, are more to use!

We'd love to see you at any of our workdays or our full service week, all of which are free, including overnight housing and meals. If you're interested, let us know you're coming by following the button below.

If you would rather volunteer on your own schedule, we accept volunteers throughout the year for a wide variety of projects. Check out the "Adopt-a-Project" section by following the button below to see some of the projects we have available or just reply to this email with what skills you have!

[Volunteer at Walter Scott!](#)

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:

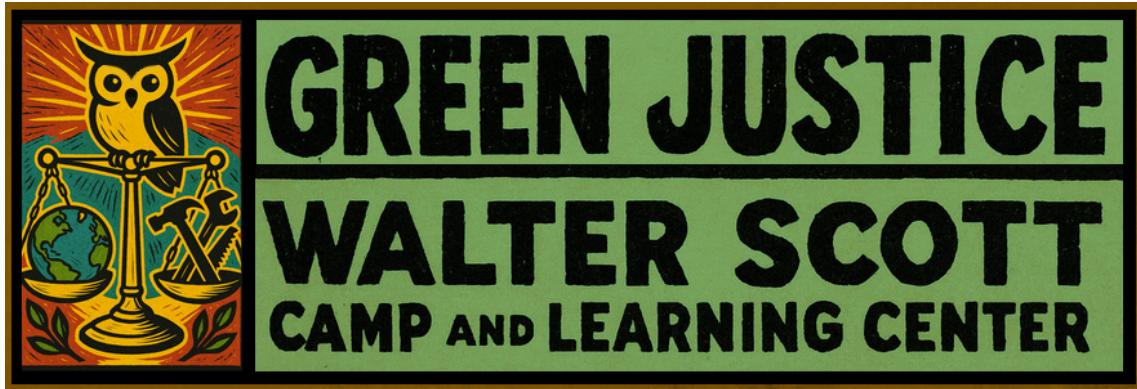
- Understand key climate science and impacts
- Connect climate issues to your values and community
- Explore practical, real-world solutions
- Build confidence in communication and advocacy
- Craft your personal message for action

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!

Here are the next five offerings at Walter Scott in 2026!

January 10, 2026

**NEW!****SAT**

Climate Amb. Training

This virtual event will teach you how to speak clearly and from our faith about caring for Creation in the midst of climate change.

January 17, 2026

**NEW!****SAT**

Winter Workday

Care for the sacred space of Walter Scott together. All skills and ability levels welcome!

March 23-28, 2026

**NEW!****MON
-SAT**

Green Justice

Service and Learning around climate change mitigation, biodiversity restoration, advocacy, and faith!

April 5, 2026 – RSVP Coming Soon

**NEW!****SUN**

Resurrection Service

A sunrise Easter Service in the Walter Scott Chapel with a message of resurrection amidst the Cathedral of Creation.

April 11, 2026 – RSVP Coming Soon



[All 2026 Programming](#)

The Twelve Goats of Christmas

While Clayton takes some respite around the holidays, we have prescheduled social media and blog posts for each of the twelve days of Christmas with "The Twelve Goats of Christmas!" Be sure to check in on the camp's blog or our social media each day at 10AM Central for a 'unique' take on each of our twelve goats!

[Check Out the Blog!](#)

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



Meet the Neighbors!



Meet another one of our neighbors, Eastern White Pine! The largest native pine tree in North America, Walter Scott has several white pines. While not traditionally found in this part of Illinois, it has been introduced and continues to grow well as a part of the ecosystem. Its bark feeds small mammals while its seeds feed several varieties of birds as well as deer. Next time you're at Walter Scott, wave to the Eastern White pine at the gate, one of our neighbors!

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

Plastic bottles or aluminum cans? Technically, both are recyclable. However, due to multiple factors beyond putting it in the recycling bin, plastic is less likely to be recycled into new products. On the other hand, the systems for recycling aluminum are effective. Choose aluminum. - 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.



