

## Greetings!

It seems impossible but we're two months into 2026. Temperatures are beginning to rise and we're seeing the first signs of spring beginning to poke forth. Blades of grass and the shoots of day lilies are greeting the sky as much of Creation awakens from its slumber. In this Lenten season it's a reminder of the hope we'll encounter on Easter morning.

At Walter Scott, February was a month of preparation, projects, and staffing. We continued preparation not just for this upcoming camping season but for all of our retreat guests and long range projects that require longer time frames to bring into fruition (think bigger conservation initiatives and planning for a future decades out). We also did several onsite projects, including finishing up our main hall bathroom remodel (final photos coming soon), building new chapel benches, and enclosing our small North pavilion. I am very excited that we will be employing cooking and housekeeping staff at Walter Scott this year for our retreat seasons, so in February we were getting the paperwork done and them familiar with the facility.

In the months to come we're excited to have our friends from DeColores back for another two weekends of spiritual retreat, reflection, and community. Soon afterwards we'll celebrate the resurrection of Christ with an outdoor Easter morning sunrise worship at Walter Scott (you're invited!) Then it's our Legacy Circle event where we'd love to celebrate this place that means so much to many of us as we plan to care for it in the long term!

We can't wait to see you soon!

**Peace on the Journey,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clayton Summers'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Resident Minister and Caretaker

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**Join the Legacy Circle**

**WALTER SCOTT**  
CAMP & LEARNING CENTER

**SUN, APRIL 19, 2026 2-4 PM**  
**AT THE**  
**MACKINAW VALLEY VINEYARD**

Complimentary Food & Drink

Fun with Friends of Walter Scott

Hear about the impact of this Holy Ground

**JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE**

**CONSIDER AN END-OF-LIFE GIFT**  
**TO THIS SACRED PLACE**

CampWalterScott.org/LegacyRSVP



If there's one thing to take away from this edition of the Forest & Fables, it's that we want you to be part of our Legacy Circle. We want to ensure the impact of this place continues for generations ahead - and that doesn't happen without all of us.

If you're able, we would love you to join us at the Mackinaw Valley Vineyard on Sunday, April 19, 2026 from 2-4PM to hear from the Christian Church Foundation how you can make an End-of-Life gift and join our Legacy Circle. With designated gift policies in place, we can ensure your gift goes towards the mission of Walter Scott. At the event, there's no pressure involved, just an invitation. We'll have free food and drink, plenty of folks who love Walter Scott together, and a chance to hear how this Holy Ground continues to connect ourselves, God, and the rest of Creation. We hope you consider joining us!

[RSVP for the Legacy Circle Event](#)

## Register for Camp!

**SUMMER 2026 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

**SUMMER AT WALTER SCOTT**

**WALTER SCOTT**  
CAMP



Summer camp registrations are open! Take the time today to consider sending a youth in your life to camp or coming as an entire family! Check out all the opportunities for camp at Walter Scott by clicking the button below. As a reminder, we have scholarships available and if a child wishes to attend, we will make certain they are able to do so - just send us an email!

Learn More & Register!

## Sunrise Worship @ Walter Scott!

Resurrection Service

Easter Sunrise - 6:30AM

FEATURING



Please join us for an inclusive, non-coercive worship experience grounded in hope and love



WALTER SCOTT

LOVE  
at the Walter Scott  
Camp & Learning  
Center

CAMP & LEARNING CENTER

Rev. Dr. William E.  
Crowder, Jr.

15290 E. 300 Ave.  
Dieterich, IL 62424

Please consider joining us for an inclusive, non-coercive worship experience grounded in hope and love at the Walter Scott Camp & Learning Center (6:30AM)! Whether you're a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the member of another faith tradition, or just interested in this experience, we will happy to be able to share this time with you.

We are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. William E. Crowder, Jr., the current Regional Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL, WI, & MI! Dr. Crowder will bring the sermon alongside his deep commitment to justice and a passion for community transformation.

You won't want to miss this experience!

(In the case of adverse weather, worship will take place inside the main hall at Walter Scott with a full view through our windows of light entering the world still).

Refreshments to follow the service - worship will last approximately 45 minutes.

Facebook Event (Optional)

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## ICYMI: Hoof Trimming & Mutuality





It once again was the time for our goats here at Walter Scott to get their hoofs trimmed. Goats have evolved living in rocky areas where their hoofs are filed down by the stone over time, but in environments like our forest they need a pedicure every three to four months. This maintains their natural hoof shape, distributes their weight correctly and helps prevent a host of other health problems. Without nerves in in their hoofs, this is a painless process for the goats and one they actually do enjoy (once it is over).

Hoof trimming however is not just a benefit to the goats, but to those who do it as well. We build a closer relationship with the other-than-human Creation when we do this work. When summer campers get a chance to try out the process or other goat care activities, they are growing closer to another part of God's Creation and living practically into stewardship. This is the deeper relationship of mutuality that calls our collective memory back to the first vocation for humanity in Genesis. You are invited to find ways to live into relationships of mutuality with the other-than-human Creation where you reside as well.

P.S. In the spring/summer, we'll get video of the actual trimming when its not cold and wet like it was this go around

[Check Out the Blog!](#)

## 2026 Spring Workday: April 18, 2026



Our list of projects grows and contracts with the seasons, but it never runs dry! We can promise that if you come to a workday, whatever skills you bring, there will be opportunities to put them to use. We need the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, organization, cleaning, cooking, are more!

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!

## National Faith & Climate Forum

Saturday, April 25

# 2026 National Faith + Climate Forum

Open to:  
Multi-Faith groups, green teams,  
youth groups and more!

[nationalfaithandclimateforum.org](http://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org)



Register Now!

🌿 Exciting News! We're hosting the National Faith + Climate Forum 2026 at Walter Scott on April 25th. Join us for dynamic discussions, practical workshops, and opportunities to act. Together, let's lay the groundwork for lasting change within our faith communities. Register now (it's free)!

## Look Ahead to 2026!

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

### April 5, 2026 – Mark Your Calendars!

**NEW!**

## SUN Resurrection Service

A sunrise Easter Service in the  
Walter Scott Chapel with a

message of resurrection amidst  
the Cathedral of Creation.

**April 18, 2026**

**SAT**

### **Workday**

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

**April 19, 2026**

**NEW!**

**SUN**

### **Legacy Circle Launch**

Join us at the Mackinaw Valley  
Vineyard for an afternoon of  
complimentary food, drink, and  
community to consider an end of  
life gift to Walter Scott

**April 25, 2026 – RSVP Forthcoming**

**NEW!**

**SAT**

### **Faith & Climate Forum**

Interactive sessions, inspiring  
keynotes, and practical resources  
for this nationwide event  
equipping people of faith.

**May 22-25, 2026**

**FRI-**

### **Family Camping**

Bring all the family for a low-  
programmed weekend of

MON

camping at our beautiful facility.

All 2026 Programming

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



**Beyond Walter Scott...**



Every year World Wetlands Day is celebrated around the world on February 2nd. This year's theme is "Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage." The global campaign spotlights the timeless role of traditional knowledge in sustaining wetland ecosystems and preserving cultural identity. Wetlands are incredibly valuable not only for the species that live and thrive there but for all living things on this planet. Wetlands are an integral part of God's creation and protecting and preserving them for future generations is one of our callings at Living Coast Ministries.

Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of CITES shared this important message about World

Wetlands Day. “Wetlands are more than ecosystems, they are story keepers. They carry the traditions, practices and wisdom of communities who have lived alongside them since the beginning of time. This year's theme, Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge, Celebrating Cultural Heritage, reminds us that conserving wetlands also means conserving the cultural identity woven into them.”

As we approach World Wetlands Day 2026, under the theme ‘Celebrating cultural heritage,’ we recognize the vital role wetlands play in preserving traditional wisdom and practices, sustaining biodiversity, climate resilience and water security. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to protecting these essential ecosystems. Wetlands are not just natural resources—they are foundational to our shared future. Let’s come together to protect and restore them, ensuring their benefits for generations to come.

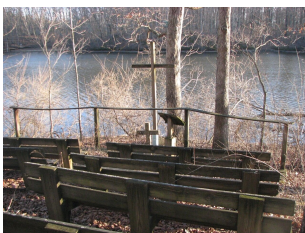
Harbor Christian Church has established Living Coast Ministries to focus on the interconnection between the natural marine world and the divine. The Living Coast Theologians we host enjoy a week-long summer residential program at Harbor Christian Church in Newport Beach, California. Harbor is located just across the street from the Upper Newport Back Bay. Being located in coastal Southern California gives us access to many wild places that most people never have the opportunity to experience. Living Coast Ministry at Harbor supports participants in visiting these natural wonders while helping to develop an ecological spirituality. What do we mean by ecological spirituality? Throughout the week, each group enjoys hands-on experiences that deeply connect them to the surrounding ocean and shoreline ecology. Each evening participants are led in discussions, sacred experiences and activities that support them in crafting their unique ecological lens on spirituality. In other words, Living Coast Ministry brings together real world experience and the sacred, allowing participants to ask new questions of their faith and to open to more expansive experiences of the divine.

We love the opportunity to host youth groups and their chaperones from all over the country. To date we have hosted groups from Minnesota, Colorado, Kentucky and Maryland as well as local groups from Southern California. Our Living Coast Ministry team would love to hear from and potentially host you and your group. If you would like more information on Living Coast Ministry in Newport Beach please click the following link.

[Living Coast Ministry](#)

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## Sowing Wild Seeds



[Ways to Give](#)



[Book Your Group](#)



[Wishlist](#)

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## The Land Beneath Our Feet



### Quick Creation Care Tip

Remember energy was used to produce all of the goods we consume, including food. Simply, **reduce consumption in general**, don't waste anything, and eat lower on the food chain, and you will save energy. - 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.*

