

GREEN TEAM

MISSION:

Recognizing that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church declared “restoring creation as a central concern of the church to be incorporated into its life and mission at every level.”

We commit:

- to inspire members to respond as humble stewards of God’s gift of creation, protecting and restoring it for its own sake and for the future use and enjoyment of all creatures.
- to provide members with information and educational resources to preserve God’s creation.
- to network with neighboring congregations and community organizations to promote stewardship of God’s creation.
- to incorporate tender care for God’s creation throughout the FPC community, including our worship services, educational programs, outreach, and service to the community and the buildings and grounds.

GREEN TEAM MEMBERS:

Darlene Berry (elder, co-chair), Sue Nelson (co-chair), Barb Gillespie (co-chair), Sarah Hanson, Jamie Siorek, Janet Wolfe, Sharon Kostroski (secretary ex-officio)

GREEN TEAM FRIENDS:

Rebecca Bartow, Gisele Berninghaus, Mark Borchardt, Kamie Buddemeier, Janet Crossley, Patty Faber, Jan Frauenheim, Kay Iwanski, Sharon and Gene Kostroski, Ted Krohn, Gil Nimm, Christy Rens, Ellen Stanley, Gwen Stone, Dennis Suckow, Gerri Toyama

FOCUS AREAS:

The team worked to maintain our current projects. Because the team is small, a big focus for us in 2024 was on the development of a “Friends of the Green Team” group to share the load of maintaining our current projects and provide energy to possibly explore new endeavors. We reduced our monthly meetings to six times annually. We also discussed what projects, if any, should be discontinued. Because many of the non-food items we sell in our kiosk are now readily available in stores and/or online, we made a decision to sell off our products at half price. With the additional space we will have, the team will explore other Fair Trade food items to offer. Another idea for this space has been discussed with the Deacons and will be presented to the congregation early in 2025.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Developed “Friends of the Green Team” including the hosting of a pizza party for recruitment of “friends”. They began their roles assisting us in the maintenance of our numerous projects.

- Held a Prairie Walk/Tour to celebrate three years of growth.
- Designed two beautiful educational prairie signs which were then made and installed.
- Ordered and installed two benches for prairie observation and relaxation. Inspirational quotations on plaques were added to the benches.
- Planned and assisted with the luncheon for the Solar Panel Dedication Sunday.
- Donated panels for the solar array.
- Donated a “Bee Share” in honor of Pastor Laurie and her contribution to our team.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Maintained the following projects:
 - Disbursement of tree coupons to welcome baptized babies, confirmands and other new members, and to thank forum speakers. For each coupon a tree is planted in a national park.
 - Management and maintenance of the community gardens.
 - Participation in annual rummage sale, including planning and hosting a lunch for workers.
 - Maintenance of the butterfly garden and little free library on the northwest corner of the property.
 - Sterilizing juice cups instead of using disposable cups each Sunday.
 - Regular update of our Green Team page on the church website by ad hoc member, Jamie Siorek.
 - Continued practice of hosting Forums for All - for 2024: “Living in the Eye of the Storm” (Terry Gillespie), “Recycling Right” (Amanda Haffele from Portage County Recycling Center).
 - Sustainability Kiosk (Fair Trade food and non-food items)
 - Recycling Kiosk
 - Contributed four articles for First Press.
 - Received Earth Care Certification for our 12th year.
 - Placed weekly Green Tips in the E-blast.
 - With Pastor Laurie, planned the Earth Day Sunday service, including a Discovery Time and rain stick project for the children.

SUMMARY:

In summary, the Green Team is especially proud of our 12 years as an Earth Care Congregation. We believe our accomplishments have helped with the growth of our church family. We have developed a positive reputation throughout the community as an Earth-friendly church. We also believe we have helped influence all of our congregation’s committees to be mindful of their practices, to be sure they are ‘green’. In 2024 solar panels became a reality. Another special committee established and executed the plan, but several years prior the Green Team planted the seed for this project and is elated to see the array come to fruition.