

March 11, 2021

Dear Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church,

Congratulations on certification as an Earth Care Congregation! The steps your congregation has taken to care for God's earth are inspiring!

As we imagine has also been true for you over the last year, working remotely and budget impacts have led us to acknowledge your achievements in a different way. In a normal year, you would receive this certificate as part of a mailed packet that would include a few resources along with a certificate affirming your status as an Earth Care Congregation until February 2022. In 2021, we will only be sending virtual notifications and certificates.

As an Earth Care Congregation, you may now use the Earth Care Congregations seal to promote your commitment to earth care on your website, the church newsletter, t-shirts, etc., until the date that the certification expires. A press release has been prepared for your church to send to local media if you would like to publicize your Earth Care Congregation certification. This press release has been sent via email, and your church can fill in contact information before sending it to local media. We will also notify your presbytery of your certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

The Earth Care Congregation program is housed under the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and we believe that hunger, poverty, and environmental destruction are linked areas of concern, constantly interacting and impacting one another. Your congregation will receive our *PHP Post* twice a year, so you can keep up to date on other areas of our work as well.

We are here to help churches along their earth care journey. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Also, if you would ever like to share a story about earth care from your congregation, let us know!

The next application cycle will be January 1 - February 15, 2022. We will certify/recertify all congregations who meet the criteria and submit applications during those 6 weeks. Thank you for your commitment to caring for God's earth. I look forward to working with your church in the coming year.

Peace,
Jessica Maudlin Phelps
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