

## Creation Care Annual Report 2024

The “Green Team” was renamed “Creation Care Team” to align us with the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Our mission continues to be caring for God’s creation and working toward a healthy environment for all people. Our Covenant includes the statement: “We commit ourselves to education and to action to care for all of God’s creation, especially where there is inequity, suffering, and environmental degradation...it is vital that we take responsibility to protect the only home God has given to us.”



Here are our initiatives and accomplishments in 2024:

- One of our main initiatives was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Earth Day in April. We highlighted the national theme of plastic waste by setting up educational tables and showing short educational videos during church services in April. We provided netting bags to use for grocery produce instead of single-use plastic bags.
- We planted 72 native plants under the three dedicated oak trees on the north side of the church. These “oak guild” plants have a symbiotic relationship with the oak trees, encouraging beneficial insects and thus supplying food for birds. We also planted ground-cover phlox and spread mulch around the church main entrance, which will help mitigate erosion.
- Julie Woodward published a Creation Care Tip of the Week every week in the Pulse, beginning in March.
- Thanks to Mike Flaherty, McFarland UCC now has a sign attached to the McFarland Community Garden sign, recognizing that the Garden exists “In Partnership with McFarland UCC, a Church With Heart.”
- Donna Grossman, Becky Cohen and Kathy Schwenn attended the UCC Conference on June 7-8.

- We obtained an oak tree from Wes Licht and planted it in one of the prairie plots in memory of Calvin Swenson.
- Geoff Brink prepared two new prairie plots and then organized the spreading of seed and straw in November.
- We partnered with Heather Drake, a high school junior who is working on her Gold Award Girl Scout Project. She organized the planning, preparing, seeding and straw covering for two large prairie plots near our current plots.
- Jayne Fischer, Geoff Brink and Martha Olsen attended the Sustain Dane Summit on November 8.