

Stockton United Methodist Church Creation Care Ministry Report, 2023

Our Creation Care Ministry accentuates God’s immense love for and presence throughout creation. It enables us to see connections between our faith and environmental issues. It inspires creation-respecting lifestyle choices that set right our relationships with each other, with God, and with the earth.

Key to Abbreviations	
SAMA—Stockton Area Ministerial Alliance	SUMC—Stockton United Methodist Church
UWF—United Women in Faith	UMM—United Methodist Men

Question 23: Number of persons served [including members and nonmembers] by community [Creation Care] ministries for outreach, justice, and mercy. Enter the total estimated number of persons served by or who attended ministries counted in Line 21 (on page 6). **11,652**

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
January - December	“Proud to be Styrofoam-Free!” Used NO Styrofoam cups during Sunday morning fellowship or congregation meals.	70
	With a goal of low-waste (ideally zero-waste) SUMC meals, used re-usable plates, silverware, glasses, cups, etc. to serve all SUMC meals; washed re-usable dishes afterward.	100
	Washed Sunday morning fellowship coffee cups and water glasses, composted coffee grounds.	15
	UWF Bereavement Committee served all funeral meals using our re-usable plates, bowls, glasses, cups, silverware, etc.	105
	Collected and delivered SUMC-generated aluminum pans and foil to city recycling center.	40
	Composted pastor’s coffee grounds regularly through June.	1
	UMM collected aluminum cans for recycling and delivered a pickup load of 6-7 (55-gallon) barrels to Scott’s Recycling, near Fair Play, typically 2 times per month, a 30-mile round trip.	200
	Collected beverage cans and bottles from Activity Hall and Family Life Center; delivered to UMM recycling barrels and city recycling center.	50
	Collected ~400 single-use plastic grocery bags to reuse to bag Christmas Baskets’ grocery gifts.	40
	Collected paper and cardboard from office (pastor, administrative assistant, volunteers), kitchen, and choir room; delivered to city recycling center.	20
	Collected and recycled Sunday bulletins (estimate 40/Sunday x52 weeks)	40
	Trustees continued replacing T8 fluorescent tubes with LED tubes throughout SUMC facility to reduce our carbon emissions, to move toward net zero emissions by 2050 . Recycled 44 fluorescent tubes at Computer Recycling Center.	90

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
January - December	Added to 3-year old Pollinator Victory Garden on SUMC grounds: a donated custom-built wood gate, a welded seat, and planted an herb garden in a donated sand box: thyme, basil, oregano, sage and lavender. Gave away fresh cut herbs to congregation in the fall. Added 46 plants, mostly perennials or reseeding biennials/annuals, including: Columbine (pastels); Columbine <i>aquilegrat</i> (blue); Liatris, likely native (pink/purple); Beardtongue <i>Penstemon</i> "Red Socks" (rose); Jacob's Ladder <i>polemenium Brise d'Anjou caeruleum</i> (violet blue); Threadleaf <i>Coreopsis verticillate</i> "Sizzle and Spice" (red); Jupiter's Beard <i>centranthus</i> Pretty Betsy (red); Salvatore Meadow Sage <i>Salvia</i> (blue); Garden Phlox "Pink Flame;" and Pink Pom Pom <i>Dianthus</i> (hot pink). Nine volunteers donated roughly 150 hours of labor. (number served = those who labored and/or donated hardscape and visitors)	30
	Displayed two large unique SUMC Creation Care banners in visible SUMC locations to inspire people to do their part to care for God's good creation.	200
	Educated, reached out to community through 7 <i>Cedar County Republican</i> articles (assume served about 20% of ~1,011 circulation)	200
	Created, published SUMC Creation Care Ministry flyer for Narthex media rack.	20
January - July	Collected and shipped via UPS 687 pounds of used denim, mostly from the SAMA Thrift Store, to Zappos for recycling into building insulation. Zappos pays shipping. (assume each person served donated more than one item)	350
	Collected and delivered 517 pounds of worn denim (unsuitable for Zappos recycling) from SAMA Thrift Store to Bolivar Thrift Store, 50-mile round trip.	300
	Collected and delivered 74 pounds of used denim to Hope's Closet in Bolivar for resale opportunity.	
	Collected and gave to Donna and Pastor Bob Voels 49 pounds of wearable denim for the local Ministry Thrift Store in Trenton, Mo.	
	Collected for Terry Stracke nearly 50 pounds of wearable denim for the Thrifty Closet, a 27-year old store owned by Central Community UMC in Shell Knob, Mo.	
	Ebay denim sales: \$27.32 net, half donated to Go Green Team and half to SAMA Food pantry.	
	Room 211 remains full to capacity of used denim awaiting processing. (assume each person served donated more than one item)	
Altogether, kept 1,377 pounds of denim out of the landfill!		

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
February 5, 8	Hosted 7 th annual Light Bulb Recycling Drive. Collected 95 incandescent bulbs, 15 LED lamps, 39 1-4-ft. fluorescent tubes, 17 8-ft. fluorescent tubes, 2 U-tube lamps, 3 halogen lamps, and 1 CFL, 3 pounds of ballasts, and 21 pounds of miscellaneous electronics. Delivered to Computer Recycling Center, Springfield. Saved recyclers the 120-mile round trip.	18
February 8	Collected and delivered 17 strings of Christmas lights (including those collected during Light Bulb Recycling Drive) to Computer Recycling Center in Springfield. Saved recyclers the 120-mile round trip.	10
March 2	Set up large blue 4-chamber Glutton Recycling Station in the longtime recycling area in the hallway across from room 203, collection site for clean single-use grocery bags; SUMC-generated paper, paperboard, and corrugated cardboard; and SUMC-generated aluminum pans and foil. Unit gifted to Go Green Team in June 2022, value, \$1,261. (53"W x 23.5"D x 35-3/10"H; holds up to 92 gallons)	90
March 19	Presented Energy Audit punch list for new parsonage (709 N. Ward St., Stockton) to Church Council. Conducted by Jon Fitzhugh, Oct. 5, 2022, Jon estimated labor and parts for all of the upgrades identified would likely cost around \$4,000 to start saving energy costs immediately. Gave printed copy to Pastor (Bob) and Board of Trustees Chair. Informed the council that funds available to non-profits for energy upgrades through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act should cover about 33% of the costs.	14
March	Updated Creation Care Ministry content for SUMC Website, two pages.	40
March 2	Invited Go Green Team members to attend free 8-week webinar, "God, Country, Climate Change," hosted by Houghton University via Zoom, March 7- April 25, room 203.	3
April 9	To reduce mindless consumption of fossil fuel-based disposable tableware and to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfill, volunteers washed re-usable dishes after Easter breakfast.	60
April 16	To celebrate Earth Day, Creation Care Ministry led worship service, "Assignment: Tend and Keep Creation."	60

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
April 22	<p>To celebrate Earth Day, hosted 10th annual Electronics and Appliances Recycling Drive. Approximately 25 Go Green volunteers, including 7 Stockton High School Honor Society students, collected 6.355 tons (12,710 pounds) of electronics and appliances and barrels-full of cords and other small items, which Meredith Recycling hauled to their facility in Montrose, Mo.</p> <p>Collected 211 pounds of 10 kinds of small batteries, roughly a 13-gallon bag full of ink and toner cartridges, and a 12-inch stack of CDs, delivered to Computer Recycling Center in Springfield.</p> <p>Collected roughly 160 cubic feet of pristine clean EPS foam packaging material, delivered to Foam Fabricators in El Dorado Springs to make new EPS foam products.</p> <p>Paid to recycle three flat-screen TVs that donors could not afford to recycle.</p> <p>Saved members of the community 120-mile round trip transportation cost if they were to deliver their own recycling to Springfield and 40-mile round trip transportation cost if they were to deliver their used EPS foam to El Dorado Springs. (served 145 households)</p>	290
April 22	Published, distributed updated paper copies of Stockton City Recycling Center flyer to every driver entering our Electronics and Appliances Recycling Drive.	290
May 6	North Carolina Conference of the UMC hosted “Redeeming Creation,” a free daylong seminar/webinar for Christians of all walks of life to gather, deepen their faith, and renew their commitment to caring for God’s creation.	1
May 11-13	Semi-annual UWF rummage sale: collected, recycled flattened corrugated cardboard boxes, paper, plastic bags from donations, wire and metal, some dead electronics and appliances; composted coffee grounds; recycled four ink/toner cartridges.	20
May 20	To reduce mindless consumption of fossil fuel-based disposable tableware and to reduce the amount going to our landfill, volunteers washed dishes after the Faithful Servants’ Sunday School Class Fish Fry/Potluck.	43
July 18	Interfaith Power & Light partnered with several faith organizations, including Global Ministries of the UMC to present a webinar, “ Climate and Energy Resources for Faith Communities: A Briefing with the U.S. Department of Energy. ” The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) created the largest climate and clean energy investment America has ever made. These bills provide federal funding for energy and climate resiliency improvements that can be used in houses of worship and our homes, including our parsonage.	1

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
July - October	Hosted, provided signage for annual Sharing the Harvest festival where gardeners share excess produce with church family after Sunday worship.	25
July 31	Delivered 19 printer cartridges (6 pounds) and a handful of wire bread ties collected in SUMC recycling cabinet to Computer Recycling Center, Springfield, saving others the fuel cost and carbon emissions of the 120-mile round trip.	10
August 4-5	For the 10 th year, collected, recycled packaging waste at Back-to-School Fair. Set out 2 can/bottle recycling units around circle drive and 1 inside cafeteria; collected 19 plastic water bottles (removed caps). The volume of waste was noticeably less than in the past. Nine Go Green volunteers flattened corrugated cardboard boxes that filled about 2 SUVs, collected three-fourths of a 60-gallon trash bag of paper and paperboard, and only a handful of plastic bags, down from about a 30-gallon bag-full last year. Delivered cardboard and paper to city recycling center and bags to Walmart for recycling. <u>Only two-thirds of a 90-gallon trash bag ended up going to the landfill</u> at the end of this 2-day event! (served 565 students + estimated parents, staff)	1,200
August 16	To reduce mindless consumption of fossil fuel-based disposable tableware and to reduce the amount going to our landfill, UWF washed dishes at Stockton R-1 Teacher and Staff Appreciation breakfast. (number served includes SUMC volunteers)	109
August 29	Invited Go Green Team to observe Bennington College's "Beyond Plastics Pollution" 7-week course via Zoom, Sep. 6-Oct. 18, Cheryl's office.	1
September 4	Delivered 44 4-ft. SUMC fluorescent and LED tubes to Computer Recycling Center, Springfield, for recycling.	90
September 26	North Carolina Conference of the UMC hosted 1-hour "Energy Use and God's Creation" webinar: measures individuals and congregations can take to save energy and reduce carbon waste, renewable and sustainable energy options, and how the Bible and God's teachings connect to our power bills.	1

Date	Event/Action	Persons Served
September 28-30	Recycling was up at the 63 rd Black Walnut Festival—collected roughly 24 (42-gallon-size) bags of beverage containers! For the fifth year, Go Green volunteers set out 18 recycling units, 12 monitored them during the three-day festival. Hauled roughly 21 full bags out of the park, regrettably, three unsorted bags were accidentally picked up as trash. Eight volunteers devoted about an hour to sort all of the aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, one-by-one from waste contamination, including emptying bottles and removing lots of caps. Sorting revealed 17 bags of plastic bottles and about a dozen glass bottles, delivered to the city recycling center; 3 bags of aluminum cans delivered to the UMM recycling barrels, leaving about 3-gallons of waste destined to the landfill. This year’s cap collection—about three gallons—went to a church in Texas for delivery to Mexico to fund childhood cancer treatment in local communities.	6,000
October 5-7	Semi-annual UWF rummage sale: collected, recycled half a pickup load of flattened corrugated cardboard boxes, 4 medium boxes of paper, a medium sized bag of plastic bags from donations; composted coffee grounds.	25
October 8	Invited extended Go Green Team to a holiday tour of the Askinosie Chocolate Factory in Springfield to learn about their sustainable, Fair-Trade chocolate sourcing and manufacturing.	0
October 13	Delivered unsold items from UWF Rummage Sale (a typewriter/word processor, stereo and 2 speakers, 2 gallons of cords, cables, and mice; a single speaker, and a plastic hose reel) to Computer Recycling Center. Saved donors the fuel cost and carbon emissions of the 120-mile round trip.	6
November 23	SUMC served a traditional Thanksgiving Day dinner with all of the sides and desserts, served all eat-in meals on our re-usable plates, bowls, glasses, cups, silverware, etc.	103
November 23	SUMC served Thanksgiving Day carry-out meals in Eco-friendly disposable, compostable clamshells made from renewable wheat straw fiber or sugarcane bagasse rather than Styrofoam: 6”x6” compostable clamshells for hot and cold foods, no PFAS added. Vender: https://greenpaperproducts.com/ .	73
December 16	Reused estimated 400 Woods’ single-use plastic grocery bags donated to SUMC plastic bag recycling unit to bag Christmas Basket grocery gifts. (served 107 family units)	338
21. Total <i>estimated</i> number of persons served during 2023		11,652

Question 24: How many individuals participated on behalf of your church in [Creation Care] ministries that intend to transform people in your local community, the region and the world?

Number of Creation Care Ministry volunteers/workers: **34**

Submitted by Cheryl Y. Marcum
SUMC Creation Care Ministry leader