

Grace Creation Care

March, 2025

Living into Lent and Spring Emerges!



Loving Formation

The garden is our oldest metaphor. In Genesis God creates the first *Adam* from the *Adamah*, and tells him to “till and keep” it, the fertile soil on which all life depends. Humans from Humus. That’s our first etymological clue as to the inextricable bond we share with the soil. Our ecological problems are a result of having forgotten who we are – soil people, inspired by the breath of God. “Earth’s hallowed mould,” as Milton referred to Adam in *Paradise Lost*. Or in Saint Augustine’s phrase, *terra animata* – animated Earth.

-Fred Bahnson, *Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith*, found in *Seasons of Wonder*, by Bonnie Smith Whitehouse, p. 86.

Liberating Advocacy

Composting Locally: If you, your family and friends or organization is interesting in local composting you can connect with Eighth Day Farm which has two locations in Holland.

Eighth Day is a non-profit urban farm in Holland MI. They invest in growing practices that build and care for the land (and) we work and grow food that nourishes and sustains people in our community. We see that food brings people together and a long term care for the land is the foundation of resilient community.



If you are interested in their composting program you can contact them at: <https://www.eighthdayfarm.org/our-farm/> for more details of their composting program!

Life-giving Conservation – Earth Day, 2025 is on Monday, April 22!

In 2025, we celebrate the 55th anniversary of Earth Day. To mark this milestone, we invite everyone to support Earth Day’s 2025 theme: **OUR POWER, OUR PLANET™**. Let’s unite in our collective global commitment to renewable energy, whether it’s solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal or tidal – to generate clean electricity for everyone.

YOU MIGHT KNOW THE 3 Rs — REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE — BUT WE SUGGEST 3 MORE:

REMOVE: Pick up trash in your neighborhood and when visiting parks and beaches. Check local safety guidelines first, and always use gloves!

REFUSE: This one's simple: Just make a habit of saying "No straw, please," and "I brought my own cup, thanks." It's a small step, but an easy way to see what you can live without.

RALLY: Does your city or state have bans on single-use plastics? Send a letter or call your local elected leaders, urging them to ban plastic bags and other single-use plastic items.

From: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>

Loving Creation

Loving and Lamenting with all Creation!

On Good Friday, April 18th at 12:00 noon, join with members and friends of Grace and walk the Stations of Creation which coincide with walking The Stations of the Cross. (In Grace sanctuary!)

