



August 16, 2020

50 - 50 - 50 Challenge

Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today. It involves many dimensions and is a global problem. However, it is felt on a local level and there are solutions that any one of us and our churches can do. The PSEC Climate Justice Working Group invites churches to commit to doing something "green".

The Working Group challenges 50 PSEC churches to make a commitment to do something to mitigate climate change in the coming months. Churches can take on garden-planting, recycling, composting, tree planting, and/or preaching about caring for the earth. It only takes a couple of people to listen to climate webinars at ucc.org or read one of many books. For a list of churches that have made a commitment, suggestions for actions your congregation can take, more information, and a form you can use for your church to accept the challenge, visit psec.org/green.



PSEC Church Highlighted in UCC Keeping You Posted

Mission Trip Birdsboro

Hundreds of church volunteers converged on almost two dozen worksites in southeast Pennsylvania last week, helping homeowners as part of Mission Trip Birdsboro.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Birdsboro, which launched the mission of service in 2014, is now working in partnership with several other local congregations to share ministry in their community.



"Mission Trip Birdsboro was initially started to help those within our own area instead of traveling to different parts of the country or world," said Dawn Fear, one of the original organizers and now chair of the leadership team. "We spread hope and love in our communities and like our theme 'Unbroken', we show God's unbroken spirit."

"Mission Trip Birdsboro is about taking time to attempt to be more Christ-like in our actions. We can show love for our neighbors and help those with needs," said Stuart Wells, a member of the leadership team and another initial organizer. "Let those outside of church see what it means to strive to follow what Christ taught—to emulate Christian love, service to others, forgiveness, and faith."

Pandemic, protests prompt a pivot

Over the course of three days, more than 100 volunteers tackled dozens of projects at 23 sites from Wednesday, July 22, through Friday, July 24, with a wrap-up worship service and celebration on Saturday. Flexibility and perseverance in the face of adversity guided the mission in 2020, which completely had to shift focus because of COVID-19.

MLB was designed around inside projects, repairing people's homes after soliciting requests for assistance from the community. This year, the pandemic prompted project planners to rethink their entire process.

We knew that going ahead as usual or canceling were not options. We need to do it, in spite of COVID, just as we knew there were things to be done," Wells said. "People have needs, with added stress and isolation. Even if things were locked down, we could pray for people." So the Mission team began rethinking the work in March, meeting on Zoom instead of around a conference table, sharing information on the MTB Facebook page.

"This year the theme is 'Unbroken,' staying true and adapting mission trip to make it work for the pandemic," Wells said. "We had to revamp how it's done. Everything looks different, with masks, and social distancing. Motivation has remained the same. There's still enthusiasm to do the work."

For the entire story go to: https://www.ucc.org/kyp_god_s_hands_at_work