

God created and is creating. In Genesis 2:15 the Lord God put humans in the garden to till it and keep it, and in Genesis 9:13 God set His bow in the clouds as a sign of an everlasting covenant between God, humankind, and every living creature. John Wesley in Sermon 51 "The Good Steward" says "We are now God's stewards. ... We are not at liberty to use what God has lodged in our hands as we please, but as God pleases, who alone is the possessor of heaven and earth and the Lord of every creature."

In our baptisms, we affirmed that we accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. This includes participating in God's healing of creation and practicing better stewardship of what God entrusted to us. And as noted in The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (2016); Social Principles; The Natural World: *"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. ... God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. ... Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation."*

The 2009 Pastoral Letter titled "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action" from the Council of Bishops of The United Methodists includes *"God has entrusted [creation's] care to all of us, but we have turned our backs on God and on our responsibilities. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride has fostered:*

- *Pandemic poverty and disease*
- *Environmental degradation, and*
- *The proliferation of weapons and violence.*

*Despite these interconnected threats to life and hope, God's creative work continues. Despite the ways we all contribute to these problems, God still invites each one of us to participate in the work of renewal. We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds. We cannot help the world until we change our way of being in it."*

We hope and pray that resources provided through this website help build awareness and renewal of our hearts and minds as well as enhance the desire to be better stewards of God's creation. Don't forget: We educate to advocate. By this we mean **we learn so that our faith might be transformed into a lived faith.** We are called to put into action God's call to us.

Please note: The leadership, staff, and people of BUMC may or may not agree with the opinions expressed by these authors and content creators. We do not list them as a statement of where BUMC stands as a whole on matters of caring for God's creation. Rather, we link them here as what we hope are great Christ-centered conversation starters. We encourage you to think critically about the history, concepts, science, and language introduced in these resources. Our goal is to bring us closer to God and one another.