



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Bedford Presbyterian Church is Certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation**

Bedford, NH—Bedford Presbyterian Church (BPC) was recently certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2026. The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that commit to taking seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Since its inception in 2010, this PC(USA) national program is celebrating 15 years of certifying churches and celebrating environmental ministry across four significant areas of a congregation's life: worship, education, facilities, and outreach in the community.

Earth Care Congregations exist as strong community partners in their own areas and models for Presbyterian congregations nationwide. One of the goals of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth holistically by integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. By the time a church has recertified for several years, the earth care ethic becomes ingrained in a congregation's culture, spreads to the surrounding community, and impacts the personal lives of individual church members.

Obtaining this status speaks to the serious commitment that Bedford Presbyterian Church has made to caring for God's earth. In addition, the church is breaking ground this month on its Bright Hope for Tomorrow solar panel renewable energy project, which will reduce its electricity costs by approximately 86 percent and further reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. Visit [bedfordpresbyterian.org/bright-hope-for-tomorrow](https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/bright-hope-for-tomorrow) for details.

"Our Earth Care certification reflects our deep belief that caring for creation is an essential expression of our faith and love for God and neighbor," said The Reverend Doctor John Sawyer, Pastor of Bedford Presbyterian Church.

"Bedford Presbyterian Church is just one of the 361 congregations in 41 states that dedicated themselves to the intentional care of God's earth this year. Ten percent of those like Bedford Presbyterian Church are certifying for the first time in 2025.) This denominational program for churches has lasted longer and been more successful than other models we've seen that are less rigorous and more resourced. And it's the individual churches that deserve all the credit for the program's success. Our Earth Care Congregations are vital parts of their communities and unrivaled witnesses to caring for



God's creation, and we are so thankful for their work in the world," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information about Bedford Presbyterian Church's earth care program, contact Elizabeth Evarts at [bevarts@bedfordpresbyterian.org](mailto:bevarts@bedfordpresbyterian.org) or call (603) 471-3968. For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program, visit [www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations).

**About Bedford Presbyterian Church.**

Founded in 1749, Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) has the oldest Presbyterian sanctuary in New Hampshire and the second-oldest chartered congregation. Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) has been the focal point for the faithful in Bedford and the surrounding areas since the mid-1700s. Today, Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) invites newcomers of all ages into their church family, seeking to serve the Lord with love, compassion, generosity, and humility. Learn more about Bedford Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) at [www.bedfordpresbyterian.com](http://www.bedfordpresbyterian.com).

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