***A Sacred Calling to Care for the Earth***

**Saturday, October 1, 8:30-4:00**

**at Franklin First United Methodist Church, 120 Aldersgate Way, Franklin, TN 37069 (near the intersection of Franklin Road and Mack Hatcher Parkway, entrance is off of Mack Hatcher about ¼ mile west of Franklin Rd.)**

**Sponsored by: Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (Nashville Chapter); Cumberland Harpeth Audubon Society; and Franklin First United Methodist Church**

The purpose of this conference is to equip participants to be effective care takers of the earth. The keynote speaker will be Matthew Anderson, national Vice President on Climate for the Audubon Society and board member of Interfaith Power and Light, a national faith-based organization dedicated to caring for the earth with a special focus on climate change and environmental justice. In addition to Matthew’s address, several workshops will be offered (listed below). Also tours of the garden and wildlife-friendly woods and meadows of the grounds of Franklin First United Methodist Church will be given. There will be fun educational activities on care for the earth for children ages 5 and up. The conference will conclude with a musical for all ages titled “The Council of Creatures,” in which different animals are portrayed sharing how they feel about what is happening to the earth and their habitats. A bird walk will take place at 7:30 a.m. before the conference starts (meet in the church parking lot). Cost for the conference is $15 for adults; $10 for youth and college/graduate students; and $5 for children 5 and up. Special family rate (see registration form). Registration fee includes lunch. Registration deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 28. Register at <http://bit.ly/asacredcalling> or go to Franklin First United Methodist Church website.

For additional information, contact Rev. Paul Slentz, Creation Care Ministry, Nashville District of The United Methodist Church [pslentz53@gmail.com](mailto:pslentz53@gmail.com) or Rev. Regina Proctor, pastor at Franklin First United Methodist, 615-794-2734.

**“Sacred Calling to Care for the Earth” Workshop Schedule**

**All Three Break-out Sessions**

* **Sustainable Practices -- Tour of Franklin First United Methodist Church Garden & Campus** 
  + **Lynn Wallace, Retired Environmental Management Consultant & Franklin First UMC Creation Care Team Advisor**
  + **Franklin First Creation Care Team Members**

**Session I: 10:30-11:30**

* **Plants for Birds: Improving Our Communities and Providing Habitat for Birds in a Changing Climate** 
  + **Matthew Anderson, Vice President for Climate, National Audubon Society**
* **Climate Change – Threat and Solutions**
  + **Daniel Joranko, Coordinator for Nashville District Creation Ministry of the United Methodist Church & Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School**
  + **John Williamson, Professor Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering, Vanderbilt University & Belle Meade United Methodist Church lay member**
* **Earth Care as a Justice Issue – Where Care for Creation and Love of Neighbor Intersect**
  + **Rev. Paul Slentz, Pastor for Creation Care and Environmental Justice, Nashville District Creation Care Ministry of the United Methodist Church**
  + **Tabitha Sookdeo, Community Organizer & Senior at Trevecca Nazarene University, studying Social Justice with Concentrations in Public Policy and Environmental Justice**

**Session II: 12:40-1:30**

* **Panel on Perspectives on Care for the Earth from the Abrahamic Religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity), participants:**
  + **Imam Ossama Bahloul, Resident Scholar of the Islamic Center of Nashville**
  + **Mr. Martin Sir, President of the Jewish Temple of Nashville, Congregation Ohabai Sholom**
  + **Father Wilfred Steinbacher, Catholic Priest, Glenmary Home Missioners**
  + **Moderator: Rev. Regina Proctor, Associate Pastor, Franklin First United Methodist Church**
* **Shared Urban Habitat – Models in Partnering for Stewardship**
  + **Suzanne Langley, Executive Director, Birmingham Alabama Audubon Society**

**Session III: 1:45-2:35**

* **Best Earth Care Practices for Houses of Worship**
  + **Chris Pamplin, Retired Health Care Professional, Member of Franklin First United Methodist Church Creation Care Ministry Team**
  + **Rev. Ryan Bennett, Pastor, Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Franklin, TN and with Blessed Earth Tennessee**
* **Earth Friendly Agriculture and Food Choices**
  + **Sizwe Herring, Executive Director, EarthMatters Tennessee**
* **Advocacy – Influencing Climate Related Policy (Community Solar; Energy Justice; Clean Energy)**
  + **Daniel Joranko, Coordinator for Nashville District Creation Care Ministry of the United Methodist Church & Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School**
  + **Brandi Prewitt, Solar Energy Advocate, Climate Nashville Action Team**