

Month of Creation Introduction and Background

Useful Website - <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-season-of-creation-united-methodist-resources-for-september-2015>

What is Creation Time?

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Orthodox Church's year, should be observed as a day "of protection of the natural environment". Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) urged churches to adopt a *Time for Creation* from **1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October**. This was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Romania in 2007, which recommended that the period "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change".

Creation Time in the UK

Since 2008 *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland* (CTBI) has compiled resources to encourage and assist churches to observe *Creation Time*. <https://ctbi.org.uk/creation-time-2015/>

Creation Time is an opportunity to spend a month focused on creation-centred spirituality and issues. We are not seeking to limit creation to a month in the year but to deepen our understanding and appreciation for creation as an integral part of our worship and discipleship. And through reflection to be called to positive action.

As Catholics we are very aware of the Christian cycle and seasons of the year. These days and times remember and honour the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ but how often do we reflect on the seasons themselves and who created them? How often do we reflect on creation itself, its purpose, design and the interconnected relationships between the whole of creation and its maker? How often do we reflect on the future of creation and who and what is threatening it now?

Creation in all of its forms has intrinsic value and all of it is sacred.
Creation is interconnected, a community of mutually dependent life, not merely for human use and benefit.
Creation is not passive, it has a voice which can be heard whenever it is violated.
Creation has a purpose, a dynamic cosmic design in which everything is created for a reason.
Creation has responsible partners, not rulers, so that diversity and balance are sustained.
Creation has resistance and actively resists abuse and disrespect.

It's time for climate justice

When creation is threatened, churches and Christians – that is all of us, are called to speak out and act as an expression of our commitment to life itself, justice and love. We are called to be honest about our responsibility for violating creation through consumption and complacency.

Action:

There are many forms of action we can take:

- a) Pray about environmental concerns and include creation praise and topical issues in our worship.
- b) Appreciate nature as it is and take time to enjoy its beauty and complexity.
- c) Raise awareness about the relationship between creation and other aspects of our creation community with our friends, family, work colleagues and in other places where we meet people.
- d) Write letters to our local MPs, local newspaper and contact our radio stations to highlight issues both local and national. Use social media to get our opinions across and support campaigns. Speak to our local churches, community groups and shops about green issues.
- e) Join a national campaign against climate change or to protect the environment such as:
Campaign against climate change - <http://www.campaigncc.org/>
For the Love of... Coalition - <http://fortheloveof.org.uk/>
Zero Carbon Britain - <http://zerocarbonbritain.com/>
or join a more local group and campaign on local issues.
- f) Volunteer time and expertise to a group (local or national) that is committed to caring for creation. Work with schools, universities, churches or community groups to raise awareness and take action.
- g) Buy locally where possible; recycle; discard less; keep and mend more; turn off lights and save energy, electricity and water thus reducing your bills.