Growing God's Garden Together: United Care for Bees, Butterflies, and Pollinators

Did you know...?

"We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope." The United Church of Canada. A New Creed.

Canada is home to ca. 800 species of native bees and 300 species native butterflies. These creatures are essential for the pollination of our fruits, vegetables, and flowers, bringing us an abundance of food and bounty of beauty.
This incredible diversity, shared by humans and other creatures, is an essential part of God's great plan for this planet.

POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP CANADA

BEES FOR PEACE

In Genesis 1, God creates the entire cosmos and everything within it, repeatedly declaring creation to be "good" and even "very good" (Gen. 1:1, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). Humanity, created in the image of God, is entrusted with caring for the abundance and goodness of terrestrial life (Gen. 1:26–28). The United Church of Canada connects environmental protection with justice and faith, teaching that humans are part of God's creation and have a responsibility to protect it.

Caring for our planetary home is our primordial occupation.

What can you do today to fulfill your divine commission?

Imagine a garden alive with bees, butterflies, birds, and blossoms.

Pollinators make it possible for flowers to bloom, fruits to ripen, and seeds to grow. Yet many are in decline because their homes are disappearing and they face increasing pressures from disease, pesticides, and climate change. A garden can be a sanctuary, offering safe harbour to these indispensable creatures.

Ideas for Our Church

Start a Bible study group to discover scripture's ecological wisdom.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you." Job 12:7–8

Give a sermon on the joy of creation.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalms 24:1-2

Have a celebration.

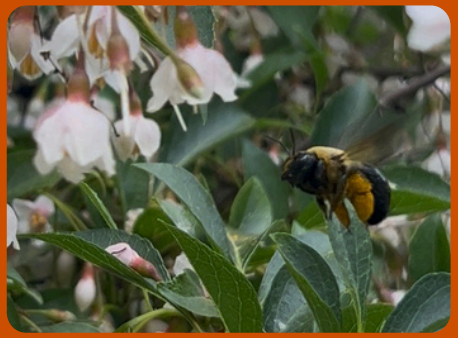
"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

Start a garden ministry.

Help cultivate your garden and educate your congregation.

Host a Bees For Peace summer camp.

Our curriculum is fun, interactive, and adaptable to programs from 1 hour to 1 week in length. https://www.beesforpeace.org/summer-camps.html



Nine Steps to Creating Your Own Bible Garden!

- Choose a sunny location.
- Determine whether soil is clay, sandy or loamy.
- Follow the 3 × 3 × 3 Rule: 3 species × 3 plants × blooms across 3 seasons.
- Plant native flowers.
- Add water and nesting places.
- Avoid pesticides.
- Share seeds during the Season of Creation.
- Leave stems and leaves for wildlife through winter.
- Determine who will care for the garden over time.

To find what plants are native to your area, scan the QR code and see our Native Bible Garden Template on the next page!

Native Plant Bible Garden Template

Canadian Template

The ecological relationships these native Canadian plants have with pollinators invite us to reflect on how each plant might harmonize with—and symbolize—our deeply rooted spiritual values. This template can inspire your community to contemplate together the relationship between your traditions and the ecological space we inhabit today—alongside other people, plants, and animals.

Prickly Rose

Love

Its bright colors and sweet scent act as a clear beacon for bees, butterflies, and pollinators looking for a quick meal.

Serviceberry

Generosity

The earliest bloomer, providing essential food for early emerging pollinators, deer and moose; is a host to a variety of butterfly larvae; and berries for birds.

Fireweed

Hope

A lifeline for pollinators as it pops up abundantly after wildfires, offering a massive, reliable wave of nectar when other food sources are gone. Its long-lasting blooms remind us to be hopeful during hardship.

Canada goldenrod

Reconciliation

Its abundant late-season blooms bring together pollinators at a time when other flowers are fading, symbolizing the healing of what has been divided.

For more inspiration, see
https://www.beesforpeace.org/native-plants-and-values.html

Photo credits - GAP Photos: Flower Photos, Pernilla Bergdahl, Jonathan Buckley, and Richard Wareham