



welcome to the
Christian
food movement

connect + engage + serve

January 2016

WWW.CHRISTIANFOODMOVEMENT.ORG

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Preface (second edition)

This Christian food movement is bigger than I knew.

In March 2015 I hit “Save as PDF” on a document I wasn’t sure anybody wanted. It was the first version of this guide, offered in answer to the question “Is there a Christian food movement?” It contained almost 100 organizations and resources listed together in one place for the first time. It wasn’t perfect, but it was an organized answer to that question.

Since last March, more than 300 people have downloaded the first guide to the Christian food movement. Given that it was created by one person working in her basement in her spare time, I’m considering it a pretty good record - especially with scant publicity. My favorite part was making some personal connections with people whose work was included. It turns out that not only is there a Christian food movement, it’s a pretty great place to find yourself.

In a somewhat foolish move, I promised to continue to keep the guide updated and send out new versions to those who provided their email address. It was foolish because I’ve only gotten busier: I’m now not only writing about the Christian food movement, but actively working on a few different Christian food movement projects myself.

But **this guide is needed**. I’ve learned that from the people who wrote to me to ask to be included. I’ve learned it from the people who wrote to me to thank me for the work. And most of all, I’ve learned it through continuing to watch our churches and our country struggle with the future direction of food.

Our churches recognize the mandate from God to care for Creation and to feed the hungry. Our country knows a cooler climate and healthier population require a more sustainable agriculture. We need a Christian food movement to pray for one another, learn together and inform the making of policy. We need a guide like this for only one reason: We need to know how to find one another.

Yes, there is a Christian food movement. *And it’s bigger than I knew.*

The guide now includes over one hundred seventy listings and three new sections. All new entries are marked with *** to indicate that they are an addition to the second version of the guide. All prior listings and links have been checked to ensure they are still accurate.

This version of the guide would never have occurred without the dedicated work of a summer intern, Abby Bok, a student at Candler School of Theology (Emory University). Why did she spend a portion of her summer working on the guide? In her own words:

I am a second year Masters of Divinity student hoping to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. Before seminary I worked on an organic vegetable farm for three years and realized the deep connections between food, our environment, and our call to be responsible stewards of the earth. Realizing this connection led me to the Episcopal church and then all the way to seminary.

I am inspired and grateful for all the work that has made this guide possible. Thank you to all who sent in suggestions for resources! So many of those resources led me to other resources, conversations, ideas, and news about the intersection of Food and Faith. This is truly a growing movement across denominations and it is wonderful to see so many people of faith stepping into the calling to care for creation.

From Abby's testimony it is plain to see that the Christian food movement is changing lives. I am grateful to be alongside you in it. And I am especially grateful that this version of the guide has grown. It does not yet contain every possible resource. Keep those suggestions coming.

I continue to be committed to stewarding the guide as a portion of my ministry. What started as a hobby project in a basement last spring has turned into more of my life's work than I could have imagined possible. It is a privilege to serve you.

One thing is clear: the [Churchwork](#) blog is insufficient to host this movement. So, as part of the farm-based ministry I'm starting (Plainsong Farm, a ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan) I purchased a new domain name for us: www.christianfoodmovement.org.

For now it just has this second version of the guide. But next - so much is possible.

Your sister in Christ,

The Rev. Nurya Love Parish

Preface (first edition)

Yes, there is a Christian food movement.

In these opening years of the twenty-first century, the need for a more sustainable food system has increasingly become a focus of our national conversation. As a Christian, sometime in the last decade I began to wonder:

How can we re-imagine food systems in a way that more clearly reflects God's reign?
Where are the Christians working for a better food system, and how can I join them?
Are there existing Christian food projects that I could replicate or adapt in my context?

I lived with these questions for a few years. While they remained unanswered, they only grew in importance.

Then I noticed I wasn't the only one asking them. In March 2014, Nigel Savage (founder of [Hazon](#) and one of the pioneers of the faith-based food movement) [said this](#):

I went into Google this afternoon, and in quote marks I typed 'Catholic Food Movement,' and there was one hit. I typed 'Christian Food Movement,' and there were two hits," [Nigel] Savage said last week at the Jewish Theological Seminary, during the kickoff event for Hazon's new Jewish Environmental Ethics Series. "I typed 'Jewish Food Movement,' and there were 81,300 hits.

Mr. Savage goes on to make the point that the Jewish community's embrace of the good food movement is widespread and significant. But when I read these words, I started seriously researching: *Is there a Christian food movement? If so, where is it?*

In November 2014, I started to try to answer that question with [a week of links](#) on my blog, [churchwork.com](#). A warm response to that effort led me to create this guide.

In seeking answers to these questions, I learned something important:

The Christian food movement may not be well organized. It may not always be self-aware. But Christians see the earth - from which all food comes - as God's good creation.

Christians realize that a sacred meal - holy communion - is one of our faith's central practices. Christians know that food is a gift from God for which we give thanks.

As Christians, we put faith into practice in a variety of ways. Some tend land as farmers and gardeners. Some feed hungry people as gleaners and growers. Some advocate for wiser policy choices. Some work in interfaith coalitions to shift local food systems. Some reflect and write on the meaning of food and faith. Some simply choose to grow and cook real food and share it.

Taken together, this work adds up to something big: *a Christian food movement*.

Yes, there is a Christian food movement. This guide is just the beginning of identifying some of the many disciples living their faith through action for a sustainable food system. But even this small effort is evidence of that large fact.

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One important note: though this guide has a Christian focus, it is not intended to disrespect the significant work being done by those of other faiths and no specific faith.

Christians too often have the reputation of being exclusive and judgmental. Though this guide is written by a Christian to connect Christian work, it is offered in a spirit of support and companionship for all who are working toward just and sustainable food systems.

If you are looking for interfaith resources, I commend the [Baltimore Food & Faith Project](#) to you. Their comprehensive website includes links to many resources from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, and other faith traditions.

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I included in this guide every organization and individual that I could find who is working at the specific intersection of Christianity and food. I hope to continue to update this guide and offer it as a service to the Christian food movement. I am confident it is not yet a complete listing of the work being done. Please help! If you have additions or corrections, email them to rev.nurya@churchwork.com. Thank you and bless you.

May this guide help Christians recognize the gifts we have to offer to God and neighbor. May it help us discover projects and partners with whom we can work as faithful disciples. And especially, may God so bless and multiply these efforts that all creation - from humus to humans - may give God glory.

International Organizations

The [Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance's Food for Life Campaign](#) is an international Christian movement to end hunger and create a sustainable food system.

*** [ECHO](#) is an information hub for development practitioners. They gather solutions from around the world that solve hunger problems and distribute that information to their network and teach farmers how to be more effective in their communities.

*** [Healing Hands International](#) is a Christian organization that offers multiple sustainable agriculture workshops. They teach composting, basic gardening, and irrigation techniques to home gardeners, missionaries, and church leaders.

*** [World Hunger Relief](#) (see Farms & Farm Based Organizations)

National Organizations

[A Rocha US](#) offers resources on sustainable food systems, including a downloadable garden manual: [Why Every Church Should Plant a Garden... And How](#). (Their sister organization, [A Rocha Canada](#), has some great programs including an annual [Good Seed Sunday](#) for churches.)

The [Circle of Protection](#) is composed of Christian leaders who are heads of denominations, agencies, organizations, and educational institutions. They are praying and organizing for a president who will make ending hunger and poverty a top priority of his or her administration.

[Blessed Earth](#), an educational nonprofit that inspires and equips people of faith to become better stewards of the earth, often integrates thinking on food and farming into their larger work of creation care.

*** [Blessed Tomorrow](#) offers a multitude of resources for leaders to get their faith groups involved in creation care. This link goes to their "Serve Local & Seasonal Food" resource.

*** [Bread for the World](#) encourages churches across the country to urge political leaders to make policies that will end hunger and poverty.

[Catholic Rural Life's Faith, Food & the Environment](#) project for 2014-2015 is exploring the state of agriculture in the U.S. and around the world — and whether we are on a just and sustainable path, or falling to the wayside with dire consequences.

*** [Center for Environmental Leadership](#) is an organization that responds to today's environmental challenges through sustainability, food, the environment, and educating tomorrow's leaders. They work with many Christian undergraduate colleges to educate future creation care leaders through their programming.

*** [Creation Justice Ministries](#) represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. They work with 37 denominations and faith groups to protect and restore God's creation. Their 2015 Earth Day guide was titled "[Have you anything here to eat?](#)" [Sustainable Food in a Changing Climate](#).

[Food Day](#) inspires Americans to change their diets and our food policies, providing an [action guide for faith communities](#).

[GreenFaith](#) offers resources for [Food and Faith](#), including a downloadable sustainable food guide for religious institutions called Repairing Eden.

[Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy](#) has published [Faith and Food: Action Strategies for Healthy Eating](#), available as a free download.

[National Farm Worker Ministry](#) is a faith-based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers.

[Society of St. Andrew](#) is a faith-based gleaning and hunger education organization with branches in multiple states.

[WhyHunger](#) offers [resources](#) exploring food, faith, and spirituality.

Regional Organizations

Looking for regional connections with Christianity and sustainable agriculture? In some regions, an organization is waiting for you. Most of these are interfaith organizations with a strong Christian component.

Northeast

In Baltimore, [Johns Hopkins University's Center for a Liveable Future](#) launched the [Baltimore Food and Faith Project](#). This is an interfaith project which has valuable resources for any congregation, including a toolkit to help congregations move toward better food policies and practices. (The collection of free resources this project provides is impressive!)

***The [Black Church Food Security Network](#) is an association of congregations, farmers, food advocates, and community activists working together to create an alternative food system in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

In New York, [Cornell University's Cooperative Extension](#) sponsors a [Faith-Based Food Hub program](#).

***In New York, the Food Justice Working Group of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies offers [a Tumblr blog](#).

Southeast

The [Memphis Center for Food & Faith](#) facilitates congregational workshops and helps to promote “foodways” for a thriving local economy.

The North Carolina Council of Churches sponsors [Partners in Health and Wholeness](#), an initiative which encompasses healthy eating and sustainable foodways, as well as [other programs focused on food](#).

Also in North Carolina, [Come To The Table](#) works to relieve hunger and strengthen just and sustainable agriculture in rural North Carolina. They do this by engaging and mobilizing people of faith, farmers and communities.

*** [Shalom Farms](#) in Richmond Virginia is a regional food access and community development project of United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond (UMUMR). Their goals are to increase access to healthy foods in the inner city, build community, and improve the self-sufficiency of those involved.

Midwest

Chicago's [Faith in Place](#) offers [farm-based and just eating programs](#).

*** The [Food and Justice](#) issue of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America "Let's Talk" journal includes theological reflection and resources focused on the Chicago area.

In Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, the [Churches' Center for Land and People](#) works to integrate earth stewardship, economic justice, community and spirituality around issues related to agriculture and food.

*** The [Community Bread Oven](#) sponsored by Hamline United Methodist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota offers "a unique place in our community where we all can slow down, create, strengthen relationships, and build connections. Slowing Down, Meeting Neighbors, and Baking Really Good Bread."

[Central Detroit Christian Community Development Corporation Farm & Fishery](#) is an indoor self-sustaining ecosystem that will provide fresh fish and vegetables to both individuals and restaurants in North Central Detroit, a neighborhood severely lacking in fresh food products. It's integrated with a larger community ministry that includes educational programs for all ages.

*** [Seed to Feed](#) is the gardening program of Church Community Services in Elkhart County, Indiana. This ministry works alongside a food pantry and food bank to address food security issues. In 2013 they produced nearly 150,000 pounds of local produce, meat, and eggs that were available to over 30 food pantries.

*** [Grace Seeds Ministry](#) in greater Chicago cultivates community while weeding out hunger, engaging partners in growing vegetables for food pantries, also offering liturgical resources and classes.

Southwest

*** [Austin Heights Baptist Church](#) in Nacogdoches, TX offers an Earth Care Ministry as part of their Missions program which shows films concerning food and faith, serves locally harvested food at the film showings, and sponsors other events at the intersection of food and faith.

*** [Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries](#) offers in-person and online theological education around issues of food justice and ecological sustainability. Authors/founders Ched Myers, Elaine Enns and friends also work with other community organizations on sustainability issues in California and sponsor a demonstration garden.

The [Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative](#) offers programs and minigrants for food and faith initiatives in Northern California.

*** [Farm to Faith San Diego](#) is an ecumenical and interfaith group that engages people of faith in issues of food justice.

Northwest

[Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#) offers [resources](#) including a faith-based food project organizing guide titled Food Sovereignty for All.

In Washington state, [Earth Ministry](#) offers [faith-based resources for food and farming](#).

*** [Millwood Presbyterian Church](#) runs a farmers market in their parking lot through the summer months in Washington. They also assist in running a mobile farmers market, which provides healthy food for low income and food assistance customers.

[Seattle Tilth's Food and Faith Initiative](#) is a growing coalition of faith-based organizations, thought leaders and individuals who are passionate about using food gardening as a way to connect their faith communities with those in need in the larger communities.

*** [Tierra Nueva](#) provides a positive employment experience and Christian counseling for marginalized people, including migrant farm workers. Their vegetables and coffee are sold to local congregations in Washington.

Farms and Farm-Based Organizations

These farms integrate Christian spirituality and faith formation.

*** The Adrian Dominicans are implementing [permaculture design](#) on their Motherhouse campus in Adrian, Michigan.

[Anathoth Community Garden & Farm](#) in North Carolina is cultivating peace by using good food and regenerative agriculture to connect people with their neighbors, the land, and God.

[Abundant Table](#) is an Episcopal CSA farm, farm-church and farm-based education center in Santa Paula, CA.

[Bethlehem Farm](#) is a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices.

[Bluestone Farm](#) is a ministry of the Community of the Holy Spirit in New York.

[Conetoe Family Life Center](#) is a church-based youth ministry where students tend to 15 plots of land around the county, the largest of which is 25 acres and includes four fields, two greenhouses and 150 beehives.

[Crown Point Ecology Center](#) is a 115-acre Ohio ministry which integrates farming, spirituality and ecology.

[Crystal Spring Earth Learning Center](#) is a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace on 42 acres, integrating science and faith.

[Earthworks Urban Farm](#) is a program of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, a human service organization of caring people inspired by the spirit of St. Francis and sponsored by the Capuchins of the Province of St. Joseph and concerned benefactors.

[Eighth Day Farm](#) in Michigan “uses our urban acres as a classroom to cultivate healthy and sustainable communities locally and globally.”

[First Fruits Farm](#) is a Christian ministry in Maryland dedicated to feeding the hungry with nutritious, fresh-picked fruits and vegetables – and a mission that welcomes all brothers and sisters to experience fellowship, the beauty of God’s creation, and the power of the gospel to change lives.

[Freedom Farm Community](#) is a Christian based youth education organization in Mount Hope, New York that teaches sustainable agriculture to youth and helps them understand God’s transformative love for the world.

*** [The Fruitful Field](#) in Pompano Beach, Florida seeks God’s peace and wholeness by caring for the earth, sharing with those in need, and fostering spiritual health. We model creative and sustainable use of land, provide dynamic hands-on learning opportunities for all ages, and build healthy relationships with the local community and beyond. The Garden exists to re-connect people and creation with each other and with God.

*** [Garfield Community Farm](#) was founded by the Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA and seeks to teach and practice organic gardening in places that have been neglected and abandoned.

[Genesis Farm](#) in New Jersey, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Dominic, fosters earth literacy.

[Goodness Grows](#) is a faith-based organization seeking community transformation through agriculture that gives life in Ohio.

[Grailville](#) is a 300-acre education and retreat center in Loveland, Ohio.

[Heartland Farm](#), a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is a Christian community committed to working for the healing and care of the Earth and its inhabitants.

*** [Hope CSA](#) is a Clergy Sustaining Agriculture program whose mission is “to provide a ministry of continuing education and vocational renewal to clergy and other church

leaders, using the resources of the Christian faith and of Creation in the context of a small, diversified family farm.”

*** [Jerusalem Farm](#) in Kansas City, MO is a Catholic intentional community that strives to be in right relationship with the earth and values simplicity. They create intentional community through community meal nights and value local produce.

[Koinonia Farm](#) in Georgia was founded in 1942 as a demonstration plot for the kingdom of God.

Matthew 25 Ministry Hub’s [Cultivate Hope](#) program includes a CSA and a youth farm camp in Iowa.

*** [Michaela Farm](#) in southeastern Indiana is a ministry of the Sisters of St. Francis. The farm nurtures sustainable relationships among land, plants, animals and humans, and utilizes resources to fulfill its goals.

[Peace Farm](#) in Pennsylvania is exploring the intersections of faith, food justice and regenerative agriculture.

*** [Plainsong Farm](#) in Michigan focuses on community supported agriculture and agriculturally supported discipleship. Founded by the Rev. Nurya Love Parish (curator of this guide) and Michael Edwardson, it is a ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

*** [Prairie Whole Farm](#) is operated by Phillip and Missy Jensen. Phillip is a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary and they both feel a unique calling to combine farming and Christian ministry. They operate a CSA and publish theological reflection on farming on their website.

*** [Root of David Nursery](#) is a permaculture farm and sells heirloom variety fruit trees, shrubs, and medicinal plants. They are 100% free of synthetic pesticides/herbicides/fungicides, chemical fertilizers, and GMO plant material. They grow high quality plants, which reflect the goodness of God’s creation and his people.

*** [Russet House Farm](#) in Canada is a community of three households who are concerned with living in ways that cultivate a sustainable relationship with Creation. Rooted in an ecologically sensitive and culturally attuned Christian faith, they are committed to organic methods of agriculture, preserving rare breeds, renewable energy, local economic

development, sustainable forestry, species diversity and creating a place of hospitality, education and celebration.

*** [Shalom Farms](#), an initiative of United Methodist Urban Ministries of Richmond (VA), seeks to collaboratively transform the Richmond food system so that all people have access to good food – food that is good for our bodies, good for the environment, and good for our communities.

[Shepherd's Cross](#) is a working farm and Christian mission in Oklahoma.

*** [St. Mary Organic Farm](#) is a ministry of the IHM Sisters in Monroe, Michigan dedicated to the renewal of local, sustainable food.

[The Farm at Stonehill](#), a Catholic college, has two goals: first, provide fresh, nutritious, locally grown food to local food pantries and families in need. Second, provide students with the opportunity to actively engage in food justice issues in neighboring communities.

[Tuscon Christian Youth Farm](#) provides young people with a faith-based farm and garden experience that will cultivate confidence, compassion, creativity, and a strong sense of community.

[Victory Acres](#) provides good food and good work through Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) in North-Central Indiana. Housed on a farm dating back to the 1830s, Victory Acres is a branch of Victory Inner-city Ministries (VICM), a non-profit organization that is actively involved in community and economic development on the east side of Indianapolis.

*** [World Hunger Relief](#) is a Christian training farm that offers paid internships and live-in volunteer opportunities year-round. They train individuals to work in communities developing sustainable farming techniques, motivate communities to advocate on behalf of the poor, and partner with local and international sustainable development programs.

Denominationally-Based Work

Church of the Brethren's peace ministries include [Going to the Garden](#) which seeks to address issues of food insecurity and hunger at local levels by providing micro-grants to congregations that allow them to create or supplement a community garden.

The [National Catholic Rural Life Conference](#) integrates spiritual resources and advocacy work for sustainable food systems.

*** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published [For I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Food: Catholic Reflections On Food, Farmers, And Farmworkers](#). This document develops the Catholic social teaching on agriculture.

*** Pope Francis released the [Encyclical](#) on Care for our Common Home, which describes our current environmental conditions and a call for Christians to take action.

*** The Disciples of Christ published [Return to the Garden: The Disciples Guide to Organizing Community Gardens](#), which gives practical and detailed instructions for setting up gardens in a faith based community. Disciples Home Missions provides the guide and a map of existing Disciples community gardens [on their website](#).

*** The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America gives [World Hunger-funded Domestic Grants](#) to ministries that give hope and assistance to people facing hunger. They strive to support ministries that foster community and advocate for those affected by hunger.

A new [Faith/Farm/Food Network](#) within the Episcopal Church is beginning. *** As well, the Episcopal Church's new [Asset Map](#) tracks the community gardens and food pantry ministries throughout the church.

*** The Episcopal Church's [Order of St. Naucratius](#) believes in sharing the harvest from hunting and fishing.

The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles has begun [Seeds of Hope](#), an initiative to use the land of the diocese to address food insecurity in the diocese.

Presbyterian Hunger Program's [Food & Faith Initiative](#) has tons of resources including help for community/church gardens and adult education. They also host webinars and send out an e-news.

The United Church of Christ offers information on [Food & Farming](#) as part of their Environmental Justice Ministries.

*** The United Church of Canada developed “[Toward Food Sovereignty for All](#)” which gives theological reflections and alternatives to our current food system.

*** Farm, Garden & Dinner Churches

*** [A Moveable Feast](#) is a food truck and chapel ministering primarily with young adults in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

[The Garden Church](#) is a new worshipping community in the Swedenborgian Church of North America which is completely integrated with agrarian practice.

*** [Farm Church](#) is an emerging new church in the Presbyterian Church (USA)... both a setting for mission and an ethos of loving community that will be an attractive alternative for those who struggle to connect with more traditional Christian churches.

*** [The Abundant Table Farm Church](#) is an ecumenical, interfaith ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches. The Farm to Faith program includes The Abundant Table Farm Church, and invites people of all faith traditions to explore spirituality in connection with the land.

*** [Simple Church](#) is a dinner church, a new Methodist church plant in Grafton, MA which supports itself in part by baking and selling bread at farmer’s markets.

*** [St. Lydia’s](#) is a dinner church and co-working space in Brooklyn, New York and an early pioneer of the dinner church concept in the 21st century.

*** [Dinner Church](#) is a Sunday evening gathering of good food and new friends that come together to worship Jesus and to learn what it means to follow Him. From their website: “We read scripture together, we pray together, we worship God together, we learn together, and we eat together.” Affiliated with the Mennonite tradition.

*** [Grace Seeds Ministry](#) cultivates community while weeding out hunger, connecting partners to grow for food pantries in greater Chicago, and providing resources for liturgy and spiritual growth.

Seminary-Based Work

Thanks to Blessed Earth's [Seminary Stewardship Alliance](#) for help with this section!

The Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary recently hosted [Rooted and Grounded](#), and papers from the conference are still available online. *** Their [Creation Care ministry](#) operates a community garden which produced over 400 pounds of watermelon for the community food bank last year.

Asbury Theological Seminary has created a [community garden](#) which serves both the seminary and the community.

*** Candler School of Theology at Emory University has a community garden that is operated by the student group, [Creation Keepers](#). The garden aims to connect students with healthy food and teach the theological importance of creation stewardship.

Duke Divinity School hosted Summoned Toward Wholeness in 2013, and recordings are [available on iTunes](#).

*** [Farminary](#) is a project from Princeton Seminary that integrates theological education with small-scale sustainable agriculture. It is based on the seminary's 21-acre farm and is a place for innovation and leadership.

[George Fox University's Creation Care](#) work incorporates local purchase of food as well as a community garden. Their associated Seminary offers a [certificate in Christian Earthkeeping](#).

Methodist Theological School in Ohio features [Seminary Hill Farm](#) – a place of theology, ecology and good food for all.

The [University of the South's Beeken Center](#) is hosting the gathering of a Faith/Farm/Food Network and [partnering](#) with the co-founders.

*** Union Theological Seminary operates the [Edible Churchyard](#), which seeks to connect food and faith through training theologians, colleagues, and friends in the practical arts of Earth-honoring faith, justice, and community in a garden.

[Wake Forest University Divinity School's Food, Faith & Religious Leadership Initiative](#)

Renewing theological education for the 21st century, we equip religious leaders with the knowledge, skills and pastoral habits necessary to guide congregations and other faith-based organizations into creating more redemptive food systems, where God's shalom becomes visible for a hungry world.

Virginia Theological School hosts [Cultivate VTS](#) which is growing wheat for communion bread as well as vegetables.

Yale Divinity School recently sponsored [Nourish New Haven](#), a conference on food and sustainability. Articles from the Fall 2014 issue of their Reflections magazine, *At Risk: Our Food, Our Water, Ourselves*, are [here](#).

Curricula for Children, Youth and Adults

[Animal Crackers](#) is a Sunday school curriculum from [Heifer International](#). This educational resource helps children, youth and adults see themselves as part of the global family and gain a deeper appreciation of the ways in which Heifer helps people, animals and plants live in harmony as God's good creation.

[Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) offers multiple curriculum resources for people of all ages to explore issues of hunger from a faith basis.

*** Spiritual Director and author Christine Sine offers an online course on [Spirituality and Gardening](#). The course explores what the labor of gardening has to do with God and the spiritual lessons one can learn in the soil.

[Blessing the Hands: A Curriculum on Farm Workers for Faith Communities](#) was created by the National Farm Worker Ministry to assist congregations and groups in examining and reflecting on farm worker issues.

[+Earth Ed](#) by Cindy Coe offers reflections on environmental education from a spiritual basis and includes information about faith-based gardening. Coe is the author of the Episcopal Relief and Development's Abundant Garden curriculum.

*** [Eating Well](#) is a curriculum of the North Carolina Council of Churches featuring 8 lessons with Scripture, prayers, resources and activities for young children through adults.

*** [Eat, Pray, Grow](#) is a curriculum developed by Every Voice Network that explores the connections between food, faith, and justice. It is a multi-media curriculum that is designed to help congregations consider the ways in which their experience of food shapes their lives.

*** Creation Care Ministries developed [Sustainable Food in a Changing Climate](#), which includes resources like sermon preparations, Christian education resources, and song suggestions for exploring the connection between climate change and food in our world.

*** Eating Smart and Moving More created the [Planning Guide for Faith Communities](#). This guide provides resources and tools for faith communities who want to create an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activities.

*** Interfaith Power and Light's [Cool Harvest Kit](#) provides a learning kit on making climate-friendly food choices and faith garden ideas.

[Just Eating](#) is a seven-session curriculum from the Presbyterian Hunger Program which comes in multiple versions appropriate for adults, high schoolers, middle schoolers and African-American congregations.

United Methodist Women have published [Food, Faith and Me](#), a youth study.

*** Mustard Seed Associates published [Creating a Faith Based Community Garden](#), which is designed to help faith-based organizations explore the possibility of building community and relationships through gardening together.

Episcopal Relief & Development has published the [Abundant Life Garden Project](#) for elementary-aged students.

Books & Authors

*There are many secular books about food issues. There are also many books written by Christians on general environmental issues. This is a much smaller list of books written by Christians on the intersection of food, farming and faith. **Feel free to add everything by Wendell Berry to this list.** It's in order by publication year. (Disclosure: some of these are affiliate links.)*

*** [Many Tables: The Eucharist in the New Testament and Liturgy Today](#) by Dennis Edwin Smith and Hal E. Taussig, 1990. This insightful read is a reflection on the Eucharist and the surrounding liturgy that can be used to bring new life into the church.

*** [The Supper of the Lamb: A Culinary Reflection](#) by [Robert Farrar Capon](#), 2002. In this book, an Episcopal priest reflects on home cooking and walks readers through the preparation of an intimate dinner party.

*** [Eating Your Way Through Luke's Gospel](#) by Robert J. Karris, 2006. This book describes the unique food theme in the gospel of Luke and documents the social, political, and general contexts in which the food was prepared and eaten in Jesus' day.

[Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating](#) by [Norman Wirzba](#), 2007.

Norman Wirzba combines the tools of ecological, agrarian, cultural, biblical, and theological analyses to draw a picture of eating that cares for creatures and that honors God.

[Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible](#) by [Ellen Davis](#), 2008.

Rather than seeking solutions from the past, Davis creates a conversation between ancient texts and contemporary agrarian writers; thus she provides a fresh perspective from which to view the destructive practices and assumptions that now dominate the global food economy.

[Food, Farming, and Faith \(S U N Y Series on Religion and the Environment\)](#) by [Gary Fick](#), 2008.

Using scripture and science, a Christian agricultural scientist presents an ethic of farming that promotes good food and a healthy environment.

[Sustainable Agriculture: A Christian Ethic of Gratitude](#) by Mark Graham, 2009.

Mark Graham joins the vibrant, substantive discussion about the moral issues in American agriculture by revealing what is going on in current agricultural practices and analyzing them in light of morality and sustainability.

*** [In the Beginning Was the Meal: Social Experimentation and Early Christian Identity](#) by Hal Taussig, 2009. This book sheds new light on the social context of early Christian gatherings, illuminating the origins of the Eucharist and of Christianity itself. Taussig draws important implications for the practice of Christian communities today.

*** [Sacred Chow: Some Holy Ways to Eat](#) by [Donna Schaper](#), 2009. This book describes eating in a sustainable way on a biological, spiritual, political, economic, and aesthetic level. Schaper uses Biblical text to discuss spiritual sustenance and good food.

*** [Food and Faith: with Leader's Guide](#) by Wendy Whiteside and Faye Wilson, 2009. This Leader's guide offers methods for developing healthy relationships with food and a deepening relationship with God.

[Food & Faith: Justice, Joy, and Daily Bread](#) by [Michael Schut](#), 2010.

Readings focus on the enjoyment and spirituality of good food, ways in which eating connects us to the land and to each other, and on the economic, environmental and cultural impacts of daily food choices. Includes an eight-week study guide for groups or individuals which leads to action: setting a table that is healthy, joyful and just.

[Year of Plenty](#) by Craig Goodwin, 2011.

Goodwin shares the winsome story of how an average suburban family stumbled onto the cultural cutting edge of locavores, backyard chickens, farmers markets, simple living, and going green. It is the timely tale of Christians exploring the intersections of faith, environment, and everyday life.

*** [Justice at the Table](#) by [Ricci Kilmer](#) (2010) is a collection of personal reflections and practical ideas to help us redeem food in multiple areas.

*** [A Time to Plant](#) by Kyle T. Kramer, 2011. The story of beginning the Genesis Organic Farm and one man's attempt to make simple living a reality.

*** [A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table](#) by [Tim Chester](#), 2011. Chester brings to light God's purposes in the seemingly ordinary act of sharing a meal—how this everyday experience is really an opportunity for grace, community, and mission.

[Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation \(Resources for Reconciliation\)](#) by [Fred Bahnson](#) and [Norman Wirzba](#), 2012.

Bahnson and Wirzba describe communities that model cooperative practices of relational life, with local food production, eucharistic eating and delight in God's provision. Reconciling with the land is a rich framework for a new way of life.

[Farming As A Spiritual Discipline](#) by [Ragan Sutterfield](#), 2012

In this quiet and patient set of meditations Ragan Sutterfield calls us to return to what is fundamental: healthy soil, tasty food, good work, the fellowship of friends, and faith in God.

[Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith](#) by [Fred Bahnson](#), 2013.

Through his journeys to four different faith communities—Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal, and Jewish—Bahnson explores the connections between spiritual nourishment and the way we feed our bodies with the sensitivity, personal knowledge, and insight shared by Wendell Berry and Bill McKibben.

[Eat with Joy: Redeeming God's Gift of Food](#) by [Rachel Marie Stone](#), 2013.

Rachel Stone calls us to rediscover joyful eating by receiving food as God's good gift of provision and care for us. She shows us how God intends for us to relate to him and each other through food, and how our meals can become expressions of generosity, community and love of neighbor.

[Good Food: Grounded Practical Theology](#) by [Jennifer R. Ayres](#), 2013.

Good Food is a practical theology grounded in a rich ethnographic study of the food practices of diverse faith communities and populations. In the midst of the food system's woundedness and harm, they are hopeful but not naïve, and in their imaginative work, the seeds for a thriving food system are taking root.

[Cultivating Reality: How the Soil Might Save Us](#) by [Ragan Sutterfield](#), 2013.

In Cultivating Reality, Ragan Sutterfield guides us through the agrarian habit of mind and shows Christians how a theological return to the soil will enliven us again to the joys of creatureliness.

*** [Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table with Recipes](#) by [Shauna Niequist](#), 2013. This is a collection of essays about family, friendships, and the meals that bring them together. Bread and Wine is a celebration of food shared and reminder of the joy found in a life around the table.

[Faith in Food: Changing the World One Meal at a Time](#) by Sue Campbell and Susie Weldon, 2014.

This book presents a unique vision, combining essays, scripture, story-telling, recipes, initiatives, and general wisdom in one beautifully produced book, all seeking to change our relationship with what we eat and how we obtain our food. Altogether this is a groundbreaking collaboration among Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, and Hinduism, alongside secular organizations, to get people thinking, acting and eating with a new consciousness.

*** [Jesus, Bread, and Chocolate: Crafting a Handmade Faith in a Mass-Market World](#) by [John J. Thompson](#), 2015. This book explores the parallels of the trends in our culture with an organic faith that could reenergize the church and bring people into an experience of Christ.

*** [Organic Wesley: A Christian Perspective on Food, Farming and Faith](#) by Bill Guerrant, 2015. This is more than a book—it's an entire study designed to engage your group in meaningful dialogue about the role that a healthy lifestyle has on our spiritual journey.

*** [Baptized with the Soil: Christian Agrarians and the Crusade for Rural America](#) by Kevin M. Lowe, 2015. This is a pioneering comprehensive history of the Protestant commitment to rural America in the twentieth century.

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*** [To Garden with God](#) by [Christine Sine](#) compiles twenty years of gardening experience and advice for backyard gardening interspersed with deep spiritual lessons to be learned from God's good creation.

*** Compiled by various authors, [Our Daily Bread](#) is a digital download that includes graces, reflections, and a chant that relate to our daily bread, with an emphasis on issues of hunger and justice.

*** The Mennonite Central Committee published three cookbooks: [More-With-Less](#), [Extending the Table](#), and [Simply in Season](#). These phenomenal cookbooks promote the understanding of how the food choices we make affect our lives and the lives of those who produce food.

*** [Feast!](#) and [More Feasts!](#) by Daniel and Haley Stewart (of the [Carrots for Michaelmas](#) blog) are two books of recipes and resources to celebrate the liturgical year and lives of the saints.

Blogs

*** Audrey Richards Woita writes about her experiences of food and faith in greater St. Louis, Missouri on her [blog](#).

[Churchwork](#), written by Nurya Love Parish (the curator and publisher of this guide) includes information and reflections on the Christian food movement and church renewal.

*** [Christine Sine](#) operates the [Godspace](#) where she posts informative and deep reflections on gardening and a spiritual life with God. She also offers retreats, classes, books, meditations, and many other tools through her blog.

[Just Gleanings](#) offers reflections on food security, agriculture sustainability, wholesome local and seasonal eating from a faith perspective.

*** [Food Justice in NYC](#) includes posts from the Food Justice Working Group of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, in partnership with NY Faith and Justice and Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice.

*** [Our Hungry Food](#) is a blog on food, faith and community written by Eva Moss, an associate of St. Mary's Convent and student at the Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy at Vermont Law School.

*** [Poor Man's Shamrock](#) is the blog of Sam Chamelin, the pastor at Lazarus Church in Lineboro, MD. He writes, "When I was called to Lazarus Church, I was called to a small town, and as I have served this people I have found that this small congregation has remarkably similar values – we are a farming community, without much in the way of riches, but we have a deep and long spirituality and value our relationships with one another."

[Presbyterian Food & Faith Blog](#) is a blog of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (see more below).

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship wrote [a series of posts in 2013](#) titled “At the Table: Baptists Fight Hunger” which highlight community gardening and agricultural ministries as well as food pantry and hunger ministries.

[Redeeming the Dirt](#), Encouraging Born Again Farmers to Pursue God-glorifying Agriculture focuses on practical farming and faith.

Seedbed, a Wesleyan site, has [posts by Bill Guerrant on Wesley](#) as a precursor to the food movement.

[Sustainable Traditions](#) is a conversation on whole-life discipleship to Jesus in the context of intentional living and often features work on the connections between food, farm, and faith.

[What's Up with Wheat](#) by Episcopal priest Elizabeth DeRuff. This site also includes her downloadable publication “Stories of Food and Farm Ministries” available [here](#).

*** Christian Camp & Conference Centers with farm/garden programming

*** The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio has a six-acre garden at their camp, [Procter Garden](#). They offer CSA shares, sell at local farmers market, and provide food at the camp-dining hall.

*** The [Camp Mitchell Agriculture Project](#) in Arkansas is an Episcopal camp that is developing a gardening program that will expand the camps ability to produce its own food and allow campers and visitors to be a part of that process.

*** The [McDowell Farm School](#) at Camp McDowell offers educational programs for student’s k-12 to learn about where their food comes from by actively engaging in farm life.

*** Multi-Media Resources

[Back to Eden](#) shares the story of one man's lifelong journey, walking with God and learning how to get back to the simple, productive growing methods of sustainable provision that were given to man in the garden of Eden.

[Eating Mercifully](#) is a short film from the Humane Society of the United States which explores Christian perspectives on factory farming.

[GMO OMG](#) follows director and concerned father Jeremy Seifert as he seeks answers to important questions: How do GMOs affect our children, the health of our planet, and our freedom of choice?

*** [Folk Psalm](#) offers collections of Psalms set to folk and bluegrass music by Charles Pettee.

*** Fred Bahnson gives a TED Talk on [Soil and Sacrament](#) where he shares his experience starting a community garden at a small Methodist church and the connections he sees between food and faith.

This guide is the work of volunteers. Please forgive any errors.

Is it missing your project, program, blog, etc?
Is a listing incorrect?

Send me an email!

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I'd love to hear from you.