



NEXT GENERATION
SUMMER CAMPS
UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

**CREATED
TO
CREATE**

GNJ Camping Sunday Series Overview The Creator's Creator

On this Festival of God's Creation Sunday, GNJ celebrates not only God's gift of the earth to us, but also Next Generation Ministries Summer Camps. Our camps provide youth and adults with the invaluable opportunity to connect with their Creator in a natural setting while growing their faith, exploring their call and connecting with fellow believers. Together, let us thank God for this gift of nature and the ability to immerse ourselves in the Creator's presence in this sacred setting.

Everyone wants to know "why" they were created. Perhaps we are wasting too much time asking "why" when we should be asking "what." What were you created to create?

Theme: Created to Create | Ephesians 2:10; Genesis 1:27-28

Additional Resources:

<https://www.gnjumc.org/next-generation-ministries/summer-camp/>

<http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday-in-your-church.html>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/church-civic-holidays/festival-of-gods-creation>

<http://www.webofcreation.org/worship>

<http://www.creationjustice.org/earth-day-sunday-in-your-church.html>

Next Generation Ministries welcomes all people, including the LGBTQ community, to participate and lead in its ministries and programs. We believe that all people are of sacred worth, beloved children of God, and made in God's image. Whoever you are and wherever you are from, here you will find a safe, life-giving space to connect, grow and lead in your faith journey.



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Camping Sunday Worship Resource The Creator's Creator: Created to Create

Call to Worship

God you created everything from the inner core of the earth to the outermost layer of the atmosphere.

You created me; Your breath gives life to us all.

You created me for the purpose of participating in creation.

God help me to be faithful in this task.

In a culture that is consumed with answering the “why” of their creation, make it plain to me, O God, what I am to create.

Spark our creativity by your Spirit so that in our doing we care for and experience the earth.

All: Let us be ever mindful of this responsibility in our camps and beyond.

Unison Prayer

Most gracious God, we come before you to pray for the well-being of the planet, especially our camps. We pray that camps are the fertile ground for spiritual formation and personal growth for each participant. In a society that is full of distractions, may the vegetation, air, lake, soil and landscape nurture their faith. Almighty God, help each camper discover the leader within to be used for Your glory. We lift to You the staff, volunteers and camp grounds that they be manifestations of your love and power to transform generations. Lord, we thank you for Next Generation Summer Camps! Guide us in our personal, congregation, conference, community and camp efforts to help them fulfill this mission. Give us strength to continue with this work when it is difficult and requires sacrifice. In Jesus name, Amen.

Offering Introduction

Sisters and brothers, we are truly blessed! God has placed us in creation and given to us the power and resources to care for our camps. Let us prepare to give out of love with great generosity as a form of thanks to God. This offering will help us to create opportunities for God's kindness to be spread throughout Next Generation Summer Camps.

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Offering Prayer¹

All good gifts come from you, dear God, for You reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for Your camps. We offer these gifts now, to be used to nurture faith, develop leaders and transform generations. Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners. In Your name. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional)

God Created Heaven and Earth, UM Hymnal #151

Here I am Lord, UM Hymnal #593

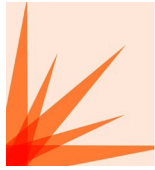
How Great Thou Art, UM Hymnal #77

Music Suggestions (Contemporary)

This is Amazing Grace, CCLI # 6333821

So Will I (100 Billion X), CCLI#

¹ Adapted from Carol Meyer by Interfaith Worship Resources on Earth Stewardship website.



CREATED TO CREATE

¹ Preaching Resources: The Creator's Creator

Scripture Passage	Ephesians 2:10 Genesis 1:27-28
Focus Statement	God created you to bring to the world what no one else could in a way no one else can.
ME	God creates PERFECT. God did not make any mistakes when creating us. This gives us confidence in knowing that we are who we need to be; expertly created with the skills, talents, and abilities we need for the purpose God has for us. "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."
WE	God creates with PURPOSE. When God created us, it was to accomplish what no one else could accomplish. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number..."
GOD	God creates to PRESERVE. God wants to use our hands and feet to preserve the earth. "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
YOU	How might God be calling you to preserve the Earth? To encounter Christ? To share the Good News?
WE	Here's what this means for your life: As a child of God you can operate with the confidence in knowing that God desires to use you to care for the earth.

¹ To find more information, please reference *Breakthrough: A GNJ guide to best practices for worship*, pg. 19.