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Share Your Love for God's Creation With Children You Love

When people lose touch with nature, caring about Creation isn't a priority. Engage the children in your life in nature activities, such as the ones here, and create a sense of wonder. Talk about the delight in God's creation you feel. You'll be planting seeds of caring—and having a good time!

These Tips and images come from Deb Smith, a retired deacon in The United Methodist Church, who early in her career was also interpretive naturalist and children's curriculum editor. Recently, with COVID restrictions, she has been rediscovering and photographing nature in her own backyard and now sharing it with you. Enjoy!

You may choose to use any or all of these Tips. Cut-and-paste to put them in whatever means of communication you are using to reach out to your congregation, family, or friends. Or simply Forward them.

Look for your regular Creation Justice Tips each month.

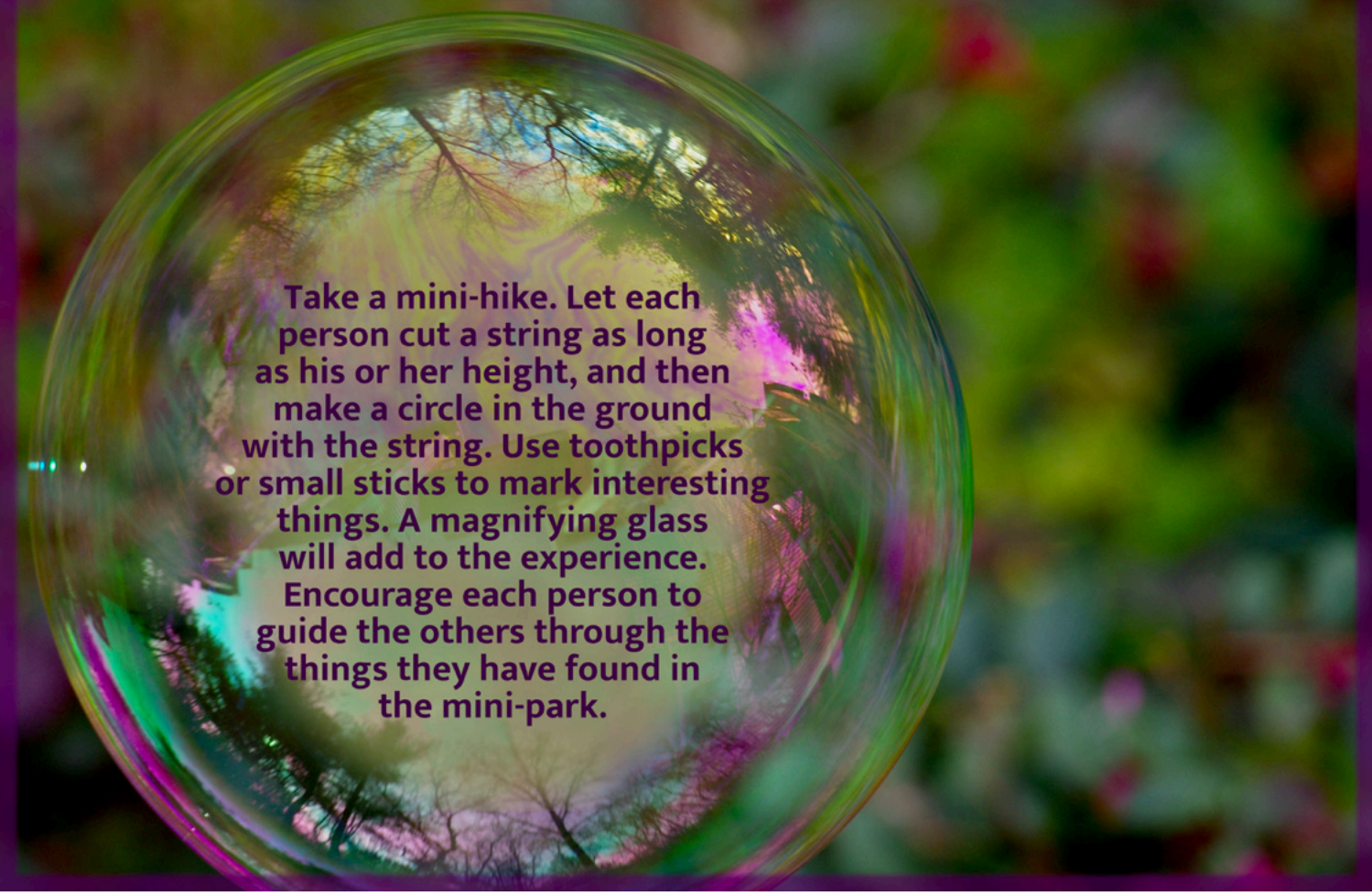
If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.

– Rachel Carson, 1956
The Sense of Wonder

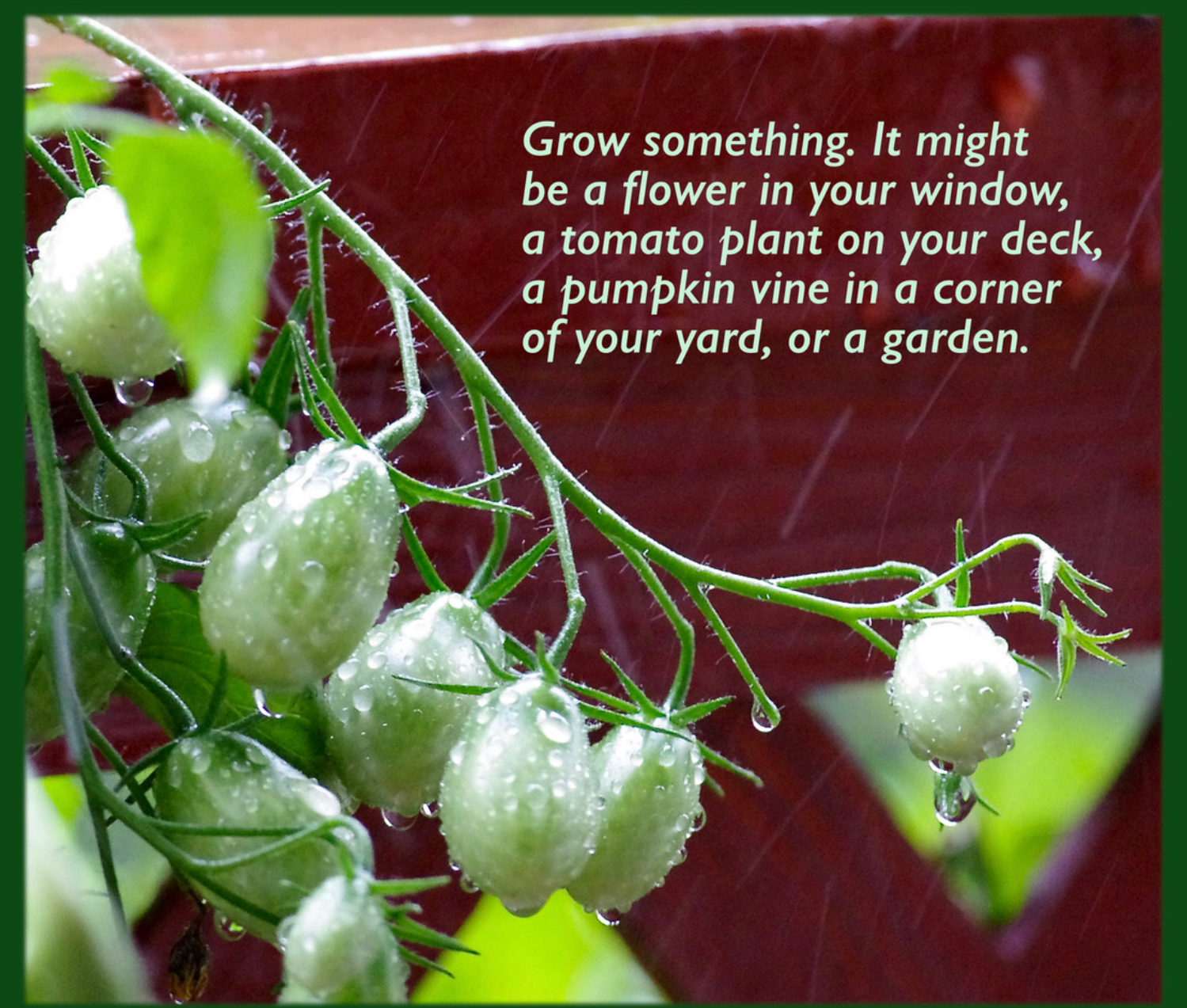




Start a family bird, flower, or tree list. Learn to use a basic field guide for identification, or create your own family names for each species.



Take a mini-hike. Let each person cut a string as long as his or her height, and then make a circle in the ground with the string. Use toothpicks or small sticks to mark interesting things. A magnifying glass will add to the experience. Encourage each person to guide the others through the things they have found in the mini-park.



Grow something. It might be a flower in your window, a tomato plant on your deck, a pumpkin vine in a corner of your yard, or a garden.



Watch the stars,
and discover a
family constellation.
Make up your own story
to accompany the
constellation. Use a
star guide to find
other constellations,
and learn the stories
that people have told
over the centuries
about these star groupings.



Learn where food comes
from and buy locally sourced
items. This is a way to
conserve energy, as much
energy is used in the
transportation of our food.

Create family celebrations to mark naturally occurring events, such as the first dandelion of the season, the summer and winter solstice, or the spring and fall equinox.

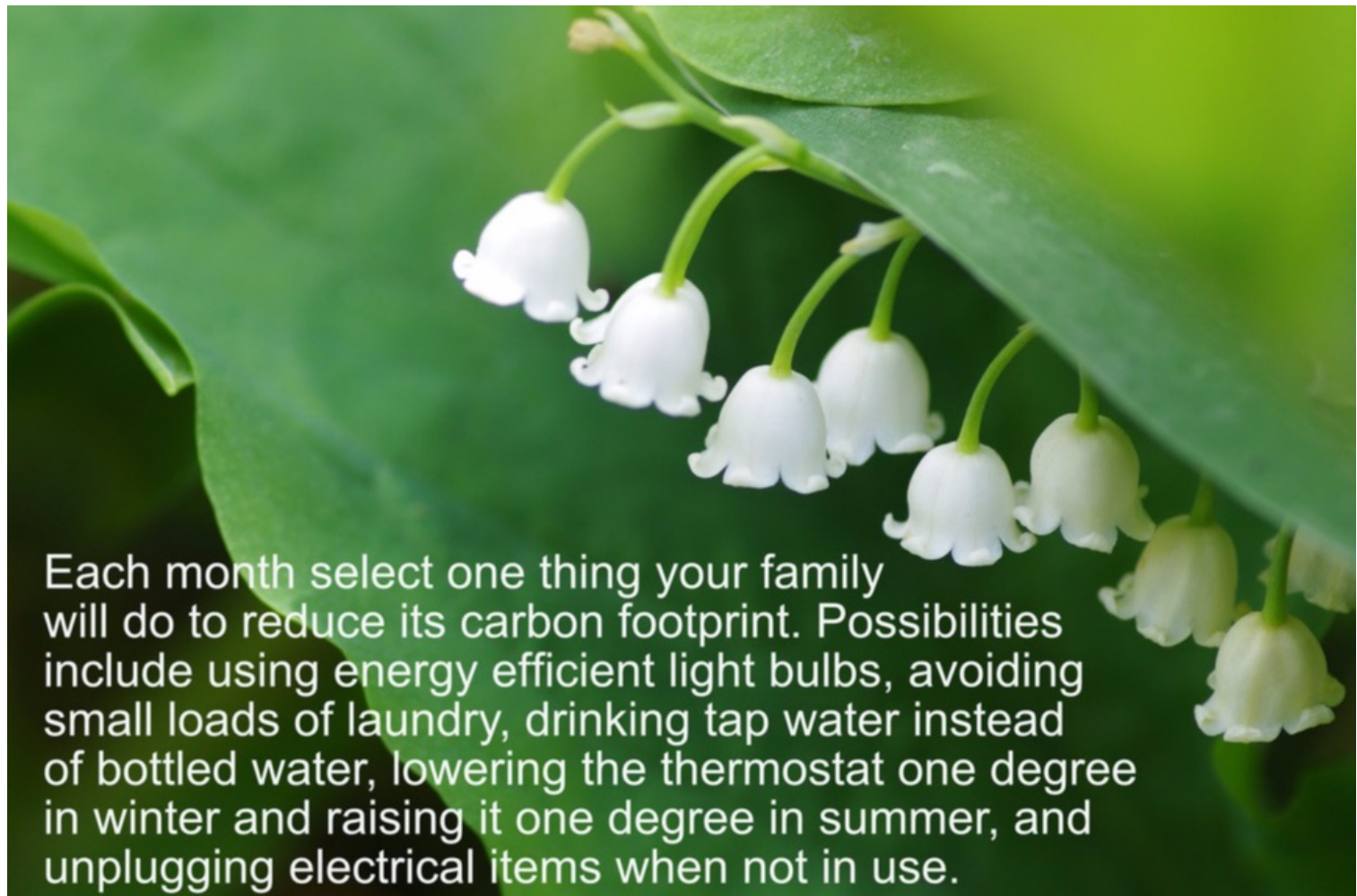


Create a weather diary. For a period of time record the temperature in the morning and evening, the amount of precipitation, and any other weather events. A thermometer and a rain gauge will get you started as weather observers.





*When praying
before meals or
at other times,
invite those present
to name a time
during the day that
they have experienced
the wonder of
God's world.*



Each month select one thing your family will do to reduce its carbon footprint. Possibilities include using energy efficient light bulbs, avoiding small loads of laundry, drinking tap water instead of bottled water, lowering the thermostat one degree in winter and raising it one degree in summer, and unplugging electrical items when not in use.

Decorate reusable canvas bags with fabric paint or permanent markers. Use the bags for grocery and other shopping.



The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as one tool churches can use to equip members to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, [send an email here](#).

Visit our NEW website: umcreationjustice.org!

You can select from the Tips of the past months too. You'll also find more information about the Creation Justice Movement and the plans for Summit 2020.

We'll keep adding tools. You keep using them!

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Forward

Send Me My 10 Tips Monthly

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