



WV Project CommuniTree Planting at First United Methodist Church “Big Blue”

Twenty-three children, teenagers, and adults planted 24 trees around “Big Blue,” the site of the youth ministry program sponsored by First United Methodist Church in Berkeley Springs.

On March 23, several of the project leaders met on the site to determine what species of tree to plant in which location. Next, Miss Utility was called and members of the church arranged to have the holes dug, a task that was completed on the Thursday before the event. An [article](#) about the tree planting was published in the Morgan Messenger the week before the event.

Several groups were represented on planting day, including parents, grandparents and children from various Morgan

County Girl Scout Troops, one Morgan County Boy Scout Troop, teens and adults from the church, members of the Town of Bath Tree Board, and members of the Warm Springs Watershed Association.

Once everyone had gathered on the day of the event, the Rev. Douglas Hoffman, minister of the church, delivered a prayer of appreciation for our earth, urging participants to show their gratitude by caring for our common home.

Katherine Cooper from Cacapon Institute gave instructions on the proper methods for planting trees. Given the number of children and youth present, Katherine made a point of gearing her instructions to that age group.

After the tree planting, tree board member Lance Strait made a presentation on the proper follow-up care and maintenance of trees,



including how to prune, water, and mulch trees. It should be noted that all twenty-four trees planted last November are thriving. Teens from the church have been watering the trees as needed, a task they will continue for the next two years.

This is the second CommuniTree planting at this location. The first planting took place [fall 2015](#).

A word from the Project Leader, Kate Lehman:

“Candace Pennington, leader of the Girl Scouts, noted that for that organization a major component of their program this year is positive father/daughter intersection, and it was wonderful to see so many fathers (and grandfathers) supporting their daughters and granddaughters.”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at CTree@CacaponInstitute.Org or by calling 540-335-0687.