

## Astrobiology News December 2020: Ideas for Evolution Weekend 2021 and Beyond

Please read this - this month's news is broader than astrobiology! In light of the theme for Evolution Weekend 2021, "Religion and Science in a Time of Denial: Neither will be Denied," I'd like to offer some specific ideas on bringing religion and science together in a positive, proactive fashion - through participation. I'm also offering my services to help you do this, either during Evolution Weekend, or during a time that works with your community of faith. If your faith communities are anything like mine, you are probably conducting online services and programs. I think most of us expect to be doing this through the first few months of 2021, if not longer.

I've frequently written about how the online *Zooniverse*<sup>1</sup> platform makes it possible for people around the world, from all walks of life, to contribute to research projects spanning many fields of science and the humanities - fields as diverse as ecology, medicine, astronomy, social justice... Is there a particular field of interest to you or your congregation? If you contact me (please see email address below), I can suggest which projects would provide a good match to your community's interests. Furthermore, I can "zoom" (or use another remote platform) to help lead (or co-lead) your group in participating in one or more *Zooniverse* projects. This would be done in a venue of your choosing (e.g., services, youth or adult education). I might even be able to arrange a connection with a member of the research team connected to your chosen project, but I can't promise that. However, I CAN promise that it's possible (and encouraged) to connect with these teams through *Zooniverse*'s discussion boards.

What better way to show solidarity than by setting the example of science and religion working together to effect positive change? In the coming months, I will be writing articles for distribution in various news venues about how faith communities are helping advance science through participation in *Zooniverse*. I'd like to use these articles to raise the profile of CLP members and efforts to demonstrate not just the compatibility of religion and science, but what we can accomplish when we work together. Everyone can take part in this effort - even if that just means using some of your time in isolation to contribute to projects aimed at improving the environment, medical research, or ensuring that history remembers the persecuted (see, for example, *Every Name Counts*<sup>2</sup>). Please contact me - I want to help!

Wishing you happy holidays, health, and high hopes for 2021,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.zooniverse.org/projects?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=projects-CLP](https://www.zooniverse.org/projects?utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=projects-CLP)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/arolsen-archives/every-name-counts>