



The April Garden Times

Enjoy!

Wintergarden Monthly Newsletter

Over the course of the last month, we have been in the process of transitioning our newsletter to a new program. This one is called Mailchimp. Still great information about what is happening! We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Not sure everything is covered that needs to be, but wanted to get things sent out and you updated about happenings.

If you have accidentally been added to this newsletter, please just email Pastor Devon at revdev08@gmail.com and ask to be removed. Sorry for any inconvenience!

Dearest Church Family-

Everyone tells me that as we age, time goes by faster. Well, that was definitely true of this season. Before I knew it, everyone was packing up to head back north! But to me and many others, it felt like everyone had just arrived.

As always, we love having you with us at Wintergarden as you choose to join us. In whatever way, we are grateful for the ways you all care and love our community. We are blessed by all of you, in many ways you probably don't even know. This season, it was hard to keep up with thank yous, words of appreciation, and schedules. But I realize that I started to struggle with that last year as well. Not everyone has received the words of appreciation and thank yous that they deserve. Know that when words go unsaid or not said in ways you hear, it is from a place of being overwhelmed with what is happening in the exciting mission and ministry of Wintergarden. We are working through the "overwhelmed" feeling!

I am in love with the mission God is constantly calling us to be involved with and how

God is working through YOU, the Wintergarden community-near and far! This mission to "feed people" is all encompassing, empowering, and leading us forward in all that we do. The dreams continue to come as we move forward in ministry we are called to are so exciting, yet they involve people to be active and involved.

It is part of why we are spending so much time on the importance of being empowered servant leaders. Servant leadership is at the root of being the church. All of us truly can be empowered to be servant leaders. If you feel God is leading you to serve in a new or different way, please let me know. Below are some ways that you can be involved and greatly appreciated.

How are we currently feeding people? We are reforming our food pantry ministry and working towards creating a ministry that truly meets needs in our community when it comes to food. We have the community garden and are getting ready for phase 2 with building more beds. The water system is being installed, mulch is coming, updates around the garden are coming too. And most importantly, food is growing and is edible! That is the most exciting piece to me! We continue to feed people through serving at the Homeless Coalition and still would love to add in another night of serving a meal. Food Pantry...Community Garden...Homeless Coalition...great ways to serve!

We are feeding people through Sacred Space Meditation, Traditional worship, Sunday school, community group meetings, mid-weeks studies, piano lessons, and more!

As we continue to listen to the needs of our community, we are praying about how we work with other organizations so that our mission and ministries are supporting one another. This is really exciting to think about how we can all work together to meet the needs of our community.

And lastly, prayers as we begin the interview processes for our VISTA volunteer and Seminary Intern. We are receiving calls and applications for both! We will be in need of locating both of them housing. If you would like to help with housing, please let me know.

I love being with you and look forward to seeing where God leads us in the years to come. God is so good, friends! Blessings to all of you this day and in the days to come. If you have any questions, please feel free to email, call or text!

In Christ,
Pastor Devon

EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Good Friday service on Friday, April 19 at 12pm

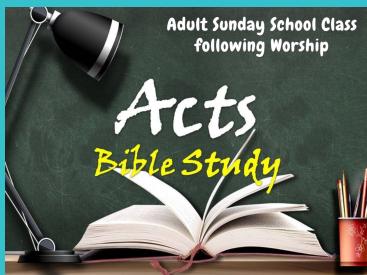
Easter Sunrise service on Sunday, April 21 at 7am

Easter Meditation service on Sunday, April 21 at 8:30am

Easter Breakfast (bring a dish) on Sunday, April 21 at 9am

Traditional Easter service on Sunday April 21 at 9:30am

If you are interested in being part of the leadership team that moves the food pantry ministry forward to truly meet the needs of Charlotte County, please join us for continued conversation on Monday, April 22 at 11am. Carolyn Jones from Harry Chapin Food Bank will be joining our conversation for the day. Please continue to bring your ideas and thoughts on how to move our feeding ministry forward to help "feed" our community in ways that help in more ways than we can understand!



All are welcome to join in our study any Sunday!
Hope to see you there.

Our children and youth
are learning the

importance of caring for the earth, gardening and growing their own food, and exploring faith in the mix of all of it! If you want to help our "Garden Kids,"

Pastor Devon would LOVE your help!



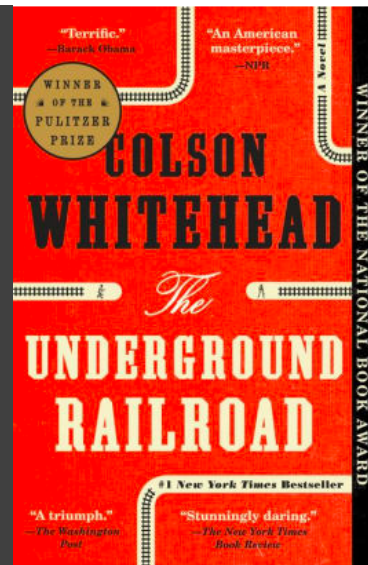
Come and serve a wonderful meal to folks at the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition on Tuesday, April 16th at 4:30pm. What a wonderful way to be servant leaders and in service to those in our community.



Adopt-A-Road on Saturday, April 27 at 8am. Looking forward to seeing YOU there!

Cora is a young slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him

on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share.



Join us at Mercer's Cafe on Wednesday,
May 8 at 10am. See you then!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

SUNDAY

Sacred Space continues at 8:30am

Traditional Service at 9:30am

Sunday School for youth and adults at 11:00am

NA Group at 6:30pm

TUESDAY

Bone Builders at 10am

AA Book Club at 7pm (Open)

WEDNESDAY

AA Big Book Group at 7pm (Open)

THURSDAY

Praise Team Practice on Thursdays at 3:00pm

FRIDAY

Bone Builders at 10am

AA Men's Group at 7pm (Closed)

Community Events:

Charlotte Harbor Anthropological Society
meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm

Neighborhood Watch Groups

The Tatum Lake Watch Group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6pm. If you are interested in joining, please email Jean at jeaneetie@yahoo.com

The O'Hara Neighborhood Watch Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 6pm. If you are interested in joining, please email Denise at twelve_d4three@yahoo.com

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