



## The October Garden Times

*Enjoy!*

# Wintergarden Monthly Newsletter

*If you have accidentally been added to this newsletter, please just email Pastor Devon at [revdevo8@gmail.com](mailto:revdevo8@gmail.com) and ask to be removed. Sorry for any inconvenience!*

Dearest Church Family-

Fall is here! And at the time of this writing, the air is actually not as stifling hot! That is definitely an enjoyed improvement in weather.

Many apologies for not writing and getting the newsletter out to you sooner. So much has been going on that we are struggling to keep up!

Here are the highlights with more details below:

1. The food pantry is up and running. We are still in need of more volunteers from the congregation to set up. We have had wonderful volunteers join us from the community. We are currently open every Thursday from 12-6pm. And the food is delivered the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month.
2. We have chosen and hired our VISTA volunteer. Michelle O'Connor joined us in August to help us build capacity for the food pantry and community garden.
3. The roof was cleaned! Did you know the shingles are a light brown? It's gorgeous and the roof is in good condition.
4. Many new faces are around Wintergarden. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will have baptisms as well as new folks joining. Exciting times around Wintergarden. New families will be joining on Sunday, October 6.
5. A NEW family ministry is beginning. We will have "4th Friday Family Fun Night" every month. Our first event was September 27th and we enjoyed a

yummy taco bar, a devotion about giving back, and made "clean-up" buckets to help those who have experienced disasters.

6. With a heavy heart, we let Beckie go from her position as the administrative assistant and food pantry volunteer. We ask for your to keep Beckie in your prayers as she discerns what is next for her in regards to work.
7. At the end of September, we brought on Suzanne Caputo as our new office manager for the church. Suzanne brings with her a wealth of knowledge in office administration, accounting, as well as being trained as a culinary chef. Please welcome Suzanne with open hearts! We will introduce Suzanne to the congregation on Sunday, October 6.
8. And lastly, Devon has requested from the session to block her continuing education time and vacation time for 4-weeks in a row. The session is honoring this request and we are all praying this will be a time of rejuvenation and learning and Sabbath for me and my family.

As always, it is a joy being your pastor. Looking forward many more years to come as God continues to lead us forward together in our community. God is good friends. All the time, God is good!

In Christ,  
Pastor Devon



## Time Away for Pastor Devon

Pastor Devon will be taking four weeks away to focus on continuing education and vacation time with her family. In July, Devon realized she was in the early stages of burnout and wanted to prevent it from continuing. The session is incredibly supportive of Pastor Devon as she takes this time away for learning, rest, and renewal. Devon will be attending a workshop in Kansas City, MO called Perspectives where she will be focusing on hospitality for local churches. Emma and Gigi (Devon's mom Sharon) are traveling with her during this time. Emma will get to "homeschool" Kansas City and they will be able to visit with family. Then Devon will attend a weeklong intensive in Baltimore, MD called Community Organizing and Congregational Development Training. This course is a one-week intensive followed by 6 months of continuing education in this area. Then Devon and Emma are going to head to Atlanta, GA to connect with friends and then Rockwood, TN enjoy a change of scenery with Fall. We will spend time hiking, reading, resting, and enjoying nature at our extended

families cabin. Devon and Emma will return to Englewood for another week of getting back into the rhythm of life and a final week of vacation for Devon. We might even head up to Epcot for the Food and Wine Festival!

Devon is incredibly excited about this block of time away. But probably even more excited to come back to our congregation renewed and rested and ready to go into the future with Wintergarden. If you think the past 5 years have been jam-packed, just you wait to see what 2020 will bring us!



## Rev. Lyn Olson

In being gone for 4 weeks, we believed it important to have the same person leading in worship for Sacred Space, Traditional Service, and Adult Sunday School. Rev. Lyn Olson will be joining Wintergarden for these 4-weeks. Lyn has been a dear friend and mentor to Devon. In addition to their friendship, Lyn was the pastor who officiated Devon's dad's funeral as well as married Devon and Lamont.

Here is a little information about Lyn. "Rev. Lyn Olson recently retired from full-time ministry from Venice Presbyterian Church, where she served for 9 years as Associate Pastor for Community Life. She previously served two congregations in the Kansas City area, after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2002. A second career pastor, Lyn had a prior career as a partner in an employee benefits firm. She is married to Ron, a retired meteorologist, and together they have three children and 7 grandchildren. Pastor Lyn continues to preach and teach within the Presbytery, and enjoys international house swapping, Zumba and plant based cooking."

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**  
Every Thursday from 3 to 4:30pm



Wintergarden Presbyterian Church \* 18305 Wintergarden Ave \* Port Charlotte, FL

Praying for our friends and family, our community and neighbors, the mission to feed people, and our nation and world are vital! Especially as we always seek God's wisdom in moving forward and responding to various situations. All are invited to come on Thursdays for Prayer and Praise from 3-4:30pm.



**Fourth  
Friday  
Family  
Fun Night**

4th Friday Family Fun Night Continues! Everyone is invited to join us on Friday, October 25 from 6-8pm for our "Garden Art Party." Dinner will be a lovely lasagna with salad and bread. Following dinner, Nichole Moranda will lead us in creating the "Garden of Eatin'" entryway into the garden, as well as individual family signs for your garden bed and additional signage helping to direct people around the garden. There will be plenty of art projects for everyone, even if you don't have a bed. The more folks who come the better the art and fellowship will be!

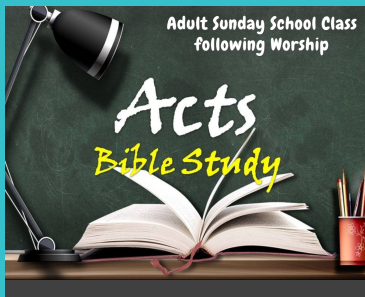
Help for Children's/Youth Sunday School is Needed! Currently, Pastor Devon is the only teacher. We need about 3 more folks to help with the teaching. Please let Devon know if you are intersted.



The Wintergarden Food Pantry is officially up and running. Volunteers are needed. If you can, please fill out this form to let us know how you can



volunteer. Click [HERE](#) for the form. You can see Patti Neis for more information or you can call the office at 941-743-5335.



Our study of Acts has continued! We will plan to complete the study of this book by the end of November. Then we will begin an Advent Study, followed by a new study in January of 2020. Lamont continues to lead this class and looks forward to having you join!



Come and serve a wonderful meal to folks at the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition on Tuesday, October 15 at 4:30pm. What a wonderful way to be servant leaders and in service to those in our community.

Have you ever heard of Bone Builders? Bone Builders incorporates stretching, balance, and weight-bearing/resistance exercises. It is suited for both men and women and was developed especially for seniors to help reduce the risk of osteoporosis. It is based on the fact that proper exercise stresses bones and stimulated by the stress, bone density increases.

Wintergarden has a Bone Builder's class that meets every Tuesday and Friday at 10am. All are welcome to join.



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18305 Wintergarden Ave, Port Charlotte

**DISCOVERING YOUR  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

The beds for the garden are almost complete! It is amazing. The shed is installed. The Memorial Garden has been weeded. Pollinator Gardens are being created by the kids in Sunday school. And so much more! Only 2 beds left for folks in our community. If you are interested in joining our garden team or working in the garden, please join for a meeting on Sunday, October 6 at 12pm. We will review the garden rules, share the new and exciting



things happening, and prepare for what is to come. If you are interested in joining the garden effort, please talk with Weldon or Michelle, our new VISTA volunteer.



Being Mortal was written by Atul Gawande, MD about how to have the conversations around end of life. We started this conversation in July, and we will continue it on Wednesday, December 4 from 10-1pm. Nafi from Tidewell Hospice will join us as we continue these discussions. Bring your paperwork, or come to pick up the paperwork.

We will have a time for questions and answers as you work through these documents. We will provide lunch. Registration for this conversation is requested, but not required. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Devon at 941-525-6671 or [revdev08@gmail.com](mailto:revdev08@gmail.com).



# OATMEAL

## Chocolate Peanut Butter

# Banana Oatmeal

## Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 2 ripe bananas
- 1 tbs cocoa powder
- 1 tbs peanut butter powder (or 1-2 tablespoon(s) of peanut butter)
- 1tbs maple syrup

## Directions:

1. Add the oats and boiling water into a bowl and cover for 5 minutes.
2. Slice the banana into pieces.
3. Add teh banana pieces, cocoa, peanut butter powder, and maple syrup to the oats.
4. Mix everything together.

Recipe is from [www.plantbasedgabriel.com](http://www.plantbasedgabriel.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Ongoing Events:

#### **SUNDAY**

Sacred Space 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

4th Friday Family Fun Night from 6-8pm (only on the 4th Friday of the month)

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](mailto: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](mailto:twelve_d4three@yahoo.com)*

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