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The February
2020 Garden
Times

Enjoy!

Wintergarden Monthly Newsletter

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



Welcome back to all our seasonal friends! We always love having you back with us for these few months of the year. I am constantly amazed how our seasonal congregation changes every single season. And each season, we are blessed with new folks with amazing gifts to share with us in Port Charlotte. Thank you for choosing to be with us during your time.

As we continue to grow and learn more about who God is calling us to be in our community, we (the Session) know that we need to refine many of our processes, procedures, and expectations. As we have developed the community garden and food forest and food pantry, we still know there are so many things to improve upon. We love that our seasonal friends jump in to help and offer relief when we are sometimes short on volunteers. In addition, we are praying for continued growth in our community spiritually and numerically. And as more folks join our community, we are always able to plug people in and connect relationally.

On Sunday, February 23, we will have our annual congregational meeting with a potluck. It will be a shortened worship service so we have time for our meeting. Then we will join together in the Memorial Garden for a meal. We hope everyone will choose to join us for this time. During this time, we will talk through more of 2019 and share more dreams and hopes for 2020.

A couple of Sundays ago, I shared a quotation from Henri Nouwen and forgot to give him credit. It was about the importance of looking at the world from a place of compassion. Nouwen says the following: "Compassion grows with the inner recognition that your neighbor shares your humanity with you. This partnership cuts through all walls which might have kept you separate. Across all barriers of land and language, wealth and poverty, knowledge and ignorance, we are one, created from the same dust, subject to the same laws, destined for the same end."

As God continues to bring to light more of the concerns in our community connecting with feeding people physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, I pray we are able to come from a place of compassion. That God continues to help us see the world through the lens of love, hope, peace, and joy. There is so much happening in our community and our world that doesn't have that lens. I continue to pray that we can be the bearers of compassion and love in our community, near and far. I hope you will continue this journey with us.

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



Come and serve a wonderful meal to folks at the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition on Tuesday, February 18 at 4:30pm. What a wonderful way to be servant leaders and in service to those in our community.



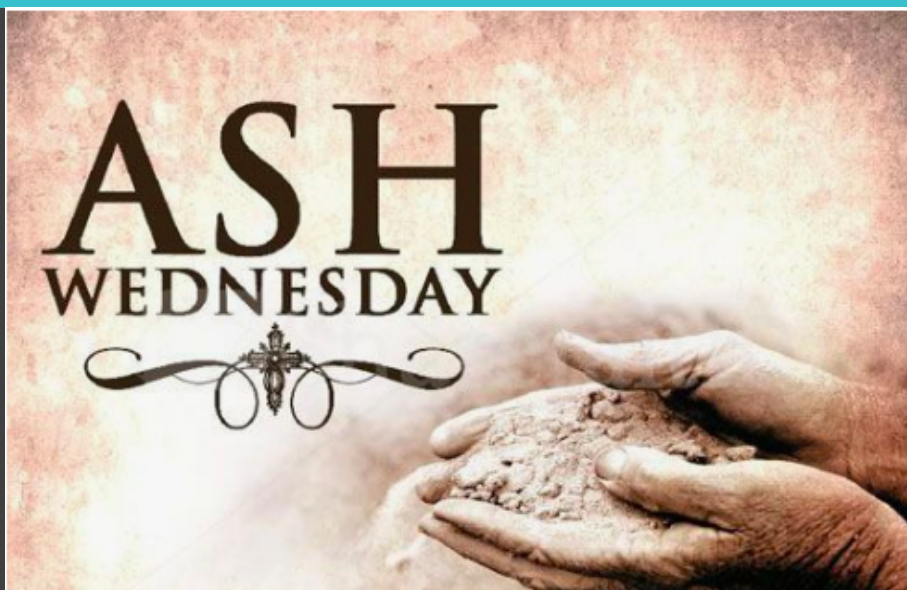
Everyone is invited to join us on Friday, February 28 from 6-8pm for our leap year party. Following dinner and our devotional, we will have fun together leaping into March. This will be a fun, intergenerational, everyone welcome, evening.



Thank you to everyone who joined us to talk through End of Life information last week. Our next conversation will be on Wednesday, March 25 from 10-12. We will get into the nuts and bolts of planning, and Pastor Devon promises there will be fun included! If you haven't had a chance to join us for previous gatherings, please consider coming on March 25th.



If you are interested in learning more about Being Mortal by Atul Gwanade, please check out the link above to the Frontline Special.



Our Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 26 from 9-10am. Please join us for this service as we remember these words from scripture,

"All go to the same place:

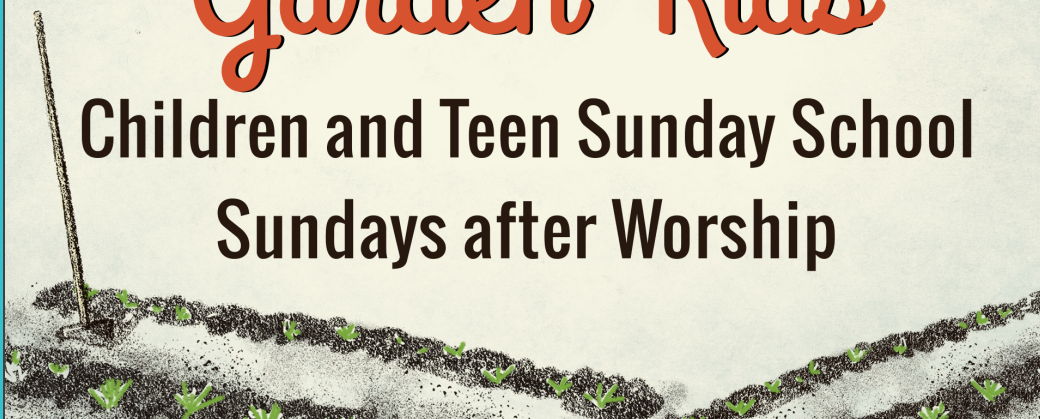
all are from the dust;

all return to the dust."

~Ecclesiastes 3:20 CEB

Garden Kids

Children and Teen Sunday School Sundays after Worship



Children's and Youth Sunday school will continue this Sunday. Pastor Devon is looking forward to being back with the kids after her time away.

Also, 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 interested.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6-8PM

All Welcome to Join in the Fun!



**FOURTH
FRIDAY
FAMILY
FUN NIGHT**

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, Port Charlotte, FL

Join us for a night of games, fun, food, and fellowship. For dinner, we will do a potato bar. Everyone bring their favorite fixins' for potatoes and the church will provide the potatoes. Looking forward to seeing you then!

OUTSIDE

WORK DAY

**Saturday
February 29**

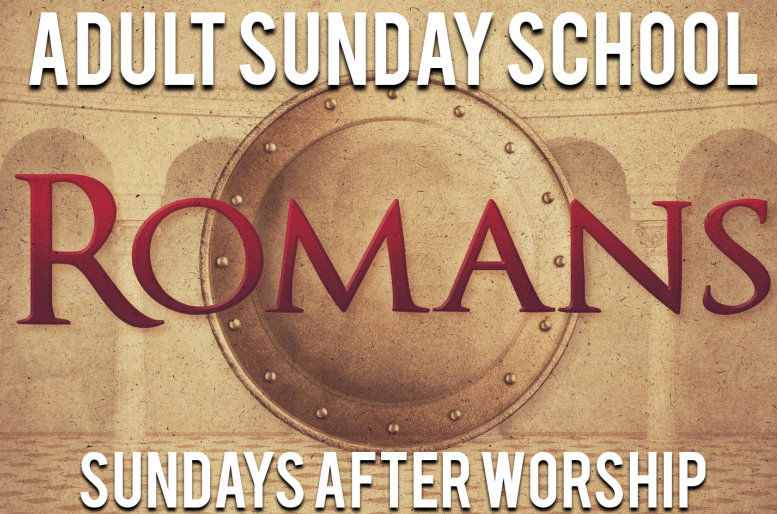
9am-Noon

- Potluck Lunch -



The Wintergarden Food Pantry has been a huge learning experience. And Patti

We are also learning so much about the processes and procedures for having the pantry and having the food people need. As we continue to move forward, we are in need of more volunteers to help out. 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.

The poster features a textured, parchment-like background with faint architectural details. In the center is a large, circular, metallic-looking object, possibly a shield or a decorative plate, with rivets around its edge. The text is overlaid on this background.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

ROMANS

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

Our study in the book of Romans has officially begun...but it isn't too late to join! Romans is a book full of amazing wisdom and insight into what life was like for the first Christians and how their wisdom applies to us today. Come and join Lamont and others for this deep and thoughtprovoking study of the book of Romans.

The GOSPELS

10:00AM TO 12:00PM

The first four hundred years of Christianity was a time in which many gospels were written. It was also a time of conflict between different Christian groups who each said they had the correct understanding on the personification of Christ. Just as there were different groups of Christians so were there different gospels written. The actual number of gospels is unknown and while some exist as “complete” gospels there were also many fragments of gospels and letters alluding to gospels that are no longer in existence. The conical Gospels (gospels in the Bible), Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are well known but the nonconical gospels (not in the Bible) are lessor known but are more numerous than the conical Gospels. This class will be an exploration into the different gospels and will continue through Wednesday, February 26 from 10am-12pm.

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.



In December, we welcome Julie Christensen to our staff as our office



Here is a little bit about Julie. Feel free to stop by on Tuesdays and meet her.

Julie was born and raised in Massachusetts. She now lives happily in Florida with her husband Nathan and their four boys Jacob, Jonathan, Jaxon, and Jayce. She has a cairn terrier mix named Sammie, a great Dane/American bulldog named Sarge and a cat named Tigger. She earned a degree in healthcare administration in 2012. She has always enjoyed helping other people and previously worked in the medical field for 15 years. She looks forward to working with Pastor Devon (who also officiated her marriage) and the rest of the congregation.



The Community Garden

Have you seen how amazing the garden is becoming? The beds are complete. Gardeners are working away and so much yumminess is growing!

When you get a chance, everyone working in the garden would love for YOU to come

Two fundraisers are beginning for the community garden. The first is a memorial brick pathway that will lead into the garden. The second is a fruit tree fundraiser to build the food forest. More information to come on Sunday and the weeks to follow.

If you want to be involved in anyway, please let Pastor Devon or Weldon or Michelle know. We would love to have you engaged in helping us help people feed their families.



Banana Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups old fashioned oats
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ½ teaspoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- 4 medium sized ripe bananas
- ⅓ cup chopped walnuts

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with parchment or spray with non-stick spray.

2. Use a high power blender to process oats to the consistency of flour. Pour into mixing bowl and add baking soda and spices.

3. Blend bananas until completely smooth. Add to oatmeal mixture along with the nuts (or other dried fruit) and mix until combined.
4. Drop 2 tablespoon balls of dough onto cookies sheet, spacing well. Dip the scoop or spoon into water to keep the dough from sticking. Use lightly moistened fingers to flatten each cookie. Bake for 15 minutes.
5. Cool cookies on wire rack and store in an airtight container.

Recipe is from <https://www.bluezones.com/recipe/banana-oatmeal-cookies/>

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 (Open)

MONDAY

Prayer and Praise from 11:00-12:30pm

TUESDAY

Bone Builders at 10am

AA Book Club (not an official AA meeting) at 7pm

WEDNESDAY

AA Big Book Group at 7pm (Open)

THURSDAY

Food Pantry 12-4pm

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

Subscribe

Past Issues

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

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twelve_d4three@yahoo.com

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