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The September  
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](mailto:revdevo8@gmail.com) and ask to be removed. Sorry for any  
inconvenience!*

Dearest Church Family-

Well friends, it has been quite the year! 2020 didn't turn out the way most of planned. There have been more times this year that I have been lost for words than I ever thought possible! It is hard to believe it is September and we have been living in the world of COVID-19 for over 5 months. Even with all of that, we have continued to be the church and share God's love in many ways.

I wanted to fill you in on a few exciting updates for our faith community. I also wanted to remind you that even though we have been impacted by COVID-19, our ministries to feed our community haven't stopped. In fact, they have exploded! We are now feeding over 155 families every Thursday through our food pantry. We also just cleared out more room in our garden beds to welcome new gardeners to our community. And we will begin education programs this fall to teach the community how to garden. In addition, we have continued to feed people through learning and worship and care during crisis.

1. We welcomed Lynn Webster as a member to our faith community in

Service, enjoys fellowship, Starbucks, and fighting for justice. If you haven't had a chance to meet Lynn yet, join us in the garden for Sacred Space or for fellowship on Sunday mornings at 11:00am.

2. In July, we applied for a grant to begin the process of updating the food pantry. On Wednesday, August 26, we found out that we were awarded the grant. The amount we received is \$15,000! And on September 2, we received the grant money. Stay tuned for exciting changes to the food pantry and garage!

3. Do you guys remember how the Charlotte County Bus ran into the overhang on the main building in February? After months of trying to find a company to do the work, Truex Construction is able to come out. The work will begin in early September.

4. We started gathering together for worship in June. For the month of June, Sacred Space and the traditional service were outside. Now Sacred Space continues outside and the 9:30 traditional service are inside. If you are not comfortable gathering for worship, both of the worship services are on Facebook Live every Sunday morning and emailed to you on to watch on YouTube on Monday. We also know some folks have gotten out of the habit of coming to worship. If that is you, that is fine! Restart that habit this Sunday if you feel comfortable. Also, If you aren't receiving the emails, don't know how to use Facebook, or need help with technology in general, PLEASE contact Pastor Devon.

5. Every Wednesday evening at 7:30, we gather virtually for zoom check-in and prayer. This has been a fun way to stay connected and to check in on how folks are doing. We would love to have more folks join us for this time. To join us, you will need to download Zoom on your device. And then join through this link and meeting ID:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/824192898>  
Meeting ID: 824 192 898

6. Every Sunday morning after worship, we have a time for Fellowship. Bring your coffee and cookies to our gathering at 11:00am. To join us, you will need to download Zoom on your device. And then join through this link and meeting ID:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522927576>  
Meeting ID: 835 2292 7576

7. On Saturday, August 29, we celebrated our first year with our VISTA volunteer through AmeriCorps and in partnership with Keep Charlotte Beautiful. Michelle O'Connor has spent the last year with us and we have been grateful for her year of service. On September 8,

our second VISTA volunteer will be joining us. We will welcome Hemal Patel to our community as he helps us build more capacity to our food pantry and community garden. You can reach Hemal via email at [vista@wintergardenpres.org](mailto:vista@wintergardenpres.org).

8. This summer, 12 of us spent time diving deeper into gaining a deeper understanding of systemic racism, anti-racism, power, and culture. It was an intense summer of learning. But very eye-opening. We did this study in partnership with Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church. If anyone would like to receive the "syllabus" for the 8-week class with our recorded discussions, please email me ([revdev08@gmail.com](mailto:revdev08@gmail.com)) and I will send them to you. It will also be on the website soon. I feel this would greatly benefit everyone and approaching it from the "syllabus" will allow you to work through the material as you are able too.

There is probably so much more to fill you in on. But for now, please know we miss you and look forward to when we can fully gather. Stay tuned for more conversations and a survey on what that looks like moving forward. Blessings to you all.

In Christ,  
Pastor Devon



### Meet Lynn!

We are excited to welcome Lynn to our faith community. Lynn has lived in the area for a few years. She was a college art professor in Idaho, moved to Sarasota about 10 years ago, and now lives Port Charlotte. Lynn has enjoyed our Sacred Space Meditation service as well as participating in our Anti-Racism



We wanted to share a few worship reminders:

**First**, we had an air purification system put on all 7 AC units in the church. Click [HERE](#) for details on the system.

**Second**, you can gather with us via Facebook live for either worship service. <https://www.facebook.com/wintergardenpres>

**Third**, as we gather for worship inside, please wear a mask. We have masks as well if you forget yours. Chairs are spaced 6 feet apart as we gather in a circle together.

Looking forward to seeing you!



# Sacred Space

worship centered in silence,  
scripture and prayer

Sundays @ 8:30am

**Join us in the Garden or on  
Facebook Live**

Sacred Space Meditation Service continues to gather in the garden and on Facebook Live every Sunday morning. Music typically begins around 8:25am. This is a service centered in silence, scripture, and prayer. This is a meditation service. Here are some of the links to help you connect with us through our meditation worship service:

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/wintergardenpres/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/wintergardenpres/videos/?ref=page_internal)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKbSgSALV\\_HpcsXk7bsNO4g?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKbSgSALV_HpcsXk7bsNO4g?view_as=subscriber)

Hope to have you join us!

Love, Pastor Devon



On Sunday, August 29, we celebrated our time together with Michelle as our VISTA volunteer with the community garden and food pantry for the past year. Many of our gardeners had a send off for her with a lunch. Sorry for the non-socially distanced pictured! We had all be sweating outside and then had a meal. We forgot! But this group has also been around each other for the past few months. Michelle has moved to Englewood (about a mile from Pastor Devon's house) and will still be part of our gardening community. If you want to reach out to Michelle, her email address is: [m.oconnorfla@gmail.com](mailto:m.oconnorfla@gmail.com) and her phone number is 941-800-6933.

Grab some coffee and join us  
@ 11:00 am

# Sunday Morning Fellowship

Join the Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522927576>  
Meeting ID: 835 2292 7576

All are welcome to grab a cup of coffee, maybe some cookies and fruit, and gather with us for fellowship. This has been a delightful time of building relationships, conversation about the most random things, and prayer. Hope to see you there!

Zoom info:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522927576>

Meeting ID: 835 2292 7576





have more folks join us for this time together. We have had a wonderful time getting to know one another...new and old friends! Zoom link is above! We hope to have you join us.



Many positive things are happening with our community garden. One being that we are officially a certified bird and butterfly sanctuary with Peace River Audubon Society. Thank you to Colleen Moravek for designing and creating the water features (3 beautiful bird baths), Weldon DeGroot and Michelle O'Connor for butterfly garden entryway and all the amazing things the two of you work on in the garden, and to Jeri's dad for our barn owl habitat. Many more exciting features to come to the garden...including more families, education opportunities, and experiences.

# WEEKLY PRAYER

Pastor Devon is inviting the Wintergarden community and friends to join for weekly prayer chats on Wednesdays at 7:30pm (EST).

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/824192898>  
Meeting ID: 824 192 898

We will continue Wednesday evening prayer. This has been a wonderful time to gather with our seasonal friends too! If anyone is open to helping be the host on a Wednesday evening, please let Pastor Devon know. Just remember, everyone near and far is invited to join us for our weekly time of prayer on WEDNESDAY NIGHTS! If you need help with getting on Zoom, please let Devon know and she will either help you or find someone to help you.

Here are the details:

Join Zoom Meeting: [CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW](https://zoom.us/j/824192898)  
<https://zoom.us/j/824192898>

If it asks for a meeting ID: [ENTER THE NUMBERS BELOW](#)  
**Meeting ID: 824 192 898**

Wintergarden and Keep Charlotte Beautiful are continuing our partnership with AmeriCorps through the VISTA volunteer program. For our second year, we are welcoming Hemal Patel. Hemal had this picture taken for his med school applications. Don't worry, he won't be in a suit and tie that often around here! Here is a bit of information about Hemal. We are excited to have him join us on campus the week of September 6th.



Hemal Patel graduated from Duke University in 2019 with a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in Global Health. At Duke, he specifically studied how

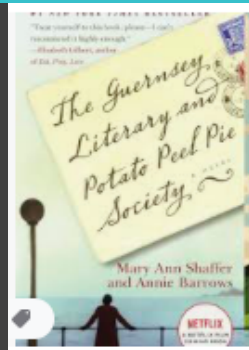


changes early in life could impact long term health in children. As an undergraduate, he also had the opportunity to live in Roatan, Honduras for two months during the summer of 2018 to help run a community outreach program to test children's vision. Since graduating, he worked as a research coordinator where many of the patients he saw were from rural communities without access to healthcare. He learned that bridging health disparities begins with addressing the underlying structural issues and hopes to make this an important aim of his career moving forward.



Wintergarden Presbyterian Church now has a YouTube channel. We are becoming so advanced in our technology usages! If you click on the link, then click on the subscribe button, you will be able to see the videos we post from Sacred Space Meditation Worship service and our daily devotion. You check out videos about the garden and other excited things going on there too. We NOW have 42 subscribers, that is an increase from 27. If we get 100, we would have a customized link (meaning, it would say Wintergarden Presbyterian in the title). Send Pastor Devon an email if you have problems accessing the link.

Click [HERE](#) for the YouTube link.



Wintergarden Wordies (the church book club) has continued to meet every month. We are gathering through zoom. Although the coffee and couches aren't as yummy and comfortable, the conversation is

On September 8, we gathered to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer. This book was absolutely wonderful and we are hoping the movie will be good too. We might even try to plan a trip to the Guernsey Islands in England! It's a quick and easy read. Join us if you can!

On Tuesday, October 6, we will gather to reflect on "Beloved" by Toni Morrison.

"Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, Beloved is a towering achievement."

We meet through zoom. Here is the information to join through zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88275712091>

Meeting ID: 882 7571 2091



Friends, we are continuing to serve a monthly meal at the Homeless Coalition. Jeanne and John Murray are preparing and delivering the meal on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We aren't able to go and serve the food, but we can still prepare. Thank you for continuing this ministry! Our next meal will be Tuesday, September 15 at 4:30pm. If we are able to serve, we will let everyone know.



## Fourth Friday Family Fun Night is BACK!

Beginning on the 4th Friday of September (Friday, September 25) we are inviting our families to come and join us for food, fellowship, and fun from 5-7pm.

Here are pieces to know:

1. Invite your friends. We want this to be a time together for fellowship, checking in with one another, and community.
2. Bring a picnic for your family. Bring chairs or blankets for your family.
3. This event will be outside in the garden.
4. Dessert will be provided by the church.
5. This is a monthly intergenerational event...meaning, COME! It is for everyone. Pack a picnic basket and come on over!
6. Questions, call/text/email Pastor Devon (941-525-6671 or [revdev08@gmail.com](mailto:revdev08@gmail.com)).

# When You Can't Pass the Offering Plate

A huge thank you to everyone who has continued to mail in your offering checks and to those who have ventured out into on-line giving. The on-line giving is incredibly helpful for our congregation. If you haven't tried it out yet, please do so. For those of you who have giving electronically, we truly appreciate you trusting technology and using that resource. We receive your offering quicker when you give electronically, so thank you so much. If anyone is wanting to try it out, click [HERE](#). You will be directed to a secure website that is connected to the church. It's secure! We promise!!!

ps...when we gather on Sunday, the collection of the offering will be slightly different. You will just put your offering in the plate on your way into or out of the Sanctuary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Ongoing Events:

#### **SUNDAY**

Sacred Space 8:30am

*In the garden*

Traditional Service at 9:30am

*In the garden*

#### **WEDNESDAY**

Delivery day for the food pantry (between 9:30-11:30am)

NA Meeting (in the garden)

#### **THURSDAY**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)

Food Pantry 12-4pm  
NA Meeting (in the garden)

[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#) 

**FRIDAY**

AA Men's Group at 7pm (Closed-meeting in the Sanctuary)

Community Events:

**Rescheduling dates TBD**

Neighborhood Watch Groups-

**TBD**

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