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The January 2021
Garden Times

Happy New Year!

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!

Dearest Faith Community-

Happy New Year! I pray this newsletter finds you well. Yesterday in worship, we talked about Star Words being our words of intention for this year. I am excited for this new year for many different reasons. But the main reason is because I feel led to live into a place of unexpected hope for what is to come. So friends, as we begin a new year, with new star words, and new dreams, I want to just share these thoughts.

There has been a lot revealed to us this past year and hopefully in our Advent journey. We were invited these past 6 weeks to live as "those who dream" and see what God is calling us towards. Throughout this past year, we have learned things about ourselves, our community, our brokenness, our weaknesses and our strengths, we have learned hard things about one another, and we still have so much more to learn. I know this past year was hard, for many different reasons; but I also think there was a great deal of good from this past year. I want to encourage everyone to reflect on 2020 and think through what you feel you have learned. Maybe write yourself a letter, a journal synopsis, or draw/paint out the year. For me personally, I didn't hate 2020 and I also wasn't rushing it away. I felt I


forward in a healthier more wholistic way into 2021.

I also want to encourage everyone to continue to dream for our own lives, with our families, and as a faith community. For me, Christmas Eve was a really holy experience. There was something amazing about worshipping outside. It was this freedom of being outside the building for worship in a different way than Sacred Space or Easter Sunrise Service. I believe it was an invitation to do something new, something different, something outside the box. It was the reminder that our ministry is outside the walls of the building and our mission is greater than we can even imagine. As we worshiped that night and embraced "God with Us," it was the concrete reminder that God is with us wherever we worship, serve, learn, and live. God is with us and guiding us forward into this year...dreaming, hoping, loving, caring...with us.

Looking forward to growing with you this year!

Happy 2021! May God be present in our lives and may we share the light of Christ with everyone we meet!

In Christ,
Pastor Devon



**Sacred Space will be at 8:30am in the
Sabbath Garden.**

**WE ARE MOVING OUR
SUNDAY SERVICES OUTSIDE.**

**Our 9:30am worship service will be
in the Memorial Garden.**

Both services will be live on Facebook.

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.

Our Traditional 9:30 service has moved outside to the garden as well. This service is also on Facebook Live.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/wintergardenpres/videos/?ref=page_internal

Hope to have you join us! Please remember to wear a mask and if you don't feel well, please stay home and join us online.

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

COVID-19 Vaccination

Interested in scheduling a COVID-19 vaccination in Charlotte County?

COAD Florida stands for "Community Organization Active in a Disaster." Pastor Devon has been sitting in on meetings for the COAD Food Task Force for Charlotte County since April 2020. In the meeting held on Tuesday, January 5, a representative from COAD talked about how people are receiving the vaccination.

Here are the key components:

1. Every Wednesday morning at 9am, the website opens for those in Charlotte County and allows people to register to get the vaccine the following week. Visit <https://www.coadfl.org> to sign up to receive the vaccine as soon as you desire and can get an appointment.

2. Who is able to receive the vaccine in Phase 1? This article from the Sun shares how Charlotte County is distributing the vaccine. https://www.yoursun.com/charlotte/opinion/columnists/column-charlotte-county-begins-vaccine-distribution/article_2412bee6-4abf-11eb-aa2b-c3620863a4a5.html

-According to the governor's executive order, the priority population for the initial phases of the vaccine will go to:

-Long-term care facility residents and staff

-Persons 65 years of age and older

-Health care personnel with direct patient contact

-Hospital providers may vaccinate persons who they deem to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19.

star words

WORDS OF INTENTION FOR 2021

If you were not able to join us for in person worship on Sunday, and would like a Star Word (or Gift) please let Pastor Devon ASAP! We will drop them in the mail this week!

Here is a little theological background on "Star Words." The creators of our theme "Those Who Dream" share these insights:

1. The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
3. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
5. By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ON RACISM



Join us on a monthly basis to continue to learn from one another and learn how to be part of the solution in our country. Conversations will take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 4pm.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! JOIN US ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 4PM.**

Whether or not you joined our 8-week study on Anti-Racism, you are welcome to join our continued conversations on racism. There is STILL so much more to learn. When we met in December, we decided to read a book (what a surprise!). We are reading "Jesus and the Disinherited" by Howard Thurman. It was written in 1949 and is still so relevant to us today. If you have a chance to read the book, we hope you will do so. If not, we know that we can always continue to chat about the books, movies, articles, and situations we have been learning through. Our hope is to continue to grow together and learn how to be allies, colleagues, and better friends with all people of color.

We will gather virtually through Zoom. Here is the Zoom information.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490345468?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490345468?pwd=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXR5VDY4UT09)

[pwd=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXR5VDY4UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490345468?pwd=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXR5VDY4UT09)

Meeting ID: 854 9034 5468

Passcode: Racism

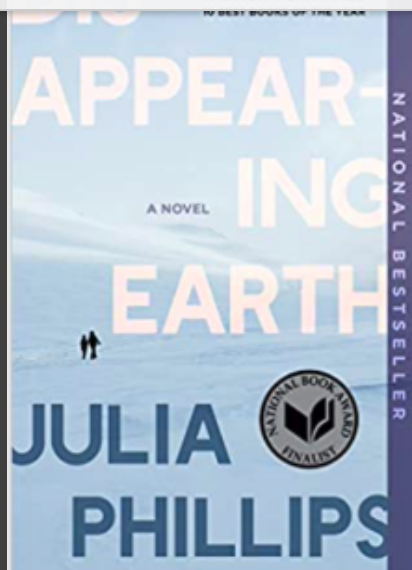


Bone Builders is back! Join every Tuesday and Friday at 10am, you are invited to build strength in your body, physically distanced, and enjoy fellowship as well. Everyone is gathering outdoors under the portico connected to the main building.



Friends, we are in need of helpers! John and Jeanne Murray have been the leaders of preparing the meal for the folks at the Homeless Coalition. Jeanne and John are in need of some helpers with meal prep. If you are interested in helping prepare part of the meal, please let Pastor Devon know ASAP.

We continue to drop off the meal at the Homeless Coalition on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We aren't able to go and serve the food, but we can still prepare. I know many folks are missing this ministry! Thank you for continuing this ministry! Our next meal will be Tuesday, January 19 at 4:30pm.



Wintergarden Wordies (the church book club) has continued to meet every month via zoom on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Although the coffee and couches aren't as yummy and comfortable, the conversation is absolutely wonderful!

On January 5, we will gather to discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Join us if you have already read the book or just want to chat!

On Tuesday, February 2, we will gather to discuss "Disappearing Earth" by Julia Phillips.

"One August afternoon, two sisters—Sophia, eight, and Alyona, eleven—go missing from a beach on the far-flung Kamchatka Peninsula in northeastern Russia. Taking us through the year that follows, Disappearing Earth enters the lives of women and girls in this tightly knit community who are connected by the crime: a witness, a neighbor, a detective, a mother. We are transported to vistas of rugged beauty—open expanses of tundra, soaring volcanoes, dense forests, the glassy seas that border Japan and Alaska—and into a region as complex as it is alluring, where social and ethnic tensions have long simmered, and where outsiders are often the first to be accused. In a story as propulsive as it is emotionally engaging, Julia Phillips's powerful novel brings us to a new understanding of the intricate bonds of family and community, in a Russia unlike any we have seen before."

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

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

Meeting ID: 882 7571 2091



Friday Family Fun Night in the Garden!

On Friday, January 29, families and friends are invited to join us for Family Fun Night. This will be a time to gather, relax, eat, and learn. Bring a picnic dinner and we will enjoy our evening activities outside.

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).

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 basket near the podium.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing Events:

SUNDAY

Sacred Space 8:30am

***In the garden
and on Facebook Live***

Traditional Service at 9:30am

***In the garden
and on Facebook Live***

Fellowship Hour @11am

TUESDAY

Bone Builders @10am (outside)

WEDNESDAY

Typical delivery day for the food pantry (between 8:30-11:00am)

THURSDAY

Food Pantry 12-4pm

FRIDAY

Bone Builders @10am (outside)

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

SATURDAY

NA Meeting @7pm

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