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The February  
2021  
Garden Times

*Happy Groundhog's  
Day...6 more weeks of  
winter!*

## 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 Wintergarden Faith Community Near and Far-

Last Fall, Wintergarden officially became a Matthew 25 Congregation

aligns with this initiative. There are 3 different focuses for being a Matthew 25 congregation and the denomination is asking us to focus in 1...yet, we realized that all 3 are interconnected with the other. So we are working towards living into all three of these focuses.

- **Building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.
- **Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- **Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

With that, we want to embrace that February is Black History Month. The denominations' website shares this information (and much more) on Black History Month.

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*"Black History Month began in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson started Negro History Week. Woodson had a master's degree from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Harvard University, both in history. As a historian and school principal, he lived experiences that demonstrated to him that Black people were underrepresented in the books and scholarly communication that had shaped American history. The few Black people that were included in such publications were barely mentioned by teachers."*

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Visit the denominations website by clicking [HERE](#) for more information.

For more information and a deeper understanding on Black History Month, here are a few more resources:


- There are some really interesting events happening for the public through this website: <https://africanamericanhistorymonth.gov>. This website has an additional link sponsored by the National Park Service. Click [HERE](#) for more info.
- And locally, in Fort Myers, there is a public online forum through CommUNITY Speaks: Advocacy and Activism on Wednesday, February 24 at 6pm via zoom. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Also, as we work towards gaining a deeper understanding of situations happening in our country and the impact on our black and

Matter." So, as a way to encourage learning and understanding, I found this resource from the denomination to be incredibly helpful in articulating "Black Lives Matter." Click [HERE](#) to read the whole article for a deeper understanding.

As I look at the year 2021, I am still greeting the year with unexpected hope. I am looking forward to seeing how God continues to call us to live out our commitment to being a Matthew 25 congregation to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. If you are interested in learning different ways to be involved with these initiatives, please let me know. It's more fun when more people are involved!

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.

Here are some of the links to help you connect with us through our Sunday morning worship opportunities:

***For both services, you can also pull into a parking space and join worship from your car.***

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/wintergardenpres/videos/>

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!

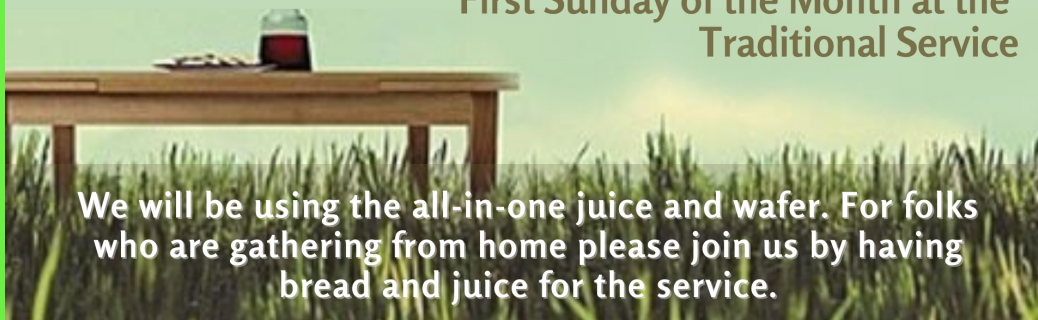
Zoom info:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83522927576>

Meeting ID: 835 2292 7576



# COMMUNION

Weekly Communion at Sacred Space Meditation  
First Sunday of the Month at the  
Traditional Service



We will be using the all-in-one juice and wafer. For folks who are gathering from home please join us by having bread and juice for the service.



## Lent 2021 Series

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats--every time lives, are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exasperation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshiping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Our sub-theme, A Lenten Refrain, speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

Join us as we begin this journey on Wednesday, February 17 at 12pm for our Ash Wednesday service in the Memorial Garden. We will continue this journey through Easter Sunday on Sunday, April 4th.

~From A Sanctified Art Community

Mondays Feb 22 - Mar 29 8-9am

via Zoom

Lectio  
Divina

We'll listen to scripture & reflect on how God is speaking to and through us.

THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

Lectio Divina, literally meaning “divine reading,” is an ancient practice of praying the Scriptures. During Lectio Divina, the person listens to the text of the Bible with the “ear of the heart,” as if he or she is in conversation with God, and God is suggesting the topics for discussion.

There are four movements for Lectio Divina:

1. Lectio: (Listening to the Word of God or Reading God's Word)
2. Meditatio: (Reflecting on the Word of God)
3. Oratio: (Responding to the Word of God)
4. Contemplatio: (Resting in the Word of God)

During Lent, we will gather via zoom for an intentional time of listening, reflecting, responding, and resting in the Word of God. We will meet on Mondays during Lent 8-9am beginning Monday, February

Here is the Zoom Link:  
Join Zoom Meeting: Click [HERE](#)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?pwd=TUxCRTThUcEdRbTNTWmJ6emZRamUyZz09)  
[pwd=TUxCRTThUcEdRbTNTWmJ6emZRamUyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?pwd=TUxCRTThUcEdRbTNTWmJ6emZRamUyZz09)

Meeting ID: 878 3208 0869  
Passcode: 396015

## Charlotte County COVID-19

### Vaccine Information

#### COVID Vaccine

Many have expressed their desire for getting the COVID vaccine. I have also heard the difficulties with getting the vaccine. I continue to pray for a more efficient rollout of the vaccine that is truly reaching our community more effectively!

Click [HERE](#) for the Florida Health website for more information.

Vaccination appointments can now be made by calling 866-200-9160 (or 833-990-3549 for TTY users).

Publix is also offering the vaccine. Click [HERE](#) for the link.

## LENT IN A BOX



Join us on our Lenten journey with the "Lent in a Box" for your family. Boxes will be available beginning Sunday, February 14th after worship.

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church

Beginning Sunday, February 14th, we will be handing out "lent in a box" kits for everyone who would like one. There will be a devotional, prayer cards, activities, responses, and more for you to do during this

boxes will help you as an individual, couple, or family be more engaged in taking worship into your home and then out into the world. If you are not able to pick one up between February 14 and February 21, please let Julie or Devon know (office@wintergardenpres.org or 941-743-5335) and we will deliver one to you.

# 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, FEBRUARY 9TH AT 4PM.

Whether or not you joined our 8-week study on Anti-Racism, you are welcome to join our continued conversations on racism. Our focus will be to connect before our meeting with Pastor Howard Brown, our local NAACP representative. We will meet with Pastor Brown on Saturday, February 20 at 1pm via zoom.

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=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXRsVDY4UT09)  
[pwd=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXRsVDY4UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490345468?pwd=N2oxSEF1bW82ZmNPeHFscXRsVDY4UT09)

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! Menu will be planned by Tuesday, February 9 so we can ask for folks to help in advance. Our next meal will be Tuesday, February 16 at 4:30pm.



# ADOPT-A-ROAD



Join Wintergarden Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, February 27 from 8-10am



## Friday Family Fun Night in the Garden!

Family Fun Night will officially begin on Friday, February 26. We are hoping to have the firepit in place by then! 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.

3. This event will be outside in the garden. Hopefully by a fire pit!
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**

**and on Facebook Live**

Traditional Service at 9:30am

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

Fellowship Hour @11am

NA Meeting @6pm

**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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