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The April 2021
Garden Times

Wintergarden Monthly Newsletter

If you have accidentally been added to this newsletter, please just email Pastor Devon at revdev08@gmail.com and ask to be removed. Sorry for any inconvenience!



Dearest Wintergarden Faith Community Near and Far-

It's that time of year again. It's the time when our seasonal friends are packing up (or have already done so) and are heading back home. I have

have grown in our ways to stay connected throughout this past year. As folks didn't come down this season and as folks travel back home, I know I will still be able to see people, even if it is only virtually, it is better than not seeing folks for months at a time.

Friends, I am taking the week off. We are enjoying some time together with family, around the house, and taking a couple fun day trips. If there are any emergencies, please contact Bob Swails at 941-624-3850 or Barbara Woods at 941-661-2763.

Then the week of the 11th, I will be primarily working from home. There are two major grants that are being worked on at the moment. The first is called the "Rekindle" grant from Columbia Seminary. This is a great geared towards helping pastors and leaders think about what needs to happen to help "rekindle" our ministry towards a healthy and vital future. The second grant is for money to help me take a sabbatical in 2022. More to come on that possibility.

As I look at the year 2021, I will continue to embrace 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!

Friends, I'm going to rest. I love you all. See you in a couple of weeks!

In Christ,
Pastor Devon



WORSHIP INFORMATION

**Sacred Space at
8:30am in the Garden**

**Traditional Service at
9:30am in the
Sanctuary**

Worship Services Updates

Sacred Space will not happen on Sunday, April 4th and 11th. We will resume the Sacred Space Meditation Service in the garden and on Facebook Live on Sunday April 18th. Music typically begins around 8:25am. This is a service centered in silence, scripture, and prayer. This is a meditation service. This service will also move out of the parking lot and deeper into the garden so we can worship by the fountain.

Our Traditional 9:30 service is moving inside to the Sanctuary beginning Sunday, April 4th for Easter Sunday. This service will also be on Facebook Live. Over the course of the next month, we will also begin the process to update our virtual worship with the grant we received from Peace River Presbytery.

Here are some of the links to help you connect with us through our Sunday

morning worship opportunities:

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

Fellowship is cancelled for the following Sundays:

April 4th and April 11th.

Fellowship will resume on Sunday, April 18th at 11am.

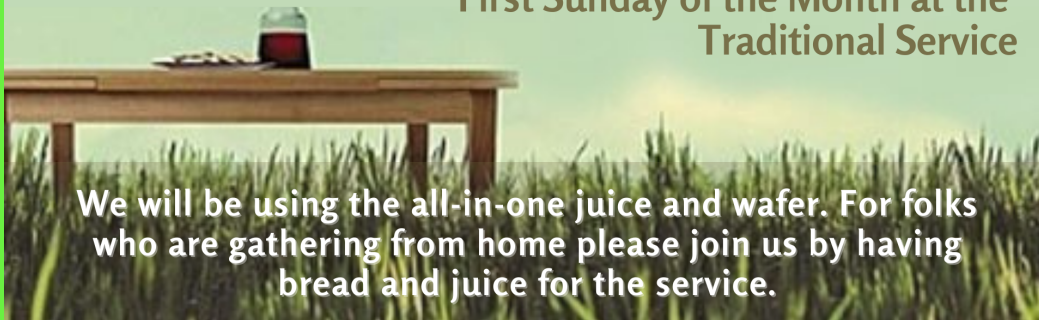
All are welcome to grab a cup of coffee, maybe some cookies and fruit, and gather with us for fellowship. This has been a delightful time of building relationships, conversation about the most random things, and prayer. Hope to see you there!

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.

Lectio Divina

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

**Join on Mondays at 8am
via Zoom**

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)

As we gathered during Lent, those gathering asked to continue our time after Lent. We will resume Lectio Divina on Monday, April 12th at 8am and will gather every Monday morning.

Here is the Zoom Link:
Join Zoom Meeting: Click [HERE](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832080869?>

Meeting ID: 878 3208 0869

Passcode: 396015

Adult Sunday School

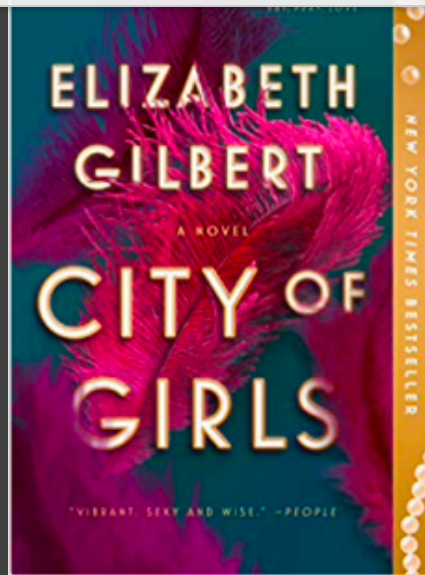


THE BOOK OF

EPHESIANS

*After Church on Sundays
Beginning April 18th*

Beginning on Sunday, April 18th, after worship we will begin Sunday school for the adults. The study will be on the book of Ephesians. For our approach, we will go verse by verse and truly talk through the meaning of this epistle.



Join the Wintergarden Wordies on Tuesday, April 13th at 1pm for the discussion of the book "City of Girls" by Elizabeth Gilbert. The description of the book is below. The Wordies typically meet the first Tuesday of the month at 1pm, so mark your calendars for May 4th for the next gathering.

Here is the NEW ZOOM LINK for the discussion:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912609255?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912609255?pwd=eINXS3N2MUR0WU5YUE1OQTBIRXpsUT09)

[pwd=eINXS3N2MUR0WU5YUE1OQTBIRXpsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81912609255?pwd=eINXS3N2MUR0WU5YUE1OQTBIRXpsUT09)

Meeting ID: 819 1260 9255

Passcode: 792813

"Life is both fleeting and dangerous, and there is no point in denying yourself pleasure, or being anything other than what you are."

Beloved author Elizabeth Gilbert returns to fiction with a unique love story set in the New York City theater world during the 1940s. Told from the perspective of an older woman as she looks back on her youth with both pleasure and regret (but mostly pleasure), *City of Girls* explores themes of female sexuality and promiscuity, as well as the idiosyncrasies of true love.

In 1940, nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College, owing to her lackluster freshman-year performance. Her affluent parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters, from the fun-chasing showgirls to a sexy male actor, a grand-dame actress, a lady-killer writer, and no-nonsense stage manager. But when Vivian makes a personal mistake that results in professional scandal, it turns her new world upside down in ways that it will take her years to fully understand. Ultimately, though, it leads her to a new understanding of the kind of life she craves - and the kind of freedom it takes to pursue it. It will also lead to the

Now eighty-nine years old and telling her story at last, Vivian recalls how the events of those years altered the course of her life - and the gusto and autonomy with which she approached it. "At some point in a woman's life, she just gets tired of being ashamed all the time," she muses. "After that, she is free to become whoever she truly is." Written with a powerful wisdom about human desire and connection, *City of Girls* is a love story like no other.

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, APRIL 13th AT 4PM.**

Looking forward to continuing the conversation since our last chat with Pastor Brown. There has been many different issues happening and as always, looking forward to the conversation.

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.



We continuing serving a monthly meal at the Homeless Coalition. Our next time to serve is April, 20 at 4:30pm. In addition to preparing the meal, we are finally able to serve the meal again. We can take up to 6 people to serve. We will have sign up sheets for people to help.



Friday Family Fun Night in the Garden!

What a wonderful time we are having at Family Fun Night! Food, fellowship and fire! Oh, and S'mores! This will be a time to gather, relax, eat, and learn. Bring a picnic dinner and we will enjoy our evening activities outside. We might even have a drum circle at our gathering on Friday, April 30 from 5:30-7:30pm.

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. Hopefully by a fire pit!
4. S'mores 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 Sanctuary
and on Facebook Live*

Fellowship Hour @11am

NA Meeting @6pm

Subscribe

Past Issues

TUESDAY
Bone Builders @10am (outside)

Translate ▼

RSS 

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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