

[View this email in your browser](#)



The June 2021
Garden Times

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 Wintergarden Faith Community Near and Far-

On Wednesday, May 5th, our family went out for ice cream and went

to the barn. I ordered the last pup cup of ice cream for our sweet Abby. We had ice cream together as a family in the bed of the truck. Then we went to the barn, let Abby and Star give each other some love, and took Abby on a walk around the pond. She meandered around the pond and fell throughout her walk, but she was so happy to be at the barn. We got home, tucked Abby into her bed, gave her a whole bunch of extra hugs and snuggle time, and eventually we all fell into a restless sleep. The next afternoon, we picked up my mom and headed to Sarasota to put our sweet Abby down. It was incredibly hard! Abby had only joined our family 4 years ago. The next week, should would have turned 15 years old. Instead of celebrating with an extra special bone and her birthday hat, Lamont brought home her ashes and we placed her next to the picture I have shared and her pawprint. She lived a long and healthy life, but we just wish we could have spent more of those years with her. Our home is still too quiet, we keep looking for her, and our hearts hurt.

Then on May 21, after 4 months of packing off and on with my mom, she closed on my childhood home and I left my key for the new owner. The week before the closing, the new owner came by with her contractor. She told my mom that when she came to the house that first time, she felt that this house was filled with love. She was right! It was hard to take my key off my key chain and leave it, to say good-bye to my childhood home. But I am really excited for the next adventure for my mom (who is staying in Venice, just moving into a new home) and she is really excited about where she is moving!

As I have reflected on this past month, I realized how much I was worrying about Abby and how we were constantly trying to figure out what to do. Knowing the decision needed to be made in regards to Abby, our family was a bit on edge with everything. And the same time, I was helping my mom with packing and saying good-bye, with going through "stuff" and cleaning out the old to open up a way for something new. May was a hard month. I know you understand because many of you have been there.

As my mom closed on her new house on June 1, I kept thinking about all the possibilities that are coming for her. As our hearts still break because we miss Abby, I also keep thinking about new possibilities coming our way as well. And as I think about the Wintergarden Faith Community, I continue to dream about all that is to come in the near future, as well as the years ahead.

Many of you know I like to dream and hope and wonder and see...I like to throw things out into the world and see who bites and what someone grabs ahold of.

For instance, many years ago, we started to dream about a

community garden...and now on June 12 from 10-1, we are having a community wide garden dedication. And at the same time, we will celebrate our last 5 weeks with Hemal, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer who has been working with us in regards to food insecurity in our community, and then we will find a time to properly send him off to Med school at Duke University.

Many years ago, we started to dream about more people joining our faith community. Later in June, we will be welcoming couple new members into our faith community, and possibly more!

And a few years ago, we started to pray for new people to step up into leadership positions with the church. On another Sunday in June, we will ordain two new elders at Wintergarden.

And a couple of years ago, a group of us started talking about how great it would be for a seminary student to join us for the summer to learn how to pastor a small church with really amazing folks...On June 13, we will welcome Kathy Tessin to be our summer intern for 10 weeks.

And last fall, we applied for a grant to improve our virtual presence for worship, we received the grant, and now the equipment is being ordered and hopefully installed by the end of June or beginning on July.

A lastly, a few years ago, we started to dream about having an installed pastor at the church. And so, on a Sunday in June, we will have a called congregational meeting to vote to install me (Pastor Devon) as the pastor of Wintergarden.

Friends, that is just the month of June. Can you even imagine what the rest of 2021 will look like when all of these amazing things are happening in JUNE?

God is truly up to something amazing in our midst. We just have to continue to be willing to dream with God and pull together as the body of Christ to make it happen. It involves all of us and is something we are called to. As we continue to feed people in our community, we are so blessed to be on this journey together. I couldn't imagine going on this journey with anyone else. Thank you for being a gift to me and my family.

Friends, I've been helping my mom move this week and then head to a wedding. Pastor Todd will be joining us for worship on June 6. And Sacred Space will be pre-recorded and posted on Facebook at

I love you all. See you in a couple of weeks!

In Christ,
Pastor Devon



DEDICATION **GRAND
OPENING!**



There will be a Pig Roast.
We'll also plant trees in
our sensory garden.

Wintergarden Presbyterian Church
18305 Wintergarden Avenue, Port Charlotte

We hope everyone will come out for our Community Garden and Food Forest Dedication on June 12 from 10-1pm. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony, various dedications, and Commissioner Deutsch will be joining us from 10:00-10:45am. Also, folks will receive tours of the garden, as well as learning more about the sensory garden. Our team has been putting a lot of work into making this a wonderful event. We pray you will join us and bring your friends! This is a great way to introduce people to the amazing ministry at Wintergarden where "WE FEED PEOPLE!"



GUESS WHAT???? Wintergarden is going to have a summer intern!!!! Pastor Devon is so excited to have Kathy join us this summer. Devon has been dreaming and praying for someone to experience the joy of being with our wonderful congregation for a few years. Devon believes that YOU will provide an amazing teaching, learning, and growing experience for our summer interns. And our first intern is Kathy Tessin. I asked Kathy to send us a bio so we could get to know her in writing first and then welcome her to our community on JUNE 13, 2021.

Here is a bit about Kathy:

Kathy (she/her/hers) has just completing her second year at Columbia Theological Seminary. She came to Columbia from Columbus, Georgia, where she is a member of New Hope Presbyterian Church.

She holds a B.A. in Social Science Multidisciplinary Studies and an M.S. in Human Resources Management from Michigan State University and had a career in human resources management in various private and public sector organizations before coming to seminary. Her last position as the Chief Human Resources Officer for the Muscogee County School District in Georgia. Kathy is enrolled in Columbia's four-year Dual Degree program, which awards a Master of Divinity along with a Master of Practical Theology degree. She is concentrating on Preaching and Worship in the Practical Theology field.

Kathy has been active in other campus activities: intern on the Office of Worship Life team; student representative on the Masters Level Degree Programs Committee and the Implementation Task Force for the CTS Becoming Project; and on the leadership team of the CTS student organization, Imago Dei. This fall, she looks forward to

When not studying (which consumes most of the time these days!) Kathy enjoys tennis, golf, hiking, biking and reading across many genres. She is looking forward to continuing her learning off-campus this summer by serving as a supervised ministry intern at Wintergarden Presbyterian Church!



In the spirit of Wintergarden Presbyterian's mission, the food pantry has continued to put their all into making sure no one goes hungry in Charlotte County. We have become the largest food pantry in the county, serving approximately 250 families, or 1100 people, every Thursday. We've also been blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Care and Share program. Care and Share provides shelf stable food to individuals 60 and up, on a recurring monthly basis. Over the first few months, we have a great start with over 100 boxes given out every month, and many more clients asking to be added!

Another focus of the church and the pantry has been on improving

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS !\[\]\(4729e517bc6a7cd81c8025b9646574fb_img.jpg\)](#)

food given out by food pantries. Each week we provide healthy recipes featuring the produce of the week, and all the amazing things they can do for your health!

A very exciting development is our weekly nutrition class, Faithful Families Thriving Communities, with James and Abbey from Florida Health Department of Charlotte County. They have been doing a spectacular job at teaching us how to shop and prepare the foods that can keep our bodies, families and communities thriving. Please consider joining us, every Wednesday at 4 pm through the month of June.

Sincerely,
Kymmie Laurence, Food Pantry Director



WORSHIP INFORMATION

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

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

(Worship Services Updates)

Sacred Space Meditation Service will continue in the garden and on Facebook Live on Sunday June 13th (on June 6, the service will be prerecorded and posted online for 8:30am). 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 continues to be on Facebook Live and in person.

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

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 Sunday:

Sunday, June 6

Fellowship will resume on Sunday, June 13th 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!

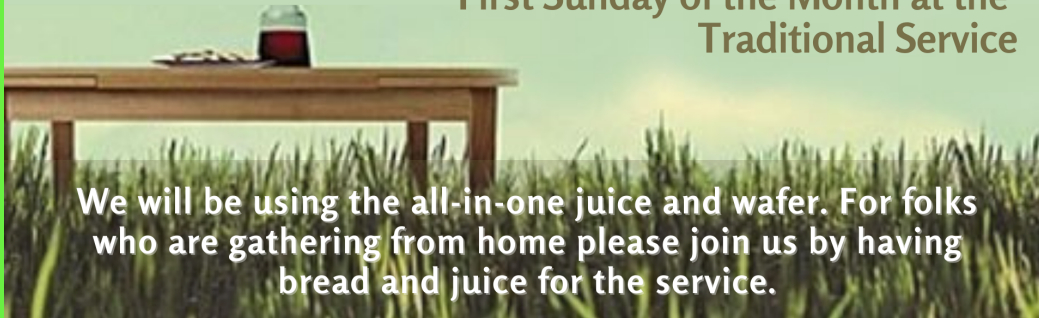
Zoom info:

<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.

Lectio Divina will continue on Monday mornings throughout the summer. Pastor Devon has cancelled Lectio for May 31, but we will gather on Monday, June 7 at 8am.

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 gather for Lectio Divina on Monday, June 7th

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

Adult Sunday School



THE BOOK OF

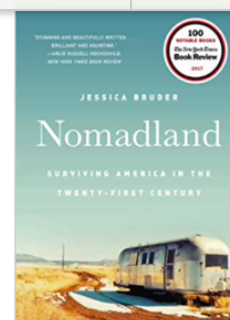
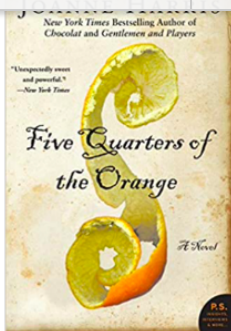
EPHESIANS

Adult Sunday school will continue on June 13 (taking a break on June 6 because Lamont will be out of town). We will continue to gather at 10:45 in the library and via zoom. 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. Looking forward to having you join us for this time of digging deeper into God's word.

Zoom info:

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

Meeting ID: 835 2292 7576



Join the Wintergarden Wordies continue to meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 1pm Eastern via zoom. We would love to have more folks join the book reading and conversations. Here are the books for the next few months. We hope you will join the conversation!

JULY: *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris (307 pages)

Framboise Simon returns to the French village where she lived as a girl during the German occupation. As she returns to her home on the banks of the Loire, the locals do not recognize her as the daughter of the infamous Mirabelle Dartigen – the woman they still hold responsible for a terrible tragedy that took place during the time of the German occupation decades earlier. Although Franboise hopes for a new beginning, she quickly discovers that past and present are inextricably intertwined. Nowhere is this truth more apparent than in the scrapbook of recipes she has inherited from her dead mother.

With this book Framboise re-creates her mother's dishes, which she serves in her small creperie. And yet as she studies the scrapbook – searching for clues to unlock the contradiction between her mother's sensuous love of food and often cruel demeanor – she begins to recognize a deeper meaning behind Mirabelle's cryptic scribbles. Within the journal's tattered pages lies the key to what actually transpired the summer Franboise was nine years old.

AUGUST: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi (272 pages)

In a small back alley of Tokyo, there is a café that has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. Local legend says that this shop offers something else besides coffee—the chance to travel back in time.

Over the course of one summer, four customers visit the café in the hopes of making that journey. But time travel isn't so simple, and there are rules that must be followed. Most important, the trip can last only as long as it takes for the coffee to get cold.

Heartwarming, wistful, mysterious and delightfully quirky, Toshikazu Kawaguchi's internationally bestselling novel explores the age-old question: What would you change if you could travel back in time?

SEPTEMBER: *Sunflower Sisters* by Martha Hall Kelly

Kelly tells the story of her ancestor Georgeanna Woolsey, a Union nurse who joins the war effort during the Civil War, and how her calling leads her to cross paths with

Inspired by true accounts, *Sunflower Sisters* provides a vivid, detailed look at the Civil War experience, from the barbaric and inhumane plantations, to a war-torn New York City to the horrors of the battlefield. It's a sweeping story of women caught in a country on the brink of collapse, in a society grappling with nationalism and unthinkable racial cruelty, a story still so relevant today.

OCTOBER: *Nomadland*, *Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder (288 pages)

From the beet fields of North Dakota to the campgrounds of California to Amazon's CamperForce program in Texas, employers have discovered a new, low-cost labor pool, made up largely of transient older adults. These invisible casualties of the Great Recession have taken to the road by the tens of thousands in RVs and modified vans, forming a growing community of nomads.

Nomadland tells a revelatory tale of the dark underbelly of the American economy - one which foreshadows the precarious future that may await many more of us. At the same time, it celebrates the exceptional resilience and creativity of these Americans who have given up ordinary rootedness to survive, but have not given up hope.

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

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, JUNE 8th AT 4PM.**

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

This podcast was shared with me. I haven't been able to listen to it yet...but it sounded really great. Click [here](#) for the link.

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



We continuing serving a monthly meal at the Homeless Coalition. Our next time to serve is June, 15 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, June 25 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 (if it is safe to burn)!
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. The children will come around to collect the offering instead of the offering plates being passed.

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

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

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

Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Nutrition Class 4pm

THURSDAY

Food Pantry 12-4pm

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

NA Meeting @7pm

Copyright © 2021 Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



