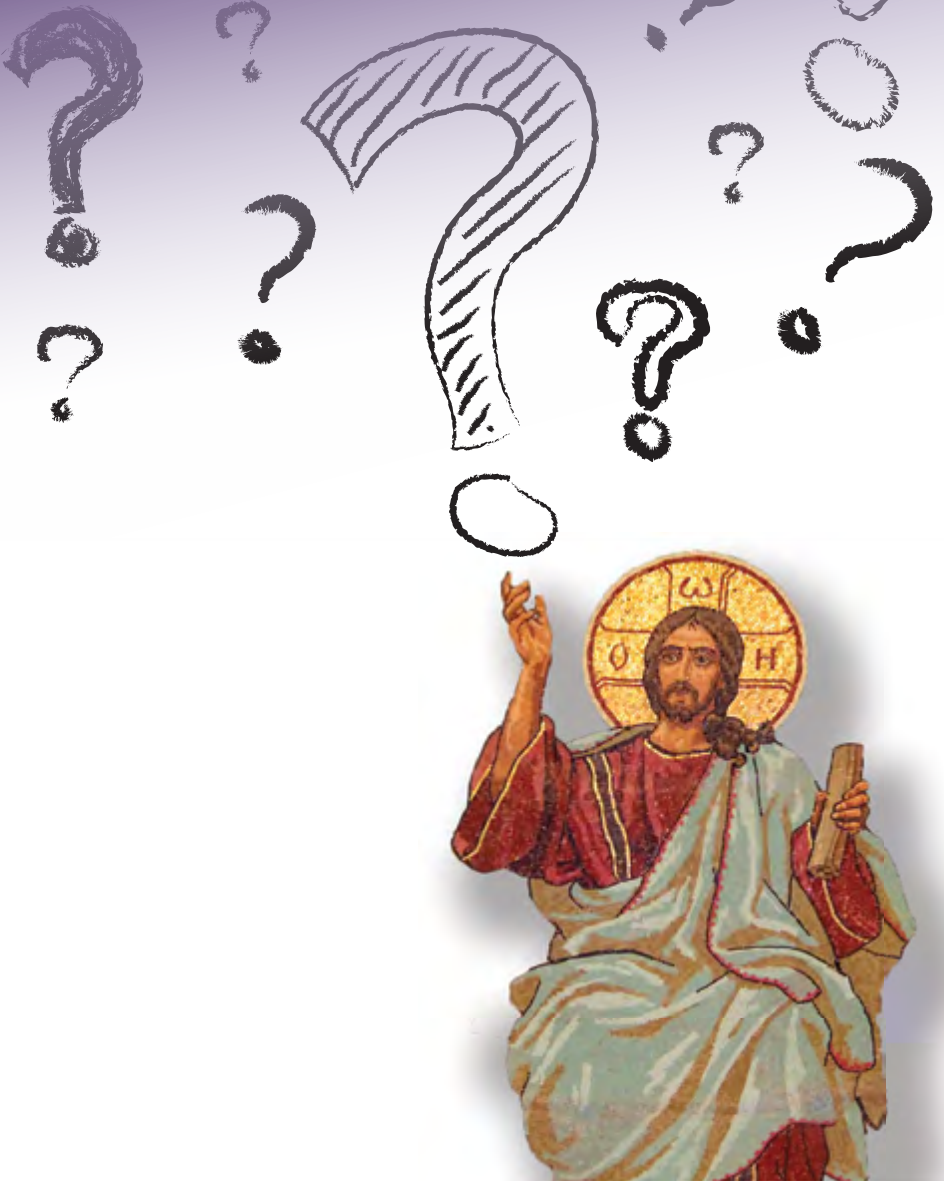


 spring garden church  
spiritually. deeply. passionately.

# Delve

February 2024



# Quick Calendar

## WEEKLY

Sun	10am Sunday Worship in person or watch <a href="#">Online</a>	pg 21
Tue	10am-12pm Pastoral Team Meeting	pg 21
Thur	10am Moms' Meet Up	pg 21
1st & 3rd	12 - 2 pm Lunch - Prayer - Share	pg 21
Thur		
Weekly and Biweekly Home Groups		pg 6

## UPCOMING

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Feb. 2	YOUTH: Sr High Home Group	15
Feb. 9 - 11	YOUTH RETREAT Blizzard 2024 (Gr 9-12)	16
Feb. 10	Visioning and Planning Meeting for our Community Garden	9
Feb. 13	IHOP Tuesday	9
Feb. 16	YOUTH: Artisan Night	16
Feb. 23	Jr High Home Group	17
Feb. 25	Ministry Resource Meeting	10
Feb. 25	Newcomers Welcome Tea	10

See more at [www.springgardenchurch.ca/events](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca/events)

March 2024 Delve submissions are due Feb. 20th. Delve submissions are due on the MONDAY before the LAST Sunday of each month but due to the holidays we are giving it another week. To submit for the next issue of Delve, e-mail: [delve@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:delve@springgardenchurch.ca)





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*[www.springgardenchurch.ca](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca)*

# Features

Digging a little deeper into Spring Garden



## What do you long for?

Emily Kielstra

Over the last few weeks, I have been reminded how much I dislike the cold and in turn, I have been surprised by the extent to which this dislike exercises an uncanny power over me. I know this may sound ridiculous but oftentimes it seems that my dread of the damp, dark cold weather looming outside my window is more effective at jolting me out of my sleepy state than my own blaring alarm. While my alarm may initially disturb my slumber, it is the thought of the bitter cold that awakens my semi-conscious body and activates my lethargic senses.

Such a dislike stirs in me a deep longing for warmer, sunnier days, a longing so strong that sometimes it's hard for me to distinguish whether my stomach is turning because it is hungry or because I desperately don't want to leave the comfortable warmth of my bed and confront the grim elements beyond the walls of my apartment. Comical, I know, and perhaps a little exaggerated; nevertheless, I have found that reflecting upon my experience of Canadian winters and my consequent longing for the arrival of warmer, sunnier days to be fertile ground for deeper reflection.

In particular, I have been asking myself, “What do I long for most? What is it that I set my sights upon and strive towards?” Such self-reflection has reminded me how often I chase after things like personal success and achievement, the approval and acceptance of others, and individual happiness and comfort, all in an effort to satiate my desire to have my belovedness affirmed—I want to know that I matter, that my life counts for something more regardless of whether I am able to prove so to others. To clarify, it is not that any of the things I mentioned—achievements, acceptance, happiness, etc.—are inherently bad; rather, it is that in them I hope to find deep joy and satisfaction in the face of my deepest longings. That is, my longings have misdirected me towards things that do not draw me toward God, the only One who is able to satisfy my deepest longings. Perhaps you find this to be the case in your life as well as you wrestle with pervasive and insatiable longings and desires?

The Lenten season, beginning on February 14th and going until March 28th, offers an opportunity for us to pause and intentionally take time to consider what it is we long for most and how and where we seek to satisfy these longings. It is a time that compels us to journey with Jesus as He journeys to the cross, learning from Him as One who abided in the love of the Father and in turn, demonstrated His love for humanity by laying down his life. As we walk alongside Jesus, we will have a chance to observe that in spite of the pervasive allure of securing power, attaining wealth, or relishing in fame, He repeatedly set His eyes beyond the temporary pleasures of the present moment and sought that which would truly satisfy: to know and be known by His Father, doing that which He was sent to do.

As the winter persists, showing no sign of relenting in favour of warmer days, it often seems like the summer months that I long for will never come. I find myself drifting all too easily into despair as I pitifully conclude that my bed is the only thing that will satisfy my longing for warmth, even if I know it is temporary and terribly inadequate. You may laugh because this seems utterly ridiculous; yet, in a similar vein, how often do we settle for temporary fixes and passing pleasures because they promise to satisfy that which we long for most?

Jesus, His journey to the cross, and His act of self-emptying love invites us to cast our eyes beyond our present circumstances and to hold fast to a hope that is beyond anything we can conjure up ourselves. To be sure, this is not a solution to our present troubles, so as to say we will never experience pain or never wrestle with unsatisfied longings; rather, as we journey with Jesus to the cross, we are reminded that there is something greater than what we presently experience, struggle through, and long for. With these things in mind, let us allow this Lenten season to be a time when we bring our deepest longings before God, learning to abide more fully in His love and trust that it is He alone who can satisfy our deepest longings.



## Arriving Feb. 6

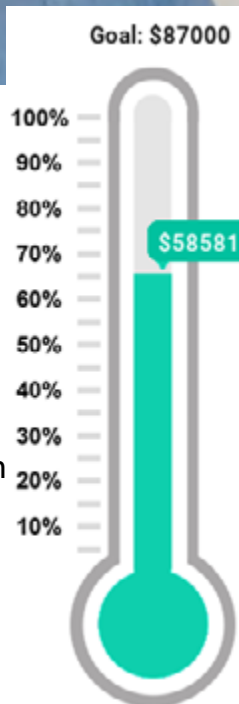
by Deb Tempelmeyer

Thanks everyone for your generous donations of basic home goods for the apartment set up for the Raso family. Thanks to everyone who will help to set up the apartment with Carrie and Tarik the first weekend of Feb. We look forward to welcoming the family to Canada on Feb. 6. Please continue to pray for their safe arrival and their integration into life in Canada.

### Financial Update:

Budget for the Year of Support: \$87,000.

Contributions to Jan. 12, 2024 were \$58,581.





## Join a Home Group for Lent

by Emily Kielstra

As people who worship a triune God, we believe we are called to embrace spiritual growth as a collective, not simply as individuals. We also believe that we are all made in the image of God and are therefore created to belong in community. With these things in mind, we invite you to be part of a Home Group for six weeks during Lent.

During the Lenten season, we will journey with Jesus to the cross, specifically exploring the self-emptying love of Christ. As a guide for our Home Groups gatherings, we will draw from Henri Nouwen's book, *The Selfless Way of Christ: Downward Mobility*. We encourage you to purchase this book (you can find it on [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca) or at [indigo.ca](https://www.indigo.ca)), though you do not need to have the book in order to participate in a Home Group.

If you would like to join a Home Group for the 6 weeks of Lent (Feb. 14th–Mar. 31st), please sign up at [tiny.cc/SGCHomeGroups](https://tiny.cc/SGCHomeGroups) by Wednesday, February 7th. If you have any questions, email Emily at [emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca).

# Lent as Alternative to Empire

Walter Brueggemann\*

Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which  
is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
-Isaiah 55:1-2a

Some of you will remember these TV ads from AT&T. They featured a winsome young teacher or librarian sitting at a table with young children. He engaged them in friendly talk through a series of questions. The questions of course led to the conclusion that we should buy AT&T products. But the teaching addressed to the viewer through the children was this: it is better to do two things at once rather than only one thing at a time. Bigger is better. Faster is better. More is better.

This poem of Isaiah is a wake-up call for us when we have been nearly talked out of faith by the force of empire, when we have wanted to prevail instead of trust mercy, when we have decided to gut it out rather than let the pardon come, when we have bought in to the phoniness of the AT & T ad rather than the God of the gospel who gives free gifts. Lent is a question, a gift, and a summons.

The questions of Lent are:

What are we doing?

Are we working for that which does not satisfy?

Are we spending for that which is not bread?

The gifts of Lent are free, gifts in the gospel that sustain life: free wine and milk, free water and bread, and all the markings of sacrament that refuse our thin attempts at empire.

The summons of Lent is to bear new fruit. Do what is in sync with the God of the gospel, the God who has another intention for our lives, who wants us out of the rat-race of "big is better" and so has mercy, who gives us pardon when we do not do enough by doing two things at once.

We are left with a new sense of ourselves as God's people:

no longer working for that which does not satisfy;  
receiving good gifts that we need for life;  
engaging in a new productivity of that which heals and transforms.

This could be, for any one of us, a return to our true self after almost being talked out of it.

*You are the God who disrupts our lives with an invitation. During this season of Lent, may we stop and may we start again: may we stop our strivings marked by greed and anxiety, may we start again the work of compassion and generosity. Amen.*

# Community Corner

Life in and around Spring Garden



## Visioning and Planning Meeting for our Community Garden.

**February 10 at 10 am followed by a potluck lunch**

Exploring how we can best share our resources to care for creation, our community, and each other. Details to come! Contact community garden email for more information or to share ideas: [garden@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:garden@springgardenchurch.ca)

There is also a meeting hosted by **A Rocha** on Sunday **Feb 11** in the afternoon at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church exploring ways churches can engage in Creation Care. For more information go to: [arocha.ca/event/churches-caring-for-creation-toronto-on/](http://arocha.ca/event/churches-caring-for-creation-toronto-on/)



## IHOP Tuesday

**February 13 at 6 pm**

To mark the beginning of Lent (and to have fun and fellowship), join us in-person to enjoy pancakes together. We will gather in our Multipurpose Room

in the basement to enjoy many different types of international pancakes. If you can help, please email Sam at [samlee@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:samlee@springgardenchurch.ca)



## Volunteering with Seniors

**February 1, 15 & 29**

Are you interested in connecting and supporting seniors in our community? If so, Willowdale Manor and NeighbourLink North York are inviting us to participate in three events at 175 Cummer Avenue.

- Thursday, February 1st from 1:30 - 3:30 PM - Valentines Day
- Thursday, February 15th from 6:30-8:30 PM - Singing and Dance Performance
- Thursday, February 29th from 4-6 PM - Art Show

They are looking for volunteers to connect with and offer support to the seniors who will be coming out these events. If you are interested in receiving more information or you are available to volunteer at the events, contact Emily at [emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca).



## Ministry Resource Meeting

February 25 at 11:45 am

Join us Sunday February 25th following worship at 11:45am for our 2024 Ministry Resource Meeting where we will:

1. Discuss and Vote on our Ministry Budget for 2024.

2. Approve the minutes of the meeting of June 4, 2023.

While only members can vote, everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion, whether you are a member or not, whether you've been here many years or just a few weeks.

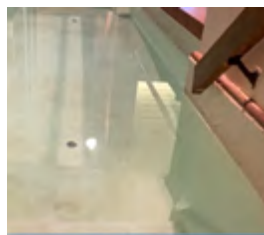
## Newcomers Welcome Tea



February 25 at 3 pm

Join us on Sunday, February 25th to give a warm welcome to our neighbours who are newcomers to Canada. We are looking for volunteers who can offer support anytime between 3PM and 6:30PM, whether it be helping with set-up, clean-up, table hosting, and/or providing home-baked treats. As

many of the folk coming to this event are ESL speakers, it would be especially helpful to have volunteers who speak Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi and Spanish. Email Emily at [emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca) if you are available to volunteer or you would like more information.



## Are You Interested in Being Baptised?

Are you interested in learning more about baptism or would you like to get baptised? If so, we will be hosting three gatherings in March (specific dates TBD) to talk through what

baptism is and why it is important. Following these sessions, we will celebrate the baptisms of those in our community who wish to get baptised on Sunday, March 31st. Please contact Emily at [emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca) if you are interested in getting baptised or would like more information.



## ESL Bible Study

**Sundays at 11:45 am**

All are welcome to come and practice your English.

No need to sign up!

Come to learn more about Jesus and to practice conversational English. We will go through new words each week, do a short lesson from the gospel of John and have plenty of time to practice conversational English.

We meet Sundays from 11:45am-1:00pm in the East lounge.

If you have any questions, please email Emily at [emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca)

[www.springgardenchurch.ca/events](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca/events)



## 2024 Church Wide Retreat

May 31 - June 2, 2024

We believe in a communal God who invites us into community. This year, our theme is abiding in Christ through prayer. One great way of doing this is to come to a retreat to unplug, get away from the city, and to enjoy God's creation in community. Come join us for a time of rest and renewal as we spend time together at Fair Havens! **EARLY BIRD PRICING EXTENDED.**

Register at: <http://tiny.cc/springabide>



Do you want to share something God is doing in your life or that you see God working around you? Something that could be a positive influence for the readers? A poem, story, art, photos...? We want to hear from you!

Email [delve@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:delve@springgardenchurch.ca) if interested.



**Hey Everyone!**

**Here's what's happening for February!**

**C&Y Registration Forms 2024:** For us to provide our ministry to the children of our church, we require new registration forms to be filled by their families every year as part of our policy to protect.

If you have not already completed this out since Sept 2023, please fill out our form through this link <http://tiny.cc/SGCFamilyRegistration> or QR code:



## **Sunday Morning Registration:**

On Sunday mornings, you can register children for worship at the child and youth check-in area. If you require assistance with this either Jeremy or Sam can help!

We will have sticker name tags printed out for our children to wear along with a security label displaying the unique code also printed on your child(ren)'s name tag.

**\*\*Please keep your security labels each Sunday for pick-up to help our new volunteers get to know and be familiar with you\*\*.**

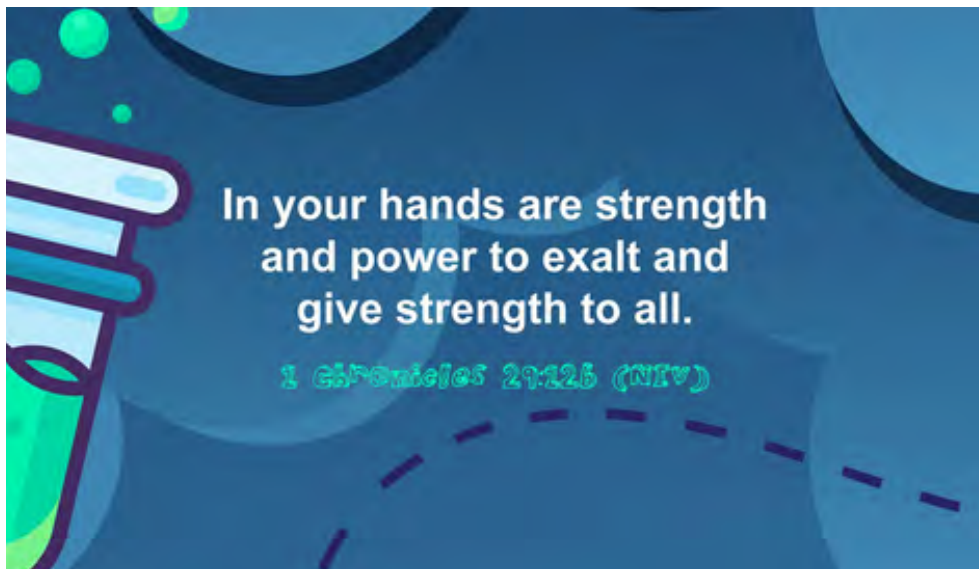
## **Sunday Morning Kids' Worship**

**Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!**

**WOW! | A 4-Week Series On Jesus' Miracles:**

Whether it's a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there's so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they're nothing compared to the miracles God

can perform. In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they'll no doubt go, Wow! Jesus has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.



## Online Resources For Home

To help serve your family better, we have uploaded all our SGC Kids' curricula online. The following link can be used to access our curriculum and use it at home, as well as find info pamphlets for following up with kids on what was discussed during their worship on Sunday mornings.

SGC Kids Curriculum Link:

<http://tiny.cc/OnlineCurriculum>





## Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings:

### Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings:

**February 4th and 18th:** We will have regular worship gatherings for youth in grades 6-12. Following the children and youth's blessing, the youth will move to our lounge to continue in worship.

On the following Sundays, we encourage youth to participate in and/or to serve in another area of the church's ministry:

- **Feb. 11th:** We will not have youth worship this Sunday due to our Sr High Winter Retreat.
- **Feb. 25th:** On the last Sunday of each month, our youth join the upstairs worship gathering with the adult congregation as part of our discipleship rhythm.

For any youth interested in serving regularly, please speak with Jeremy and fill out the following form

<http://tiny.cc/YouthLIT-Fall> or QR code:



## Youth Home Groups:

**Sr High Home Groups: \*February 2nd, 2024\*** - Our Sr High home group is meeting in our youth lounge. We will gather in our youth lounge to have dinner and talk about life as we're growing up and how Jesus can play a part of that. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy (along with any allergy/food restriction info) to let us know!

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Cost:** \$5 (Dinner Included)

**Jr High Home Groups: Feb 23rd, 2024** - Our Jr High home group will meet in our building this month. Unlike our regular youth events, Life Groups focus on intentionally living life as a community. We want to engage in conversations with youth about what is happening around us and the struggles we face.

**Time:** 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

## **Friday Youth Gatherings:**

**Feb 9th - 11th: Sr High Winter Retreat** - We'll be away at Muskoka Woods for our winter retreat, Blizzard. Please see below for more information!

**- This Retreat is now full!**

**\*\*This retreat is only available for youth in Grades 9-12\*\***

**Feb 16th: Artisan DIY Night** We will meet at our building to work on personal crafts and art projects together. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy by 12:00 pm the Thursday before along with any allergies or dietary concerns we need to know!

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**Cost:** \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

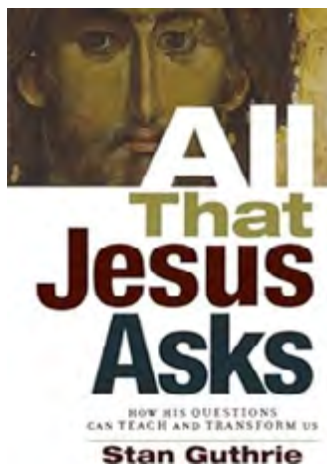
**Staying Updated:** To stay up to date on what is happening for your youth, please visit our google calendar which has all our planned events.

<http://tiny.cc/YouthCal>

# The Resource Centre

## Recommendations

Further reading suggestions to accompany our sermon series on the **Questions of Jesus**:

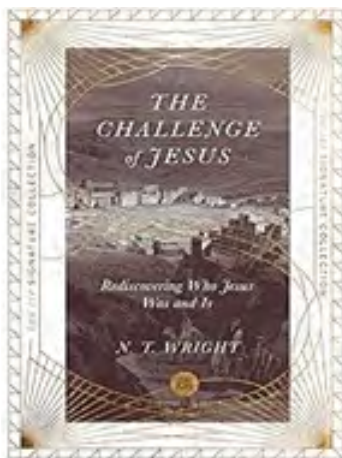


**All that Jesus asks: how his questions can teach and transform us, by Stan Guthrie**

**232 GUT**

More books have been written about Jesus than any other historical figure. Many of these books ask and answer questions about Jesus. All That Jesus Asks allows him to do the asking

and shows why getting the right answers will change your life. Covering nearly 300 questions recorded in the New Testament under twenty-six separate themes, All That Jesus Asks uncovers who Jesus is by examining what was important to him and what he wants us to believe. This unique and comprehensive look at the greatest figure in history will encourage and challenge readers.



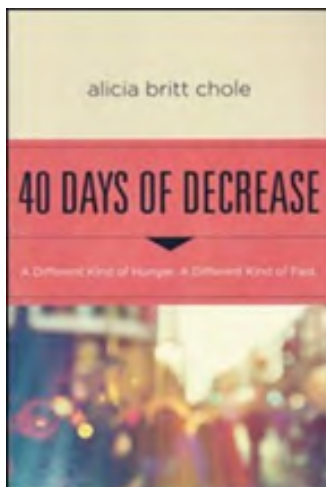
**The challenge of Jesus: rediscovering who Jesus was and is, by N.T. Wright**

**232 WRI**

The Challenge of Jesus poses a double-edged challenge: to grow in our understanding of the historical Jesus within the Palestinian world of the first century, and to follow Jesus more faithfully into

the postmodern world of the twenty-first century.

## Suggested readings for Lent

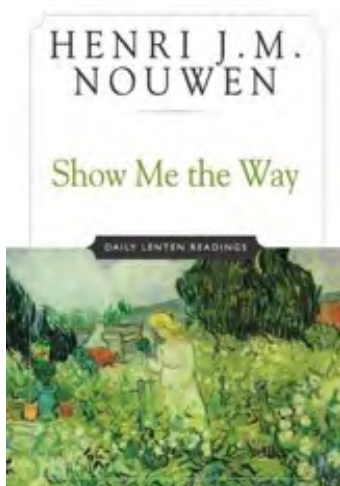


**40 days of decrease: a different kind of hunger, a different kind of fast, by Alicia Britt Chole**

**242.34 CHO**

Decrease life's unnecessary details and increase your relationship with the Lord so you can live in awe of Christ's resurrection! 40 Days of Decrease is a guide for those hungering for a fresh Lenten/Easter experience. Author Alicia Britt Chole guides you through a study of Jesus' uncommon and uncomfortable call to abandon the

world's illusions, embrace His kingdom's realities, and journey cross-ward and beyond.



**Show me the way: readings for each day of Lent, by Henri Nouwen**

**242.34 NOU**

Nouwen invites readers to join him on a 40-day Lenten path as fellow pilgrims, from the solemn beginning of Ash Wednesday to the joyous climax of Easter. This inspirational "search for the way" speaks directly to the heart during this time of reflection and prayer.

## Leadership Directory



### **PASTORAL TEAM** (alphabetical order by last names)

(Abby Davidson is on parental leave)

**Dale Forder**

Ext. 221

Office & Communications  
Administrator

[daleforder@  
springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:daleforder@springgardenchurch.ca)

**Emily Kielstra**

Ext. 226

Interim Pastor of Missional  
Discipleship

[emilykielstra@  
springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca)

**Greg Kay**

Co-Lead Pastor

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**Sam Lee**

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**Jeremy Ranasinghe**

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Pastor of Students

[jeremy@  
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### **Spring Garden Church**

112 Spring Garden Avenue, Toronto ON M2N 3G3

[www.springgardenchurch.ca](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca)

Tel 416.223.4593

[office@springgardenchurch.ca](mailto:office@springgardenchurch.ca)

Fax 416.223.6126

Prayer Line

416.223.4038

**Giving** is one of the ways in which we can respond to a generous God. We give because it is a part of our discipleship and an act of worship. Please give as you feel led. For more information please go to our website at: <https://www.springgardenchurch.ca/give>.

## DEACONS (alphabetical order)

Darlene Boyd  
Worship

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## ELDERS (alphabetical order)

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Suzanna Lai

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Barrie Porter

[barriep91@gmail.com](mailto:barriep91@gmail.com)

Marcy Scott

[marcyscott@rogers.com](mailto:marcyscott@rogers.com)

# What's Happening

## Life in Spring Garden

### Weekly

All Throughout the Week	<b>HOME GROUPS</b> <b>Connect for Community</b> Together through bible study, prayer and sharing, we meet online and in-person. Please email <a href="mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca">emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca</a> for more information or if you are interested in joining a Home Group. See more on page 6.	
Sundays	<b>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP</b> Join us Sunday mornings as we go through different series' ( <a href="#">read more</a> ). Join us at: <a href="http://www.springgardenchurch.ca/live">www.springgardenchurch.ca/live</a> or come in-person.	10 am
Tuesdays	<b>PASTORAL TEAM MEETING</b> We generally meet on Tuesday. Please pray for us, for wisdom and inspiration.	10 am - 12 pm
Thursdays	<b>MOMS' MEET UP</b> Moms and moms-to-be are invited to join us along with their little ones every Thursday morning for a time of conversation and play. We meet in the Toddler Room located in the church building's basement. Contact Emily at <a href="mailto:emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca">emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca</a>	10 am - 12 pm
1st and 3rd Thursdays	<b>LUNCH-PRAYER-SHARE</b> Call Faith: 416 805-7529 or Email: <a href="mailto:faith.holwyn@gmail.com">faith.holwyn@gmail.com</a> <b>EVERYONE IS WELCOME.</b>	12 pm

# What's Happening

## Life in Spring Garden

### Upcoming

Date	Event	Page
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Feb. 2	YOUTH: Sr High Home Group	15
Feb. 9 - 11	YOUTH RETREAT Blizzard 2024 (Gr 9-12)	16
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Feb. 25	Newcomers Welcome Tea	10
Feb. 29	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor	9
May 31 - June 2 2024	Church Wide Retreat	10

If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail update on what's happening in Spring Garden, please visit the SGC website ([www.springgardenchurch.ca](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca)) and add your email address at the bottom of our home page (scroll down).

Keep your eye on our Events page at:

[www.springgardenchurch.ca/events](http://www.springgardenchurch.ca/events).

# Our Values

**We believe in a humble God who came not to be served, but to serve.** Therefore we engage in sacrificial and active service to those around us. We strive to be good stewards of God's gifts and talents by serving one another in humility. We aspire to regard others as higher than ourselves, which liberates us to creatively take risks in serving others for God's glory.

**We believe in a God of grace who came to save the world, not to condemn it.** Therefore, as we are continuously receiving the gift of God's grace, we seek to grow in that grace and extend it to others. We strive to define ourselves by what we are for, not what we are against.

**We believe in a God who knows us, and who desires to be known.**

Therefore we embrace a journey of faith that requires us to constantly strive for a personal, intimate and transformative knowledge of God. We strive to be led by God's Spirit in supporting and encouraging one another in working out our faith.

**We believe in a creative God.** Therefore we are open to expressing our faith in new and creative ways that reflect the beauty and complexity of our creator. We are called to use our creative gifts in worship and service as we engage with our world. We take joy in the diversity of gifts that allow us to delight God and participate in His ongoing story.

**We believe in a triune, relational God who calls us to come together as a diverse community of believers.**

Therefore, we want to walk together, supporting one another physically, emotionally and spiritually. We strive to be a welcoming, inclusive family that goes through the joys and the trials of life together, acknowledging that God uses this community to deepen and mature our faith.

**We believe in a God who loves this broken world and wants to reconcile us to Himself.**

Therefore we are commissioned by Christ to go out into the world, meeting the holistic needs of the local and global community. God calls us to participate in a redemptive work that he has already initiated; in humility, we will partner with others to work alongside and chase after Him.

**We believe in a God who is our centre.**

Therefore where we are on the journey is less important than that we are moving towards a deeper relationship with Christ. We believe and participate in God's redemptive work in all people, which gives us the freedom to come as we are, and to accept others as they are. We each are on a unique journey to become who God has created us to be.

