



spring garden church
Spirituality Grace Community

Delve

JANUARY 2023

Quick Calendar



WEEKLY

Sun	10am Sunday Worship in person or watch Online	pg 25
Tue	10am-12pm Pastoral Team Meeting	pg 25
Thur	10am Moms' Meet Up	pg 25
	Weekly and Biweekly Life Groups	pg 16

UPCOMING

Jan 8 & 22	YOUTH: Sr High Life Groups	pg 12
Jan 13	YOUTH: Games Night	pg 13
Jan 14	Prayer Retreat	pg 5
Jan 20	YOUTH: Craft Night	pg 13
Jan 27	YOUTH: Jr High Life Groups	pg 13
Jan 29	Newcomer's Lunch	pg 6
Feb 6	Faith and Baptism Breakfast	pg 6

See more at www.springgardenchurch.ca/events.

Delve submissions are due Jan. 23rd. Delve submissions are due on the MONDAY before the LAST Sunday of each month. To submit for the next issue of Delve, e-mail: delve@springgardenchurch.ca



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Our Values (back page)

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Welcoming Ukrainian Newcomers

Last February, many Ukrainians began fleeing their country as their homes and neighbourhoods were transformed into a war zone. Most of those fleeing were women and children. Spring Garden was able to welcome a family, a mom and two teenage daughters, by offering them some support as they set up their new life in Toronto. Over the past few months, the Ukrainian community in Toronto has continued to grow.

Neighbourlink North York started hosting Welcome Teas as a way for these newcomers to find community and meet their neighbours.

Beginning in 2023, Neighbourlink will be hosting these teas at Spring Garden Church. We are

happy to offer our building for these important gatherings and invite you to consider joining, either as a volunteer to help with set up and clean or just as a participant and friendly presence. You don't need to speak Ukrainian as many of the newcomers are learning English and there are also translators who can help.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Help with set-up and clean-up
- Purchase/provide refreshments (teas and desserts)
- Meet newcomers and be a welcoming presence
- Help with conversational English

There will be 6 teas in 2023, one held every other month, on Sunday afternoons from 4-6pm. **The next tea is Sunday, February 26th.** This will be a unique opportunity to show God's care to people who need it! If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please get in touch with Abby (abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca) or visit neighbourlink.org/welcometea.



Thank you for Showing God's Care during Advent!

Over the Advent season we were able to show God's care to our neighbours around the city. Thank you also to those who supported our fundraising campaign for the Risou family by purchasing Christmas cards and giving generously!

Reflection on a Bible Verse

by Veronica Newell

I would love to share with everyone how God's words help me each day of my life. First, I get up every morning and pray to our King and Father God and read at least one bible verse and take it with me through the day. It gives me strength to know how much God really truly loves me unconditionally. Father God, provide, protect, and guide my step to walk in the light and not in the darkness. I am very thankful and grateful for his mercy and love. God desires a relationship with everyone; Jesus is there knocking on the door of your heart waiting patiently for you to let him in your life.

Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Every single bible verse is very powerful; the words of our Lord Jesus Christ is our food and so much more.

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 if interested.



Prayer Retreat - The Art of Listening to God

As we begin a New Year, we encourage you to start the year with some rest and renewal. We invite you to set aside time to learn

about prayer and spend time listening to God's voice. On Saturday, January 14th, we will gather at Spring Garden Church for a day-long prayer retreat.

We will be joined by Rev. Andrea Chang, a pastor and spiritual director who will lead us through some prayer practices. There will be time for learning as a community as well as time to be on your own and pray. The retreat runs from 9am-3pm.

The cost for the day is \$25 and lunch/snacks/coffee are included.

Please send payments to payments@springgardenchurch.ca and indicate it is for the January Prayer Retreat.

Sign up by Jan. 7th.

If you have any questions please email Abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca.

Opportunity to Serve our Spring Garden Community:

A few volunteers (ie 2-4) are needed to cleanup after communion one Sunday per month. It only requires about half an hour and a rotation of two people/month would be created so the commitment would be approximately every 2nd to 3rd month.

Instructions will be provided. It is also a great way to get to know and connect with another

member of our community! Please contact Greg Kay at gregkay@springgardenchurch.ca.

Save the Date!

Newcomers Lunch on January 29, 2023 Are you new to Spring Garden Church? We invite you to join us for lunch after worship on Sunday, Jan. 29 to meet others and learn more about our church community. Lunch will be provided. Please email samlee@springgardenchurch.ca if you are able to attend.

SGC Retreat We have booked from May 26-28 at Fair Havens for our Spring Garden Church Retreat! This retreat will be a great time of renewal, belonging, and fun. Please save the date as more details will be available in early 2023.

Interested in learning more about the Christian Faith and Baptism?

We will be gathering over breakfast at 8:30am on Sundays, Feb. 5, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 to learn more about faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. If you are interested in learning more about Christianity, if you want to be baptized, or if you just enjoy breakfast with others, then this is for you. You can sign up by visiting <http://tiny.cc/faithfoundations>.

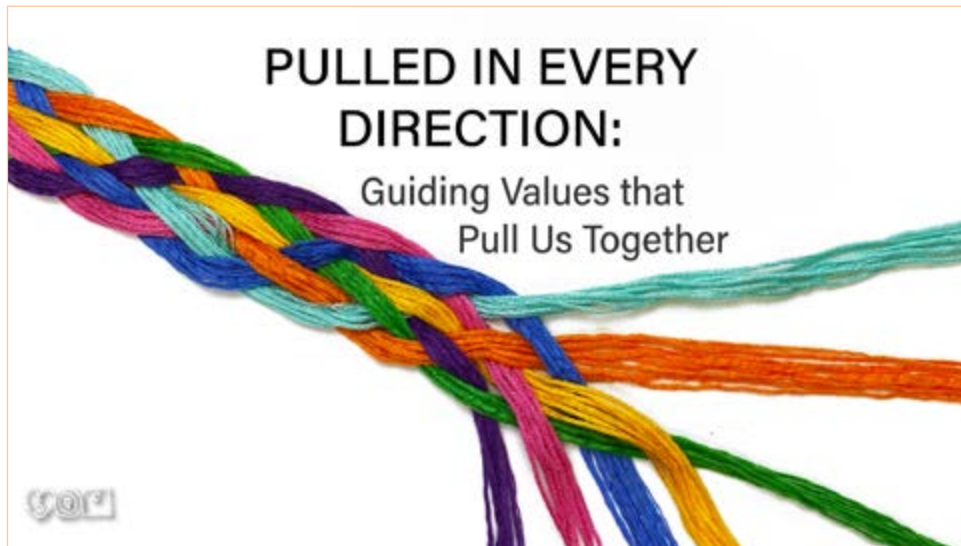
Opportunity to Volunteer with RJHO

Restorative Justice Housing Ontario (RJHO) has opened a new home to support women transitioning from prison back into the community. The home is located in East York and will house 2-3 residents. You can learn more about RJHO by visiting their website www.rjho.ca.

We are putting together a team of people who can offer support to these women. Some areas residents need help in are: Resume writing, Job search, ESL support, Support visiting food banks and Accompaniment to local resources that provide social and health services.

RJHO provides training for all volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of the Spring Garden Team that will serve these women, please email Abby(abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca).

Current Worship Series



What do values mean? Why should people care? Are they just content for a website or are they a living document in our church family?

Our shared values help us be united and focused in the midst of a diverse community and in a world with an unending list of needs. We cannot do everything, and so we seek to live out who God has called us to be as a particular community as a response to core beliefs about who God is.

When the world and individual opinions and perspectives pull us in every direction, our discerned shared values guide us as we seek to pull together in our shared journey.

You can read our Our Values on the back cover (page 19).

**Now HIRING for a maternity leave, Pastor/
Director of Missional Discipleship. More info at:
springgardenchurch.ca/hiring**

Life Groups

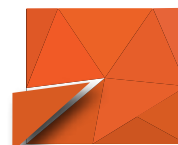
Life Groups are a place where we do life together in a community centered around Jesus. They are designed for you to pursue spiritual growth, community and mission together. We offer Life Groups so everyone can have a place to belong. Life Groups are small gatherings of people who form a community. Group members share life together through friendship, learn from the Bible and other resources, pray for and give support to one another, and participate in God's mission together. They are safe places where you can meet new people, discover your gifts for service, grow as a follower of Jesus, and have a lot of fun together.

Groups gather in homes or online throughout the week. Each group is as unique as the people in it. No matter where you are in life, there is a Life Group for you.

Please email Abby at abbydavison@springgardenchurch.ca to join or for more information.



Kevin & Suzanna
Sundays at 1pm
Every other week
In-Person at Spring Garden



Abby & Bruce
Mondays
Weekly from 6pm - 8pm
In-Person in Scarborough



Esther (for a few weeks)
Tuesdays
Weekly from 7:30pm - 9:30pm
In-Person at Spring Garden



Jeff & Phyllis
Wednesday evenings
Weekly
ONLINE



David
Thursdays
Weekly from 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Online and In-Person at Spring Garden

SGC Kids:

Hi Everyone!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the holiday season.

Here is what's happening this month with our Kid's Ministry!

You can register children for worship on Sunday mornings at the child and youth check-in area. We will have sticker name tags for our children to wear so we can get to know each other during our worship time in the basement.

Here are the age groups we have available for children's worship on Sunday mornings:

Group Structure:

Nursery & Toddlers (0 - 2 Yrs) - Orange Room

Pre K - SK (3 Yrs - 5 Yrs) - Green Room

Gr 1 - 3 - Blue Room Drop Off - Yellow Room Pick Up

Gr 4 & 5 - Blue Room

Family Registration Forms 2023: For us to provide our ministry to the children of our church, we require new registration forms to be filled out by their families every year as part of our policy. Please fill out our form through this link <http://tiny.cc/SGCFamilyRegistration>

Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!

Measure Up: A 5-Week Series on Jesus' Early life and Ministry
"When I'm older!" "When I'm taller!" Every kid is excited to grow up – even if it's just to finally ride that big kid roller coaster they've had their eye on. This five-week series is about another kid who grew up – Jesus! Through stories from Jesus' early life and ministry, kids will learn five important truths to help them continue growing: God guides us to safety, we can love God with our actions, we can follow Jesus, God makes us ready at the right time, and God's words help us make wise choices.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

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>

Spring Youth

Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings:

January 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd: We will have regular worship gatherings for youth in grades 6-12. Following the children and youth's blessing, youth can move into our lounge to continue in worship.

January 29th - On the last Sunday of each month Youth are encouraged to join our church's upstairs worship.

Youth Life Groups:

Sr High Life Groups: January 8th & 22nd - Our Sr High life group will meet in our building following the morning worship. We will gather in our youth lounge to have lunch and talk about the life and ministry of Jesus. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy (along with any allergy/food restriction info) to let us know!

Time: 11:30 pm-2:30 pm

Cost: \$5

Jan 27th: Jr High Life Groups - Our Jr High life groups will meet in our building this month. Unlike our regular youth events, Life Groups focuses on intentionally living life as a community. We want to engage in conversations with youth about what is going on around us and the struggles we have.

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$0 (Dinner will not be provided, but we will have snacks and treats)

Friday Youth Gatherings:

Jan 13th, 2022: Games Night - We will meet at our building to play some of our favourite games. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy to let us know!

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

Jan 20th: Craft Night - We will meet at our building to work on personal crafts and art projects together. We will have various craft options for youth and a larger team project for our youth lounge. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy to let us know!

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

Jr High Youth Retreat 2023

We are partnering with Immanuel Baptist Church for an overnight retreat for youth in grades 6-8 happening February 10th-12th 2023. If you would like to register for our retreat, please do so using the link below. If you have any questions please contact Jeremy - Jeremy@springgardenchurch.ca

Registration Link - <http://tiny.cc/SGCJrHigh>

Date: Feb 10th-12th, 2023

Cost: \$85 Per Youth (subsidy available)

Sr High Youth Retreat 2023

We are partnering with Immanuel Baptist Church for an overnight retreat for youth in grades 9-12 happening April 21st - 23rd 2023. If you would like to register for our retreat, please do so using the link below. If you have any questions please contact Jeremy - Jeremy@springgardenchurch.ca

Registration Link - <http://tiny.cc/SGCSrHigh>

Date: April 21st - 23rd 2023 (Tentative)

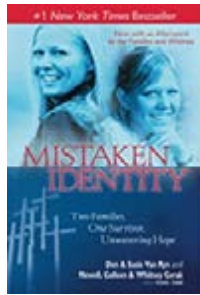
Cost: \$85 Per Youth (subsidy available)

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>

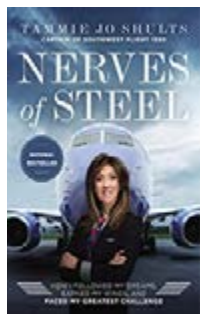
This month we are featuring biographies:



Mistaken identity: two families, one survivor, unwavering hope, by Don and Susie Van Ryn and Newell, Colleen and Whitney Cerak

Five lives were lost in a tragic car accident, and the sole survivor was rushed to the hospital, where she remained in a coma for five weeks.

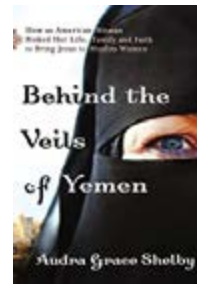
Everyone believed that Laura Van Ryn was in a coma, and that Whitney Cerak had died in the crash—until Whitney woke up. This shocking case of mistaken identity stunned the country and made national news. Would it destroy a family? Shatter their faith? Push two families into bitterness, resentment, and guilt? In *Mistaken Identity*, the Van Ryn family and the Cerak family describe their ordeal and explore the bond sustaining and uniting them as they dealt with their bizarre reversal of life lost and life found. *Mistaken Identity* weaves a complex tale of honesty, vulnerability, loss, hope, faith, and love in the face of one of the strangest twists of circumstances imaginable.



Nerves of steel: how I followed my dreams, earned my wings and faced my greatest challenge, by Tammie Jo Shults

Tammie Jo Shults has spent her entire life loving the skies. Though the odds were against her, she became one of the few female fighter pilots in the Navy. In 1994, after serving her country honorably for eight years, Tammie Jo left the Navy and joined Southwest Airlines in the early 1990's. On April 17, 2018, Tammie Jo was called to service once again. Twenty minutes into a routine

domestic flight, Captain Shults was faced with the unthinkable—a catastrophic engine failure in the Boeing 737 caused an explosion that punctured hydraulic lines and severed fuel lines, tearing away sections of the plane, puncturing a window, and taking a woman's life. Captain Shults and her first officer, Darren Ellisor, struggled to stabilize the aircraft. Drawing deeply from her well of experience, Tammie Jo was able to wrestle the severely damaged 737 safely to the ground. Not originally scheduled for that flight, there is no doubt God had prepared her and placed her right where she needed to be that day.



Behind the veils of Yemen: how an American woman risked her life, family and faith to bring Jesus to Muslim women, by Audra Grace Shelby

With only prayer and a faith that always seemed too small, Audra Grace Shelby departed with her husband and children on a one-way flight to Yemen...deep into the heart of conservative Islam.

With honesty and passion, she shares her harrowing journey as a Christian woman thrust into a culture dangerously different from her own. From the friendships she forged, to her gnawing doubt and fear, to her offers of hope when her new friends' religion failed them, she gives us glimpses of a world most have never seen: behind the veils of real Muslim women--and how the grace of God touches lives in the midst of an Islamic stronghold.



The girl in the orange dress: searching for a father who does not fail, by Margot Starbuck

Chosen. Special. That's how Starbuck described herself as an adopted child in a loving family. But the word she really believed was "rejected." Her search for a father to trust doesn't end until she finds a heavenly Father who never neglects to say, "I'm there for you." A humorous, poignant, and theologically astute memoir

Leadership Directory



PASTORAL TEAM (alphabetical order by last names)

Abby Davidson Ext. 226

Missional Discipleship Pastor abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca

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Office & Communications Administrator daleforder@springgardenchurch.ca

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Pastor of Students & Young Adults jeremy@springgardenchurch.ca

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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 by last names)

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What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Weekly

All Throughout the Week	<p>LIFE GROUPS Connect for Community Together through bible study, prayer and sharing. Meet online and in-person. Please email abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca for more information or to join one. See more on page 12.</p>	
Sundays	<p>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10am Join us Sunday mornings as we go through different series' (read more). Join us at: www.springgardenchurch.ca/live or come in-person.</p> <p>ESL BIBLE STUDY 11:40am Are you new to the English language and interested in learning more about Jesus? We are offering this weekly lesson on Sundays at 11:40am. There is no cost to attend and all are welcome. Please email Abby (abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca) if you would like to sign up.</p>	
Tuesdays	<p>PASTORAL TEAM MEETING 10am - 12pm We meet mostly on Tuesday. Please pray for us for wisdom and inspiration.</p>	
Thursdays	<p>MOMS' MEET UP (at Spring Garden) 10am Mothers coming together for fellowship in a baby and kid friendly environment. Contact Abby at abbydavidson@springgardenchurch.ca</p>	

Upcoming

Jan 8 & 22	YOUTH: Sr High Life Groups	pg 12
Jan 13	YOUTH: Games Night	pg 13
Jan 14	Prayer Retreat	pg 5
Jan 20	YOUTH: Craft Night	pg 13
Jan 27	YOUTH: Jr High Life Groups	pg 13
Jan 29	Newcomer's Lunch	pg 6
Feb 5, 12 & 19	Learning more about the Christian Faith and Baptism Breakfast	pg 6
Feb 10-12	Jr High Retreat	pg 13
Feb 26	Welcoming Ukrainian Newcomers	pg 2

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) and add your email address at the bottom of our home page (scroll down).

Also keep your eye on our Events page at: 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.

