



spring garden church
1000 10th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

Delve

July & August 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
July 13	12 - 2 pm Lunch - Prayer - Share	pg 25
Weekly and Biweekly Life Groups		pg 16

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See more at www.springgardenchurch.ca/events

July/Aug. Delve submissions is due Aug. 21st. 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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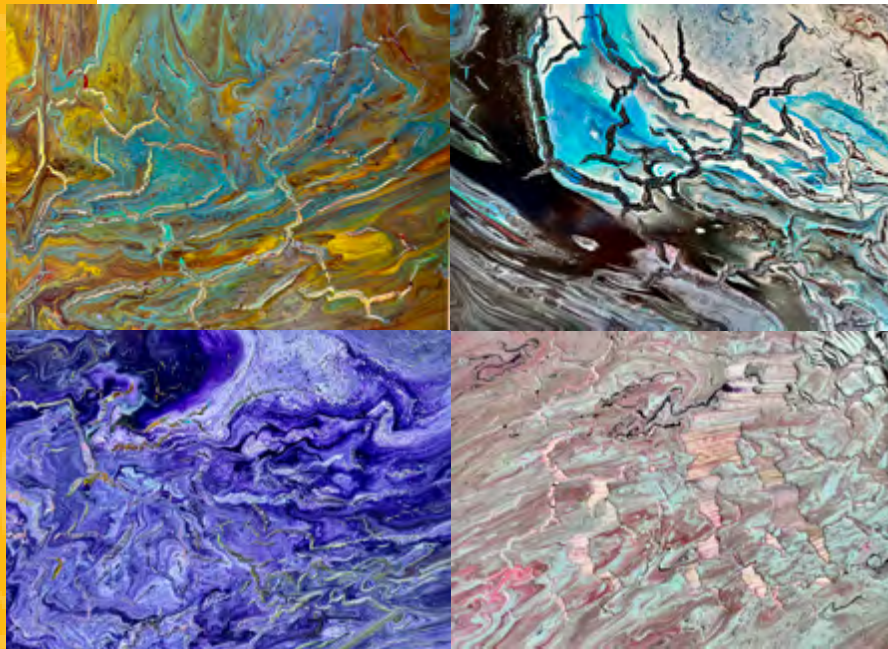
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Diversified Unity: The Church, Observing with Wonder

by Jeremy R

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,”- Ephesians 2:19

At the end of May 2023, Spring Garden Church held our first-ever congregational retreat at Fair Havens Camp/Conference Centre. The weekend was filled with meaningful moments and the opportunity to forge deeper connections within our faith community. There’s much that can be said about that weekend because, like many others who joined, I really enjoyed the time we spent together.

However, there was something we did which became a significant highlight and valuable experience for me, so I felt like sharing about it in Delve.

If you were part of our retreat, you might recall that as part of our worship time, we did a paint-pouring activity together. After session, and just outside our meeting

space, there were four long tables arranged on the grass in a disjointed E position. Each table was well protected by tarps and had a painting canvas and glass containers (the ones typically used for thick pillar candles) on top. The table set up sideways from the others also had on it a variety of paint colours, so you knew things were about to get messy... and hopefully fun!

Each person who took part received a stir stick and a small plastic cup, slightly larger than what we use for communion. The activity involved selecting from a variety of paint colours or creating a new one by mixing no more than three together for a personalized shade or tone.

Once you had your colour, an equal amount of a clear medium was added to help the paint become runnier and take on a liquid consistency. For those wondering, the paint medium did not affect the pigment of our colours after it was fully incorporated. Once mixed, our colours were ready.

There were 5 glass containers on the 4 tables (one had 2), and each was pre-filled, about 1/4 of the way, with different colours of paint. One had a dark shade of mustard yellow; another contained a deep and vibrant purple. The table farthest from the door to where we had session had the 2 containers on top, one with white paint and the other with black. The last container had a light magenta/pink. ****A special thanks to the youth who helped choose and make them!!****

Each person, when ready, could add their colour to any of the containers on the table. The recommendation being to choose one based on what colour contrasted yours well and then add your colour to it. As this was happening, it was really important that we did not stir or mix any of what was collected.

Everyone added what we had, and the quantity of the paint in each container grew gradually until each was a little over the halfway mark. After the last person added theirs, it was time for the moment we were all curious and waiting for... the fun and messiest part of the experience (for me least - thanks again, Cheryl and Wes, for letting me clean up in your bathroom!).

The Pour!!

Doing this one at a time, we took the canvases and placed them front-facing down (the side you’d apply paint on) on top of each container’s opening. Firmly and with a few friends helping, we moved the items up, holding them together, and then immediately and all at once flipped them down together to rest on the tables. Paint splashes went flying for each painting, so sorry if you were hit!

The canvases were facing up now with the containers upside down

on them, very poorly sealing the paint. They were oozing from their rims, but it seemed like the colours weren't fully mixing. The paint was released, and we allowed as much of the contents to flow onto the canvases as possible. Then (with large puddles of collected paint), the canvases were lifted carefully and tilted to pour the collection of colours over the edges of each frame.

After the morning sun and a few days curing in Sam's office, what's now hanging in our west lounge hallway, is what came out of that time together.

If this was your first-time pouring paint, is that what you were expecting? How did you think, and what did you feel was going to happen?

Part of why the paintings hold a special meaning for me is that they symbolize the story of God's family and the inclusion of all its members. They make me think about what life and worship could look like if all of God's people, across time and space, gathered together. Honestly, I think that the reality of that would be as messy as our paintings were to make, and maybe even more! But it would be a beautiful mess, representing diverse experiences and perspectives of The Church through the stories of our people.

In Scripture and throughout history, God's family (our family) has been known by many names. Whatever name was held (Israelite, Jew, Christian, Catholic, Baptist, etc.), all have carried nuanced understandings and traditions rooted in covenantal beliefs. Over time, these traditions have evolved and given rise to distinct practices that are embraced by people of faith. All of whom, regardless of tradition or denominational affiliation, claim to follow the one true God of the universe.

What's collected within a faith tradition is then passed down and carried forward by the following generations and new members who join. Or at least that's part of what is hoped for, right? That those who follow us in what we believe would willingly and faithfully take on to continue what has been learned, refined, and seemingly preserved in said tradition?

The names we use represent the traditions we come from and give us a sense of shared identity and assumed unity, as well as provide distinction for others to know us. They connect us not only to each other but also to the long-standing experiences with God, by God's people. There's an indescribable richness in our traditions, as they tell stories of people's experiences with God and what they have learned and developed in value.

However, a pattern emerges in the progression of our stories. At

certain points in time, practices or traditions undergo changes that later generations may perceive as conflicts or insignificance. Life changes, progresses, and God's people look and live differently in comparison to those who came before. This is evident in Scripture, where Judah split from Israel, both being people of God under the covenant made with Abraham. Early Christianity emerged from Judaism, which derived and grew from the remnant part of Judah, and also manifested various expressions, similar to church denominations. Speaking of denominations, a fruit of the reformation, need I say more? All things considered, in God's family, we have a lot of names.

Yet, when I think about God's people beyond the collective story and the labels we are known by, and even before the effects of whatever is involved in sin, we were created as observers and participants in life with God. Each of us experiences life uniquely because each of us is made different and distinct from one another. In relationship with God, we are led to meet and encounter others who are also on similar yet distinct journeys. In our shared desire to follow God, we come together for worship.

A flaw in the cycle of built tradition is its tendency to seek unity through conformity. For example, if we were to mix all the paint in a container, the result would be a variety of grey, we assume harmonious unity is when we all practice, behave, and believe the same things. While practices contribute to our faith understanding, our traditions can also impose expectations that lead to clashes of what is valued across generations and traditions.

In truth, the diversity captured in life, existence, culture, perspectives and people all contributes to the beauty of our created existence. It presents opportunities for collective and individual engagement with God. However, this beauty is messy and unpredictable because our ideologies clash over time, and what we consider true and valuable will differ among us.

Our limitations as God's people are rooted in our ability to recognize, respect, and trust those whose faith and journey with God are different from our own. Which can be hard if what's different in our views affects how we would do things together. Or does it? That's why God leads and not us. It's also why there is a need to recognize when God is doing something different in life and with those in our presence to expand and grow what is expressed in faith and life.

In our traditions, we find a powerful means of communication, expressing our ideas and beliefs about who we are as people and the purpose of living life. These traditions serve as a reflection of our identity and purpose, demonstrating to the world around us an idea of who we are.

Throughout history, our calling as God's people has been to extend the invitation to others, sharing with them that they are desired and created uniquely to be part of this sacred family, because each person is made in the Divine image.

At our core, we are observers, attuning to the workings and moving of God in the world, and as we participate in relationship, we respond to what we become aware of. If there is injustice or evil, we respond and move in faith, and that is a clear call. However, while conversations about sin and its effects are essential for our continued growing, there's more encompassed in life and more to our story than the fears of sin.

Through the Spirit, we experience the joy of community, and it's through being made in God's image that we explore and cultivate what is created in life for more than just our basic needs. We embrace diverse ways of expressing our passions and become increasingly mindful of the intricate balances within creation, recognizing God's handiwork in every system and order. This experience, which was initially untainted by assumed fallenness, unveils something beautiful that we share in our collective journey.

This beauty is not confined to homogeneity; rather, it thrives through the diversity of our traditions and expressions. As each member of God's family is uniquely and wonderfully made, our worship and practices continue and will take on different forms, enriching one another's understanding and perspective. No two congregations should be identical because we learn and grow together, contributing to the ever-evolving paint-pouring of God's family. But even more, a single congregation shouldn't look the same they once were either. Can any of us claim Spring Garden (Baptist) Church is the same to day as when we began?

This is what leads me to think about our paintings. To me, the paintings are not individual works but instead are a larger collective piece. Each frame without the others is actually incomplete, but when together convey and represent an idea of the fullness of life and shared faith. Each person's colour to any of the paintings added to the depth and contrast, as well as to the different layers of effect. If any of our colours (even 1) was missing, it would have altered and changed what we currently have. Still beautiful, but not the same. What's even more amazing for me are the cracks in each one, which show the layering of what's untapped and represents maybe the unexpected and harder moments in life we all experience and will, in different ways. These paintings represent so much to me, but what are they for you?

These are my thoughts when I think about our paintings. God's family in our story is more than the names associated with our traditions or

denominations. We are the Church and are united by faith, not tradition. The Church is home for those who've observed and follow God's Spirit to be and grow in their be-ing. Just like our paintings, we individually contribute to the distinct makeup of our gatherings and church, and with each additional person, a new unique distinction grows within that community. The time a person is part of a community may be short or long, but either way, there's a limit. We should use and make the most of what we can, while we have it, because, like the flow of our paintings, life is unpredictable and quite messy. But with God and experiencing life together, we can observe and wonder with awe and in contemplation at all that there is and maybe even more!

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning....” - Genesis 1:31



Reflection on the Retreat, Spring Alive

When I signed up for Spring Garden's first church wide retreat, I realized it too was my first church wide retreat. I've been on many youth retreats, some as a teenager, but most as a volunteer with church youth programs. I wasn't sure what to expect but I was looking forward to some time away from city life and regular routine. I knew there would be worship and times of fun. I love retreats with our Youth and other leaders, they are some of my favourite times of the year. I also enjoyed this retreat because I wasn't directly responsible for anyone else's immediate needs or for planning activities. That left me time to spend connecting with people I see on Sundays, but don't always have enough time to chat with before heading home. That was the biggest takeaway for me. I really enjoyed lingering after delicious meals, chatting with people over a cup of tea, or by the campfire toasting marshmallows and sharing time together. As a bonus I did get to spend some time with our Spring Garden Youth as well, so it was a doubly good time of connection. It was wonderful to see our Youth participate in the sessions by reading scripture or singing beautiful worship songs. I could really see God moving and I am so thankful I was able to witness those moments. The sessions led by Rose Lynn were meaningful. I had never participated in Lecto Divino and I learned a different way of sharing Scripture and meditating on the Word of God. The only downside was the mosquitos but that's what happens when you head out of the city and go north in late spring! Luckily we all managed with bug spray not to get carried off by these annoying critters. I know how much time and how much effort was involved with planning every part of a retreat weekend. Thank you to the Pastoral team and those who assisted with making this an amazing time to gather together. I hope we get to do this again in the next few years.



By Marcy Scott

I was excited in the early spring when I saw the notice asking Spring Gardeners if they would attend a church Retreat if one was planned. I responded that I definitely would and enough others did too, that Sam began making specific plans. It was the first time in my 27 years at Spring that we had planned a retreat for anyone who wanted to go.

All the planning and growing pains culminated in a wonderful three days at Fair Havens May 26-28th. Eighty of us - families, singles, adults and children, young and old gathered on Friday evening - after we had stowed our belongings and unpacked - we met in the hall, for orientation and our first introduction to the speaker for the weekend, Rose Lynn from Isaiah's Call in Port Perry.



Her teaching was a good mix of Bible reading about the woman at the well that Jesus had talked to, and small groups of four sharing our insights to questions and how the story could be applied to our lives.

The weekend was a great mix of down time - to walk, play or rest and of course to eat! We chatted at tables in the dining room as we enjoyed the yummy meals. It meant we got to know new friends who up until the weekend had been only 'Sunday acquaintances'. We sat around the campfire - listening to the crackle of the flames, watching the sparklers the children waved, and marvelling at the incredible art work we had all created with Jeremy's help.

Sunday afternoon we cleared our rooms and climbed into our cars to drive back home. I felt tired but buoyant with a deep inner joy. The retreat was over - and it had been for me a wonderful indication of good things that are happening at Spring - as we continue to grow as a healthy community where all are welcome and we are open to new experiences as we come to understand more about God on this journey we Spring Gardeners are on.

Respectfully and joyfully submitted from a thankful heart

By Faith Holwyn



One of my favorite parts of this weekend was being able to be a part of the worship band. One of the ways I hear God the most is through music, so being able to sing and praise God with the people I love was truly an amazing experience. One of my favorite memories of 2023 so far!

Another part of this trip that I enjoyed was all the activities that we were able to participate in. There were so many things to do, as well as a lot of freedom during the day which made it a very enjoyable and healing experience

Over the course of the whole weekend I felt at ease and was very comfortable with everyone around me. One part of the weekend that really spoke to me was the Samaritan woman's story in John 4. I found that the story drew my attention to the central themes of the Gospel. By approaching her, Jesus demonstrates His care for all, regardless of their social standing, and that we too can also be inspired by the Samaritan woman's excitement in sharing the good news of Jesus.

This weekend was one of the moments I knew I was ready to fully give my life to God.

What I enjoyed most about this weekend was being able to get out of the city. I was so happy to leave Toronto and experience something new with my church family. Over the weekend many of my friendships were strengthened by being together and some new ones were formed as well!

I found the retreat to be one of the most rejuvenating, refreshing things that I've ever experienced. I felt at peace and felt a part of something that was bigger than me. This retreat healed a part of me I didn't know needed to be healed. This was the best weekend of my life. I wish I could go back in time to that weekend, but am so grateful I got the opportunity to go.

by Isabella Singh

The Raso Family Update

By Jen Chrystman for Refugee Action Group

The Raso family has completed their Canadian Embassy Interview and Medical Assessment. Although the official Canadian timeline is still about 3-6 months till arrival, we're praying for the family to arrive in Canada from Lebanon this summer! PLEASE PRAY WITH US! In the past month, we as a church have raised another \$10,000 to help support the family for their first 12 months in Canada. Please continue to consider contributing to the Syrian Refugee Fund. You can give in the offering box at the back of the church, online, or by e-transfer—designating the SYRIAN REFUGEE FUND. There is a poster in the lounge tracking the amount of funding received and the amount will read \$44,469.51 now. Well done, Spring Garden! When their specific arrival time approaches, there will be opportunities to volunteer time, goods, clothes, and furniture to the family. Stay excited. Stay involved. Pray! ... and if you'd like to send encouragement to them, please send your messages of love and hope to jenchrystman313@hotmail.com to be forwarded.

Garden Update

By The Garden Team

Every year we grow a variety of vegetables in our community garden including radishes, beets, kale, carrots, and a number of different herbs. Not only does our community garden create opportunities for us to care for creation by practicing sustainable gardening, but it also allows us to care for our neighbour in practical and meaningful ways. This year we are donating our produce to St Clare's Residence, a home which provides temporary housing for women who are experiencing transitional crises. Our prayer is that the Lord will use the produce which we will provide to nourish and sustain the women at St. Clare's; and that as they taste and eat the vegetables from our garden, they will also be able to experience a sense of God's deep compassion, intentional care, and abundant provision.





SUMMER AT SPRING GARDEN

Gather by the Garden

Join us for refreshments after worship outside by our garden all summer long! (Except Sundays when we have picnics at the park).

Picnic at the Park

Join us on July 9th and August 13, for a picnic at the park next door after our Sunday Worship. A great time to get to know each other as we eat, play games, and even splash in the waterpark!

If you can help with any of these activities, please email Sam Lee (samlee@springgardenchurch.ca).



Ukrainian Newcomers Welcome Tea

Join us on Sunday, August 20th from 3pm - 6pm to give a warm welcome to newcomers from Ukraine. We are looking for volunteers who can help with any of the following things: set-up, clean-up, table hosting, and/or providing home-baked treats. Email Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca if you are able to volunteer or if you would like more information.



Volunteering at Willowdale Manor

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 two events:
Thursday, July 13th from 4-6PM @ 175 Cummer Ave.
Thursday, July 27th from 4-6PM @ 175 Cummer Ave.

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.



Lee Lifeson Art Park Concerts

Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association is inviting us to join them every Thursday evening from 7-9PM at Lee Lifeson Art Park for a free outdoor concert. Different artists from the North York area will be showcasing their talent each week. For more information, visit <https://www.willowdalecentral.org/concert-series-2023>. If you are interested in volunteering at these events, you can sign up using this link: <https://forms.gle/sCHPeDKw1UtvQ3DZ8>.



Supporting RJHO

RJHO, an organisation that provides safe, affordable housing for individuals who are currently looking to be reintegrated back into society is looking for volunteers who can help with some yard work and around-the-house fixing. Additionally, they are asking if anyone has a vacuum cleaner that they would be willing to donate. If you are interested in volunteering or have a vacuum to donate, please contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.

Ministry Launch BBQ

As we celebrate the start of a new ministry, with hope that God will move in amazing ways, we invite you to join us after worship on September 10th, 2023, for a time of fellowship with a free BBQ.

When in Rome: Making Home in the Empire



About our Current Series: When in Rome: Making Home in the Empire

Join us all summer long as we go through Romans together: a letter written to help the church at the heart of the Empire to create home together as a diverse family in light of the resurrection of Christ.



Painting by Peggy Moore, medium: watercolour.

Psalm 93:4 ESV
'Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
The Lord on high is mighty!

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 Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca to join or for more information.



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



Jeff & Phyllis
Wednesday evenings
Weekly
ONLINE



David - Thursdays, Weekly from 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Online and in-person

Interested in joining a Life Group, visit tiny.cc/SGCLifeGroups.

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.

SGC Kids:

Summer Sundays!!!

As June wraps up, we switch over to our summer Sunday kids ministry. During the summer, we give our volunteers a good and well-deserved break while our summer staff continue to facilitate our children's worship.

This year, we've brought on a team of dedicated summer staff to assist and lead our summer day camp and Sunday Kid's worship. They are passionate individuals who will be investing their time and energy into creating a fun and engaging experience for our children.

If you happen to see them around, please extend a warm welcome and take the opportunity to get to know them! .

Here's our Team!

Co-Directors: Emma, Julia, Summer

Counsellors: Xanthe, Taylor, Toby, Ella, Abby, Sophie K., Sophie R., Tyson and Izzy

Please pray for them and all the activities they'll be leading and the safety of everyone who'll be participating in what they do.

Here is the overall flow:

****Children's Blessing Ends****

- Children are escorted to worship spaces (see Group Structure below for drop off and pick up locations)
- Music/Worship
- Teaching
- Small Group Discussions
- Craft and Games Rotation
- Home Time

Group Structure:

Nursery - Pre K (0 - 3 Yrs) **Orange Room Drop off & Pickup**

JK - Grade 5 (4 yrs - Grade 5) **Purple Room Drop off and Pickup**
(or pickup at the multipurpose room)

Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!

JULY: Staycation: - Grab some blankets and flashlights! We're going to build a fort or jump on the couch because the floor is lava!

That's right – it's time for a family staycation! In this five-week series about Abraham and his family (and our families, too!), kids will learn that God blesses us so we can bless others and God always shows us compassion.

That's why we can trust God (even when it's hard to trust each other), always belong in God's family, and can make peace with others – especially the people who live with us!

July:

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
God blesses us so we can bless others.	God always shows us compassion.	We can trust God when it's hard to trust each other.	We always belong in God's family.	We can make peace with others.

"Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."
Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

August:



As the sun sets and you nod off to sleep, an entire nighttime world awakens. Along with our dreams and slumber, the night can also mean shadows and unfamiliar sounds. Who makes us feel safe when the world is dark and scary? In this four-week series based on the life of Joseph, we'll learn about how **God watches over us and loves everyone the same**. No matter what we go through, **God will make things right**, which is why we can obey God above anyone else.

To find out more, scan this code!



SGC Kids: Ministry Info Lunch: As we begin a new ministry year, we'd like to invite you and your family to join us for lunch as we share about our ministry and what to expect for the coming year.

When: August 27th, 2023 @ 12 pm

Cost: Free

Registration link: <http://tiny.cc/SGCKids-ParentInfoLunch>

Spring Youth

During the summer months we are taking a break from our regular youth ministry structure. Sunday worship gatherings and youth events will be paused during July and August and will resume in September 2023. During our summer months, we will have a few times of gathering which are detailed below.

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During Sunday Mornings we encourage youth to participate in the upstairs worship, or to connect with Jeremy about serving in worship or serve in other areas on Sundays.

Sunday Lunch and Fellowship:

We are inviting our youth to join us for lunch following worship during the summer. We will provide the food, and refreshments, and all youth need to do is let us know they're attending. If you have any questions about this please contact Jeremy for more information.

Dates: July 9th, 23rd

Time: 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Where: Youth Lounge or Jeremy and Kaitlyn's Place (TBD)

September 3rd, 2023: Ministry Info Lunch: As we begin a new ministry year, we'd like to invite you and your family to join us for lunch as we share about our ministry and what to expect for the coming year.

When: September 3rd, 2023 @ 12 pm

Cost: Free

Registration link: <http://tiny.cc/ParentInfoLunch-SGCYouth>

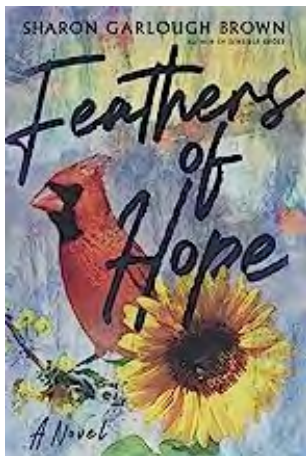
September 8th, 2023: Jr High Welcome BBQ - We are inviting all the new and previous Jr High youth who are in grades 6-8 (in fall 2023) to join us for a BBQ at our church's building. This event is weather permitting, and we will inform registered families of any changes closer to the time.

Day: Sept 8th, 2022

Time: TBA

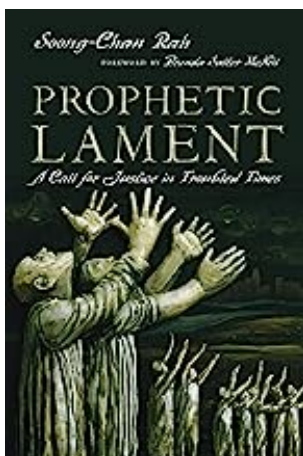
Cost: Free

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>



Feathers of hope, by Sharon Garlough Brown. (Book 2 of the Shades of light series)
By the author of the Sensible Shoes series comes a new series. Book 1, Shades of light can also be found in our resource centre. In a season of loss and change, Wren Crawford and her great-aunt, Katherine Rhodes, share the journey as companions in sorrow and hope. As Katherine prepares to retire as the director of the New Hope Retreat Center,

she faces both personal and professional challenges--especially after the arrival of the board's candidate to replace her. Not only must she confront more unresolved grief from her past, but she's invited to embrace painful and unsettling insights about her own blind spots. How might disruption become a gift that opens the way to new growth? Wren's world is shifting and expanding as she presses forward in recovery from a period of deep depression. Still processing open questions around the death of her best friend, Casey, Wren stewards her grief by offering compassionate care to the residents of the nursing home where she now works. But the shedding of her old life is exhausting--especially as she doesn't yet see what new life will emerge. How might art continue to provide a pathway for deepening her awareness of God's presence with her? In this sequel to Shades of Light, fans of the Sensible Shoes series will not only be

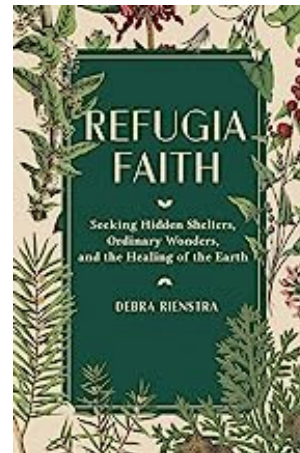


able to attend Katherine's final retreat sessions at New Hope but also encounter old and new friends along the way.

Prophetic lament: a call for justice in troubled times, by Soong-Chan Rah

When Soong-Chan Rah planted an urban church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, his first full sermon series was a six-week exposition of the book of

Lamentations. Preaching on an obscure, depressing Old Testament book was probably not the most seeker-sensitive way to launch a church. But it shaped their community with a radically countercultural perspective. Lament is a missing, essential component of Christian faith. Lament recognizes struggles and suffering, that the world is not as it ought to be. Lament challenges the status quo and cries out for justice against existing injustices. Soong-Chan Rah's prophetic exposition of the book of Lamentations provides a biblical and theological lens for examining the church's relationship with a suffering world. It critiques our success-centered triumphalism and calls us to repent of our hubris. And it opens up new ways to encounter the other. Hear the prophet's lament as the necessary corrective for Christianity's future.



Refugia faith: seeking hidden shelters, ordinary wonders, and the healing of the earth, by Debra Rienstra

Refugia (reh-FU-jee-ah) is a biological term describing places of shelter where life endures in times of crisis, such as a volcanic eruption, fire, or stressed climate. Ideally, these refugia endure, expand, and connect so that new life emerges. Debra Rienstra applies this concept to human culture and faith, asking, In this era of ecological devastation, how can Christians become people of refugia? How can we find and nurture these refugia, not only in the biomes of

the earth, but in our human cultural systems and in our spiritual lives? How can we apply all our love and creativity to this task as never before? By weaving nature writing, personal narrative, and theological reflection, Rienstra grapples honestly with her own fears and longings and points toward a way forward--a way to transform Christian spirituality and practice, become a healer on a damaged earth, and inspire others to do the same.

Books for further studies in Romans:

- The epistle of Paul to the Romans, F.F. Bruce 227.107 BRU
- Exploring Romans, John Phillips 227.107 PHI
- The letter to the Romans, William Barclay 227.106 BAR
- The message of Romans, John Stott 227.1007 STO
- Romans: 18 studies of individuals and groups, N.T. Wright 227.1071 WRI
- Romans - becoming new in Christ, Jack Kuhatschek 227.107 KUH
- Soli Deo Gloria - a daily walk through Romans, Myron Augsburger 227.1 AUG

Leadership Directory



PASTORAL TEAM (alphabetical order by last names)

(Abby Davidson is on parental leave)

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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>.

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What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Weekly

All Throughout the Week (Some groups are not meeting during the summer)	<p>LIFE GROUPS</p> <p>Connect for Community Together through bible study, prayer and sharing. Meet online and in-person. Please email emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca for more information or to join one. See more on page 12.</p>	
Sundays	<p>SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP</p> <p>Join us Sunday mornings as we go through different series' (read more). Join us at: www.springgardenchurch.ca/live or come in-person.</p>	10am
On Break	<p>ESL BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>Not meeting during summer. 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 Garth (garthbarron@sympatico.ca) if you would like to sign up.</p>	11:40am
Tuesdays	<p>PASTORAL TEAM MEETING</p> <p>We generally meet on Tuesday. Please pray for us, for wisdom and inspiration.</p>	10am - 12pm
Thursdays	<p>MOMS' MEET UP</p> <p>Mothers coming together for fellowship in a baby and kid friendly environment. Depending on the weather, we are meeting at the park next to our church building basement. Contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca</p>	10am

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Upcoming

Date	Event	Page
July 9	Picnic at the Park	13
July 9 & 23	YOUTH: Sunday Lunch and Fellowship	20
July 13	Lunch - Prayer - Share 12pm - 2pm Potluck, email Faith at faith.holwyn@gmail.com	
July 13 & 27	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor	14
Aug TBA	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor (check our events page (springgardenchurch.ca/events) in late July for dates)	online
Aug 13	Picnic at the Park	13
Aug 20	Ukrainian Newcomers Welcome Tea	13
Aug 27	SGC KIDS: Ministry Info Lunch	19
Sept 3	YOUTH & FAMILY: Ministry Info Lunch	12
Sept 8	YOUTH: Jr High Welcome BBQ	18
Sept 10	Ministry Launch BBQ	14

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.

