



spring garden church
Spring Garden Community

Delve

June 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
1st & 3rd	12 - 2 pm Lunch - Prayer - Share	pg 25
Weekly and Biweekly Life Groups		pg 16

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June 30	Youth Year End Party	18

See more at www.springgardenchurch.ca/events

July/Aug. Delve submissions is due June 26th (This is a requested extended date). 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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Features

Digging a little deeper into Spring Garden



Why Retreat

by Sam Lee

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

Our retreat this past weekend was an incredible experience. It was a time of rest and renewal with God and with the community of God. From our time together in worship, listening to the voice of God with the river as our backdrop, to that of conversations over meals and the fire pit, this retreat was a way for us to get away from the regular busyness of life to spend time with the source of all life.



One of the highlights for me was around the meal time. As many of you know, I really do believe that meal times are one of the most important ways for us to build community. It was amazing to see how people mingled with one another over meals not only to sustain the body but also the soul. It was food for the soul as it were. This breaking of bread was accentuated by a time of communion on Saturday night where we gathered in worship, around the table of Jesus, being invited in, young, old, women, men, etc. It was a beautiful moment of being the family of God with Jesus being the one who invites us in, so that we can share in the life giving fellowship with God and one another.



There were other moments to celebrate and to be thankful for: teens who spontaneously wanted to join the worship team to sing together; a child who wanted to get involved with the sound system; people hiking or playing sports together; all of us participating in creating art together where each of us contributed to a final art piece; and my favourite moment, where a youth offered an adult a tissue as she was crying from sharing her experience...all these moments and more made this retreat a rich and meaningful time together.



Photo taken by Wes Chapman



Photo taken by Wes Chapman



Photo taken by Wes Chapman

At the end of the retreat, I made an announcement that we should do this again but maybe every four years like the olympics. I have heard many say to me that we should do this every year! I don't know if we would a retreat every year but I have heard enough so that we would do it again next year. So for those of you who were not able to attend, we missed you being with us but yet look forward to creating new memories together as we plan for the next church retreat.



Photo taken by Wes Chapman

To retreat is to make time for God and for one another. I am thankful that Jesus is the one that invites us to come with him to a quiet place and to get some rest. I am excited to see how we can respond to his invitation personally but also communally and look forward to responding to his call to find rest in him.





“I believe. Help my unbelief.”

by Emily Kielstra

“I have a lot of faith. But I am also afraid a lot, and have no real certainty about anything. I remembered something [someone once] told me – that the opposite of faith is not doubt but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness, and the discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.”¹

This is a quotation by Anne Lamott which I frequently return to. As simple as it may be, I cannot help but feel so challenged by it every time I read it.

Recently, I have observed in myself a strong desire to not just know more but eliminate entirely that which is unknown or uncertain. I have felt compelled to explain away mystery because the presence of such mystery incurs a discomfort I would rather avoid; that is, it reminds me of the limits of human understanding and therefore undermines the illusion that I am in control of my life. This desire to know and the resultant discomfort that comes from not knowing seems so instinctual for me – and dare I say, instinctual for many others too – and as such, it seems to indicate

that it is a natural part of our human experience.

I think this is why the Christian call to have faith in that which is unseen is so profound. It requires us to surrender our human desire to know. By placing our faith in God, we are invited to embrace a paradox, a space where, though we are often confronted by uncertainty and frequently find ourselves wrestling with the discomfort that accompanies our limited human capacity, we can ultimately find rest in the certain and faithful promises of God.

Our God knows all, loves all, and seeks the good of all. While he is transcendent, he is also immanent. He is faithful and just, abounding in steadfast love. He does not dismiss our pain, but enters into it, experiencing it with us. This can be hard to believe during different seasons of our lives; but I think that’s why God, in his exceeding graciousness, calls us to pray, “I believe. Help my unbelief” (Mk.9:24). Contrary to what we often think, belief in God does not demand absolute certainty; it simply requires a willingness to surrender our lives to him.

1 Lamott, Anne. Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith. New York: Riverhead Books, 2005.

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 really want to hear from you!

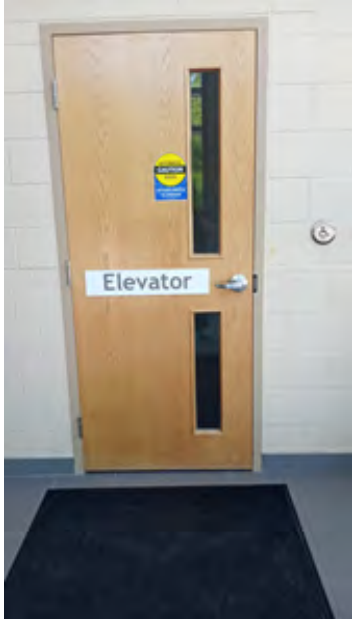
Email delve@springgardenchurch.ca if interested.

Can You Give Me a Lift?

How to Help with the Elevator

By Victoria Shipmaker

Many of us have never used the church elevator. We come to church using the stairs without much of a thought.



Some of us may have seen people hauling large items up and down the elevator setting up for events. Not many churches have this great option! However, the elevator isn't like the ones we normally find in large buildings. Learning about the elevator is a great idea if you like to help people find their way around the church whether carrying large objects, using a stroller or wanting to avoid the stairs. There are times where rather than ask for help we will use the stairs when we really should be taking care to use the elevator. With more people aware

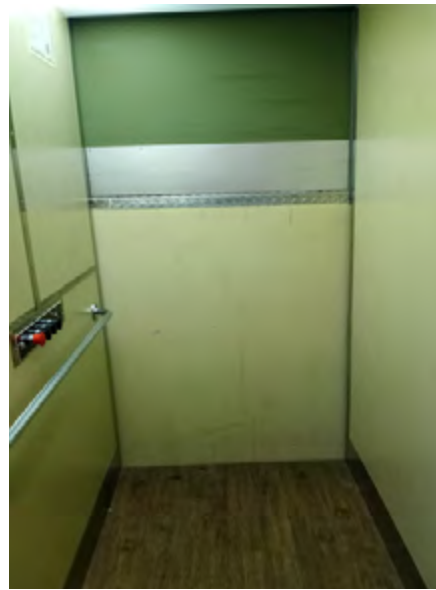
of how to use it we can offer our help.

The location of the elevator is through the parking lot door on the right.

It is a good idea to open up the door and have a look at the elevator.

In this picture you can see the elevator door with the instructions. On the right is where the key and the button to call the elevator.

Once the elevator has arrived the key is taken inside and used to allow it to move to the desired floor. The button for the floor must be pushed until the elevator arrives at the floor or it will stop. This is a safety feature.



Other safety features are a red button to push if the elevator needs to be stopped and a railing to hold onto while it is in motion.

It is great to have an elevator but having helped a family member with poor eyesight, arthritis and mobility issues I have learned how hard it can be to be independent.

For instance the key is small and hard to grasp and use if one has arthritis or low vision.

When entering the elevator the door opens towards the user and closes automatically. It can be

hard to hold the door open and back up while using a walker, cane or wheelchair or stroller.

When exiting the elevator the door needs to be pushed open. Again this can be difficult for someone using a walker, wheelchair or with limited arm strength and balance.

A few things to know...

The elevator can go "missing". If the key is left in one of the locks the elevator won't move to another floor. Usually it is sitting on another floor and just needs someone to bring it back.

When we have a gathering on the 1st floor - especially potlucks it can take a few trips to get everyone there. Keep an eye out for those who may be on their way.

If someone is using a walker it is often instinctive to help them on or off the elevator or through the door by holding the front of the walker. Please try to resist this as some people rely on their walkers for balance.

People with walkers and wheelchairs do drive cars and don't mind if you offer to help them put their equipment into their car.

During refreshment time or a special gathering keep an eye out for taxis and WheelTrans vans that park on Spring Garden Avenue (the south entrance). They are dispatched to the parking lot entrance but sometimes sit on the street waiting for their customers.

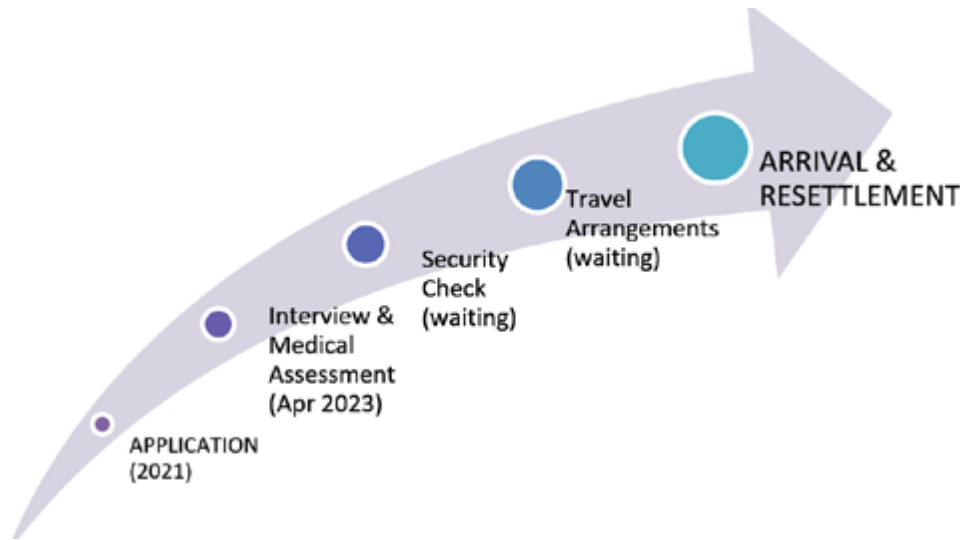
Directing them to go around to the Kenneth entrance can avoid someone missing their ride.

If you want to be comfortable using and helping others with the elevator let me know!

The Raso Family is coming....Soon

By Phyllis McGee for Refugee Action Group

The Refugee Action Group (RAG) is so excited because the Raso's application process has finally started moving along. At the Canadian embassy in Lebanon, they have had their initial interview and medical assessment. Now once again we wait as the Canadian government conducts a security check.



For me, a highlight of the Spring Alive Retreat was a 2-minute video chat I had with Nesren Raso, Soleman's wife while Tarik and Hanaa and I were on a walk in the woods. Thankfully Tarik translated for us...but Nesren's smile said it all. She is excited.

We are praying specifically that the Raso's arrive before school starts, so Dawod (David), Abd, and Rama can begin school in September. We are praying that the 3-bedroom apartment we hope to rent is still available, and at a reduced rate. We are praying the Raso's will adjust to life in Canada, it will be a huge change for them. We are thankful and full of gratitude to God and

to the family that recently donated a houseful of furniture for the Raso's. We are so thankful for the financial donations that have been made thus far. We are praying that God will provide sufficient funds to support the family for 12 months; the budget we have set is \$87,225. God knows the family's needs.

We challenge you to pray with us. Please commit to praying every day perhaps as a family at a specific mealtime, or add the Raso family to your daily quiet time prayer list.

To contribute, please designate the "Syrian Refugee Fund" on-line at www.springgardenchurch.ca/give or by E-transfer at offering@springgardenchurch.ca or by placing a donation in the offering box. We will be posting a list of household items needed to setup their apartment when we have an arrival date.

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.



Annual Meeting

On June 4th after our Worship Gathering at 11:45am, we will be having our Annual Meeting. This event will be in-person and will have an option to join via Zoom. Please email us if you would like the Zoom link.



Bike Blessing and BBQ

On June 11 after Worship, we will be gathering outside for a bike and garden blessing (and all other non-motorized transportations), a bike tune-up, BBQ and a ride through the neighbourhood. Bring your bikes, lawn chairs/picnic blankets and to save on the environment, your own plates and such.



Summer Day Camps at SGC

We invite all the kids and families who are part of our church community and our neighbours in Willowdale to sign up for our summer day camps.

Register now and join the fun!

Week 1 and 2 are open to children 4 (must be potty trained) - 10 years old. **Week 3, Adventure Camp, is NOW FULL.**

Register at springgardenchurch.ca/daycamp

NOW HIRING: springgardenchurch.ca/hiring



Ukrainian Newcomers Welcome Tea

Join us on Sunday June 11th 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 emily.kielstra@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:

Board Game Event: Thursday, June 15th from 2-4PM @ 175 Cummer Ave.

Talent Show Event: Thursday, June 29th 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 are 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>.



Family Fun Fair

Willowdale Christian School will be hosting its annual Family Fun Fair on Friday June 9th from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Drop in for an afternoon of community, FUN games which include inflatable bouncer, inflatable

obstacle course, carnival games, food and LOTS of prizes! Bring cash on the day to purchase game and food tickets. Please visit funfair.wcs.rocks for more info, and RSVP to help the school prepare enough food.

NeighbourLink Yard Sale

Saturday June 24th from 9 am to 12 pm, is NeighbourLink's 3rd Willowdale Yard Sale held here at Spring Garden Church. If you're available to volunteer, email EmilyKielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.

Willowdale Central Rate Payers Association BBQ

June 17, 10am

Email samlee@springgardenchurch.ca for more information.
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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.

About our Current Series:

GOD IS GOOD: Cultivating Goodness

God is good, all the time. But too often churches have not been places of goodness. Using the book *A Church Called TOV* as a guide, we will discover ways to further shape our church culture to live out the goodness of God in all aspects of our community.



Cultivating Goodness



SGC Kids:

Hi Everyone!

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

New Things Are Happening!!!

We are very excited to share that our kid's worship area is being refreshed and updated to have a new look and feel!

Here is some of what is happening!

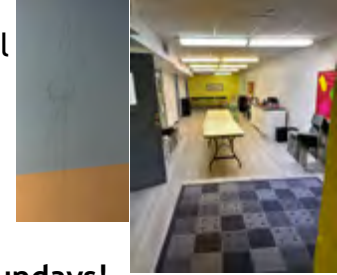
- New Children's Theatre Setup
- Refurnishing our Nursery Room
- Planning out spaces for our structure for the coming fall



We're not done yet! Here's what to be excited about!

- Creating a "Spring City" theme to label our spaces downstairs
- Designing a cityscape mural throughout the kid's ministry spaces
- Redesigning the inside of our rooms to feel more welcoming and conducive for kids to engage in spiritual conversations.

If you have any questions about what is happening, please contact Jeremy for more information!



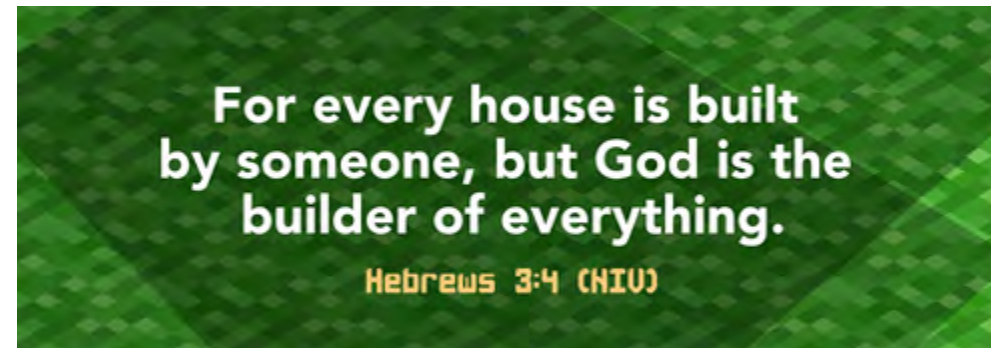
Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!

Make It Or Break It: 4 WEEKS ON CREATION AND EARLY HUMANITY

Whether it's with LEGO bricks, Minecraft, or Roblox, kids (and adults!) love to make things – and sometimes break them. In this four-week series from



the very beginning of the Bible, we'll look at how the good things God made were changed and thought to have been broken by us. But God's love, unbreaks what's been broken and allows new good things to be made. Through the stories of creation, the fall, Cain and Abel, and the Tower of Babel, we'll see that God makes good things all around us, and calls us to do the same!



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:

June 4th, 11th, and 18th: We will have regular worship gatherings for youth in grades 6-12. Following the children and youth's blessing, the youth can move into our lounge to continue in worship.

June 25th - Youth are encouraged to join our church's upstairs worship on this days.

Youth Life Groups

Sr High Life Groups: June 11th, 2023- Our Sr High Life group will first meet together in the Youth Lounge, and then be part of the Bike Blessing following worship. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy (along with any allergy/food restriction info) to let us know!

Time: 12 pm - 2 pm

Jr High Life Groups: June 23rd, 2023 - Jr High Life Groups will meet in our building in our youth lounge.

Time: 7 pm - 9 pm

Friday Youth Gatherings:

June 2nd: Watch Party - We are gathering at our building to watch a movie together. After the movie, we will also talk about the different challenges, themes and experiences we can see in

our movie's story.

Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

June 16th: 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 pm - 9 pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

June 30th: YEP (Year End Party) - As our youth ministry year concludes, we want to meet and celebrate our time together before we break for the Summer. More info to come!

Time: 4 pm - 10 pm

Summer Youth Hangouts:

As the summer approaches our youth group typically breaks until the fall. However this year we want to meet with our youth who are still in the area and are inviting them to join us for dinner and a fire (weather depending) at Jeremy and Kaitlyn's house on July 16th and 30th.

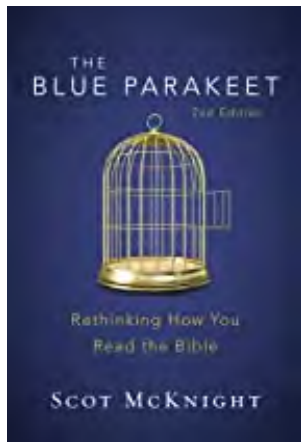
More information to come!

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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 blue parakeet: rethinking how you read the Bible, by Scot McKnight

The gospel is designed to be relevant in every culture, in every age, in every language. It's fully capable of this, and we are called to discern how God is speaking to us today. But applying its words and directions on how to live our lives is not always easy. Scot McKnight challenges us to rethink how to read the Bible, not just to puzzle it together into some systematic belief or historical tradition but to see it as an ongoing Story that we're summoned to enter and to carry forward in our day.



The making of us: who we can become when life doesn't go as planned, by Sheriday Voysey

In *The Making of Us*, Sheridan invites us to join him as he walks along England's shores and we trace the borders of our own hearts. Part pilgrim's journal, part call to reflection, *The Making of Us* eloquently reminds us of the beauty of journeying into uncertainty, the freedom of letting go, and the wonder of losing our identity only to discover who we really are.



Sophie under pressure. Sophie and her friends are all part of an elite expedition.

In order to save the world (and their science grades) they are called upon to build an elaborate space station in Fiona's backyard, and are soon lost in the world of telescopes and zero-gravity. Sophie, however, realizes building that space station is only a small solution to a much bigger dilemma when her friends and fellow astronauts begin to fight. Will she be able to complete her mission and save the Flakes' friendship before her whole world falls apart?



Sophie's drama, and Sophie gets real, 2 books in 1, by Nancy Rue (Faithgirlz series)

Sophie's drama. Sophie's friends start making plans and decisions without even asking Sophie. She's used to being the leader and now must figure out who she is in the group and in the eyes of Jesus

Sophie gets real. How can God let bad things happen? Sophie's baby sister, Hope, is born with Down syndrome, and Sophie faces friendship issues at school, but Sophie learns love is at work even when she can't see it.

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

Emily Kielstra Ext. 226
Interim Pastor of Missional Discipleship
emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca

Greg Kay
Co-Lead Pastor
gregkay@springgardenchurch.ca

Sam Lee Ext. 227
Co-Lead Pastor
samlee@springgardenchurch.ca

Jeremy Ranasinghe Ext. 223
Pastor of Students & Young Adults
jeremy@springgardenchurch.ca

Spring Garden Church

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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) *Ending in June **Starting in June

Darlene Boyd
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Scott Moore
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Esther Penner
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Debbie Tempelmeyer
Children & Youth Discipleship
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Gerry Lam**

ELDERS (alphabetical order) *Ending in June **Starting in June

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Margaret Sutton
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Suzanna Lai
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Myrna Frost
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Marcy Scott**

Barrie Porter**

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Weekly

All Throughout the Week	LIFE GROUPS 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.	
Sundays	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP Join us Sunday mornings as we go through different series' (read more). Join us at: www.springgardenchurch.ca/live or come in-person.	10am
	ESL BIBLE STUDY 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.	11:40am
Tuesdays	PASTORAL TEAM MEETING We generally meet on Tuesday. Please pray for us, for wisdom and inspiration.	10am - 12pm
Thursdays	MOMS' MEET UP 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 or in our basement. Contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca	10am
1st and 3rd Thursdays	LUNCH-PRAYER-SHARE Call Faith: 416 805-7529 or Email: faith.holwyn@gmail.com	12pm

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Upcoming

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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.

