

spring garden church
www.springgardenchurch.com

Delve

September 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 Thur	12 - 2 pm Lunch - Prayer - Share	pg 25
Weekly and Biweekly Home Groups		pg 16

UPCOMING

Date	Event	Page
Sept. 2	YOUTH: New Youth Welcome Lunch	18
Sept. 8	YOUTH: Sr High Life Group	17
Sept. 10	Ministry Launch BBQ	11
Sept. 14	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor	11
Sept. 15	YOUTH: Games Night	18
Sept. 16	Parent Info Lunch	17
Sept. 22	YOUTH: Artisan DIY Night	18
Sept. 29	YOUTH: Jr High Life Groups	18
Oct. 1	Clothing Swap	11

See more at www.springgardenchurch.ca/events

October Delve submissions are due Sept. 25th. 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



■ Features

Spiritual Homemaking 3
What on Earth? 7
The Resource Centre News and Background 8

■ Community Corner

Ministry Launch BBQ 11
Fall Clothing Swap 11
Volunteering at the Willowdale Manor 11
Helping with our Garden 12
Other Possible Future Events 12
Taste of North York 13
Artisan Market 13

■ Discipleship Ministries

SGC Kids 15 Spring Youth 17

■ The Resource Centre

Book Recommendations 19
How to Access the Online Library Catalog 21

■ More Info

How to Give 23
Home Groups 14
Leadership Directory 23
Weekly Calendar 25
Upcoming Calendar 26

■ Our Values (back page)

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www.springgardenchurch.ca



Spiritual Homemaking

by Greg Kay

What does it mean to make home in Jesus?

On Sunday mornings we've spent a lot of time reflecting on the way God creates a new home, a new family, where all people are invited in. Through the summer and into the fall we have been going through the Biblical book of Romans—a letter written to followers of Jesus who were living in the center of the 1st century Roman Empire. In this letter we have seen over and over again how the author Paul is trying to show this diverse community made up of Jews (the ethnic people God first called to be God's people) and Gentiles (everyone else!) that in the resurrection of Jesus, God has made new family where everyone is equally adopted as children of God.

Through the faithfulness of God, in the faithfulness of Jesus who has defeated death, Jews and Gentiles are equally family members in the people of God through faith in Jesus.

In her book *Adopted: The Sacrament of Belonging in a Fractured World*, Kelly Nikondeha writes about God's hesed, a Hebrew word which means a

steadfast, unflinching, reliable, unlimited love.

"God's hospitality reaches its culmination in hesed. The fullest expression of divine welcome is home-coming and home-making, finally knowing that we are beloved and that we belong. When we embody that kind of durable hospitality toward one another, we reflect the hesed of God."

The home we find as God's adopted children through the faithfulness of and faith in Jesus is not meant to be simply a theological concept or intangible reality. As we as people are embodied—which is why Jesus who was fully God himself became embodied in human reality—the home we find in God through Jesus is also one that is meant to be embodied. Embodied in our localized experience in community, not just theoretically as part of the 'capital C' world wide Church.

This is why when the bible talks about faith in God, it is always with the assumption that this faith is being lived out within a community of people—the family of God.

One of our desires as a community at Spring Garden is to be a people that embodies God's hospitality by making home for and with one another. Like any family, we are far from perfect. Whatever ways we are a healthy family is due completely to God's faithfulness and the working of the Holy Spirit enabling and equipping us all as we seek to live out the hospitality of Jesus with one another.

What does it mean for us to make home for ourselves and for others here in the faith-family of Spring Garden? What does it look like for us to embody the hospitality and welcome of Jesus in our church and our city?

How do we practice the spiritual discipline of homemaking together, embodying God's hesed love with one another in the midst of the diversity of our community and neighbourhoods?

These are questions we need to keep asking ourselves as followers of Jesus and as a church family. I think perhaps a starting place is something that our culture is increasingly uncomfortable with: commitment.

Is there any real family or sense of home where people are not willing to say, “I live here. This is my home. This is my family. And I choose to be a part of building home, for myself and for the others in my family”?

The spiritual practice of homemaking in a faith community is to say, “I will embody my adoption into the family of God here in this place. I live here, and this home is mine. I will find joy, laughter and belonging, but I will also bring nourishing, cleaning and care for my home. I will share in the sufferings of others, as they will share in my sufferings. For the time that I am here, I choose to adopt this as my family as God has chosen to adopt me into God’s family, to find belonging and to offer belonging, to be served and to serve.”

I encourage us all to consider this. We all desire to find belonging, and we have found it ultimately and unfailingly in God. Yet, God’s desire is for us to experience belonging in an embodied localized way—to experience our home in God through finding home in God’s people. And this only happens when we not only receive belonging, but offer belonging as grace filled homemakers.

What exactly this looks like will be different from person to person, church to church, home to home.

I occasionally get asked something along the lines of, “if to be church is to be a family in Christ, sharing life and making home together, what is the point of formalized church ‘membership’?”

When I was growing up, ‘church membership’ was about rights and privileges. What do I get as an individual by signing on the dotted line? The main ‘rights and privileges’ organizationally at Spring Garden that are limited to official members is joining higher level leadership and voting at meetings.

In Spring Garden, however, you can be a full part of the community, participating in all ministries and activities, finding and making community, serving and receiving, without going through the process of membership. So why bother, unless you want to be a leader or vote at meetings?

Over time I’ve come to believe, no matter how the ‘rights and privileges’ thing may be true on an organizational level and may still be meaningful to some, membership is better understood not organizationally, but organically and relationally. It is meaningful

when contemplated and practiced as a way of expressing one’s commitment to embodying this spiritual discipling of homemaking in a local family of faith.

A way of saying to God and to a particular faith community, “I am created for community and belonging, and for the time I’m here, I am committed to finding and offering the belonging and home of Jesus amongst these siblings in Christ.”

This may not be for everyone—and there’s no shame, guilt, or exclusion on anyone who doesn’t choose to go through the process of membership. It is merely an invitation for those who, in their journey of faith, want to take this kind of a step in their faith and relationship to Spring Garden.

Regardless of the whole membership thing, I believe that all who find themselves in Jesus are called to embody the homemaking of God in the world; offering the gift of belonging and home to others that we have received from God.

May God bless you with love and faith as you live out your adoption as God’s children in the world.

[If you would be interested in talking with someone about church membership, please reach out to myself, any of the pastors, or Esther Penner who is our Membership Deacon]

What on Earth?

By Jen Chrystman

It's true. I'm heading back to the Philippines On October 24th to finish my 69th year with a "field assignment" and then transition to being one of the OMF active retirees. I'll miss Spring Garden friendships and ministries, along with all the adventures of managing our OMF guest home on Avenue Road, but a large part of my heart is still in the Philippines. Our Manila Center manager goes on her home assignment to Australia in early November, so I'll manage that guest home and conference center for 4 months. Then, I'm free to invest myself again with BL Dawn for the Poor ministries.

My 10-year plan is to spend winters in the Philippines, assisting Dawn for the Poor in any way, plus filling in for center managers when they need holidays or substitute teaching at Faith Academy if needed. I'll spend my summers in metropolitan Welland,



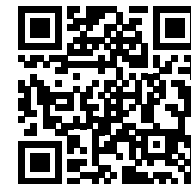
where I now have a 32-foot mobile home on my sister Steph and Harvey's 20 acres, at the edge of the forest. Instead of commuting to visit them, I'll start commuting to visit Spring Garden in the summers!

Back in 1993, there were many at Spring Garden who were pleased to contribute to my airfare and monthly support through OMF. Thanks! Those years in the Philippines were the best of my life. Being away from safe, predictable Canada motivated me to pray moment by moment, often in desperation. "Lord, help! I have no idea what's happening or what to do!" He showed up each time and I learned how loving and dependable He is.

If you'd like to contribute for airfare again, there's a project being set up to cover the \$1719. Ongoing support for me as an OMF missionary and active retiree would also be lovely. I hope you'll continue to send boxes of summer clothes to the urban poor, but you can also send me.

The Resource Centre news and background

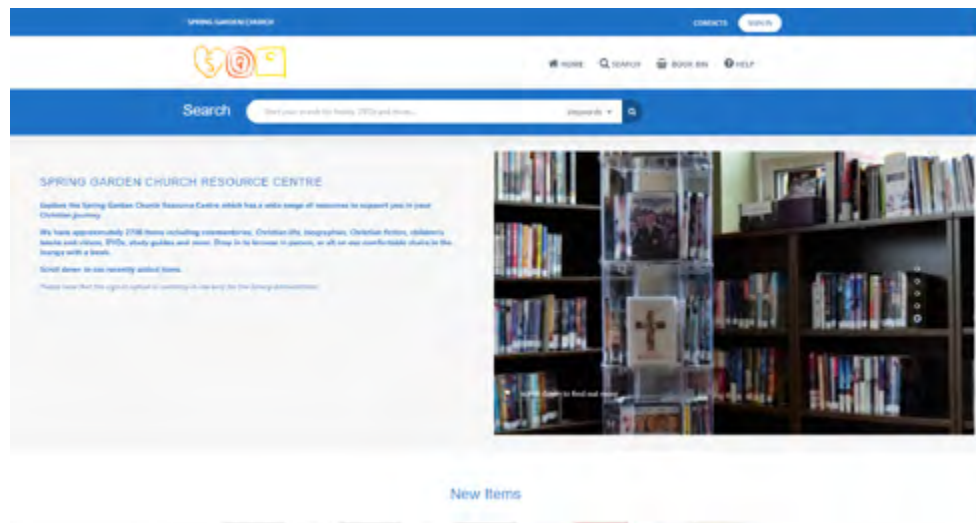
By Karen Cassel



I am excited to introduce the Web OPAC database for our Resource Centre. We have recently subscribed to ResourceMate's web based online catalog for the Spring Garden Church Library.

This can be found at <https://16921.rmwebopac.com/>

See page 21 for the instructions for how to access this from the church homepage.



It has taken us many years to get to this point in time, and I thought it would be interesting to go down memory lane for a look back at how we got here

Ruth Thompson was the long time librarian who set up the library in the East Lounge ('old timers' might be able to correct me on this). Ruth got us set up with the Dewey classification system and typed up thousands of cards for the card catalogue, with a lot of cataloguing expertise and skill. She neatly hand wrote call number labels on every item. After she retired from this volunteer position, I took over the role in 2007.

2007-2008. A full inventory was conducted and then I created an excel file of all of our books and other resources using the shelf list (ie the card file sorted in Dewey call number order).

2008-2009. The church purchased library automation software called ResourceMate, and they created our database from my excel file. It was then no longer necessary to type up library cards or hand write call number labels. The system gave us the ability to import full catalogue records, print check out cards and pockets, as well as call number labels.

2009-2010. We were able to create a link for online access via the church website for online searching of the catalog. This link was in use until a few months ago when it became defunct.

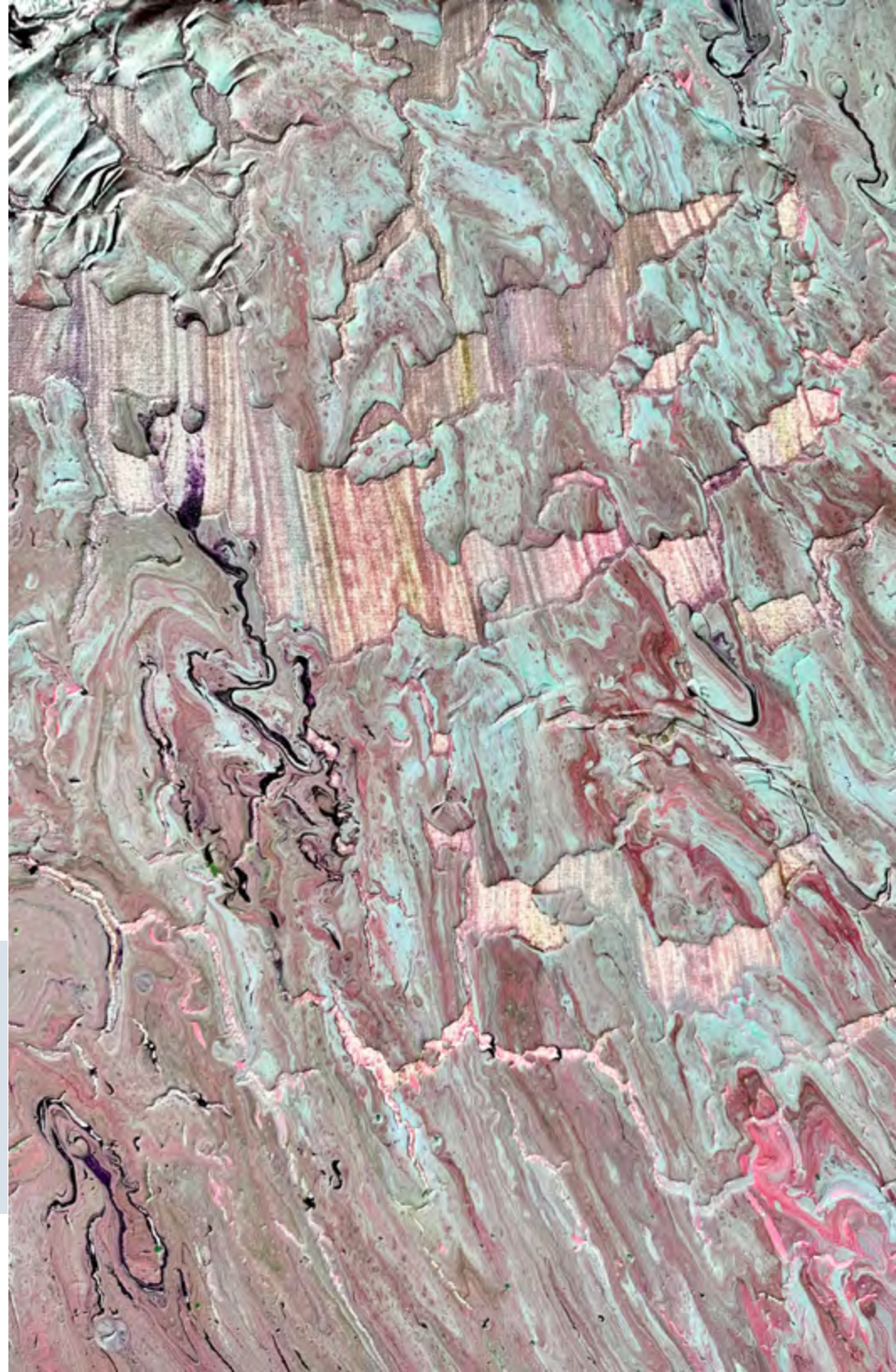
2010-2011. After the major renovation of our church building, the library moved to its present location in the West Lounge.

2014. The children's library, which had its own space in the lower level, was moved upstairs, and I catalogued the books and added them to our database.

We are so fortunate to have the budget to support this wonderful resource.

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.





Ministry Launch BBQ

As we celebrate the start of a new ministry year, 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 and ice cream. **We will be taking a optional group picture on this day.

Fall Clothing Swap

We will be hosting a clothing swap on Sunday, October 1st from 11:30am to 1pm. We will be collecting children's or women's clothing in good condition as well as a variety of children's toys/books. Please drop off any items you would like to donate at the church office, either on a weekday between 9am and 3pm or on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help with sorting the donated items prior to the swap or if you have any questions about the swap, please contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.



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 an event on **Thursday, September 14th from 2-4PM @ 175 Cummer Ave.** They are looking for volunteers of all ages to connect with and offer

support to the seniors who will be coming out to these events. Please note that there will likely be another event during the last week of September; however, specific details still need to be confirmed. If you are interested in receiving more information or you are available to volunteer at the events, contact Emily at: emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.



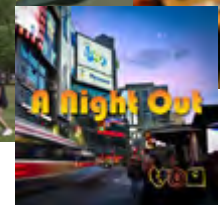
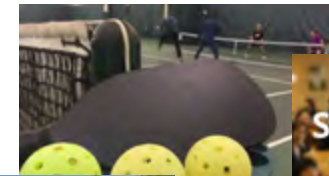
Helping with our Garden

Earlier this summer we planted our garden and up until this point, we have completed seven harvests. All the produce that we have harvested has been donated to St. Clare's Residence, a women's residence which provides long-term housing for at-

risk women. As we approach the end of the season, we expect to have two more harvests, likely happening on **September 13th** and **September 27th**, anytime between 4:30pm and 7pm. If you are interested in helping with harvesting on one or both of these days and/or you are available to help with weeding or watering during the week, please email garden@springgardenchurch.ca. Kindly note that it would be helpful to know beforehand whether you are available to help with harvesting as plans may change unexpectedly as we the harvest dates approach.

Look Out for These Possible Events in the Future

- Pick-Up Pickle Ball
- Small Group Sunday
- Gym Night
- Night Out
- Sunday Morning Bible Study
- ESL



springgardenchurch.ca/events



NeighbourLink North York and Street Eats Market present the 1st Taste of North York Food & Drink Festival on **September 8-10** at Mel Lastman Square! Celebrate all North York has to offer with over 50 food vendors, live music, art, dancing, kids

activities and NeighbourLink's Meet & Eat! There will also be a Community Fair of 25 local charities, organizations and clubs on September 9th.

Here is another local event:



Home Groups

As people who worship a triune God, we believe we are called to embrace spiritual growth as a collective, not simply as individuals. We also believe that we are all made in the image of God and are therefore created to belong in community. Home Groups are designed for us to pursue spiritual growth together and experience a deeper sense of belonging by creating opportunities to strengthen relationships with one another, engage in spiritual disciplines together, and participate in mission as a community. We have a number of Home Groups which meet on a regularly basis, both in person and online:



Wednesdays from 7:30 pm to 9 pm
At Spring Garden Church (in person)



Wednesdays from 8 pm to 9:30 pm
Online (Zoom)



Every second Sunday from 1 pm to -3 pm
At Spring Garden Church (in person)

If you are interested in joining a Home Group or you would like more information about Home Groups, please contact emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca

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!

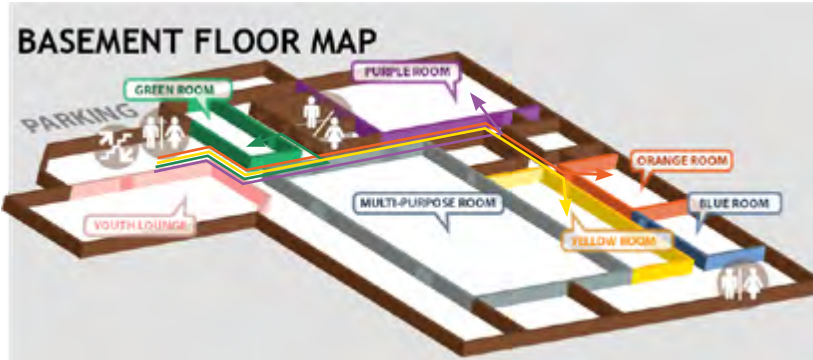
Email delve@springgardenchurch.ca if interested.



Welcome back, everyone! We've missed you! We hope you and your family had an enjoyable summer this year. In September, we are beginning a new ministry year, and we are excited to have our volunteer-led worship for children from 2 Yrs old - Grade 5

On Sunday mornings, you'll be able to register children for worship 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 groups we have available for children's worship on Sunday mornings:



Group Structure:

Toddlers & Pre K (2 - 3 Yrs Old) - Orange Room

JK - SK (4 Yrs - 5 Yrs) - Green Room

Gr 1 - 5 Purple Room Drop Off - Yellow Room Pick Up

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

<http://tiny.cc/SGCFamilyRegistration>

Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!

Animated: A 4-Week Series On The Prophets
If you've ever gotten a little emotional during your favourite Disney or Pixar movie, you know animation is a powerful tool to not only tell big stories but to make us feel big feelings, too!



In this four-week series, we'll look at some stories of the Old Testament prophets as we explore some of those feelings. These stories will remind kids that God cares about our big feelings. With God, we can all feel secure, comforted, valued, and loved, even when our emotions tell us otherwise.



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>

SGC Ministry Kickoff 2023: September 10th, 2023

We would like to invite you and your family to our Ministry Kickoff celebration as a new ministry year begins. After worship, we will have a free BBQ outside and some cold sweet treats as we catch up after the summer season.

When: Sept 10th, 2023

Time: (After Worship) 11:40 am - 1:30 pm (approx)

Discipleship Kids: Parent Info Lunch

We would like to meet with the parents and caregivers of our children to share about our ministry for them and what we have planned for this year. If you have children (0-11 years old) who are part of our ministry, we invite you to join us for these conversations over lunch and ask that you register by Sept. 6th, 2023, to help us prepare and arrange enough food.

Sept 16th, 2023 - SGC Kids Registration - <http://tiny.cc/ParentInfoLunch-SGCKids>



Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings:

September, 10th, 17th: We will have regular worship gatherings for youth in grades 6-12. Following the children and youth's blessing, the youth will move to our lounge to continue in worship.

Sept 26th: On the last Sunday of each month our youth will be part of the upstairs worship gathering along with the adult congregation. On these Sundays, we encourage youth to participate in and/or to serve in another area of the church's ministry. For those interested please speak with Jeremy and fill out the following form <http://tiny.cc/YouthLIT-Fall>

Youth Life Groups:

Sr High Life Groups: Sept 8th - Our Sr High will meet for our life group meeting in our youth lounge. We will gather in our youth lounge to have dinner and talk about the life as we're growing up and how Jesus can play a part of that. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy (along with any

allergy/food restriction info) to let us know!

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5 (Dinner Included)

Sept 29th: 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 happening around us and the struggles we face.

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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

Friday Youth Gatherings:

Sept 2nd: New Youth Welcome Lunch - If you're a sixth-grade student new to our community or joining us for the first time as a youth, we're excited to welcome you! We're hosting a lunch event where you and your parents/caregivers can get to know us a bit more and learn about our plans for the upcoming year. Come join us for a meal, and let's get to know each other better. Please email Jeremy by September 1, 2023, with how many family members will be attending and if there are any allergies or dietary restrictions we should be aware of.

Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

Cost: Free!

Sept 15th: 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 reserve space by Sept 13th, 2023

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

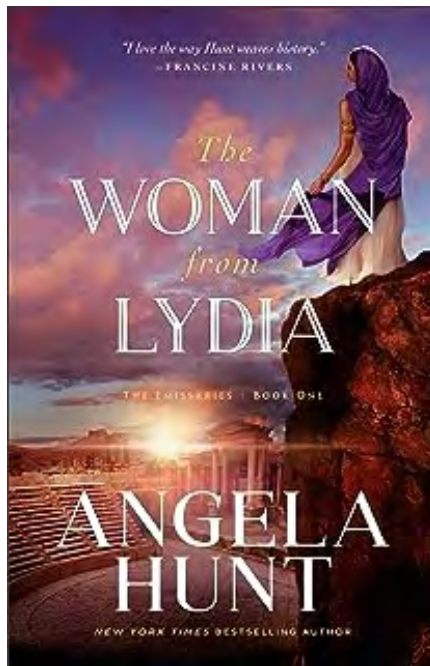
Cost: \$5per youth (Dinner included)

Sept 22nd: Artisan DIY Night - We will meet at our building to work on personal crafts and art projects together. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy to reserve space by Sept 20th, 2023

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

Staying Updated: To stay up to date on what is happening for your youth, please visit our google calendar which has all our planned events. <http://tiny.cc/YouthCal>



The woman from Lydia: The Emissaries Book one, by Angela Hunt

Widowed Euodia, known to her neighbors as "the Lydian woman," seeks to make a fresh start by moving to the foreign city of Philippi. She finds new purpose after meeting Paulos, apostle to the Gentiles, who opens her eyes to helping those in need, particularly women and those who have been enslaved.

Retired Roman soldier Hector has settled in Philippi with dreams of a future filled with wealth and status, pooling his army earnings with Lucius, his fellow comrade-in-arms turned business partner. His hopes are dashed, however, when Paulos robs their youngest enslaved girl of her lucrative ability to foretell the future, rendering her worthless to Hector's ambition. Determined to find someone to restore the girl's valuable "gift," Hector is willing to travel to the ends of the earth to do so. Following close behind him, Euodia and her servants embark on a journey to rescue Sabina and set her free forever.



Scripture and the authority of God: how to read the Bible today, by N.T. Wright

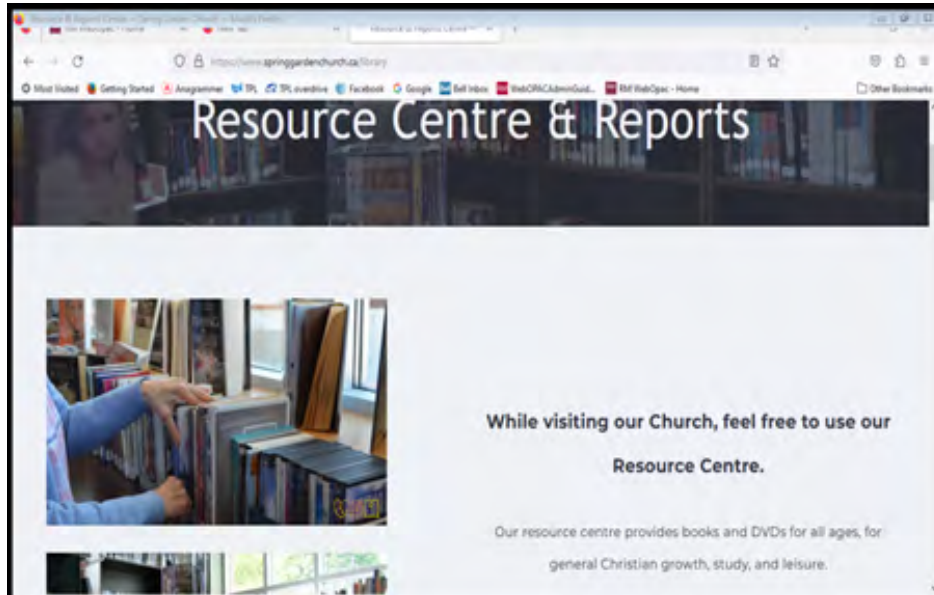
In *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*, widely respected Bible and Jesus scholar, N. T. Wright gives new life to the old, tattered doctrine of the authority of scripture, delivering a fresh, helpful, and concise statement on the current "battles for the Bible," and restoring scripture as the primary place to find God's voice. N. T. Wright shows how both evangelicals and liberals are guilty of misreading Scripture and reveals a new model for understanding God's authority and the Bible.

Spring Garden Church Library: How to access the online library catalog

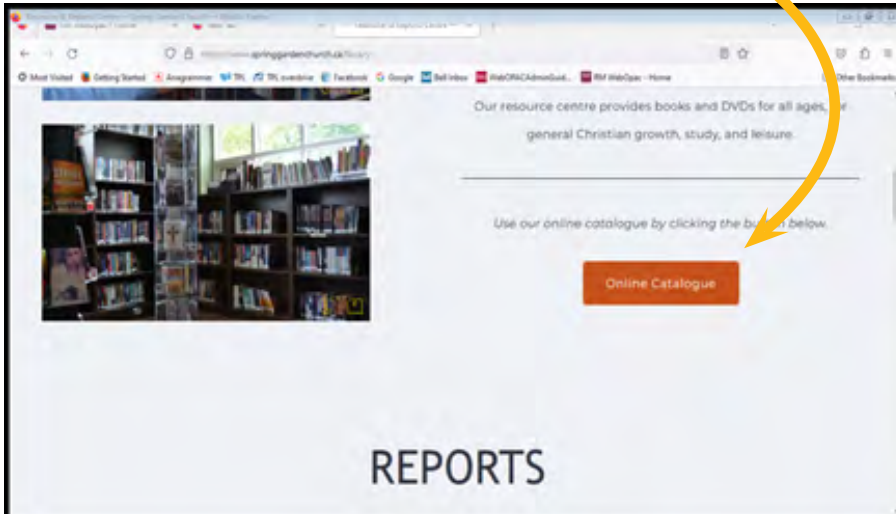
Go to the church website <https://www.springgardenchurch.ca/>

Click on More, Resource Centre and Reports (OR for iPhone or iPad scroll to the bottom of the page to the link for the Resource Centre)

You will see this screen:

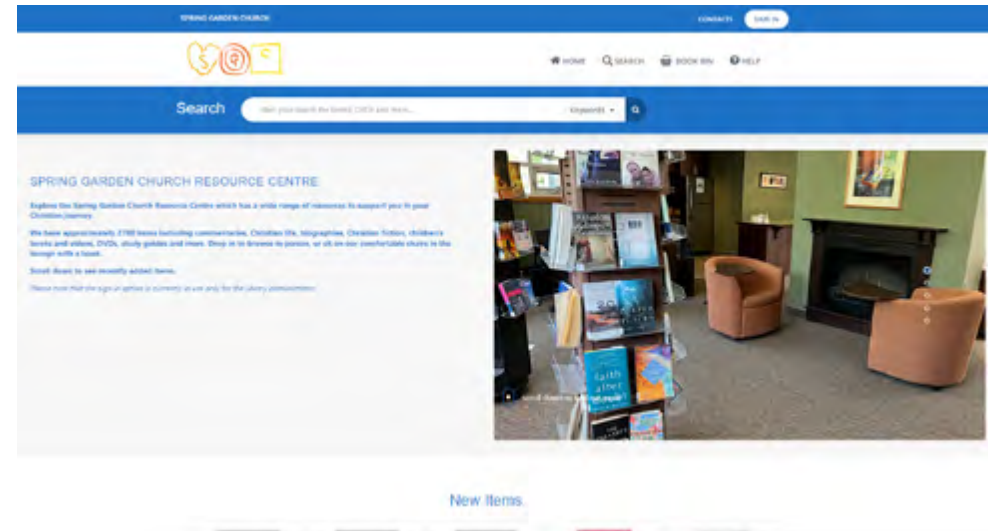


Scroll down and click on the Online Catalogue link:

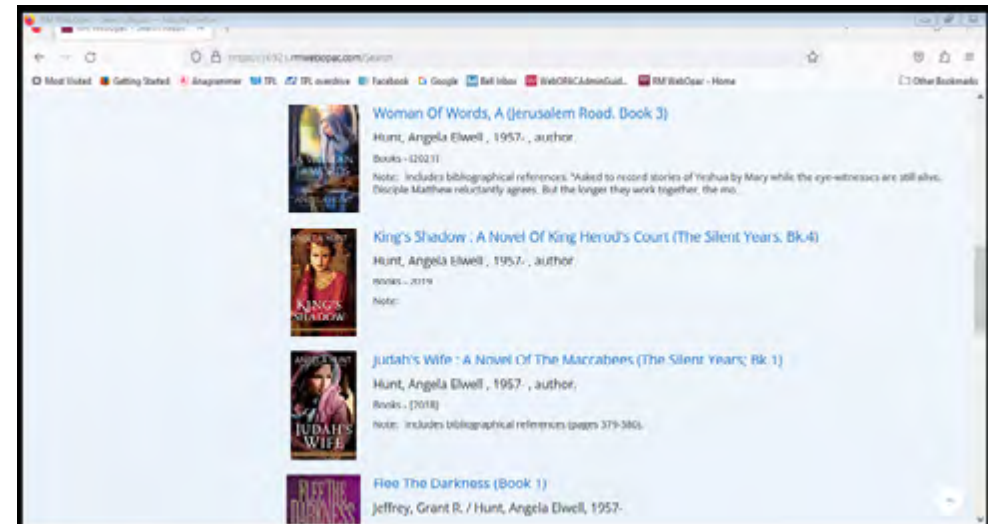


You will see this screen:

You have arrived at the Spring Garden Church online library catalogue and can proceed to look up by author, title, subject or keyword.



For example, a search for author Angela Hunt will give you a result that looks like this:



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

112 Spring Garden Avenue, Toronto ON M2N 3G3
www.springgardenchurch.ca Tel 416.223.4593
office@springgardenchurch.ca Fax 416.223.6126
Prayer Line 416.223.4038

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

DEACONS (alphabetical order)

Darlene Boyd
Worship
darlene.boyd@gmail.com

Krysten Cameron
Chair
krystencameron@hotmail.com

Garry Lam
Secretary & Property
garry.lam@sgbc.ca

Jeff McGee
Finance
jeff.mcgee@sympatico.ca

Scott Moore
Vice Chair,
scottgmoore@mac.com

Esther Penner
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esther.penner@sgbc.ca

Debbie Tempelmeyer
Children & Youth Discipleship
tempelmeyerdeb@gmail.com

ELDERS (alphabetical order)

Anne Barron
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Suzanna Lai
suzanna.lai@sgbc.ca

Barrie Porter
barriep91@gmail.com

Marcy Scott
marcyscott@rogers.com

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Weekly

All Throughout the Week	HOME 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 14.	
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
Coming Soon	ESL BIBLE STUDY Are you new to the English language and interested in learning more about Jesus? Coming soon, please keep your eye out for this on our weekly email or Sunday announcements.	
Tuesdays	PASTORAL TEAM MEETING We generally meet on Tuesday. Please pray for us, for wisdom and inspiration.	10am - 12pm
Thursdays	MOMS' MEET UP Moms and moms-to-be are invited to join us along with their little ones every Thursday morning for a time of conversation and play. Starting this month, we will be meeting in the Toddler Room located in the church building's 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 EVERYONE IS WELCOME.	12pm

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).

THERE ARE GOING TO BE EVENTS ADDED THIS MONTH, SO PLEASE 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.

