

Garden Gleanings

April 2025

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Baptism

On March 30th, for the first time in Garden's history, baptism was held IN the sanctuary during the morning worship service. A stock tank was placed on the stage and filled. Randy Pretzer and Cassie Albin shared publicly their desire to follow the Lord and were baptized. Once again it was an encouraging time hearing the testimonies of how the Lord has and continues to work in the lives of His children. Following the service a potluck was held in the fellowship hall.



Couples Shower

Sunday afternoon, April 6th, a couples wedding shower was held for Cody Wohlgemuth and Emily Schmidt. Theo and Joan Rempel and Kerry and Becky Vogt were asked to share marriage advice from their years of marriage experience. In addition, a few single guys, Jared Nelson and Jordyn Vogt, were also asked to share some "marriage wisdom" with the couple. Cody and Emily are planning a June 13 wedding.



Ladies' Night Out

Around 30 ladies met for a night out at The Barn in Burrton on April 1st for supper. Due to poor acoustics in the restaurant, it was decided at the last minute to stop at the church on the way home so everyone would be able to hear Mary Goossen give us some updates about their ministry in Brazil.



Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City

Friday, April 4th at 4:17 found 11 kids and 4 sponsors loading up in two vans to head to Branson, MO. Our destination was Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City!

Last year we had perfect weather, but this time it was quite cold and rainy. Despite the rain and some closed rides our teens were able to ride many roller coasters. "Wildfire" was very popular!

On Saturday morning, the guys attended a "Guys only" breakout session with Shay Robbins as the speaker and the girls went to a "Girls only" session with Ashley Robbins as the speaker.

Because of the weather, the Saturday evening concert and Sunday morning Worship were moved to another venue in Branson. We were very thankful to be warm and dry and inside. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed music and testimonies from Leanna Crawford, Austin French and We are Messengers.

Sunday morning found us up, bright and early, to attend the Sunday morning worship service. We heard Crutchfield and Thrive worship in concert and also heard a message challenging us to move our beliefs from our minds to our hearts.

There was time for more rides and then it was back into the vans to head for home. We are so thankful for each student who went, Chris & Julie's help, safe travels and fun despite the weather.

Lindley & Kayla Harms



Library News

Taking on the new responsibilities of Librarians for the 3 Garden Church Libraries is an exciting venture. Sheryl Miller has done a wonderful job over the past years to make the Libraries inviting places to be, enticing people to read, learn and grow. We humbly follow in her footsteps.

In the Adult Library a several books focused on Jesus' death and resurrection are on display. Check one out! There might be some new facet to those days in Jesus' earthly life that you never really thought about. A fictional series about Jesus' last weeks was recently added to the library - *The Jerusalem Chronicles* by Bodie and Brock Thoene. Sometimes imagining yourself in the story can give you new insight into what Jesus did for us!

An author from years ago, Janette Oke, is now 90 years old! She recently wrote one more book, saying she still had one more story to tell. It's different than her many other books, "The Pharisee's Wife," a Biblical fiction taking place before and after the Resurrection.

We'd like to encourage more readers to join the monthly Book Club. The book we're reading for March is, "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey. Learn more about the times Jesus lived in, get a different perspective of His life, "No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same," says Yancey. The Library has a couple of the books to check out.

~Denise Goossen

There's a lot going on in the Teen/Tween Library! If you haven't been inside in a while, come take a look. There are three new missionary stories as well as two new series worth checking out: *The Terrestria Chronicles* and the *Faith and Freedom Trilogy*. You'll also find a two volume ASL Dictionary that will come in handy if you're planning on coming to the ASL class in May! There are magazines on the side table by the two comfy chairs that are worth taking a peek at, and before you leave, be sure to check out Nick Vujicic's amazing story of loving life and loving God while living without arms or legs, *Life Without Limits: Inspiration for a Ridiculously Good Life*.

This library is for you, tweens and teens, so if there's a book or series you're interested in, come talk to me. There are plenty of books currently in the library that are the first in a series. If you've read the first and are interested in seeing more of the same, come talk to me about getting the rest of the series. Grab a bookmark from the cup and let's get reading!

~Carla Murphy

As we approach Easter, be sure to visit the Children's Library for a variety of books that share the story of Easter! We have numerous picture books that will help children learn and understand the true meaning of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Check out some of our featured Easter theme titles this month:

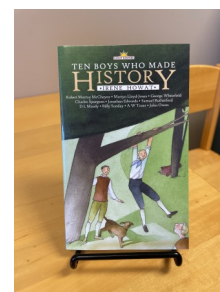
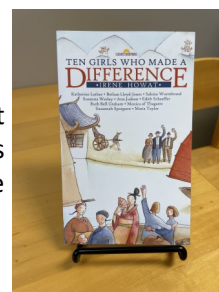
- **The Garden, The Curtain and the Cross: The true story of why Jesus died and rose again by Carl Laferton** – A beautiful book that focuses on the temple curtain and explains that when it was torn in two, everything changed!
- **The Donkey That No One Could Ride by Anthony DeStefano** – A story of Christ's triumphal entry told from the perspective of the donkey that carried Jesus.
- **Jesus Calling – The Story of Easter by Sarah Young** – Full of short devotions for kids that show them that Easter was a part of God's plan from the very beginning.
- **The Story of the Easter Robin by Dandi Daley Mackall** – A story about compassion and faith. Follow along with Tressa as her grandmother tells her the story of the Easter robin!

...and many more!

EARLY READERS! Light Keepers Ten Boys & Ten Girls Series

Be sure to check out the children's library for this special series for early readers that highlights the lives of people like Corrie Ten Boom, C.S. Lewis, Elisabeth Elliot, Charles H. Spurgeon, Nate Saint, Ruth Graham Bell, John Calvin and others! These books are full of tales of boys and girls who were used by God that will inspire you!

~Katie Hanzlicek



Vonnie's Views

“The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.” —Psalm 29:10–11 (ESV)

Floods are overwhelming—powerful, fast-moving, and out of control. A gentle stream can turn into a raging river in moments, sweeping away everything in its path. In many ways, the image of a flood captures what life can feel like: rushing, unpredictable, and too much to handle.

And yet, Psalm 29 gives us a stunning picture of God in the middle of it all: *“The Lord sits enthroned over the flood.”* He is not tossed by the waves. He is not scrambling to sandbag the rising waters. He is enthroned—reigning, ruling, completely in control—even in the chaos.

This is a powerful reminder: God is sovereign not only in times of calm, but in the most destructive and terrifying moments of life. When our world feels like it’s collapsing or spinning out of control—He is still King. Whether we’re facing personal loss, illness, uncertainty about the future, or the weight of global events, nothing catches Him off guard. He reigns over it all.

But here’s where the psalm becomes deeply personal. The same God who sits enthroned over the flood is the One who gives strength to His people. He isn’t distant or detached. He isn’t observing our situation from afar. He is present and offers His very presence, His power, and His peace to those who trust in Him.

That’s especially important to remember when we feel the flood of life is drowning us. Sometimes it’s not just one overwhelming thing—it’s several, all at once. And in our desperation, we cry out, “God, where are You?” Psalm 29 answers: “Right here. Ruling. Reigning. Strengthening. Blessing.”

Although God is not the author of evil or sin, Scripture shows us clearly that He can and does work through the brokenness of this world to fulfill His purposes. He is sovereign without being the source of sin. He remains holy, pure, and just—and nothing lies outside His control. It’s a deep mystery; one we are incapable of fully comprehending this side of heaven. But it’s woven throughout the story of Scripture, and it allows us to rest in the truth that our King is *both* powerful and good.

This psalm ends with a beautiful prayer: *“May the Lord bless His people with peace.”* That’s not just a hopeful wish—it’s a declaration of what God delights to do. And the ultimate fulfillment of that promise is found in Jesus Christ.

On Good Friday, it looked like the overwhelming flood had won. Jesus—the Messiah, the hope of the world—was crucified and buried. Darkness fell. Hope seemed lost. But on Easter morning, Jesus walked out of the tomb—alive, victorious, and enthroned forever as King. Death, the final and most fearsome flood, was defeated along with sin, shame, and fear. Because of Jesus, the floods of this life do not have the final word. The King who sits enthroned over the flood is the same One who gives His people strength and blesses them with peace—today, tomorrow, and forever.

So how do we respond?

We respond in faith. We trust that even when we don’t like or understand what’s happening, God is still in control. We pray for His strength and receive His peace. We turn our eyes away from the rising waters and fix them on the One who reigns above them.

And we possess peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). In a world that feels like it’s constantly in crisis, we are enabled to be people of calm and confidence—not because we have it all together, but because we know the One who *holds* all things together (Colossians 1:17).

Whatever flood you may be facing today, take heart: the Lord still sits enthroned over it. He is your strength. He is your peace. And He is your King—forever.

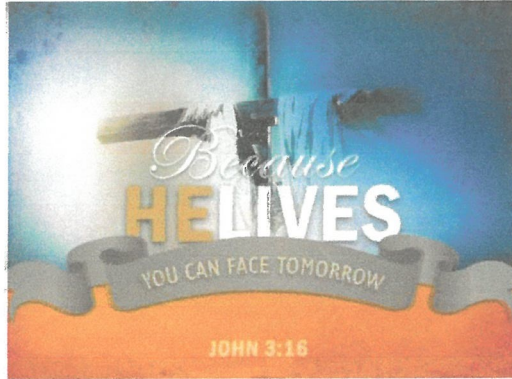




Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Revelation 21:4—And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Ask God to bring to mind one of His promises you really need right now.	2 Ask God to help you release a hurt you have carried for far too long.	3 Turn Psalm 23 into a prayer of thanksgiving to God.
4 Pray for all the kids in the Sunday School to know, really know, Jesus.	5 Pray for caregivers to have wisdom & the strength to keep going.	6 Pray for the acquisition of the 2nd frequency for Harvest Radio.	7 Pray we each live well and finish well to the glory of God.	8 Thank God that you can sit in His presence & wallow in His goodness.	9 Pray for open doors for Daniel & Krissy to share the gospel.	10 Pray for Pastor Dizzy to walk in close communion with God daily.
11 Pray for all the adults in Sunday School to know, really know, Jesus.	12 Pray for those in prison to find forgiveness & freedom in Jesus.	13 Pray New Hope Shelter is effective in reaching souls for Christ.	14 Pray for wisdom in being a good steward of all God has entrusted to your care.	15 Pray God helps you to hold on very loosely to things of this world.	16 Pray for those grieving someone they miss terribly.	17 Pray for Holy Spirit sensitivity to wrong choices.
18 Pray God's help in walking in complete obedience to Him.	19 Praise God for all the beauty He puts around us.	20 Praise God for people who touch you for the Lord & they don't even know it.	21 Pray God uses you to touch someone's life for Him.	22 Pray for the work going on in Brazil - deep roots & strong faith in the Lord.	23 Pray for the health of our missionaries.	24 Pray God helps you guard your time with Him zealously.
25 Praise God for faithful saints who have a long history of faithfulness to God.	26 Ask God to help you walk in faithfulness to Him consistently.	27 Pray for teachers of scripture to have wisdom, insight & boldness.	28 Pray believers in the military shine forth the light of Christ.	29 Pray God gives you His love for difficult people.	30 Pray we have clear minds, led by the Holy Spirit.	31 Pray family members come to know Christ's salvation.



Dear Friends,

We are once again reminded of the greatest event in history, the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:3b & 4 tells that that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and ROSE AGAIN on the third day. He did this so we can be forgiven of our sins and live with him eternally in heaven (John 11:25-26 and Eph. 2:8-9). I trust all of you are praising God for this wonderful gift.

My Savior left heaven's glory to come to the earth for me,
He left there all of His riches to die on dark Calvary.
His heart so full of compassion, obeyed the Father's plan,
That we might be forgiven, His blood He shed for man.

He loved me, and gave Himself for me,
And purchased my pardon, upon a cruel tree.
He saved my poor soul, from death's dark agony,
And one day He's taking me home eternally.

That day when I received Jesus, His riches He gave so free,
Not only was I forgiven, but His life is now in me.
And now He daily lives through me, His plan here to fulfill,
As I live out His likeness and do the Father's will.

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Thank you for faithfully standing with us. We are doing as well as can be expected for our age. We covet your prayers, and we pray for you also. If you have any special prayer needs, please share them with us so we can uphold you in a more informed manner.

Because He is Risen,

Norvin + Evelyn Schrag

Norvin & Evelyn Schrag