



2026 Women's Retreat (see reverse for more)

GROWING SEASON

I spent a few hours in my yard over the weekend just mowing the lawn and I must admit that I am a little disappointed. The first day after mowing, the yard looked great. Straight lines. Even cut. No dandelion buds popping up. You know the look. But now, It's only a few days out and you can hardly tell that I was there. The dandelions seem to have multiplied, the straight lines are rapidly disappearing, and the lawn is starting to have that "shaggy" look creep back. If it's a competition, the yard is definitely winning!

I am always amazed, though, at how fast things grow in the Spring and how little effort I have to put into making it so. Part of this amazement is due to my complex relationship with plants. In college, my room was affectionately referred to as, "the place where plants go to die." And I had plenty of opportunities to try my hand at the skill of cultivation. Two of my roommates studied landscape architecture. They literally majored in plant studies! And while plants in the Spring grow quickly, the task of shaping and molding them into the desired shape and in the desired space is what takes continual effort and care. The work never seems to end.

Thinking about this reminded me of the passage in 2 Peter 1 when he exhorted believers to consider their part in their own spiritual growth.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in

increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Growing in Christlike character takes time, effort and persistence. And, like my yard, growing in the right shape and in the right way does not happen naturally. The path is not always easy. It takes purpose and dedication and commitment. Fortunately, we are not on our own in this pursuit. Right before this passage, Peter reminds his readers that,

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

While God invites us to participate in our own spiritual growth, Scripture is clear that it is God who does the heavy lifting. Our growth is a reflection of His goodness and power.

Take a look at the stories in this newsletter and see how God is growing us. My prayer is that we, as a church, will grow both individually and corporately to walk and talk more like Jesus. That we would more fully reflect His love to each other and to this community. And with that, I think that it's only appropriate to close the way that Peter concluded his letter,

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

It's growing season!

~ Tim Collins, Elder



MAY BIRTHDAYS

BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

HOME TO HEAVEN

AL GAUNTLETT
1933-2026

RESURRECTION DAY 2026

Our focus on April 5, Resurrection Day, was to celebrate The Resurrection of Jesus with our neighborhood. We also focused on an invitation, to hear and believe in the Good News and anticipate Jesus' return. Many of our neighbors heard this message from you and during our bilingual service. Thank you all for blessing our neighbors and inviting them to hear the words of life. ~ Tom



WOMEN'S RETREAT



Last month, 60 women gathered for a meaningful and transformative weekend at the 2026 Women's Retreat.

Guest speaker Maxine Lawrence shared insights on



"Becoming," based on Philippians 1:6. Throughout the weekend, there was a shared sense of God's direction, renewal and shaping of hearts as each woman considered how God is revealing his work and intentions for her life.

Plenty of laughter and connection were mixed in with the teaching. From the committee performing an opening skit in bee costumes, to a hilarious lip synch contest, salsa contest, hot tub and sauna time, pickleball and more, the women were drawn closer. Isela Figueroa expressed her appreciation of the efforts toward unity between English and Spanish speakers. "The committee went over and above to welcome the Hispanic community and make us comfortable." Magali Tuxpan added, "The creativity with the activities and teaching made it fun to learn." And we are all grateful for the Silent Auction that makes it affordable for our ladies. ~ Connie

FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY



We had a terrific time celebrating the completion of our first Followers of the Way. We're delighted with all of the young people who set out on this journey. Now, it's our job to support, encourage, and follow their example.

Remember, too, that small regular contributions to the youth missions fund will make a big difference over time!

~ Patrick

CAMP JONAH WORKDAY

We worked hard to get Camp Jonah's high ropes course all cleaned up and ready for summer. Four 5x12x3 dump trailers full of pine cones! It's was exhausting but we had a great time together and got to have a giant bonfire afterward!
~ Patrick

