



Shepherd's Door kids garden project; article on reverse

STEWARD THE SPACES

As we move toward the end of another school year, there is a noticeable shift in the rhythm of life. School programs wrap up, graduations are celebrated, calendars begin to open up, and many of us start looking ahead to summer trips, family gatherings, and a slower pace of life. Many of our regular church ministries also begin their summer pause. Bible studies conclude for the season, The Rock takes a break for the summer months, and several Life Groups step back for a time of rest and renewal. After a full and busy year, these pauses can be a gift.

Summer often gives us something we deeply long for during the busier seasons of life: spare time. But the question becomes — how will we fill it? Our culture is very good at helping us stay entertained and distracted. It is easy for our newly freed schedules to slowly become filled with endless scrolling, busyness of a different kind, or simply drifting through the weeks without intention. Before we know it, summer can come and go without ever truly renewing our hearts.

What if this summer became an opportunity instead of just an interruption? What if the extra space in our schedules became room for God to speak more clearly? What if we got out into God's beautiful creation and admired the awe-inspiring beauty? Isaiah 41:19-20 states, "I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set junipers in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it."

Perhaps this summer is an invitation to slow down enough to notice the Lord in ways we often miss during the busy months. Maybe it is an opportunity to spend unrushed time in Scripture, to pray while sitting outside in the quiet morning air, to explore a new part of God's creation to admire his beauty, to reconnect with family around the dinner table, or to intentionally invest in friendships and relationships that matter most.

Rest is not laziness. God designed us to need seasons of renewal. Even Jesus regularly withdrew from the crowds to rest, pray, and spend time with the Father. Healthy rest restores our souls and prepares us to continue serving faithfully. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

As schedules lighten a bit this summer, my encouragement is simple: don't just fill the empty spaces — steward them.

- Leave room for reflection.
- Leave room for worship.
- Leave room for meaningful conversations.
- Leave room for rest.
- And most importantly, leave room for God.

My prayer is that this summer would not simply be a break from activity, but a season of spiritual renewal, deeper relationships, and refreshed hearts. Enjoy the slower moments, the sunshine, the family memories, and the opportunities God places in front of you this season.

*Blessings,
~ Reggie Wardle, Elder*



A PLACE AT THE TABLE



We had 48 women claim their place at the table on May 16. Each woman had the opportunity to explore the gifts bestowed upon them by God's Holy Spirit, and why it's important to use those gifts in their faith community. We had the opportunity to discover all the ways in which our own church family is able to put those gifts to use. We enjoyed a tasty lunch, and had plenty of chances to visit together, too!

~ Danita Hunter

SPRING HIKE



The Oneonta Trail and Triple Falls were the destination of our Spring Family Hike on May 23. God greeted eight intrepid hikers with a refreshingly cool morning for hiking, the gracious fellowship of His people, and beautiful renewing scenery in this area devastated by the gorge fire of September 2017. While the round trip to Triple Falls is a moderate length of 3.4 miles, a short added excursion extended the trip to beyond 4 miles for several ambitious hikers, and provided some added theater along the way! Much thanks to Dianne Talyor for her baking and her clean-up, expediting our travels following breakfast!

~ CRAIG CRANDALL

KIDS GARDEN PROJECT

The second annual Children's Garden was planted on Friday, May 22, at Shepherd's Door thanks to the generous donations of our church members and the industrious gardeners who helped the children to plant the garden. Shepherd's Door staff regaled us of the healing power the children experienced as they worked and enjoyed the fruits of their labor from last year's garden. We pray for a bountiful harvest this year! We are unable to post photos faces of any of the participating children but Shepherd's Door staff has promised more photos as the garden continues to grow. We can be proud of helping such a wonderful organization that offers long-term residential care where stability grows into deep, Christ-centered healing.

~ Jennifer Miles



HOME TO HEAVEN



Kiriaki Milmore
March 1942 - May 2026



Stella Sellers
June 1939 - May 2026

GRADUATES 2026

Christopher Beltran
Reynolds High School

Ethan Fast
Sandy High School

Sophia Goodrick
Reynolds High School

Daisy Jimenez
Reynolds High School

Marshall Garrett
B.A Biblical Studies
Jessup University

Caleb Teague
R.N
MHCC/OHSU

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

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PRIVACY