

Garden Gleanings

February 2023

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

WoMin Author Event

Gail Goolsby, author of *Unveiled Truth: Lessons I Learned Leading the International School of Kabul*, came to GCC on February 4th to share with the ladies of Garden. This is the second author the Women's Book Club has invited to come share at our church. It has been a fun opportunity to meet and speak with local Christian authors who, in our case, both had very interesting life stories which display God's hand and working in their lives. Gail has a lot of unique experiences that have equipped her to be an outstanding leader, educator, and life coach. Her work and life are based on the application and strength of God's Word. Gail gave us a further look into the history and cultures of Afghanistan, her experiences there, how her book came about, and what she is currently involved in as a life coach, writer, and volunteer. Approximately 40 ladies came to listen and interact with Gail and enjoyed fellowship over coffee and donuts. Gail sent the following message after her visit: "Thank you again for the wonderful time with your precious group yesterday. All the way home I thanked God for the women who gathered and asked such good questions and shared encouragement with me after the meeting. You have an amazing multi-generational group and readers to boot!"

For those interested in the Wichita "Bridges" group mentioned by Gail which works with Afghan refugees, you can contact RayLynn Carr at raylynnccarr@gmail.com.

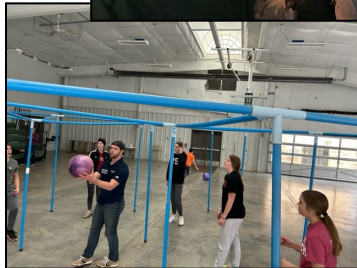


WINTER RETREAT

In January, the youth group went on our Winter Retreat to Rock Springs Ranch. We had 8 students and 4 sponsors. We had a speaker from Manhattan Christian College, Nate Kolars. He spoke on finding your identity in Christ.

Our weekend included games: 9 square, knock out, spoons, baby-backpack-bunkbed, and many more. The team at Rock Springs led us in some team building activities, and we were given the opportunity to try out the giant swing. Saturday evening, we had a bon fire, stayed up late, and shared lots of laughs. We even got to build “vehicles” out of cheese whiz and crackers (instead of a gingerbread house). Pictures of our creations are below. You will have to ask the students to describe them to you!!

It was a great weekend learning more about God and each other. Memories were made!!



Library News

March is just around the corner and Spring is waiting impatiently to make its debut. With the harshness of winter behind us, these early signs of new greening fields and budding trees are a reminder to us that new life is on the horizon. The seasonal changes also signals that Easter is approaching. As we move through the next 30 days, use this time to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus, who *is* the author of new life and beginnings.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Our **theme** for the month is **NEW BEGINNINGS/NEW LIFE**. Our book selections will reflect the early awakening of our earth with plants and seeds. New life in Jesus will be displayed in all of our Easter books and DVDs.

Our **verse focus is found in 1 Peter 3:1**. “. . . In His great mercy, He has given us **NEW BIRTH** into a living hope.”

It is our prayer that as our children read books on the Easter story, the message of salvation will begin to become familiar to them and ultimately their need for salvation will become a reality in each life. Each book and each table activity has the potential for grasping faith concepts. **Be on the lookout for new books on our shelves!!**

ADULT LIBRARY

The theme for the month is **MARCH GLADNESS - JOY!** Psalm 5:11 says. . . “Let all who take refuge in you be glad, let them ever sing for **JOY**.” The books that will be on the display table will be on the theme of **JOY**. Several **new books** have been purchased for this theme to help you cultivate **JOY** in your inner life.

- * ***Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at your Table* - Louis Giglio**. If you are wrestling with discouraging thoughts, this books will help you discover the biblical truths that will help free your mind so you can live life as God intended you to live.
- * ***Joy Keeper* - Suzanne Eller**. Six truths that change everything you thought you knew about Joy.
- * ***The 4:8 Principle: The Secret to a Joy filled Life* - Tommy Newberry**. This book offers a simplistic and a powerful way to make your life a life full of joy.

Look for these books and others on this timely focus!! Easter books and resources will be on display also in the corner shelving.

Vonnie's Views

Do you ever have a sermon that you just can't get out of your head? Pastor Craig's sermon on 2 Peter 1:10-21 delivered in the morning service February 12, 2023, is one of those for me. (If you missed it, listen here: <https://www.facebook.com/gardencommunitychurch/videos/728546991983888>)

Pastor Craig's takeaway keeps coming back to my mind: **Know Your Bible**. Pastor Craig said, "I'm burdened for you to know what I know." He was talking about carving out daily time to spend in The Book, deepening our taste for Truth, developing a deeper relationship with the God who loves us and gave Himself for us!

In C.S. Lewis' last book of the Chronicles of Narnia the characters who believed and loved Aslan (the lion hero who is a type of Christ) entered the new world of Aslan. The cry when they entered that world was "Don't stop! Further up and further in!" The characters paused and said, "Dare we? Is it right? Can it be meant for us?"

"Dare we?" Oh yes!! The Bible is a gift to us! Divinely written and preserved through the centuries! "Is it right?" For sure!! It's not only right, but also essential to our spiritual health as believers! "Can it be meant for us?" Absolutely! Psalm 119 is devoted to the benefits and delights of time in the Word.

When is the last time you ate a meal? When is the next time you will eat a meal? How much of your day is devoted to eating? Quite a bit if you think about grocery shopping, planning the menu, preparing the food, eating the food, and then cleaning up afterward. How often do you do this? Once a week? I doubt it! I'll bet you do it about 3 times *every day*. How do you find time for that in your busy day?? (Even if you eat out it still takes time to go out or drive through a fast-food place.) Most us plan for our meals—thinking about it in advance of the next meal!

Let me tell you when the Bible "opened up" to me. I was in my early 30s, raising young children and dealing with a LOT of questions about life and God. I met with a friend in Hutchinson and confided in her all my questions. She gave me one piece of advice. Read your Bible. Take your questions to the Bible. That afternoon, I went to a Christian bookstore in Hutchinson and purchased a New International Version Bible with study notes. Starting that day, I asked God to meet me in the Word and carved out time to read daily. God met me then in an entirely new way—it was like I had never read the Bible before—it opened up in a supernatural way!! Since then, I've been going "Further up and further in!"




I appreciated Pastor Craig's advice: Give it 30 days—open your Bible, read it, ask questions, look at resources. Then keep repeating! In January's Vonnie's Views, I detailed how I currently approach my time in the Word ([GG-1-23.pdf \(gardencommunitychurch.org\)](#)) Each of us will have a unique way of being in the Word. Find yours and enjoy! "Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!" Psalms 34:8 (NLT)



March

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: II Peter 3:18—But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Thank God for faithfully hearing & answering your prayers.	2 Humble yourself before God, acknowledging how very much you need Him.	3 Praise God - for whatever attribute of His you treasure the most.	4 Talk to God about all the things that cause you concern.
5 Notice the sky & praise God for His sovereignty, beauty & consistency.	6 Be still before God. Sit quietly & ask Him to order your day & your week.	7 Confess - your impatience, carelessness, selfishness, holding on to a hurt.	8 Pray for the young ones in our church to grow in their knowledge of & love for God.	9 Pray for the "old" ones in our church to finish well.	10 Pray for the grief/divorce groups to provide hope & healing in Christ.	11 Pray for unity in our church in purpose, in love for God, in ministering.
12 Praise God for His wonderful provision in taking care of us.	13 Pray Christians shine Christ's light in the darkness where disaster & hate prevail.	14 Pray Harvest Radio & Across Nations broadcasts make an eternal difference in lives.	15 Pray God's grace in encouraging us in prayer & teaching, that we don't give up.	16 Pray God protects the marriages of our missionaries.	17 Notice the signs of spring and praise God for His faithfulness, gift of life & divine surprises.	18 Pray for open doors to share the gospel & the boldness to speak.
19 Pray for those who can no longer attend services to have sweet fellowship with Christ.	20 Pray for young believers in Brazil to grow in the grace & knowledge of Christ.	21 Pray for the families of the new believers in Brazil to see what God can do!	22 Pray for our missionaries adjusting to new surroundings & new assignments.	23 Pray leadership of the church have God's wisdom in making hard decisions.	24 Pray for clear minds & right thinking in understanding the Word.	25 Pray for a growing love for the Word of God, a hunger to be in it.
26 Pray those making decisions about college, jobs & marriage seek God's guidance.	27 Pray God helps us to have right priorities & no gods before Him.	28 Pray for peace and comfort for those that are hurting.	29 Pray encouragement for someone ready to give up.	30 Look around you and praise God. We are so blessed.	31 Rest in Him. Just enjoy the Holy Spirit dwelling in you and thank Him.	

January/February 2023



Dear Friend,

We are coming closer to **VALENTINES** DAY, and our hearts are full of gratitude to God for all you do for us. We are experiencing your hearts' desire with us, even in our old age and retirement. Thank you so much! May God bless you over and over.

We rejoice every time we hear of how the biblical materials and tracts, we have been distributing to many, are bearing fruit even in Christians' lives. You have a great part with us in sharing the gospel. Please pray with us for a great harvest.

However, we know that the greatest love ever expressed is found in JESUS and his precious blood.

**For God so loVed the world that
He gAve his onLy begottEn SoN
That whosoever believeth In
Him, should Not perish
but have Everlasting life!** John 3:16

Praying that each one celebrates "**VALENTINE**" in God's Love,

Norvin & Evelyn Schrag

