

G Garden Gleenings

April 2023

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

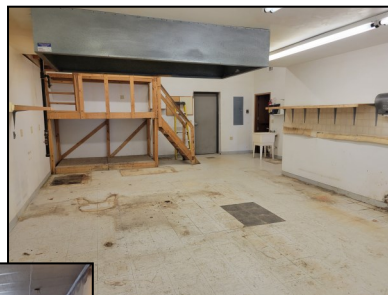
New Office Building

The Church Office is moving! Or will be soon, once renovations are complete. God has brought an opportunity to Garden for future opportunities that we were not seeking. But in God's plan for His Church at Garden, we have the opportunity to move the church office and youth room to 349 N. Old Hwy 81, in Hesston, the old Daylight Donut Shop and D'Angleos buildings.

We closed on the buildings on March 31st. On April 5, the Prayer Gathering met at the new buildings to dedicate them in prayer. Various ministries that happen in the office building were prayed over and the youth group was able to join to see the "before" of their new youth room. The Prayer Gathering gathered around the group dedicating the new space and youth for the new opportunities and ministries that the youth will have through this new location.



Work Days are currently planned for demo of the walls, flooring, and ceiling. Be sure to keep your ears and eyes open for more opportunities to help with the project. And pray that we will shine the light of Christ to the community through this opportunity He has given us.



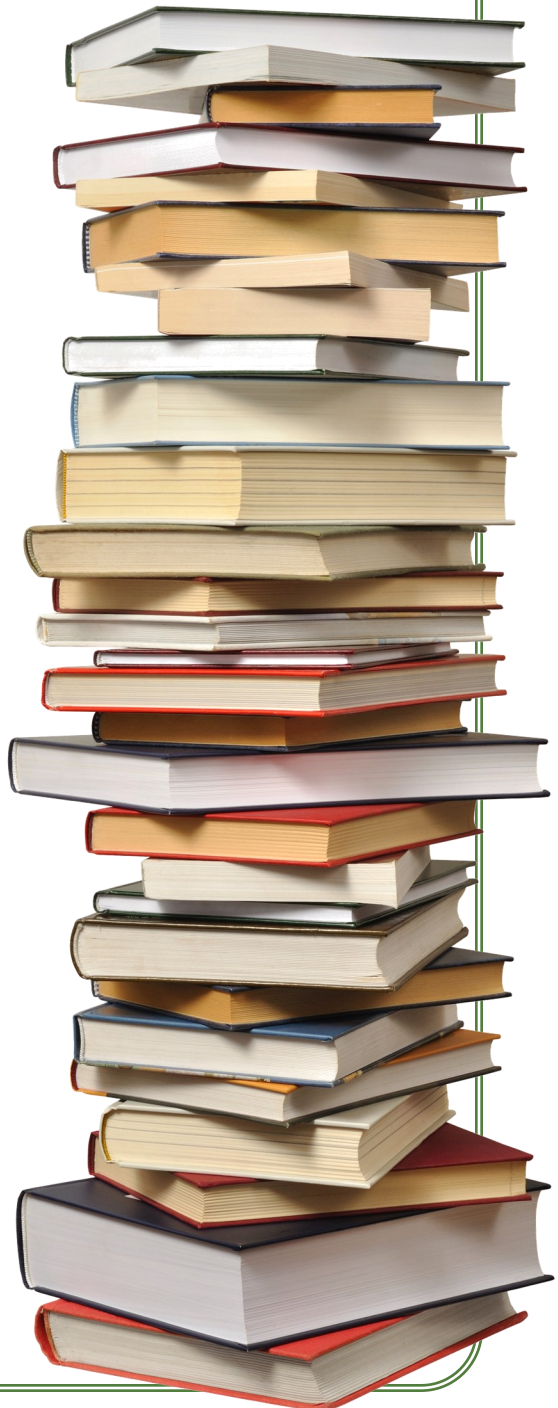
Library News

If you have visited the **Adult Library** this month you will have noticed that our theme has been **Christians in Action: Sharing our Faith**. This message is being heard from our pulpit as well as within our Sunday School class interactions. The Upper Room Sunday School class has been intentionally learning more about our calling to spread the Good News. A brief look at the growing church in the book of Acts as well as practicing practical interactions with our neighbors and friends has moved everyone out of their comfort zones. The calling for evangelizing as given in Acts 1:8, is still relevant for us today!. Are you helping others to be prepared for the journey into eternity that we must all take? Be motivated and equipped to reach those within your sphere of influence! Our feature table is filled with books - some new purchases - and resources to help you in sharing your "**Salt and Light**".

May 4 is recognized as the National Day of Prayer. We have chosen a **PRAYER focus** in our library during the **month of May**. Prayer is something we often talk about but don't spend a lot of time doing. This month the challenge will be for us as individuals to give concerted time to prayer. You will find prayer prompts as well as books on the topic of Prayer on our feature table. "**Make prayer your life and your life a prayer.**"

The **Children's Library** will also be focusing on the **theme of Prayer during the month of May**. Our books on display and table activities will feature the topic of Prayer. A great reminder to both children and adults is given in Ephesians 6:18 . . ."Be alert and always keep on praying."

The Winter Reading Challenge will be ending on April 30. If you have participated at *any* level, please turn in your reading card with your name on it by April 30. If you have read only a few of the genres or if you have blazed through all of the suggested options, please return your cards to the check out table. The Challenge was given to encourage reading outside of our normal reading choices and to also invite new readers into the library. A drawing for a winner participate will be announced at the first of May. Thanks to all of you who accepted the challenge!



Vonnie's Views



Earlier this month a planetary alignment occurred in the Western sky around sunset. A planetary alignment means a certain number of planets appear across the sky in an orderly fashion. In this case it was Jupiter, Mercury, Venus, Uranus, and Mars. We were happy for clear skies, but were only able to identify Venus, Mercury, & Mars...the others were not apparent to us. Even so, we enjoyed our purposeful viewing of the early night sky.

God made the universe beautiful and unimaginably large. I wonder if that's why God uses the night sky to illustrate and explain His greatness to us. After looking at the planets that night, I've made it a point to get out in the dark and look up. I've also made it a point to look at scriptures that refer to the stars. Here are some of my favorites.

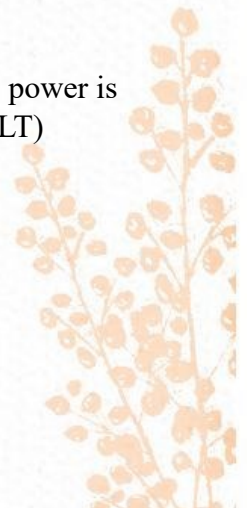
If he commands it, the sun won't rise, and the stars won't shine. He alone has spread out the heavens and marches on the waves of the sea. He made all the stars—the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades, and the constellations of the southern sky. He does great things too marvelous to understand. He performs countless miracles. Job 9:7-10 (NLT)

When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. Psalms 8:3-5 (NLT)

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat. Psalms 19:1-6 (NLT)

He counts the stars and calls them all by name. How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! Psalms 147:3-5 (NLT)



The size and beauty of the universe reflect the incomprehensibility of God. Romans 1:20 tells us the invisible attributes of God can be recognized from the things which He made, so it's not a surprise that the universe is so incredible. Truly the heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of His hands!





Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:14—God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 Pray for the whole process involving the church office. For wisdom, for things to be done properly & in order.	2 Pray Harvest Radio continues to be a light in the darkness.	3 Pray we each are teachable and humble, willing to change.	4 Pray for growth & strengthening of the churches in Brazil.	5 Pray students finish the semester well.	6 Pray for the unity of the Spirit to be evident in our church body.
7 Pray God helps us to have pure, clean hearts.	8 Pray many come to faith in Christ through the ministry of Café y Graca.	9 Pray for lost people you know to receive the Savior.	10 Pray believers come alongside kids & youth and help them grow in Christ.	11 Pray God helps you to forgive.	12 Pray God guards us against sucked into the world's thinking.	13 Praise God for parents teaching their children about Jesus & His Word.
14 Pray God guards us against deception & being led astray.	15 Pray for believers in Ukraine to trust God & able to share that hope with those around them.	16 Pray we each have a hunger for more of God and His Word.	17 Pray God keeps our hearts sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.	18 Pray SonSet transmitters get to where they are needed & save souls.	19 Pray those in hard places find strength & comfort in God.	20 Pray for God to direct in decisions made concerning the church office.
21 Praise God He directs those in authority even when they don't know it.	22 Pray for times of refreshing, resting in the presence of the Lord.	23 Pray missionary parents have wisdom in raising their kids in the Lord.	24 Pray for wisdom before saying yes to one more thing.	25 Pray for contentment in where God has placed you.	26 Pray the poor, sick, lonely, & needy find relief, comfort & peace in Christ.	27 Praise God He is able and willing to stop us when we get off track. Listen to Him!
28 Praise God for faithful students of His Word.	29 Thank God for being in America & the heritage we have. Pray He guides us.	30 Pray believers in the military have opportunities to lead others to Christ.				



Public School Field Trips

Several years ago, not long after we arrived in town, Camila and Mary went to all the schools asking permission to share the Easter Story in the classrooms. Every school, except one, welcomed them with open arms! Fast forward 3 years and the very school which **rejected** our request then, is now **seeking** our help now!

Over the past several years, teachers have come to Café & Graça periodically as customers. They've seen and experienced the atmosphere. They've seen positive changes in some of their students, who they know have been very engaged with us at the coffee shop. Even though they may not be believers, they have come to value what we are doing with some of the youth they work with every day.

Last year they approached us about taking a couple of their classes on a field trip to Café & Graça for us to share a sort of "TED" talk on making good choices. Well, we know the beginning of wisdom and the standard for making good choices! We were glad for the opportunity!

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

Psalm 119:9

This year they approached us again and last month we've already received 4 different classes with plans for more later in the year! God has blessed us with the opportunity to share about Him with many new contacts right in our own space.



Baptism

On the 26th of March we had such an enjoyable time of fellowship as we baptized 14. Two of them were our sons, Daniel and Tito. Another two were our niece and nephew. We'll use fewer words and more pictures to share this with you. Such a JOY!



Easter Potluck

We had an early Easter potluck celebration with the church on Sunday. Each person brought ingredients to prepare the dishes together. It was fun to help each other cook!

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
John 17:23



Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry. As you finish reading, praise or Lord along with us for His great work. It is such a privilege to be a part of it. ~ Josh & Camila Goossen