



Growing and Tending

As we continue to walk in a season of intentional review and renovation, new building is no longer *on the horizon*, it has begun! After Pentecost we are particularly reminded that new participants of every age continue to gather to celebrate God's love and to covenant with us in this place, making us a new people even as we are *rooted in love* and grounded in the history of this people, this place.

We are slowly approaching the time when we will fill our bigger space and call new leaders to help us continue to grow into the people God is calling and gifting us to be. In the Eastertide season we have reflected on being called the very *friends* of the resurrected Jesus. This summer we will celebrate God as Creator and Redeemer, whose friendship never ceases, whose mercies never end, who makes us a new creation, a right spirit, a clean heart with strengths, skills, and passions for the reign of justice, peace, and abundant life. Listening to the scriptures, we trust in the Holy Spirit to shape us into people who can see and hear the Way of Jesus. We will focus on the spiritual wisdom within our congregation, hearing reflections from many different voices on experiences of coming to know how we ought to live and who God is calling us to be. Following on last summer's theme of "**Rooted in Love**" this summer we will be "**Growing and Tending**" the fruits and gifts of the Spirit among us.

We will celebrate the gifts that we have received, reflecting on the abundant spiritual growth and desire for growth which is springing up within each of us and within our common life. The summer will include reflections on **faith, generosity, joy, love, self-control, courage, patience, kindness, and peace**. We will have our potluck fellowship at OxBow on July 1st, listen to the MYF witness to their own growth through service, and will conclude with a commissioning service on August 5th in which we ask for God's blessing and recognize inner renewal preparing us for a new season of work and study.

We recognize that summer is a time when many Assembly folk go a travelin'. The summer worship theme was selected with that in mind, you should be able to miss a week here or there and get right back into things. Please take the love and blessings of our community when you go, and if you visit other worship communities in your travels we would love to hear during sharing time if you have received God's love and a spirit of friendship among them from them.

Children:

As a reminder, this summer we will not have Sunday school. Children over age three will be worshipping in the main worship space with the adults and will be encouraged to use Children in Worship style work materials (books, coloring, pipe cleaners, wax melts, etc.) to worship in their own way during the faith stories and sharing time. There will be nursery care available for children under 3. Children will be gently reminded by the worship leader when it is time for them to put their work materials back on to the shelves.

Scriptures we have reflected on as we prepared for Summer Worship:

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of **the river was the tree of life**, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and **the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

Revelation 22:1-3

His [Jesus'] divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to **support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.** For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is *forgetful of the cleansing of past sins*. Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. 2

Peter 1:3-11

The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep **in step with the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:22-23