

In Nature at LCOC

Dear LCOC Family Member ~

If you've never spent time in any of the outside sanctuaries surrounding our church, you are missing an opportunity to feel God's awesome peace and His presence. Allow me to take you on a walk through some of the gardens as we explore what is happening as summer winds down and fall is on the horizon:

- The Crepe Myrtles continue to bloom profusely as we pause to take in their beautiful flowers of light pink, dark pink, rose, and purple blossoms.
- We see the elongated purple flowers of the butterfly bush blowing gently in the breeze as they continue to provide sustenance for the butterflies and insects that stop by for their meals.
- The majestic Mahonia is starting to take on hues of red-orange as they remain a refuge for our resident birds. The nearby Heavenly Bamboo is starting to become weighted down with green berries that will be turning a brilliant red in late autumn.
- Black-eyed Susans and coneflowers have all gone to seed much to the delight of the Gold Finches and other birds who relish these tasty treats. Mr. Joe Pye Weed's blooms are still providing yummy nectar for butterflies, birds, and bees.
- As we pause to rest in a chair on the patio, we are entertained by a pair of catbirds that are chattering loudly and flitting back and forth in front of us. During our brief respite, we also notice the fall anemones are budded and ready to burst forth in their pretty white.
- The maples are now dressed more fully in shades of red, yellow, and orange.
- Another sign that fall is near are the beautiful purple spikes of the liriopse as they emerge from their grassy mounds.
- As we finish our time in the outer sanctuary, we notice the rustling leaves dancing across the parking lot and are reminded that each new day is a gift from God and we are to rejoice and be glad.

You are encouraged to take a self-guided tour through our wonderful landscape here at LCOC. But be ready – you are going to experience God's peace and presence – so enjoy this special time with our Creator! Next month, we'll be into the fall season and looking forward to all the cooler days and spectacular colors this new season will have to offer.

**“Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush-bright with promise;
Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing
Her fading green glory on to glorious Autumn.”**

Michelle L. Thieme