

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. Join me as I stroll through nature at LCOC during the merry month of May. We pause to thank God for this place and for the sunshine and rain that He has so generously provided to these glorious gardens!

- We begin our walk near the patio where the Catbirds are a bit frustrated with our presence. The nearby Mahonia is filled with its beautiful Oregon Grape Clusters, just what the Catbirds have been waiting for since they returned.
- Evidence of the return of the Hummingbirds is seen by the feeder being almost empty. We will fill it as soon as possible.
- As we look around the property, we see that the deciduous trees are in full foliage, the blooms of the big beautiful Azaleas have faded, and that the late blooming Gumpos (smaller, more petite Azaleas) are just starting to flower.
- The Pansies that adorned the entrance to the Inner Sanctuary have been replaced by hardy and durable Portulaca. Thank you Pansies for enduring the Winter and providing us so much enjoyment throughout the early Spring.
- We know that the Daylilies are so happy with all the rain that they have been provided. Many of them have swollen buds, and their cousins, the Stella de Oro Lilies are already brightening up the entrance to our parking area.
- Red roses step out as we pass by and seem to say "we decided to bloom a little earlier to make you smile sooner".
- It makes us a little sad that the magnificent, vivid Irises have finished flowering for the year. We hope that they brought as much pleasure to passersby as they did to us.
- Bright Pink Primroses, Hardy Geraniums, and Oakleaf Hydrangea lead us to think about the Coneflowers, Black-Eyed Susans, Lilliums, Gladiolus, and other perennials that are ready to come into bloom in the next week or so.
- The Meditation Garden is debuting some new additions. We are so excited to see Lily of the Valley, Hellebores (Lenten Roses), and Christmas Ferns. These gorgeous plants were given by very special people and we will always think of them when we spend time in this serene setting.
- The resident baby Bluebirds have fledged from their home by the Miss Kim Lilac Bush. We hope that their parents will consider raising another brood this season.

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 look forward to all the perennials being in full bloom, seeing the birds and other wildlife that spend time in this outer sanctuary, and anticipating what else will be happening in nature at LCOC.

"In June as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them".

Aldo Leopold