

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 is in full swing. On our garden walk today, we are grateful for the cooler temperatures, yet acknowledge the dramatic effect the extremely hot weather has had on the LCOC landscape. However, there is always so much beauty to experience:

- The strikingly gorgeous Crepe Myrtles are showing off their long-lasting light pink, dark pink, rose, and purple blooms.
- The heavy blossoms of the Oak leaf Hydrangea are now lime green as they await late summer so they can put on their more colorful autumn display.
- As we pause to enjoy the other plants near the patio, we are pleasantly surprised to see a hummingbird having some nectar from the nearby butterfly bush.
- The memorial garden is filled with pink and white coneflowers, Black-eyed Susans, and most recently, the Joe Pye Weed is starting to bloom just in time for the August arrival of the Monarch butterfly.
- The nearby zinnias have lots of visitors, especially bumble bees and butterflies as do their neighbors.
- The Queen Anne's lace greets us as we meander by the first tiered garden. It seems to say, "I love the heat of summer".
- As we stop to check in on the Children's Garden filled with colorful blooms, we hear a Cardinal in the distance calling for his mate.
- In the newest gardens, by the sidewalk, we see the Crocosmia that is a beautiful "cardinal" red.
- Autumn is teasing us as we see a hint of gold on the Sycamores that line the driveway; and the Maples that border the parking lot, are already showing hues of red and yellow.
- As we end our stroll and near the front door to the inner sanctuary, we see the vibrant portulacas that continue to thrive in the summer heat.

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 continue to enjoy the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, as we begin to anticipate the upcoming cooler days of autumn.

"A life without love is like a year without summer".

Swedish Proverb