

## **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 on the first full day of spring. The snow-covered landscape was exceptionally beautiful and serene, yet lots of activity was experienced.

- The early spring snow that blankets the landscape and the cold temperatures are really a blessing to the gardens at LCOC. While extreme to some of the new buds on the trees, it provides the gorgeous blooms of the miniature and larger daffodils, and the hyacinths, the opportunity to be in bloom longer - we are thankful.
- As we linger near the patio area, we see the Mahonia (Oregon Grape) has budded out beautifully and will soon exude a wonderful fragrance that will not only attract human visitors, but the Catbirds returning to our area will be able to feast on them daily.
- The regular Cherry Trees and the Weeping Cherry have gorgeous pink buds and seem to be waiting patiently for warmer days to make their debut.
- Lilies (both daylilies and lillums) continue to emerge from their winter beds and join some spring bloomers.
- We pause to enjoy the Hellebores (Lenten Roses) in the Meditation Garden. As we stand there soaking in their lovely flowers, we notice a male Bluebird that has flown from a nearby nesting box to a tree towering above our heads. It looks like materials for a Bluebird nest sticking out of the entrance. We are excited!
- Some of the pansies near the front and back entrances have valiantly survived the cold days of winter and are happily blooming. They are really a welcome sight to all.
- The awesome Pieris Japonica are in full cascading bloom and are hugging the older building atop the tiered gardens.
- Rounding the corner, we approach the feeder and see the many birds that are thankful for the food that is not covered by the snow. We stop to watch the flitting to and fro of the numerous and colorful birds. You can almost hear the little Juncos (aka snowbirds), that are eating the seeds on the ground, say "We're glad we stayed".

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 seeing what is blooming in the gardens and in the landscape at LCOC.

*"The first day of Spring is one thing, and the first Spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month".*

**Henry Van Dyke**