

Garden Park Ward Newsletter



September 12, 2021

"Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me." D&C 19:23

Dear Garden Park Ward,

In a breakfast conversation this week with several ward members, we got to talking about Jesus's commandment to love everyone, including our enemies. "Ye have heard that it has been said, 'Thou shall love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.' But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." What a radical concept that must have been when he taught it, and it remains pretty radical today. How can you love everyone when most people are so hard to love?

Martin Luther King taught, "Certainly these are great words, words lifted to cosmic proportions. And over the centuries, many persons have argued that this is an extremely difficult command. Many would go so far as to say that it just isn't possible to move out into the actual practice of this glorious command. They would go on to say that this is just additional proof that Jesus was an impractical idealist who never quite came down to earth. So the arguments abound. But far from being an impractical idealist, Jesus has become the practical realist. The words of this text glitter in our eyes with a new urgency. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, this command is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. Yes, it is love that will save our world and our civilization, love even for enemies."

During the breakfast conversation referenced above, we also talked about a fascinating social experiment conducted by psychologist Arthur Aron, in which he showed that perfect strangers could rapidly develop deep and lasting love for each other by asking and answering 36 questions. The questions work because they encourage sincere sharing of our beliefs and vulnerabilities. The study authors write, "One key pattern associated with the development of a close relationship among peers is sustained, escalating, reciprocal, personal self-disclosure." When we actually get to know people at more than a superficial level and see their vulnerabilities, it's hard not to see them in a different light and have newfound affection for them.

Sometimes, members of our family can be the hardest to love. This week, I found myself in a long conversation about vaccines with two family members who have different views than my own. Over the past year, I've felt distant from them. But it was amazing to me how a single conversation based on trying to really understand each other was able to bridge that distance. I don't think any of us changed our minds much, but through 'reciprocal, personal self-disclosure,' I think we all came to appreciate and love each other more.

Returning to the sermon of MLK: "So this morning, as I look into your eyes... I say to you, 'I love you. I would rather die than hate you.' And I'm foolish enough to believe that through the power of this love somewhere, men of the most recalcitrant bent will be transformed. And then we will be in God's kingdom. We will be able to matriculate into the university of eternal life because we had the power to love our enemies, to bless those persons that cursed us, to even decide to be good to those persons who hated us, and we even prayed for those persons who despitefully used us."

Wishing you a month full of happiness, and perhaps even some newfound understanding and love for someone who is difficult to love.

Warmly,
Randy Peterson and the Garden Park Ward Bishopric

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First Presidency Message on Covid-19



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Official Church Announcements



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We find ourselves fighting a war against the ravages of COVID-19 and its variants, an unrelenting pandemic. We want to do all we can to limit the spread of these viruses. We know that protection from the diseases they cause can only be achieved by immunizing a very high percentage of the population.

To limit exposure to these viruses, we urge the use of face masks in public meetings whenever social distancing is not possible. To provide personal protection from such severe infections, we urge individuals to be vaccinated. Available vaccines have proven to be both safe and effective.

We can win this war if everyone will follow the wise and thoughtful recommendations of medical experts and government leaders. Please know of our sincere love and great concern for all of God's children.

The First Presidency
Russell M. Nelson
Dallin H. Oaks
Henry B. Eyring

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Sacrament Meeting Program–September 12th

GARDEN PARK WARD
-Sacrament Meeting Program-
THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

September 12, 2021, 10am

<i>Conducting</i>	<i>Bishop Rick Graham</i>
<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Samuel Johnson</i>
<i>Chorister</i>	<i>Juliet Chapman</i>
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	<i>Jehovah, Lord of Heaven and Earth, No. 269</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Olivia Curtis</i>
<i>Ward Business</i>	<i>Bishop Graham</i>
<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Tia Harrison</i>
<i>Intermediate Hymn</i>	<i>Though Deepening Trials, No. 122</i>
<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Peter Harrison</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	<i>Redeemer of Israel, No. 6</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Tanner Curtis</i>

Zoom broadcast is concluded

Sacrament Hymn *'Tis Sweet to Sing the Matchless Love, No. 177*

Administration of the Sacrament

*"The temple is a holy place where revelation comes to us easily
if our hearts are open to it and we are worthy of it."
—"I Love to See the Temple", President Henry B. Eyring
April General Conference 2021*

[Click here to join September 12th Sacrament Meeting](#)

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Relief Society

"Charity is having patience with someone who has let us down, it is resisting the impulse to become offended easily. It is accepting weaknesses and shortcomings. It is accepting people as they truly are. It is looking beyond physical appearances to attributes that will not dim through time. It is resisting the impulse to categorize others." -President Thomas S. Monson

The Guide to the Scriptures defines charity as "the highest, noblest, strongest kind of love". It is the pure love of Jesus Christ. I know that as we learn of Jesus Christ and strive to become like Him, we will begin to feel His pure love in our lives and be prompted to love and serve others as He would.

He is our greatest example.

I hope you all are well, we are grateful for you.

Please let us know if we can help you in any way,

Amy Furstenau and the GP Relief Society



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Relief Society

Upcoming Activities

For our first post-Covid activity, we would like to meet for a **Book Bonanza**, on **Thursday, September 16th at 6 pm**. Please come prepared to...

- Review a great book you have recently read
- Use this as an excuse to read something you have wanted to read and share with us
- Grab a book from our little library
- Or just come and enjoy some book reviews

(Books need not be church books, just books that have inspired you. President Kimball was inspired by *Les Miserables* and spoke about it.)

Women's Singing Opportunity

Roger Thompson has invited the sisters to sing a musical number on **October 17th** in Sacrament Meeting. Please contact him (385.226.3317) or me (801.971.1504) if you're interested in participating.

Halloween Open House

We are hoping that we can host a Halloween open house at the carriage house again this year, but Covid has more power than we do (even when we are witches). We will keep you posted.

Floral Arranging & Decorations

Our November activity will be floral arranging and decorating ideas for Thanksgiving, tentatively on **November 23rd**.

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2nd Hour Ward Zoom Meeting

This week's meeting is sponsored by our Relief Society and features Sister Jessica Patch as our presenter.

Sister Patch will present live in the Relief Society room. If you're not attending in person, please feel invited to join the meeting via Zoom through the link below:

September 12, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

["Essential Conversations"](#) by Joy D. Jones, *former Primary General President*

[Click here to join the September 12th Ward Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 992 8557 5419

Passcode: 378937

Click <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting> if you need help connecting to the Zoom meeting.

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Happy Birthday!

September 1–Ben Loomis
September 2–Kelly Morgan Watson
September 4–Joan Liong
September 4–Rick Waltman
September 4–Savannah Watson
September 5–Heather Feil
September 5–Gabriel Goorman
September 5–Casey Gunnell
September 6–Kai Jensen
September 8– Anna Christiansen
September 8– Rafael Mena
September 8– Ronald Miller
September 9–Daniel Guertler
September 10–Lisa Paulsen
September 12–Kristine Orton

September 15–Catherine Thorpe
September 16–Gabriel Drinkwater Johnson
September 16–Lynne Van Dam
September 18–Cynthia Levinthal
September 18–Rachel Romano
September 20–Patrick Donohoe
September 20–Jessica Patch
September 20–Missy Taylor
September 22–Grayden Gaykowski
September 25–Rachel Orton
September 27–Tammy Castleforte
September 27–Nicholas Hammond
September 29–Brittany Hailes
September 29– Malissa Levesque
September 30–Brandon Bennett

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Ward Announcements

Sacrament Meeting will continue to be held in person and will also be broadcast through Zoom.

We will now be singing in Sacrament meeting and Primary. We will continue to social distance, and continue to invite all congregants, including children, meeting indoors to mask if not vaccinated. For those who choose not to mask, we welcome you. For all those who join in the singing, please wear a mask, or please refrain from singing and just enjoy listening.

COVID Diligence Due to the large increase in Covid 19 in cases in Salt Lake City, please be extra diligent in our Sunday meetings to observe seating distancing and wearing of masks during all singing.

Sunday, September 12th at 4:00 p.m. MDT [Face to Face with Elder & Sister Bednar: Ask, Seek, Knock](#) . To share comments and ask questions [Click Here](#). Additional information is included on the flyer on the last page of the newsletter.

Church Magazines The First Presidency encourages all members to access church magazines either by print or digital delivery. Church magazines help members learn the gospel of Jesus Christ, study the teachings of the living prophets, feel connected to the global Church family, face challenges with faith, and draw closer to God. Subscriptions for print magazines are available [HERE](#) . Magazine content can be accessed digitally for free [HERE](#).

Missionary Month–September 2021 In support of Bonneville Stake Missionary Month here are the inspirational scriptures for the upcoming week.

September 12–[Moses 1:39](#)

September 13–[Doctrine and Covenants 84:88](#)

September 14–[Psalm 37:4-5](#)

September 15 - [Alma 32:27](#)

September 16–[3 Nephi 12:8](#)

September 17– [Mormon 5:21](#)

September 18–[Joseph Smith History 1:16-17](#) "I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me...When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other– This is my Beloved Son, Hear him!"

Temple recommends - We encourage all members to keep their recommends current. Recommend interviews at the ward level are being held by phone. If your temple recommend is expired, please contact Mark Hindley, Garden Park Ward Executive Secretary (801.599.8175) to set up a phone interview with the Bishop. For those that are fully vaccinated, Stake Presidency interviews are being held in person at the Stake Center each Sunday from 12:30–2:00 p.m. All others please contact President Parker (801.916.1951) or President Patch (801.455.0181) to arrange a virtual interview. **TEMPLE UPDATE:** The Bountiful Temple is now conducting live and proxy ordinances by appointment only. For operating hours and to schedule appointments, please contact our assigned Bountiful temple at (801) 296-2100.

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Face to Face with Elder & Sister Bednar—**Ask, Seek, Knock**



Please join us for a Face to Face event with Elder David A. Bednar and Sister Susan Bednar on September 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. MDT. Young adults ages 18-30 (whether married or single, and including full-time missionaries and those they are teaching) are invited to participate, though all ages and demographics are welcome.

This event will be available in ASL, Cantonese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, and will be available to view or download any time after its initial launch. The event will be broadcast on [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org), YouTube, and other media.