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This Week at St. Andrew's

July 8, 2020



Summer Lavender Craft

Many of us have seen lavender in our gardens, in our friend's gardens or for sale at the farmers market this time of year. Making lavender "wands" is a lovely craft to preserve lavender. Hang the wands in your closet, put them in your dresser drawers or enjoy a small vase of them as a fresh smelling decoration.

Here's how you do it:

Step 1: Lay an odd number of lavender stems side by side then tie a long ribbon around all the stems at the base of the flowers. You can leave the ribbon attached to the spool.

Step 2: Bend the stems from the tied spot over the flower heads to form a "cage" around the flowers.

Step 3: Starting at the top (where the stems are bent), weave the ribbon over and under the stems. Keep your weaving snug as the lavender will shrink as it dries. Keep weaving until you reach the bottom- where the flowers end.

Step 4: Tie up the bottom.

Here is a YouTube video with more detailed instructions



foto by Whitney

You are the Seed

Martin plays the guitar and Maribel sings a lovely song about proclaiming God's love. [Click here for the video.](#)



Garden Prayer



Bless, Lord God,
my little plot of land,
and the strength
with which I'm tilling it,
bless the seed I'm carefully
planting, and the prayers
I'm sowing with it.

Read From Your Bible This Week

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



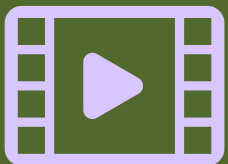
Pastor's Parable

John's birthday was Friday, born July 10 in northern France. John was only 3 when his mother died of unknown causes. At 14 he was sent to Paris to University school and had written his first book by the age of 19. His father intended that he entered the priesthood but switch him to pre-law after realizing that he would make more money as a lawyer than as a priest. But when John's father died, he switched his major again to the study of theology so that he could devote his life to serving the church. That is exactly what Calvin did and he came to be known as a leader in the Protestant Reformation. He wanted to reform the church because he felt the church needed to be reformed and that it was worth reforming.

John Calvin was born 511 years ago but his devotion to the church ignited a commitment to the church that is just as vibrant as was his own commitment centuries before. Jesus described this devotion in the Parable of the Soils (sometimes known as the Parable of the Sower) in Matthew 13. This is our lectionary text for this Sunday upon which the meditation will be based in the worship video.

Calvin used the Parable of the Soils to describe a variety of the ways that we arrive at a deeper faith. Like Jesus, he explained that the parable paints an image of what the church is and how our faith is made deeper and more fertile through our life in the church. Come to our Virtual Coffee Hour Thursday as we visit, catch up with one another and hear our own ideas as we discuss 1.) **What is the church today and how has the church become even more important to us during the pandemic?** 2.) **Do you think Jesus may have described the different soils in comparison to the different personalities that are open or closed to the church?**

July is the month to better understand the church and what Jesus intended by using the parables. See you **Thursday on Zoom at 10:00 AM** and again Sunday during worship



[Click here for a video message from Pastor Mitch](#)

Virtual Coffee Time

Join Pastor Mitch on Thursday, July 9th at 10:00 am for an informal get together over zoom. [Click this link](#) to join the meeting on any device. If you would like to call in using your telephone, find your call-in number [here](#).

The meeting ID is 881 8992 0650