

Garden Park Ward Newsletter

August 15, 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



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–August 15th

GARDEN PARK WARD

-Sacrament Meeting Program-

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

August 15, 2021, 10am

Conducting	Bishop Rick Graham
Pianist	Lois Waltman
Chorister	Roger Thompson
Opening Hymn.....	Press Forward, Saints, No. 81
Invocation	Hunter Romano
Ward Business	Bishop Graham
Youth Speaker	Graham Patch
Youth Speaker	Simone Furstenu
Youth Speaker	Mario Hobbs
Youth Speaker	Bindi Wilson
Intermediate Hymn.....	Called to Serve, No. 249
Speaker	Jess Anderson
Closing Hymn	Sing Praise to Him, No. 70
Benediction.....	Jean Robbins

Zoom broadcast is concluded

Sacrament Hymn	In Humility, Our Savior, No. 172
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Administration of the Sacrament

*"Please know of our sincere love and great concern for all of God's children."
— The First Presidency 08/12/21*

[Click here to join August 15th Sacrament Meeting](#)

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Relief Society

Our dear sister [Colleen Stevens](#) would love to have phone calls or cards. Her phone number at Healthcare Center is 801.438.2551 or drop her a note at 4287 Holladay Blvd, Salt Lake City, 84117.

No visits right now please.

[Kathy Campbell](#) is getting settled in their new home in Burley ID but are homesick for Garden Park Ward. Please feel free to drop her a note and keep in touch! Their new address is 1833 Grandview Lane Burley Idaho 83318 .

During the pandemic, I got into the bad habit of watching TV every night. After dealing with the pandemic, politics, and social unrest, I couldn't wait to escape into some kind of entertainment & distraction in our dark basement. Thanks to live streaming and a myriad of networks, we watched some important and informative, fun and entertaining shows. But recently, I have realized that I have been watching TV, instead of reading, writing, and reaching out.

I have been discovering some excellent reading resources from our fellow ward members; for example, in a testimony meeting, Roger Thompson recommended *Faith Is Not Blind*; Catherine Thorpe talked about how inspired she had been by *The Chosen*; and Diane Etherington referenced several books from her lesson, including *Restoration* which was mentioned again by Judianne in last week's Sunday school class. Amy shared a remarkable podcast with me, "All In". These books & DVDs are available in our new loaning library in the Relief Society room on the table on the west side. You are welcome to borrow from or donate to the library.

For our first post-Covid activity, we would like to meet for a **book club**, on **Wednesday, September 1st at 7pm**. 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.)

A warm welcome home to our beloved Gallis! Lark is one of the precious and few current members who grew up in this ward (along with Ralph, Bishop Rick, Lois, and Sheila). Those of you who attended the record-breaking Sacrament Meeting heard their sound, strong testimonies, capacity to love, good humor, and story-telling skills. We are fortunate to have booked Lark to teach Relief Society on **August 22nd** before she is whisked away by the big church for another adventure.

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I'm excited to introduce our newest Relief Society teacher, Kelly Morgan Watson. She was raised in California and lived next-door to a great church member, whose grandchildren visited often. Kelly played with the kids and was annoyed when they couldn't swim on Sundays. She was reintroduced to the church as a college student when a friend invited her to go swing dancing at a stake house. Mistaking the word 'stake' for 'steak', she dressed up to the nines and readied her appetite for a delicious dinner. She had a lovely evening, in spite of the miscommunication.

Later, she met her husband in law school in Phoenix and researched the church more seriously. Kelly has a degree in Philosophy & Law and works full-time for a real estate company. She is the mother of two cute girls, Savanna (5) & Evie (2). Kelly loves her family, her work, crafts, food and *Gone With The Wind* (perhaps another book for your consideration). She has amazing capacity and energy. We are going to love her perspective & lessons.

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**.

Randy & Ronalee Baker, Carolyn Sherman, and Greg & Ann Robison are returning to their assignments at the VA ward. We have been blessed by their testimonies & camaraderie and we will miss seeing them each week. Thankfully they are not moving out of the ward...just yet.

Love to you all,
Kathy & the Relief Society Presidency

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2nd Hour Ward Zoom Meeting

This week's meeting is sponsored by our Sunday School and features Norm Younker as our presenter.

Brother Younker's lesson will be presented live in the Relief Society room and can also be seen via Zoom through the link below:

August 15, 2021 at 11:15 a.m.

[Come Follow Me: Doctrine and Covenants 88 "Establish...A House of God"](#)

[Click here to join the August 15th 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!

August 3–Evan Rabdau
August 4–Rick Gaykowski
August 4–Robyn Harris
August 5–Gene Jones
August 5–Emily Plewe
August 8–Kathy Younker
August 9–Grace Brummer
August 12–Scott Daniels
August 13–Darren Williamson
August 14–Stephanie McKinley
August 15–Bryce Ward
August 17–Jess Anderson
August 19–Bel Kerig
August 19– Daniel Ruiz
August 20–Kathy Jones
August 20–Richard Rasmuson
August 21–Derek Mattson

August 22–Kari Pulham
August 22–Derek Watson
August 24–Wendy Carroll
August 24–Ruth Curtis
August 25–Alex Derenzy
August 25–Jerry Hatch
August 25–Randi Patch
August 26–Aleena Anderson
August 26–Amanda Evans
August 27–Charles Perry
August 29–Jim Barclay
August 29–Richard McKelvie
August 29–Travis Vought
August 31–David Browning
August 31–Gay Carlson
August 31–Clyde Gottfredson

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Ward Announcements

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

2nd Hour Block Meetings

- Adult Sunday School class will be held in person and also shared via Zoom.
- 2 Youth Sunday School Classes
- Primary

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.

East High Seminary Enrollment for the upcoming year is open. All 9th-12th graders are invited to enroll and participate. **Parents:** Please visit with your students and encourage them to sign up as soon as they can to take advantage of this opportunity and to help the Seminary folks organize classes appropriately. **(See your invite to the Opening Social on the next page)**

Garden Park Tennis Tournament Over the course of the summer the Garden Park Ward is sponsoring a neighborhood tennis tournament. It will be a doubles tournament and all members and neighbors are invited to sign up. All skill levels will play in a single tournament. Biweekly each team will be assigned an opponent to play at their convenience. The tournament will start the week of June 7th. Please direct any questions to JP Brummer 801-380-7193. Sign up at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1euK6UffUrdscwk3Cv-3iqZ2QmmXuYcaf3i7heUkMNEg/edit?usp=sharing>

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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Freshman Seminary Opening Social



FRESHMAN SEMINARY OPENING SOCIAL

***Who: Incoming East High Freshmen + their
parents and friends***

***When: Sunday, August 22 from 7:00 -
8:00 pm***

***Where: East Seminary building - 1253 E
800 S, SLC (directly north of the school)***

***Additional parking on street west of seminary building —
Refreshments will be served***

***Connect with friends & Be inspired by fellow students
Get to know your Seminary teachers
Bring anyone who could be blessed by Seminary!***