

Hope and Healing for All

Restoring and Redeeming Creation

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He makes grass grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth.

Psalm 104:14

Our church’s community garden is one small step we are taking to grow food and provide a good environment for our pollinators. We hope to use the garden to show school children how some of our food grows, and allow families to grow and harvest food both for their own use and for donation to the local food pantries.

As we grow in our garden, we see the miracles of God’s wonderful garden every season. We planted sweet potato “slips” in the spring—little 6” sprigs of green with a few fragile roots. As they adjust to their new home in the soil, they look pretty puny for a while. Then they take off. They demonstrate in a big way how God’s miracle of growth occurs. In a few months, they are lush and green, falling all over the sides of their planting boxes. By the time they are harvested in October, they have produced numerous sweet potatoes of various sizes and long lush vines. We participated in the Sweet Potato challenge sponsored by Gateway Greening of St. Louis, which supports over 200 gardens in the St. Louis Area. We weighed our potatoes and measured the longest vine. In just over 4 months, these little slips produced five pound potatoes and vines over 21 feet long. What better way to witness the miracle of growth!



As we all look at ways to lessen our impact on the earth and leave it better than we found it for our children and grandchildren, I like this quote from Michael Pollan from Drawdown. *“The single greatest lesson the garden teaches us is that our relationship to the planet need not be zero-sum, and that as long as the sun still shines and people can still plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world.”*

And so we pray using the song “Come and See” by Dakota Road

<i>The song of a wren, the flight of a hawk</i>	<i>Look at a seed it knows what to do</i>	<i>Come and see what God has done</i>
<i>A baby’s first bond with her mother</i>	<i>New life will spring forth from its falling</i>	<i>The earth is alive; thanks to the sun</i>
<i>First flowers of spring arise and sing</i>	<i>And we as people of the Divine</i>	<i>Every plant that grows</i>
<i>The world is filled with wonder</i>	<i>Can listen as we know our calling</i>	<i>Every river that flows</i>
		<i>What a miracle gift of creation.</i>

And for this we say, Thanks be to God.”