

THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



HARVEST 2023



Healing in the Season of Creation

All through Fall, we have been taking time as a community to reflect on the goodness of creation. This is a time to celebrate the fruits of the earth, carefully planted, watered, tended, and finally, harvested. This is a time to give thanks for the abundance of what grows in our city and province. And this is a time to give thanks for all who dedicate their lives, labour, and love toward working the land to provide this abundance.



But this is also a time when the church has been invited to think deeply about its role in safeguarding the integrity of creation. The liturgical Season of Creation is a frank acknowledgement of the harm that human activity has wrought on the planet. It is an admission that human activity can pollute, spoil, and even devastate the very places from which we draw our sustenance.

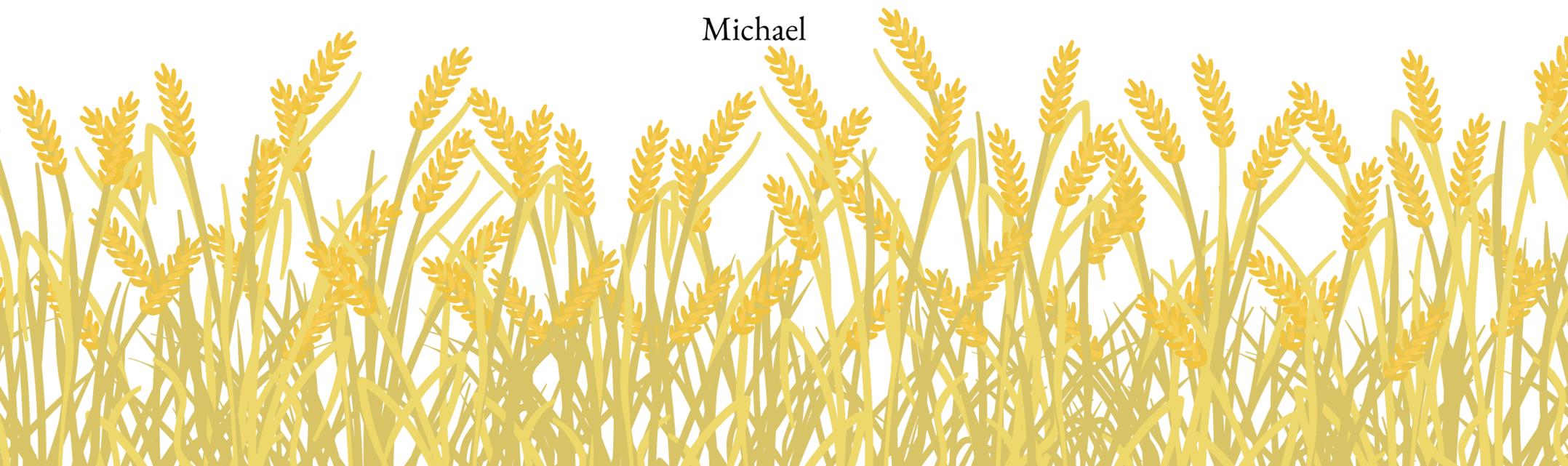
We smelt that in the smoky air that covered our Hill during the destructive forest fires this summer. We saw it on the news as we watched images of devastated communities. And we heard it in the voices who told us these were some of the hottest months on record. In short, nature's fire alarms bells rang: we must stop harming and start healing the earth.

The Gospels reveal that Jesus was deeply engaged in the ministry of healing. Nearly one fifth of the Gospels are devoted to acts of healing. In the model of Jesus our healer, Christian ministry, by its very nature, involves healing.

This Fall, Transfig will take up the work of healing through the giving of flowers, through anointing with oil, and through the sending of cards. Ministries that have been practiced at various times in our parish, but will now find their unity in the Healing Circle. Please pray for these ministries as they are formed in our parish.

We want our church to be a place of healing and I am so glad that our hill is also a place of healing. Over and over again, visitors say this green space is so important for me. I am grateful to everyone who cares and tends for our hill and grateful for everyone who participated in ministry on our hill this summer. Following in the footsteps of Christ and in the wonder of God's creation, I pray that our community sees the healing of the earth and the healing of each other as all part of the Healing offered in our church.

In communion,
Michael





SUMMER FUN!



Campfire Compline Reflections

Campfire Compline is a growing ministry at Transfig. It combines a shared meal with reflective prayer and songs around the campfire on Thursday evenings.

I have found real joy in attending Campfire Compline.

It's been a great way for me, a relative newcomer, to become more connected to Transfig in a relaxed, friendly way.

There's always wonderful food and conversation before we gather for Compline.

Many hands make light work, and we all pitch in as well as we're able to lighten Michael and Deb's load.

This time also gives us a chance to encounter and engage with those in our community, offering them a warm welcome and the chance to join in.

During the Compline Service, Michaels shares God's word with us in way that eases us into the rest that night brings. He's supported by Deb's lyrical guitar and soulful voice.

I feel closest to God when I'm outdoors and/or when I'm singing and Campfire Compline has allowed me to experience these together in a meaningful way. When the campfire flames and our voices rise together into the night sky with the backdrop of city lights visible in the growing darkness, I feel truly blessed and at peace.

My thanks to all of you who make Thursday nights a special time for me.

-Carol



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I find Campfire Compline really soothing. I find comfort in the community that gathers around the fire and sings together. I also find comfort in the liturgy and the way we take time to wind down at the end of the day, especially at this time of year when we are praying in the dark. I think the darkness gets vilified a little too often, but darkness is important for rest and growth, so having a safe place and community with which to gather and enjoy the good things about nighttime and darkness is calming and healing for me

-Deb

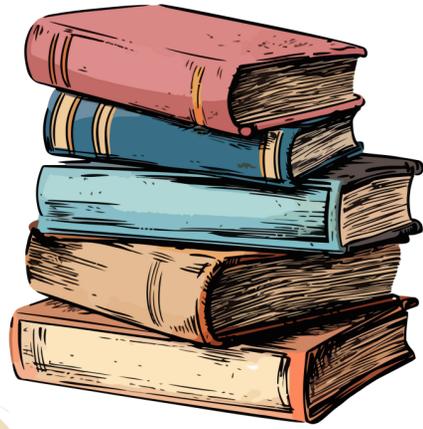
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Vino et Vellum

Vino and Vellum is a new book club that started in the summer. The group meets once a month on a Tuesday evening for wine, cheese and conversation. The book discussed in October was Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber.



Coming Up: Love Wins by Rob Bell - November 28th at 7pm.

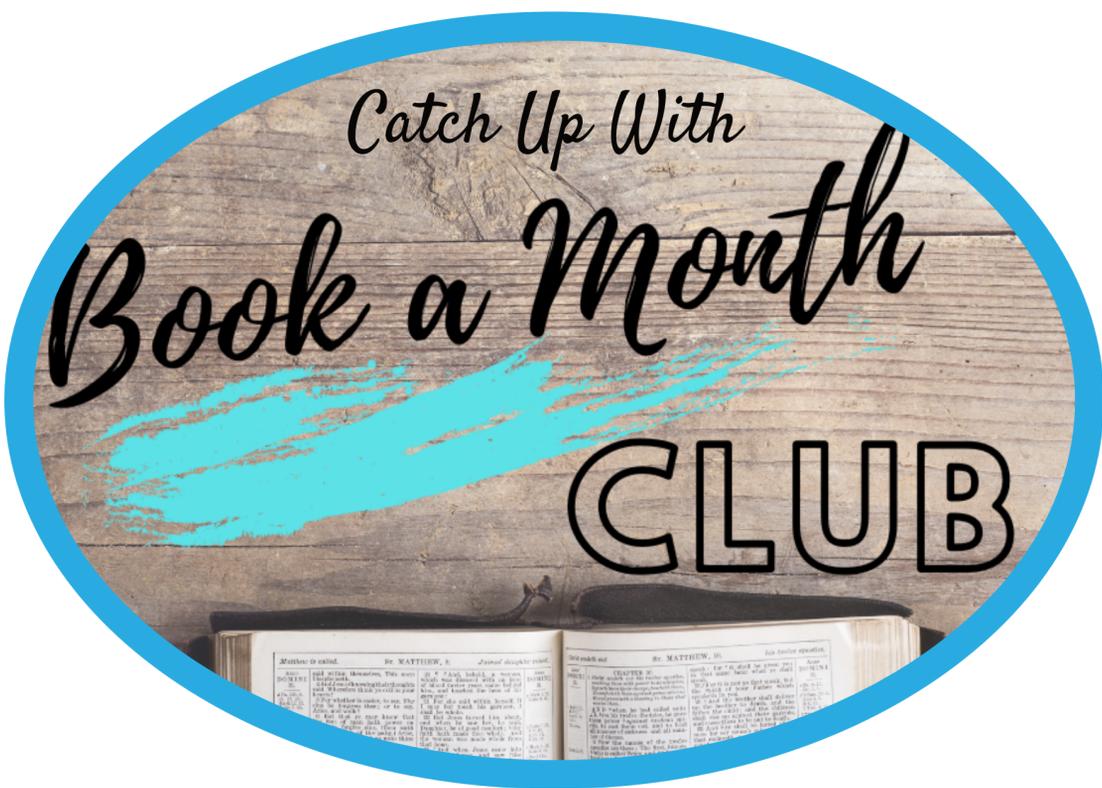
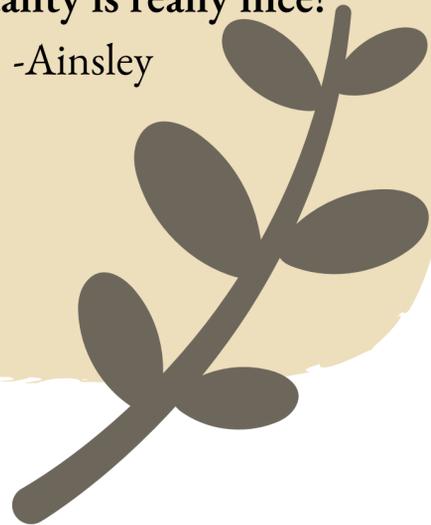
“It’s nice to spend some time reading something and thinking about it when there’s an element of spirituality to it. It’s a community thing to have read something in common and exchange different ideas ... coming together with some familiar faces (and not so familiar faces) to talk about it and share.

Also there’s good cheese! “

-Susan

“Faith exists for me on Sundays and in solitude so being able to sit down and chat with people about books on spirituality is really nice!”

-Ainsley



COMING UP

Walter Deller returns to lead us through Ezra and Nehemiah on November 19th at 12:15pm

In October and November, we are reading through Psalms 1-22.

Here’s a teaser to get you started, and a reflection from Taizé.

Pick up your copy of the Psalms at the Welcome Table and read along with us!

*Blessed is the one...
whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)*

What the Bible calls God’s “law” is not essentially a question of rules and regulations; it is God’s whole aim for human life, a project of love, joy, trust and peace. The psalm does not call “blessed” someone who blindly follows all the rules, as if God were interested in a kind of surface conformity. What is important is not rules, but to realise that God’s intention for us is beautiful, joyful, and life-giving. God’s “law” is the expression of his will for us, grasped through the teaching of the Scriptures and through the whole story of his relationship to humanity. If we take time to reflect or “meditate” on the parts of this project that we have begun to understand and that most touch us – that are “delightful” to us – this can become a way to allow full and authentic life to begin to grow within us.

NEW GREETER SNAPSHOT

An Interview with Tobi Akinjogbin

How did you find about about Transfig?

I just moved to the neighbourhood in February 2023 and was looking for a church I could attend. I've always attended churches that are local to me, and Transfig was a 5 min walk.

What were your first impressions?

I felt very welcomed from the first time I came. It was so welcoming that I told my flatmate (also named Tobi), there's a church just down the road and you should come. Everybody did a great job welcoming us.

What made you decide to come back?

It's not a big church, but we have all age ranges in the church, which is something I look for. I like that form of diversity. If the church is too young, then you don't have the wisdom that comes from older generations. If it's too old, then you don't have the energy from younger people. Appreciate the fact that there's diversity and different groups of people at Transfig.

What have you gotten involved in at Transfig?

Over the summer, there were the concerts on the Hill. I attended them and then I signed up to help set up. This fall, I joined the Welcome Team as a greeter

How did you become a member of the Welcome Team?

Michael asked me in the summer, and at first he asked if I would like to read. I don't think I even answered, I just gave him a funny look and ran away. About two weeks later, he said, I saw you weren't interested in reading, would you like to be a greeter? And I thought, this is now my church, I should get involved. This is a good example of Christian persistence, just like we have the story in the Bible about the widow knocking on the rich man's door. I didn't feel pressured - Michael read the cues and offered something else when he saw I didn't want to read, but it was the right nudge at the right time. It's funny, my flatmate's mom was visiting and had said a prayer in church that day, that she would like to see one of us start working in church - not just dash in and dash out but actually get involved. And then I told her when we got home that I'd agreed to be a greeter!

What's involved in your role?

Thanks to the training I received from Donald and Heather and the notes from Patti, the job is pretty easy. We're responsible for making sure it's easy for people to come into church and that they feel welcome. This includes making sure all the doors are open, that people have bulletins and that they know where to go. During the service, keeping an eye on what is going on. If new people arrive and are feeling awkward, just guiding them and making them comfortable. Also directing people for Communion so that it's orderly.

After the service, if we notice a newcomer standing by themselves, going and talking with them. And then checking no one has forgotten anything in the church, taking care of any cash and accepting credit card donations. And then making sure the doors are closed at the end. It's pretty easy, and you're still able to be active in service. It's not a task that takes your attention from the spiritual act of the service.

What do you like about it?

We're responsible for making people welcome - it's a huge responsibility. Someone welcomed me the first time I came. If someone had met me and been grumpy, maybe I wouldn't even have stayed. It's important that when people come for the first time, there are people welcoming them and guiding them to know where to go. Even for old-timers, it's important for someone to acknowledge them and say hi how was your week, and help them to settle into the service.

Any suggestions for other people who are also new?

When people are new they feel awkward. I'd say, just try to interact, it's a great church. There's always someone to talk to, you will meet people and make connections and friends.



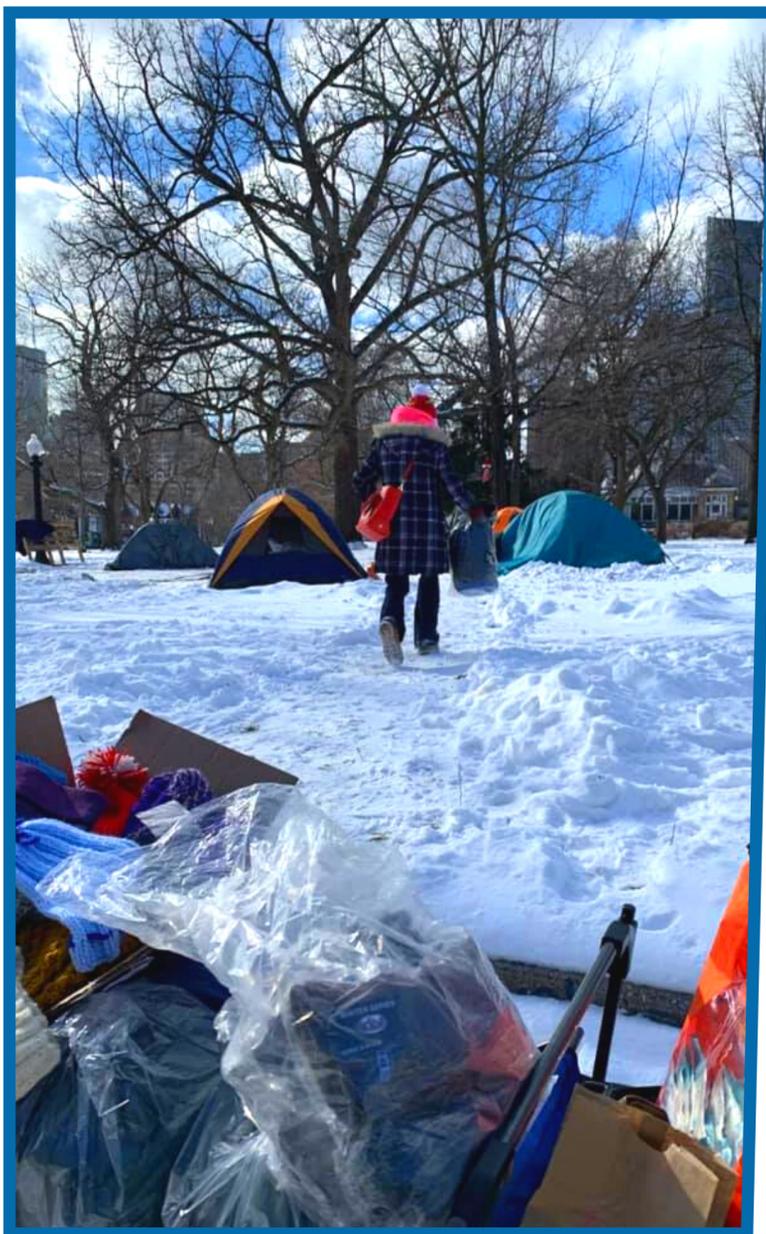


Project Spotlight



Toronto Urban Native Ministries

This year, as last year, we committed to donating \$2 for every attendee at one of our Summer Concerts to FaithWorks, with a focus on supporting Indigenous projects. **Toronto Urban Native Ministries** reaches out to Indigenous people on the street, in hospitals, in jails, shelters and hostels, providing counseling, meals, winter supplies, Ceremony, spiritual care and referrals to housing and harm reduction. Working out of the Church of the Holy Trinity (by the Eaton Centre) and out in the community, TUNM supports both Traditional Indigenous Spiritualities as well as Christian Spiritual practices, actively walking a journey of reconciliation. Thanks to all our generous concert-goers, we were able to make a donation of \$730 to support their work.



FaithWorks is the charitable work of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto offering support through ministry partners to people who are vulnerable or marginalized, including those who are homeless, hungry, at-risk women, children or youth, immigrants or refugees, or struggling with HIV/AIDS. With our help, these partners build communities of compassion and hope right here in our community and around the world.

To learn more, join us on October 29th for **FaithWorks Sunday** with Peter Mentis



THE WORK OF HEALING

By Patti Ryan

In mid-August, moments after a great concert on the church hill, I broke my ankle. The churchwarden in me delights in noting that I was carrying the donation box when I fell, and I have a hazy memory of bills floating around me like manna from heaven as I tried to maneuver my foot from its rather alarming position under my tush.

Words feel inadequate to describe the last eight weeks. While my middle aged bones have got on with the quiet work of fusing together, with help from some titanium hardware, I have experienced the full gamut of emotions: deep gratitude for a successful surgery, but also anger and frustration as I navigate the challenges of recovery. Some feelings are harder to understand, and I admit to feeling awkward when people remark on my progress. I'm not quite sure why, but I think it stems from a sense that my healing has occurred not because of me, but in spite of me. I think of the tender days after my surgery when loved ones brought a steady supply of cards, food, flowers and other delights to lift my spirits, and it helps remind me that my healing was made possible by a string of ordinary kindnesses that stretched from my couch to my back door. My recovery was the collective work of a host of people who loved me back on two feet and cared for me in a hundred different ways. It was the work of a doctor-friend who helped me up from the hill that night, and the medical team that fixed my broken bits and sowed seeds of hope along with my stitches. It was the work of my family who never once complained about my relentless demands for coffee and lime seltzer, and kept my spirits and my body upright when I needed it the most. It was the work of a community who prayed with me and for me, reminding me that God was always near.

On the eight week anniversary of my fall, I made my way back up the church hill to join twenty others for Campfire Compline. As I walked slowly up stone steps, I felt my fear give way to gratitude. I watched the group assemble around the fire and felt overcome with an awareness of the love and support that surrounds me, both at Transfiguration and beyond. I stood for a moment to take it in before making my way into the small circle, warming my hands around the blazing fire. A bit later, I listened to the Psalmists heed their ancient hymns and took comfort from the idea that even strong trees planted by water sometimes need help. While I can't say I am grateful for my broken ankle, I am grateful for the ways it helped me understand that recovery is almost never a solo act, but the work of a community.



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FILM NEGATIVE

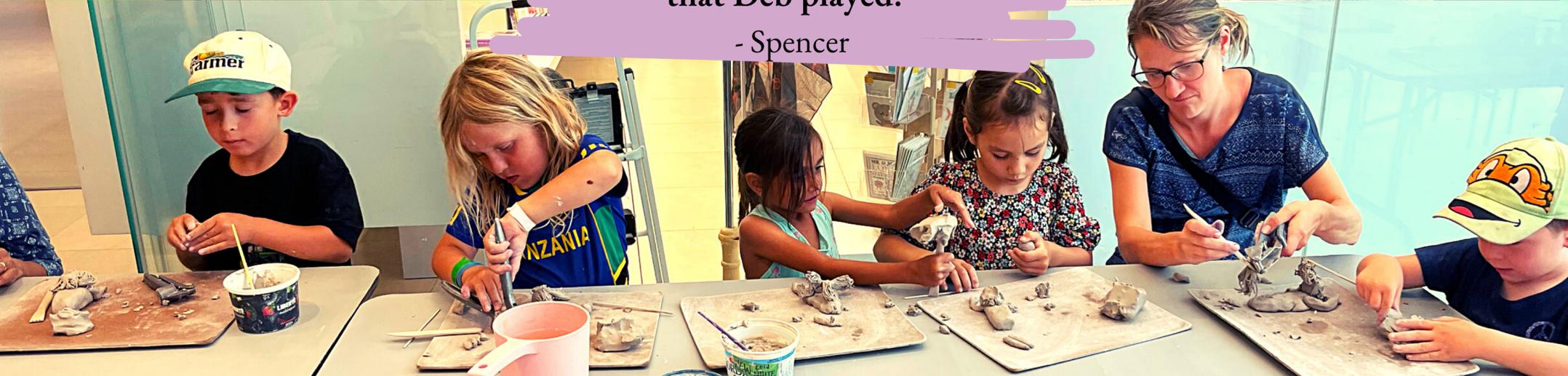
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SUMMER DAY CAMP!



"I loved the music and songs that Deb played!"
- Spencer





I liked being a volunteer and helping with the younger kids. I enjoyed acting in the skits!

- Finn

I was a junior leader during the 2023 church summer camp, which focused on the story of Daniel. I felt part of the planning process right away as the junior leaders were able to help get the church ready for the campers. The camp included drama, wonderful music, and visual arts. I had so much fun acting out parts of the story, helping to make a sign, participating in crafts, singing songs, and playing games with the campers. I really enjoyed getting to know all the campers and working with fellow junior leaders. Overall, it was a great experience and I am looking forward to camp next summer!

- Irene



I was a camper this summer. I liked tie dying the shirts and making thank you cards for the volunteers. I can't wait to return as a volunteer next year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 29 HARVEST ON THE HILL
NOON-2PM

OCT 31 HALLOWE`EN ON THE HILL
5PM-8PM

NOV 3 FIRST FRIDAY: GAMES & CRAFTS
5:30PM - 9PM

NOV 11 LEAF RAKING ON THE HILL
9AM-NOON

NOV 12 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE
10:30 AM

NOV 19 BIBLE BOOK A MONTH CLUB
With Walter Deller!
12:15PM-1:30PM



NOV 28 VINO ET VELLUM
7PM-8:30PM *Love Wins by Rob Bell*



Church of the
Transfiguration