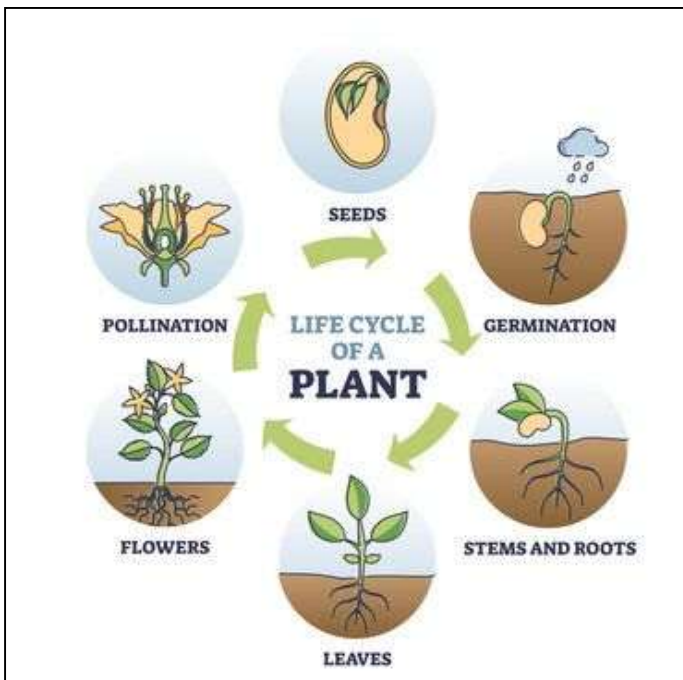


Messy Church May 31 2026

- The wonder of sprouting seeds



Jesus' time had no microscope. People didn't know about cells and cell division. Seeds were mysterious wonders. Just how does a seed go from dead, inert, still thing to sprouting? And know to change from a sprout to plant? And know to make more seeds? Although we do know about cells today, and genetics – we're still not too certain why sometimes cells divide so well and as they ought – growing! Or why sometimes they stop and die. And it is mysterious why sometimes they divide but stop following the genetic code and make cancer. Jesus said the reign of God is like a seed, planted. We don't know if it is going to grow. If it does grow, we can control and understand some of it – but a large part of it is mysterious.

Gardening, the realm of God both, are teamwork between people and our Creator. God doing some. Us doing some. And mysteriously it grows.

- The importance of connecting to creation

In Jesus' time, people knew gardening very intimately. There were no factory farms or mass greenhouses, and food came from your own hands or the hands of your neighbours – people you knew. Jesus' parables and miracles often involve food, gardening, fishing – the things of everyday subsistence. Today, some of us are removed from our food. Many of us have never seen a banana tree blossom. But we know banana fruits. Many of us have not killed a living being, and then eat their flesh. That kind of intimacy with our food separates us from understanding the sacrifice of farmers and gardeners, animals and plants, to feed us and keep us alive.



Connecting with the earth, connecting with the cycles of life, inspires gratitude and wonder in us.

- Victory Gardens as gardens of hope

Figure 1 - Victory garden in Ontario, 1918



You may have heard of Victory Gardens, war gardens or defense gardens before. In 1917, during World War I, the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture campaigned “A Vegetable Garden for Every Home.” A record number of new small gardens were started across the allies. In WWII, less than 30 years later, Great Britain campaigned on “Digging for victory!” Both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle had vegetable gardens planted; so did the White House in the USA. Vacant lots, school yards, and public parks all became gardens. On both sides of the Atlantic garden clubs and county fairs sprung up as

people shared knowledge, seed, and also what they had grown.

In some places, this really did help with food access, prices, and availability. But much more important to the allies’ governments was this networking of people. People helping people. People empowered to do **something** to help with the wars. People getting to know their neighbours and over all – morale growing.

Doing something physical; doing something helpful; doing something with Creation; doing something in community – each of these things are huge mood boosts. Just ask our mat weavers! Ask the garden club! Ask any farmer. Ask each other.

- Items the NEMI Library can help you experience garden wonder

If you’re starting a new garden, the NEMI library has very helpful items to assist you such as rototillers, shovels and spades. If you like the idea of gardening, but are not sure if your body can handle it – consider their ergonomic hand tools. They’re here today for you to try out. There is also the Seed Library. We are borrowing it from the NEMI library today. People save seed in the fall, donate it to the library, and in the spring you can borrow seeds. If what you borrow makes seeds, save some and donate them again in the fall.



- Messy Church planting seeds and labeling

Whether you’re planting an acre or a pot, you’re connecting with Creator, with creation, with the cycles of life, and with each other. It is mysterious – mystical – and what a blessing from God!

Amen!

Scripture Reading – May 31, 2026 – Messy Church – Little Current UC

Mark 4:26-29 NRSV Ue

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground

²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

²⁸ The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

May God’s spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts



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