

# Watch Their Garden Grow

## LANSDOWNE PRESBYTERIAN SOWS SEEDS OF INSPIRATION FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN

By April Hall

Many of us are collecting our final harvests and cleaning out our gardens. Some of the most successful gardeners even use this time to plan out next year's plots. That's exactly what a team at Lansdowne Presbyterian Church is doing.

The church had a tomato garden in the past, but it lost steam a

few years ago. During this year's Earth Day service, the church's newish pastor, Jonathan Britt, asked the congregation for ideas what to do with the church's expansive front lawn. Could it be a field of wildflowers? Could it be a garden?

"Apparently the idea planted some seed in people's minds — pun absolutely intended!" Britt says. Planning is just a few months in at this point, but the enthusiasm has planted some solid roots.

"This summer, a community member mentioned on a public group forum that they had some fruit trees and native plants to give to a local community effort, and we got in touch with them," Britt says. "This is what jump started our planning. A group from the church met and began to forge a path to see this happen."

Along with some donated plants and fruit trees from local groups, the church is also seeking out grants to fund the project and is building a team of community volunteers to help the garden thrive and they've reached out to the Lansdowne Environmental Advisory Council as a prospective partner.

The garden will serve many, possibly with classes and seminars around such topics as sustainable living practices, or rented beds for local gardeners, but a main beneficiary will be the Interfaith Food Cupboard (IFC) housed at the church.

"We're hoping some of the harvest will go to the Interfaith Food Cupboard," he says. "At the beginning of the pandemic, the food cupboard was able to expand its

offerings to the community in terms of fresh food. However, now that the pandemic is evolving into whatever its next stage is, we're seeing those fresh food options becoming more and more sporadic. So, we're hoping that this can supplement those offerings, as well." The

IFC has done some surveying in the past about what type of fresh produce clients would like, Britt says. "Luckily, plenty of those requests can be grown around here: cucumber, peppers, tomatoes, etc."

Work is planned to start this fall to view up the first growing season in Spring of 2023.

"The goal is to really have this be a true *community* garden — emphasis on community," he says. "We want this to be a place where anyone who has an interest or desire to garden, but doesn't have a space to do so, will have a place."

"Yes, it will be on the church's property, but we are really hoping the community will have a large input in organizing and running it, as well."

If you want to get involved, fill out the interest form the church has on their website or at [bit.ly/FPCLCommGarden](http://bit.ly/FPCLCommGarden).

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