

Great Women of the Faith

25

Reward of a Righteous Life Luke 1:26-38

FOR CHILDREN:

Take a walk with your family or friends and play summer bingo (*more sheets available on the sermon follow-up page on the church website*). Be sure to make a careful search to find all the things on your list! Then read Luke 1:1-4. Luke explains the careful investigation he did to learn all he could about Jesus from those that lived, walked, and learned from Him face to face. That means we can trust what Luke and the other Gospel authors have written. Believing in God and trusting in Jesus has the evidence of eyewitnesses to back it up. So we can and should trust Jesus with our minds as much as our hearts!

Weekly Affirmation:

Lord, Use Me!

Weekly Memory Verse:

"Behold, I am the Lord's bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word."

Luke 1:38

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Luke 1:26-38. Mary was eager to be the Lord's servant. Perhaps, because we're influenced by nativity sets, we are tempted to think that this would be an easy decision for Mary. We might think of her happy and peaceful... accepting gifts from shepherds and kings. Perhaps we think less about the painful ridicule from small town gossip - would everyone believe so easily that her conception was an act of God? If Joseph divorced her, would she have to raise Jesus alone? Travel to Bethlehem, Egypt, and back to Nazareth; death threats to Jesus; reports of His divisive teaching; and witnessing His execution. Being the Lord's servant wouldn't be easy, but Mary recognizes that God is extending to her a great honor by calling her to take part in His plan of salvation, so she happily makes a complete surrender. Jesus has honored all His disciples, calling them to take part in the spread of the Gospel (*Matthew 28:19-20*). It will not always be easy, but what a blessing it will bring to our lives and to our Lord if we, like Mary, eagerly surrender to being His servant!

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Luke 2:15-19 and 2:46-51. What is happening when Mary is said to be "treasuring things in her heart"? It is more than making a scrapbook of memories. The Greek word carries the idea of collecting things, making connections and putting them together, and then safeguarding them. Mary did not have Luke's Gospel telling her what life was going to hold for her and her son. Like the rest of us, she had to experience life day by day, trusting God's promises. As amazing events to place in her life she models for us contemplative discipleship - prayerfully putting together God's wonderful works as they are witnessed in one's life, and continuing to grow in faith. Let us, like Mary, protect God's Word and God's works deep in our hearts and minds, continually seeking to let them weave a tapestry of faith and trust.

July 2025 Growth Goals

Read the Book of Luke.

Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of Luke (*available on the website*).

Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.

In prayer consider those individuals to whom you need to offer or ask forgiveness. Then let God guide you in whether it would be helpful & honoring to express that forgiveness.

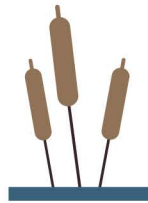


Mass Audubon

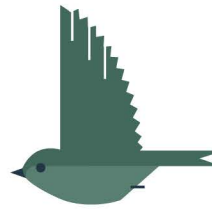
SUMMER BINGO



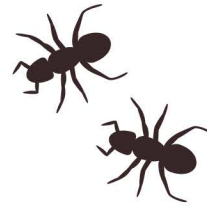
bird feather



plant growing
in water



flying bird



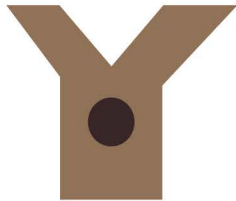
ants



maple leaf



flock of birds



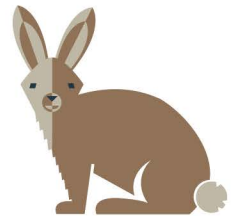
signs of a
woodpecker



pink or red flower



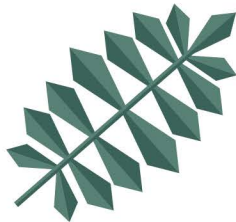
perching bird



mammal



frog or toad

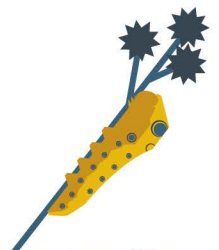


ferns

**Free
Space**



a nut



caterpillar



butterfly



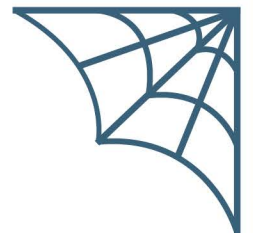
bird nest



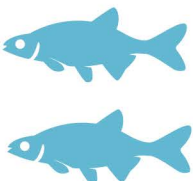
leaf with holes



bird song



spider web



fish



flying insect



multi-colored rock



trail marker

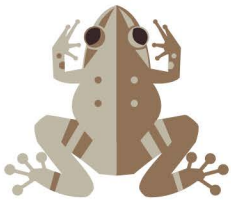


turtle



Mass Audubon

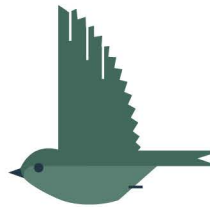
SUMMER BINGO



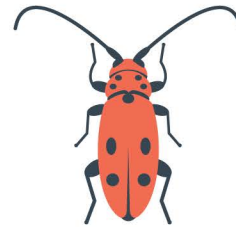
frog or toad



evergreen trees



flying bird



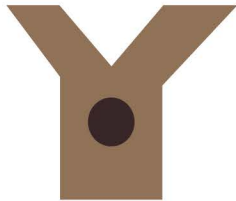
beetle



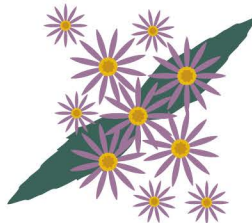
bird feather



flock of birds



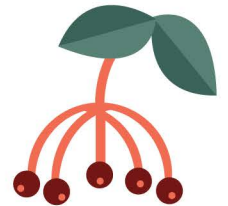
signs of a
woodpecker



purple flower



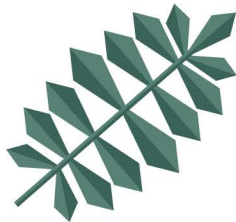
perching bird



berries



bird song



ferns

**Free
Space**



pine cone



butterfly



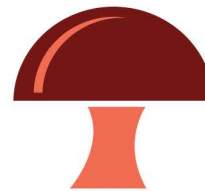
y-shaped twig



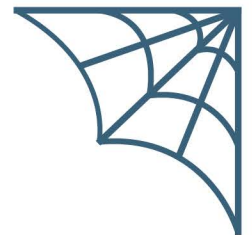
bird nest



leaf with holes



mushroom



spider web



trail marker



flying insect



multi-colored rock



maple leaf



turtle



Mass Audubon

SUMMER BINGO



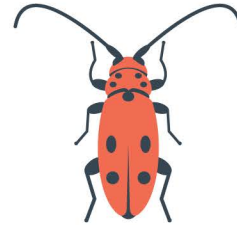
multi-colored leaf



evergreen trees



sound of wind



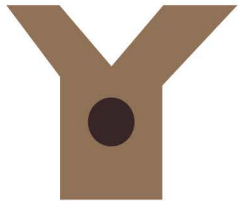
beetle



bird feather



butterfly



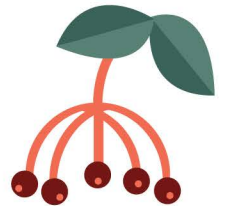
signs of a
woodpecker



yellow flower



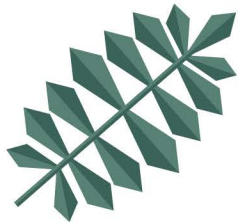
perching bird



berries



bird song

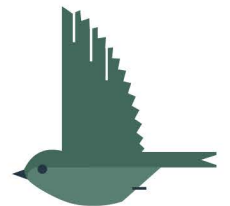


ferns

**Free
Space**



pine cone



flying bird



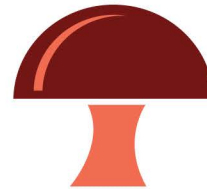
y-shaped twig



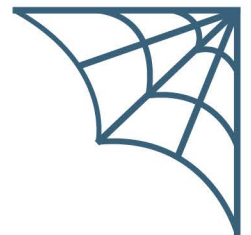
rock shaped
like a circle



flock of birds



mushroom



spider web



trail marker



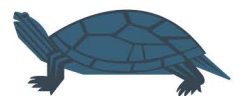
flying insect



bird nest



maple leaf

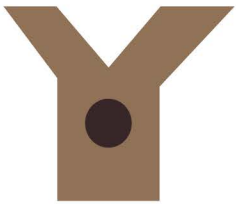


turtle



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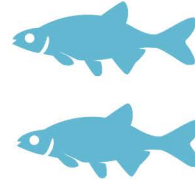
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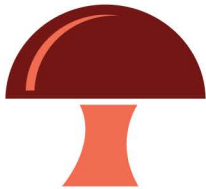
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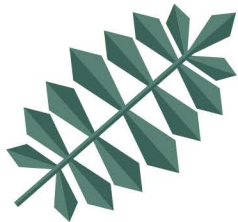
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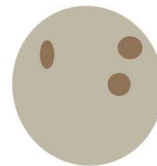


bird song



ferns

**Free
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rock shaped
like a circle



multi-colored leaf



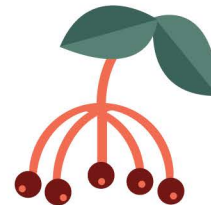
maple leaf



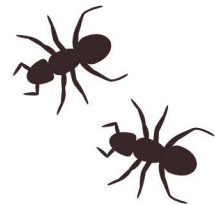
a nut



flock of birds



berries



ants



trail marker



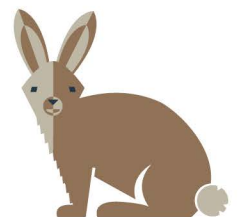
bird feather



bird nest



sound of wind



mammal