

## DETAILS FOR THE RE-LAUNCH (VIDEO TRANSCRIPT)

Hello everyone, I'm Scott Blevins, part of the teaching team at Garfield Memorial Church. I am thrilled to announce that our plan to relaunch face-to-face ministry out of our South Euclid campus is well under way! In fact, phase one of that plan was the amazing Juneteenth celebration that we offered the community in partnership with the City of South Euclid: Love was shared and diverse connections were nurtured.

But before I get into the details of the re-launch, I need to give a little context. During 2020 the pandemic, heightened racial division & a national election weren't the only things happening. Last year a diverse group of leaders - mostly young leaders - from Garfield Church were prayerfully and diligently seeking to see God's vision for this church for the next three, five and ten years. The first thing that bubbled up was a word: Reconciliation. It's a powerful word. Paul tells us in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians that God has given us, followers of Jesus, the word of reconciliation.

Please note, we are not talking about namby pamby, superficial, feel-good moments in which diverse people come together for an evening, sing a song, hug, and then go back to segregated lives and social structures. We're talking about real reconciliation born of justice, hope, love and faith. Real reconciliation brings us to the second thing that bubbled up: our mission, given to us by God is connecting diverse people who share a common brokenness, with Jesus.

As we faithfully, diligently, and ferociously pursue that mission we see a vision of God igniting a renaissance of reconciliation not just in one community but everywhere the church can reach. Although that renaissance of reconciliation is not for just one community, it needs to start in actual communities - in the actual communities where we work, worship, live, study, and play together.

That brings us back to our re-launch of face-to-face ministry out of our South Euclid campus. You see, we haven't restarted face-to-face ministry out of our Pepper Pike campus just because that's the way we did it before; and we're not re-launching face-to-face ministry out of our South Euclid campus just because that's what we did before. We are doing these things because they are part of the mission God has given us of connecting diverse people who share a common brokenness with Jesus and the vision God has given us of igniting a renaissance of reconciliation.

And this re-launch isn't just for people in South Euclid or people who used to worship at that campus. It's a key part of our church's mission and vision so it's for everyone who calls Garfield Memorial their church.

Through this re-launch we will be living out our four measures: loving, humility, connecting and sharing. Over the summer we're focusing particularly on connecting with our neighbors and loving them as God loves them. As I said a few moments ago, Phase 1 is already complete as we partnered with the City of South Euclid for a community-wide Juneteenth Celebration.

Phase 2 happens on Sunday, July 18 when we'll invite children, teens & families in for our first ever Summer Soak Fest. We'll love and connect with diverse people as we slide down a 15-foot water slide, slide across a 40 foot slip-n-slide, and dance to the amazing beats of DJ Hope in a sea foam!

In Phase 3 we'll love and connect with diverse people through our Back to School Blast on Saturday, August 7. We'll be giving away personal hygiene items, eRacism erasers and (with the help of the amazing students of LaBarberia) students will get free back to school haircuts. We'll also have some inflatables for the kids to play on as well as basketball and pop-a-shot games.

All this is leading up to Phase 4. Mark your calendars, set aside the date, and invite all your friends and family to Garfield Church's inaugural Renaissance of Reconciliation Festival on Saturday, September 11. This year is the 20th anniversary of 9/11. We want to use that day as a time to connect with all kinds of diverse people. The key feature of that day will be a community dinner under a big top tent where we share diverse food and intentionally connect with people in the region who are ethnically & racially diverse, religiously & culturally diverse, economically, socially and politically diverse. We'll also have live music, poetry readings and more! (Rumor has it that we may even see Pastor Chip in a giant ball pit...what could that be about? You'll have to come and see). We are doing all of this with the prayerful hope of igniting a renaissance of reconciliation. And speaking of prayer, House of Prayer will be present at all of these events with space and time to pray with anyone and everyone who wants it.

The very next day, September 12, face-to-face worship resumes at our South Euclid Campus with outdoor worship and baptisms. Pastor Steven Furr will be preaching and Justin Mackey will be the worship leader.

But wait, that's not all! We're also relaunching Kidz Club and renewing our connection with Greenview through programs like Kidz Read.

I hope you heard the two key words repeated through all of this Love and Connect. These are two of our four measures for spiritual transformation. Loving, Humility, Connecting and Sharing. Our re-launch is focusing on connecting meaningfully with diverse people and loving them as God loves them.

As I'm sure you can guess this whole relaunch is going to be a lot of work and I am calling you to help - and we need all kinds of help. So please, click on "[I'll help with the re-launch](#)" here or below and let me know how you will help. Someone will get back to you about details. If one or more of the events has already passed by the time you see this video, no worries, just respond to the portions that are still to come.

Details about dates, times and other information are below. Thanks for watching, and I'll see you at the Renaissance of Reconciliation Festival!

[I'll Help with the Re-launch](#)