



Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

May, 2023



One Spirit MANY CHURCHES

Combined Pentecost Service with
other Bellingham Churches

Sunday, May 28 | 10am

Located at Cordata Presbyterian Church

Message from Pastor Greg: “Good Hellos, Good Goodbyes”

In Sunday worship during the extended Easter Season, we are exploring how “Jesus Changes Everything!” As we all know from experience, change is an inevitable part of life...and faith. By embracing the changes that our Lord wants to bring about, I believe we are becoming more of what we were always meant to be. More trusting, more confident, more hopeful of our good heavenly Father.

But change can often be difficult, especially when it involves saying goodbye to folks we love. In early June, we will say so long to Teachers Tammy and Amy as we celebrate the end of the 25th and final year of Birchwood Christian School, our in-house Preschool/Kindergarten. We thank God that so many students and families have been blessed by this special ministry through the efforts of our dedicated school staff. We'll also say so long to our graduating High School Senior Hayden Hollingsworth, as he enters into the next exciting chapter of his life. And (new news here), we will say, “So long,” to Janet Drew, as the Lord is leading her to wrap up her time as our Worship Director so she can be with her family on Sunday mornings at the church where they will worship together. Tammy, Amy, Hayden, and Janet are truly wonderful brother and sisters in Christ; saying goodbye to them will surely make us sad. And yet, as Scripture reminds us, Christians do not have to grieve as those who have no hope. We move forward together as a congregation confident of at least two things: (1) we will see those we love in Christ again, and (2) the Lord will continue to bring beloved people into our midst.

To welcome new people in and bless familiar people on the next chapter of their journey is a profound act of faith that God is in control of all our comings and goings. One of my pastor mentors is fond of saying that a healthy church does “good hellos and good goodbyes.” Let's get our hearts, minds, and celebrations ready for these good goodbyes (all scheduled for June 4th) and for the good hellos that are sure to follow.

In His grace and goodness,
Pastor Greg

P.S. Speaking of good hellos, did you notice that CPC will be hosting the “One Spirit, Many Churches” Pentecost Sunday worship service this year on May 28th? What a great opportunity for us to lean into our gift of hospitality as we do a “good hello” to friends from many congregations in our area, along with our special invited guests from Yakama Nation (a ministry called “Mending Wings”). See announcements to follow.

Fellowship in the Springtime at CPC!

MAY 7, SUNDAY - Right after worship (12:00) folks will gather to go out to lunch again. Places to go this time will be Mi Mexico on East Telegraph, The Olive Garden on the Guide at Kellogg, or Mykonos Greek Restaurant on West Bakerview by the airport. We will try to limit your table to 4-6 people so that you can hear each other well for conversation and get served in a timely manner. Sign up in the foyer after church on Sunday, May 1st, or email Barbara Sanford, barbaras@cordatachurch.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 14, MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 28, PENTECOST SUNDAY - CPC is hosting other Bellingham churches at the combined Pentecost Service "One Spirit, Many Churches".

NOTE TIME DIFFERENCES THIS SUNDAY ONLY!!

- 8:45a Adult Education Class (last one in this wonderful five-week series, so don't miss it!)
- 10:00a Worship Center for Pentecost Service featuring Mending Wings as our guests
- 11:30a Coffee/Tea/punch and cookies

SNEAK PREVIEW FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF JUNE:

Stay tuned for the congregational meeting, some special honors in and after worship, and the beginning of a short celebratory campaign that we can all have a hand in for June!



One Spirit

MANY CHURCHES

Combined Pentecost Service with other
Bellingham Churches
10am | May 28, 2023

Featuring Mending Wings: "Dancing Our Prayers"
Mending Wings is a Ministry to Youth on the
Yakama Reservation

Located at Cordata Presbyterian Church



Help CPC Host the Combined Pentecost Sunday Service

Would you like to provide help to CPC as we host the Pentecost Sunday service? Here are some ways:

- #1. Host 2 teens for 1 night, May 27, Saturday. Girls? Boys? state your preference.
(11 homes needed)
- #2. Help serve pizza dinner and clean up on Saturday evening to the Mending Wings team at CPC
(5-8 needed)
- #3. Serve on the Usher/Greeter Team to warmly welcome people as they enter and leave worship
(14 needed)
- #4. Bring 2 dozen cookies for the reception after worship (please make peanut free) (15 needed)
- #5. Serve and clean up lunch for Mending Winds before they head back to Yakima after worship
(4 needed)

Sign up at the table in the foyer any Sunday between now and the 28th, and we'll put you on the list!
Many thanks.

Barbara Sanford, Elder for Fellowship

Shelter

By Carol Lawrence

Most photographers will tell you that bright sunny days, much as we love them, are not the best for outdoor photography. This image is one of my favorite “non-sunny day” photos. Don’t get me wrong, the sunny days bring joy. But a gentle rain brings peace. Of course not all rainy days are peaceful. Some are blustery, stormy, dark. On those days I feel a need for shelter. One thing I particularly like about this image is that the mature lotus blossom seems to be sheltering the unopened bud.



Where do we fit in this picture? I wonder. Some days I find myself in the role of “shelter-er”. That feels good. I feel strong, and enjoy the nice feeling that comes from helping someone else. At other times I feel myself very much in need of shelter. I want to be the sheltered one. Ah, but where to look for shelter?

Sometimes, shelter can be found in unexpected places. A familiar Bible story tells of Herod, enamored of Salome, promising to give her anything she would ask. Prompted by her mother, who hated John the Baptist, Salome requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Because of his oath, Herod felt he could not refuse.

The relationship between Herod and John the Baptist did not start with the Salome incident, however. Although Salome’s mother had harbored ill will toward John, Herod felt he could not attack him because:

For Herod respected John; and knowing that he was a good and holy man, he protected him.
(Mark 6:20, LTB*)

Not the image we usually have of Herod. So, Herod the protector ultimately did become Herod the executioner. Is there any greater example of how fickle a human ‘protector’ can be?

As Christians we are told we have a Protector who will never turn on us. And yet, Christians do suffer trials. How are we to make sense of this seeming inconsistency? The answer lies in the fact that the Lord our God brings both curses and blessings. Trials were sent to the ancient Israelites, because they had disobeyed God. In contrast, we are promised that our obedience will bring a different result. The prophet Joel tells of some fairly dire events in the time of judgment, but softens the message with this:

But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.
(Joel 3:16, NKJV)

Good to know. He will always protect and comfort us. All we have to do is obey. Easier said than done, of course, in our complex, non-Christian world. As usually happens, there is a song that reinforces the Scripture:

*The Lord's our rock, in Him we hide,
A shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever will betide.***

* *Life Transformation Bible*, Tyndale House Publishers, 2017.

** *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*, by Vernon J. Chatsworth.

Celebrating the First Year of the Little Library

At the end of March 2022, our Little Library began with 20 children's books and 17 adult books in it. We have been blessed with donations from our congregation and from the neighborhood. Our total giveaways for the first year are: 530 children's books and 259 adult books. It is such a joy to be the steward of this mission and feel the joy it provides to our church's neighborhood.

Some people are still asking where to put the books. There is a labeled box under the sign-up table (near the coat rack). Please leave your donations in that box.

Thank you, Sandy Hiorns



Clubhouse Catch-Up

CPC Kids Clubhouse - Engaging and hope-filled Bible stories will fill our Sunday mornings in May.

May Study "The People Prepare." God's people are going home after 70 years of captivity in Babylon!

God had made good on His promise to bring the people back into the land, but they were still waiting on another promise: for God to send the ultimate Rescuer. God's people began to prepare for the Messiah's arrival, but even so, as always, they couldn't escape the allure of sin.

Key Passage: 2 Corinthians 7:10

Big Picture Question: How should we feel when we sin? **Answer:** When we sin, we should feel sorry that we disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin, because we love Him.

May Lessons: Esther Saved Her People (Esther), Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls (Nehemiah 1–7), Ezra Read the Law (Ezra 7–10; Nehemiah 8), The People Promised to Be Faithful (Nehemiah 9–10), Big Truth Session: We Should Be Sorry for Sin (Romans 8)

THANK YOU, EASTER HELPERS! From the amazing front desk volunteers to the last-minute egg hiding recruits... you all made this year's egg hunt a memorable one. 1,141 eggs were stuffed and hidden!

Our CPC & Mosaic kiddos were thrilled as were many Kids Club Kids/neighborhood kids! A couple of Kids Club kids came to Easter service on their own! Such a blessing to be able to bless others through special services. We were able to continue the new tradition of keeping a basket of eggs to hide later Sunday afternoon for those Cordata Neighbors who couldn't make the morning hunt time. Those additional 160 eggs were all gone by Monday morning. (See Easter Photos on pages 7 and 8.)

Birchwood Christian School

The final days of Birchwood Christian School are here. The teacher's morning prayertime before school is often filled with tears of gratitude and sorrow as we thank God for the opportunity to have served Him, these children, and their families in this unique way and trust in Him for whatever next steps and plans He has in store.

The final month of school lessons are always full of fun and science themes. The preschool class is closely monitoring the tadpoles and caterpillars in the science center for signs of "metamorphosis" (big word for tiny people). On the heels of their epic field trip to the Seattle Science Center, the kindergarten class moves from studying Space to spaces underground as they learn all about the dinosaurs that once roamed our planet.

Goodbye Gathering, June 4th - As we approach the final school day at Birchwood Christian School, we invite you to gather with us to remember and celebrate the blessings and best times as BCS embarks on an endless summer break.

*We will take a special moment to honor and thank our amazing Teacher Tammy Lindhout for her 25 years of love, wisdom, dedication, and teaching excellence!

We are creating a slide show for this event...
Please send copies of your favorite BCS photos to: BCSKids@cordatachurch.org. And please include the name/year.

Help us plan: please RSVP with the number of people attending to: BCSKids@cordatachurch.org

Remembering 25 years of BCS



Birchwood Christian School Continued from page 4

BCS Important Dates:

May 2: Preschool Field Trip – B’Ham Marine Center

May 11: Preschool Mother’s Day Tea

May 12: Kindergarten Mother’s Day Lunch

May 23: Preschool Last Day in Classroom

May 25: Preschool Picnic – Hovander Park

May 26: Kindergarten Graduation 6:30p (w/Glow Party until 10p)

June 4: Goodbye BCS Gathering 1-3p (CPC Family Life Center)



Thank You for Your Landscape Help!

A huge **“thank you”** to the dedicated CPC and Mosaic volunteers who came out on a Saturday morning in early April with a questionable weather forecast to do outdoor cleanup of our building’s grounds before Easter week. We even finished a little early. Your help is greatly appreciated and remember our motto **“Many hands make light work”**.

And, “thank you” to the Rudys for donating two beautiful rhododendrons, and to Chris Battershill, Christian Chala, Roger DeSpain, Dan Moore, Margaret Rudy, and Ted Van Zanden, who planted the shrubs and spread mulch across the bed.

CPC is blessed to have such giving people!





Meet New Member Jenn Gillie

When you meet Jenn Gillie, ask her about her unique nickname - Jenn the Tomato! She has a cute story to tell about teen friendship that turned into a plethora of tomato gifts over the years.

Although not born in Whatcom County, Jenn has lived here most of her adult life with her two children - Macia (who is now 17) and Alex (who is now 19). Jenn was born in Tacoma into an extended Polish family with many cousins who felt like brothers and sisters. After high school and briefly attending community college, Jenn moved to Eastern Washington with a friend but returned to Western Washington after a few years and later moved to Whatcom County when she and her new husband got jobs in Bellingham.

Jenn has established roots in the community over the last 21 years, so when she and her husband divorced, a few years ago, she stayed. Currently she works at an accounting firm as an administrative assistant. Although a busy, working mother, she took courses online with Washington State Univ. and earned an accounting degree. After tax season, Jenn hopes to begin training as a bookkeeper at the same firm.

When she is not working or caring for her children, Jenn enjoys writing and has written a number of short stories. As Beacon editor, I am hoping she will share some of her work with us. Jenn also enjoys learning languages. She studied Spanish during high school, took a year of German in college, and knows a bit of Greek, but she wants to learn more. As a young adult, she volunteered for AmeriCorps helping with English Language Learning classes and eventually hopes to have time to volunteer in Whatcom Community College's English Language Learners program.

Jenn was raised Catholic and spent her adult life as a church regular attender/member in a few different denominations. After her divorce, Jenn needed a new church home and decided to give Cordata a try - we are just a short walk from her home. She was drawn in by the friendly, welcoming people, but was also impressed that we are a congregation that is not afraid to ask questions. She felt that she was worshiping among people like herself who don't have all the answers but are seeking to learn what God has to teach us all. She notes that life has never been easy, but with God's presence, she never lost hope even in the darkest moments.

Jenn wants you to know that she loves visiting and chatting and learning about the people around her. Please tell her your stories! She feels that God writes a story with each of our lives. Some things are tragic, some are joyful, some are funny, but all of us culminate in a unique adventure – and our stories merge and connect into the masterpiece story - one that we'll all be able to see clearly from heaven one day!

We are happy to have such a friendly, creative, smiling addition to our congregation.



Welcome New Member Judy Sherwin

A current resident of Ferndale, Judy recently returned to Whatcom County to enjoy the part of her family who live in the area. Judy has two children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 greatgrandchild. Additionally, her family includes a step daughter and her three children living in Oregon.

Judy lived in Lynden for a number of years until moving to Oregon where she and her husband resided first in Woodburn and, later, Lincoln City. Judy's work in Lincoln City was to manage customer relations for BiMart.

Judy explains she was drawn to Cordata Church, in part, because of the welcoming spirit of our congregation and the sense of family that she has found here. She has especially enjoyed connecting with groups, attending adult classes and being a part of a small group Bible study. In Lincoln City, she explains, she dearly loved belonging to a Presbyterian Church, Chapel by the Sea. "Cordata Pres," she says, "reminds me of the spirit of that church."

Judy grew up in the state of Alabama and is a veteran of the Navy, having joined the service as a young lady at the age of 18. "I do have an accent," she says, "and I am a bit shy, but I really look forward to relationship with the folks at Cordata."



Maundy Thursday at Cordata



Easter Sunday





The Egg-citement of Easter Morning



Baptism of Alexandria Elizabeth Jones by Rev. Ken Ritsema

Right: Crowd of 65 gathered at April Together Tuesday to hear the Kings Men of Song.

Below: Joint Meeting of Deacons and Elders



Cordata Beacon - a publication of:
Cordata Presbyterian Church
400 Meadowbrook Court,
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 733-8860 or
beacon@cordatachurch.org
www.cordatachurch.org