



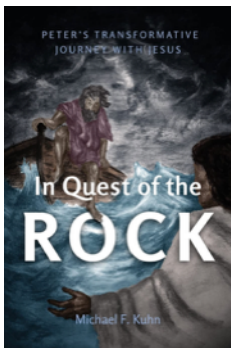
Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

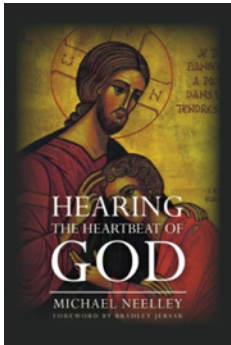
July, 2023

Message from Pastor Greg: “Summer Reading”

God’s majestic creation surely does put on a show in Bellingham. What an abundance of beauty surrounds us as we enjoy sunny blue skies and cooling breezes. Summer for many of us CPCers is a time to relax, recharge, maybe travel to see those we love, and of course to read some good books. In that spirit, here’s some recommended reading for you:



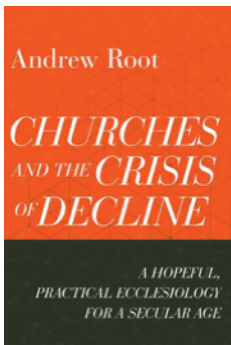
My first recommendation is for anyone who is open to being changed into a more grounded person who trusts the Lord. Are you troubled about some aspects of who you are, perhaps encountering the same difficulties in your life over and over again? Well, take heart, because a transformed life is an expected outcome of following Jesus. Those of us who were able to attend Mike Kuhn’s Sunday school class in Fall 2021 were encouraged to follow in the footsteps of Simon Peter, a prime Biblical example of a life transformed by Jesus. Now we have a fresh encouragement towards such a transformed life through Mike’s recently published book: In Quest of the Rock: Peter’s Transformative Journey with Jesus. This is our book for our all-congregational read. See page 4 for more information as to how to get the book and planned discussion groups.



Hearing the Heartbeat of God

This book was written by another Mike known and loved by many at CPC - Mike Neelley (who will be guest preaching at CPC on July 9th while I am away on vacation). Here’s how Mike describes his recently released book:

“The invitation to hear the heartbeat of God leads us on a journey into the heart of Love, whose name is Jesus. There is nothing that will breathe more life and energy into your relationship with God than the living reality that God is speaking, Jesus is present, the Holy Spirit is leading, and we can hear.”



Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age

This book was written by Andrew Root. It requires a slow and thoughtful read, so it’s not for everybody. But I think it addresses in a helpful way “the elephant in the room” of church decline. I’m reading it in preparation for a conference I’m attending later this summer. Who’s with me?

Any or all three of these excellent books will deepen our faith and understanding as we seek to follow Christ together. Happy reading!

Together in Christ’s service,
Pastor Greg

The Best All-Purpose Cure By Carol Lawrence

There is evidence here that some people - the owners of these beautiful sea kayaks - are having a good day. Whatever their life responsibilities, they are able to step away from them, at least for a day. They know how to enjoy life and clearly appreciate the natural beauty of tiny Sucia Island. They are clearly healthy and fit - they had made their way out to remote Sucia Island, done some paddling, and apparently were off hiking the island's steep trails.

Rather than continuing to ogle the big sea kayaks, I reminded myself I was out having fun myself on that day. Like the unseen owners of these gorgeous boats, I was spending a glorious day enjoying nature on an off-the-beaten-path island, not a care in the world, other than being careful not to miss the boat home. Still, I was flirting dangerously close to that warning from Scripture:

And He said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. (Luke 12:15)

This warning is particularly relevant to us as we live in today's materialistic world. The Apostle Paul spells it out for us:

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown many men in destruction and perdition. (1 Timothy 6:6-9).

I did remind myself on that day that the awesome natural beauty these kayakers were enjoying was available to me as well. Like them, I could spend the whole day totally untethered from daily responsibilities. I could even, if I chose, camp overnight on the island and enjoy it all again the next day. And so, I found thankfulness for God's gifts and contentment, the best all-purpose cure for covetousness.



Little Library Report for the Congregational Meeting 6/4/2023

The Little Free Library organization believes all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege. Cordata Presbyterian Church is excited to be a part of extending that opportunity to the Cordata neighborhood.

Our Little Library was installed at the beginning of April 2022, and as of 5/29/2023 we have given away 611 children's books and 305 adult books. We couldn't have done it without your help. We have so much to celebrate because of the donors and supporters who help us to promote literacy.

The box under the sign up table by the coat rack is where to place your new or gently used books. Thank you again for supporting this worthy cause.

Sandy Hiorns



Clubhouse Catch-Up

CPC Kids Clubhouse - Praiseworthy news: Our Kids Clubhouse is growing! More and more kids have been in attendance each week. Since COVID, we've been able to operate as an "all ages/one room schoolhouse" model, but with these growing attendance numbers and age ranges, we will need to split into smaller groups (older & younger elementary) by September.

WE NEED YOU... Beginning mid-summer, we will begin building a rotating team of Kids Clubhouse group leaders. These leaders will meet with their groups before and after the main (all ages) Bible story

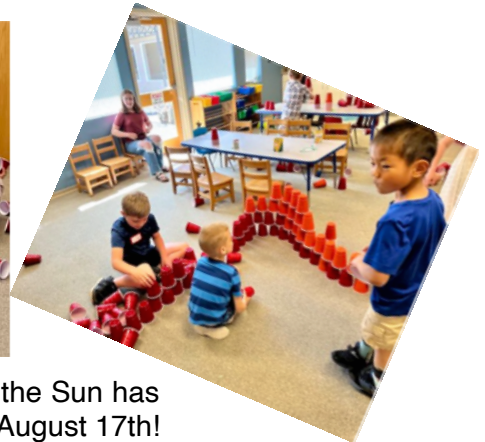
time. Anyone interested in learning more about How's, What's, and Why's of our Clubhouse time should contact Children's Ministry Director Bonnie Hollingsworth later this month. (Children's Ministry Director Bonnie Hollingsworth is out on medical leave for most of July to care for her mother who recently had back surgery.)

This month in the CPC Kids Clubhouse: A rotation of Substitute Leaders will be teaching Unit 19: "Preparing for Ministry". Jesus, the long-promised Messiah, had finally arrived but in a rather unexpected way. From the start, though, every detail of Jesus' life was to reveal and advance His mission of being the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us? **Answer:** Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Key Passage: John 1:29

July Lessons: Jesus Was Born (Matthew 1, Luke 2, John 1), Jesus Was Dedicated (Matthew 2, Luke 2), Jesus Was Baptized (Matthew 3, Mark 1), Jesus Was Tempted (Matthew 4, Luke 4)



FUN in the SUN (F.I.T.S.) - Clubs 4 Kids wrapped up in June and Fun in the Sun has begun. 8 weeks of F.I.T.S. fun began June 27th and will continue through August 17th!

Come join the fun of getting to know our Cordata neighbors in this unique and engaging way. No special skills needed... just the desire to make a difference and make new friends (of all ages) while making crafts, playing yard games, and or just sitting under the trees chatting with others while enjoying an iced coffee or lemonade. Just come and BE... the seemingly smallest of interactions just might end up having the biggest impact.

THANKS ARE IN ORDER: Big thanks and "shout outs" to everyone who has stepped up to sub in our Sunday Kids Clubhouse and to those who have signed-up to help with Fun in the Sun this month. Especially to Suzanne Rautiola for taking complete ownership of our F.I.T.S. beverage station. My concerns and worries about going on leave have disappeared knowing these programs are in excellent hands!

A very special THANK YOU to our BCS teachers Tammy Lindhout and Amy Benne! Thank you for your excellence and professionalism in ending this final BCS school year so well and also for your above-and-beyond help and hard work in clearing out multiple classrooms and closets of the many years' worth of supplies in order to get ready for our New BCS friends! You two are the very BEST and it's been an honor and privilege to have worked with you both!

With love and admiration, Bonnie Hollingsworth

Congregation Invited to Summer Book Read

Following our successful all-congregational book study last summer, we are inviting everyone to read In Quest of the Rock (Peter's Transformative Journey with Jesus) this summer. Written by our "resident" author Mike Kuhn and illustrated by his daughter, we believe you will find this book to be accessible, heart-warming, challenging, and inspirational. As Mike writes in the prologue, "Nowhere in Scripture or in history do we find a more true, beautiful and enduring shaping of the human soul than in Jesus's relationship with Peter." This book will encourage you to "get out of the boat" and allow Jesus to more fully transform your life.

Use this book in small groups or individually (study guides are available to facilitators). Your Discipleship Team will be offering 3 Wednesday evening Zoom discussion sessions from 7 to 8p on the following days:

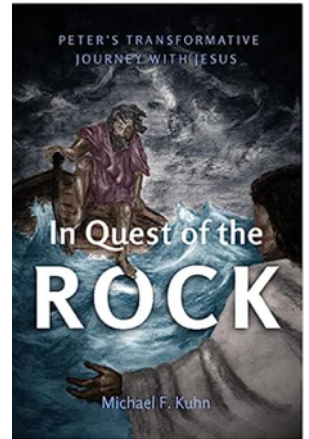
July 19th	Discussion of the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2
August 9th	Discussion of Chapters 3 and 4
August 30th	Discussion of Chapters 5 and 6

A Zoom notification will be sent before each session. Contact Dan Sanford at sanford46@comcast.net to be put on the Zoom list.

Thanks to Mike, a number of books are immediately available and discounted to \$15 each for our congregation. Pick up your copy in the foyer after church services or check out a copy from the church library. When these are sold out, you will be able to purchase one through book stores at various prices. In Quest of the Rock is also available on Kindle.

Happy reading and growing!

The Discipleship Team



New Pentecost Art for the Worship Center

A special thank you to Cindy Edwards for painting and gifting to our church the new Pentecost art in the Worship Center.

Thank you!



Picture Perfect

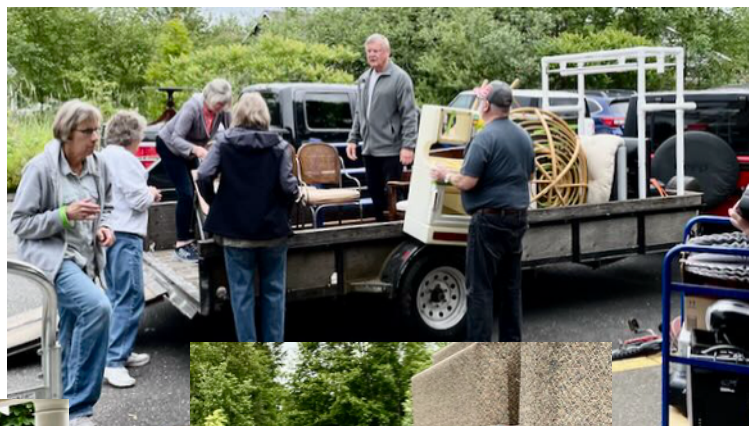
Do you like to "capture" memories with great photos? We are looking for a volunteer to update and maintain our photo gallery of members, friends, and events, that hangs along the long hallway. This is a great way to showcase people of all ages and in various ministries at Cordata and help tell our story. It also is a great way to provide Visual Art that speaks to our mission. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact Jackie Schoonover.

Flowers for Worship

Do you enjoy flower arranging? Do you have a great garden with flowers you would like to share? We are always looking for volunteers to provide seasonal flowers in a bouquet or potted plant to enhance our worship decor. If you would like to bring something for Sunday morning, please contact Jackie Schoonover.

Many Hands Make Light Work

Our thanks to the 20 volunteers who came and brought 4 trucks to help clear years of Birchwood Christian School material to make way for Bellingham Christian School to begin educating students in our building in the fall.



And, thanks to the 4 volunteers and 2 staff members who helped organize our seasonal decorations and materials in the storage units!



Weed Eaters Needed

There are several weedy areas that need cutting around our church grounds. Please bring your gas or battery powered weed eaters Saturday, July 15th, and help us tidy up these areas. We will start at 10a and finish at noon. Please let me know if you can help.

Thank you!

Roger DeSpain
Elder for Facilities

Watch for the Sign-Ups for These Summer Events

Would you like to get together with others from church this summer? Maybe meet someone new even? Here are a couple of upcoming events to watch for in the Sunday bulletin or in upcoming Beacons.

Have you heard that there's a **July CPC Picnic in the Fisherman's Pavilion at the waterfront in Zuanich Park**? This site has lots of room, beautiful views right at the waterfront, and the best thing is that even if it isn't a sunny day, we still have a great picnic site. We'll have food from a food truck catered right there, so coming directly from Sunday worship won't present the problem of bringing food at all. Donations will be appreciated. Watch for an upcoming date so you can sign up!!

And, how about a **tailgate party prior to a Bellingham Bells baseball game**? Watch for the date for this one too. We're hoping for a winning season ahead!

Watch the bulletin for details and dates for the sign-ups in the weeks ahead.

CPC Welcomes Many Different Worship Leaders This Summer

We are being blessed by many of our local musicians leading worship music this summer, including:



Nate Beede



Anthony Camacho



Tessa Brusven

In addition to Pastor Greg, we will also be hearing from a variety of other preachers:

July 9	Mike Neelley, Founder, Emmaus Road Ministries @ emmausroadnw.org
July 30	Mike Kuhn
August 6	Julie Farrow
August 13	Doug Bunnell, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church*
August 20	Seth Thomas, Pastor, St. James Presbyterian Church*

August 13 and 20 are part of the annual pulpit swap between First Pres, Saint James Pres and CPC.

Thank You!

Thank you, Cordata congregation, for your support and prayers after the unexpected passing of our son Kevin Laakso. The many cards and words of sympathy that were expressed to us meant so much to our family. We especially appreciated the support of Pastor Greg and our Deacon Jeff. The personal time and energy that they each spent in comforting us was particularly important to us. Thank you, everyone!

Jerry and Connie Laakso and Family



Remembering Gayle Craig

Excerpt reprinted from Obituaries.neptunesociety.com for Gayle Craig. Betty's obituary will be reprinted whenever it is available.

It was love of music and the lure of salt water that brought two South Dakota kids, Gayle and Marilyn Craig to the Pacific Northwest, where they landed in Marysville to start a new life.

Gayle Jay Craig was born in Hickman, Nebraska on January 5, 1936, the second of three children, and died in Bellingham, WA on July 5, 2022, at the age of 86. He was born to Marion (Mike) Kaar Craig and Alyce (Young) Craig, farmers in the area until 1939. When he was three his father began a new job with the Federal Government as a Farm Security Supervisor in northern Nebraska.... Another Farm Security position transferred the family to Burke, South Dakota. During his junior and high school years in Burke, Gayle became a 'budding' musician, learning to play band instruments, and singing in many music groups. Serendipity came in 1952 when the family was transferred to Spearfish, South Dakota. This move brought him into the musical realms of Charles McClung, a retired member of John Philip Sousa's United States Marine Corps Band. Gayle happily continued his instrumental music studies under Charles McClung's direction and decided at that time to become a band director like "Charlie." Black Hills Teachers College in Spearfish SD was easily the college of choice, with an emphasis on learning all the many instruments needed to form a school band. This meant ALL the instruments. Senior year, a thrill was earned when, from auditions, he was selected to perform with the National Intercollegiate Band in the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. He graduated with his degree to teach in June 1957.

On August 31, 1957 he was married to his high school sweetheart Marilyn June Carlson at the little United Methodist Church, back in Burke, South Dakota. She was a newly minted LPN nurse out of Pierre SD's School of Nursing, and they were in high spirits as they finished packing up their car immediately afterwards and headed for the first teaching job in Terry, Montana which started a few days later.... Their first daughter Cathy was born during the next year in Terry, MT; their next two children to come along were Kelli in 1960 and Curtis in 1963, both born in Poplar MT. During 1962, Gayle had the opportunity to design the instrumental music facilities in the new high school being built there....

The family decided to keep moving west, towards salt water. It was time to get Gayle's master's degree in music and Washington State University was conveniently on the way. He received a graduate assistantship to write Concert Band arrangements that first summer there.... Upon completion of the master's degree, the family moved to Marysville, WA where Gayle became the Director of Music for the school district....

The family's life rhythms changed when Gayle decided to take a little break from teaching and entered the business world with Glas-Ply Boats, a premier boatbuilder in the Pacific Northwest.... Throughout, Gayle was directing his church choir, soloing in church and singing with the Northwest Chorale at Christmas in the annual Handel's Messiah event. He and Marilyn were charter members of the Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Marysville but followed their children when the kids became interested in the Marysville United Methodist Church. It was this church community, friends from their first church, and close neighborhood friends who became the support for the Craig family when Marilyn was diagnosed in 1972 with breast cancer.... It was a sad day in 1978 when nurse Marilyn left this earth, having hung on for 6 years, with faith and hope for every newly developed and possible medication.

The 1980's were notable to Gayle as he shepherded his three children through their college years and on to become successful in their respective careers following graduation. He continued with his music interests by playing in several bands, singing for weddings, directing his church choir, and attempting to learn to play bagpipes. He remarried in 1981 to Betty Garries which brought three more adult children to the 'clan' and instant grandchildren. He continued playing in city bands, (the two final bands were the Sequim City Band and the Bellingham Community Band) until 2017 when health issues stopped his love affair with the tuba.

Gayle felt the capstone of his music career came in 2002 when he performed with a 220-voice church choir at Carnegie Hall, NYC in a memorial concert for the 9/11 World Trade Center victims. Conducted by John Rutter of Cambridge, England, they performed 'Mozart's Requiem' with the New England Symphony accompanying.

Remembering Gayle Craig Continued from Page 7

Gayle was preceded in death by his first wife of 21 years, Marilyn....His wife of 44 years, Betty E. Craig has since died on November 29, 2022.

Gayle J. Craig's life was a blessed life dedicated to loving his family, his church, his tuba & music, business ventures and travels. He and Marilyn got to travel to Europe before she died, and he and Betty traveled to Hawaii, Europe, Mexico, Romania, and coasts in CA, OR, WA and Canada, all with good friends, before her health curbed their travels. He had time to partner with friends to establish the Hoodspout Winery in Hoodspout, WA and Camp Grande, a camping club with over 100 family members. His family and friends remember him as a real gentleman, a man of a quiet, deep faith, a kind and honest man, his word-was-his-bond kind of man, a man of integrity. He set the bar high for all of us. His children remember the twinkle in his eyes and called him beloved Dad. The best. Well done, good and faithful servant.

There will be a simple Celebration of Life OUTDOORS for both Gayle and Betty Craig on August 5, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Camp Grande, 875 Brokaw Road, Camano Island, WA 98282. Dad wanted it simple, dress down with an eye to the weather. There will be light snacks so please RSVP to clang@pnwumc.org.

Cordata Scene



The Guatemala Mission Team inspires us with a report of their trip to build water cisterns for the Pokomchi and introduces us to the games and music they shared with the villagers.



We honor HS graduate Hayden Hollingsworth.

Cordata Scene Continued



Goodbye Gathering for Birchwood Christian School



Ordination/Installation of Deacons: Bob and Mary Walsh, Sally Emerson and Joyce Shintaffer
 Ordination/Installation of Elders: Anne Slee (Fellowship), Dan Sanford (Missions and Outreach), Margaret Rudy (Personnel) and Mike Cullum (Treasurer/Finance)

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