



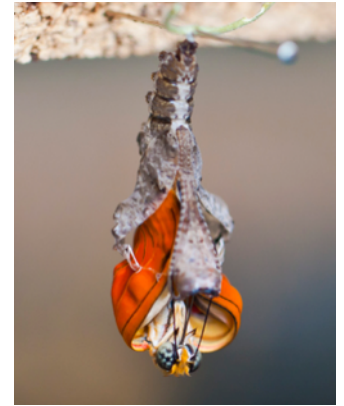
Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

September, 2023

Message from Pastor Greg: “Changes”

We’ve all heard it said that the only constant in life is change. There are exceptions to this wisdom, of course. Some things never change: I always find myself writing my *Beacon* article right up against the submission deadline! More importantly, God never changes. The theologians call this characteristic of God “immutability.” We can take great comfort in a constantly changing world that God does not change. In Biblical language, “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6) and “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8). With that reassurance fresh in mind, here is a Q&A of a few things that are changing at CPC.



Q: Is it true that a new school has moved into our church building?

A: Yes, Bellingham Christian School (BCS) now has a large enough enrollment that they need two separate campuses to serve their space needs as they expand their program to include the 9th – 12th grades over the next four years. This Spring, CPC arranged for BCS to occupy much of our underused classroom space, an arrangement that gives BCS the space it needs and brings CPC an additional source of revenue.

Q: How will this new partnership impact CPC’s ongoing mission & ministry?

A: We will now be using our facility more fully at 6-7 days a week to further the complementary missions of both church and school. We expect the new arrangement to impact CPC in positive ways as we explore opportunities to partner with BCS.

Q: Will I notice the changes right away?

A: Maybe. You may have noticed the buzz of activity this summer as the hard-working CPC staff team and the equally hard-working BCS staff team have entirely repurposed each room, closet, and hallway in the building to get set up for the new arrangement. The most eye-catching change to come is an accordian-style gate that will enable us to close off the middle section of the church building while school is in session M-F. On the weekends, we will simply open that gate for full building access.

Q: Is there still space for Mosaic Church?

A: Yes. We are pleased to continue hosting Mosaic Church, a congregation of 60-70 members from the Christian Reformed Church. Mosaic meets in our Family Life Center (gym) on Sunday mornings. We continue to join with them occasionally for special worship (e.g. Easter Sunday) or projects (e.g. the upcoming Neighborhood Block Party on September 10).

Q: Are there resulting changes to the CPC staff team?

A: One blessing from our BCS arrangement is that the resulting extra income will help us to maintain our current staffing level so we can keep our faithful veteran staff members and hire new staff as needed. Just last week, we were thrilled to bring on board Sarah Allen as our new Worship Director.

Are there other changes you are curious about? Just ask, and we will figure out the answers together as we watch to see what changes our unchanging God has for us next.

Faithfully in Christ,
Pastor Greg

Tragedy

By Carol Lawrence

Tragedy is so hard for us as Christians to understand. Does God send it to teach us something? If so, what? Does He send it to punish us? Does it come because of something foolish we did? These are hard questions, and I have no answers. All I know we can do in the face of tragedy is to pray for those impacted, do what we can to support recovery efforts, and remain thankful for what we had before it was lost.

We don't know yet whether this banyan tree in Lahaina, Maui, will survive the recent wildfire, although there is hope. I am so thankful I was fortunate enough to enjoy time there, sitting in its shade, fascinated by its aerial roots, the result of decades of hard work by dedicated gardeners who hung pickle jars full of water on them. As the roots reached downward to drink, they eventually reach the ground and form trunks. The tree was planted in 1873 to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the founding of the first Protestant Christian mission in Lahaina. It had grown from one 8-foot tall trunk to eventually be 60 feet tall, with 16 large trunks, covering the entire .66-acre central square of the town.

Prior to the recent fire, the tree served as the cultural and social center of the city. It occupied an entire city block. Families picnicked beneath it, workers ate their lunches there, and festivals were held under its branches. In April of this year, the town celebrated the tree's 150-year birthday. It seemed so permanent, so enduring. And yet, we now face the very real possibility it may be lost forever. What a powerful reminder that this world, which seems so permanent, is in fact transient, as are we. Of course, a tragedy such as this fire is cause for grieving, but we know we can turn to Scripture for comfort and encouragement. Romans 15:13 tells us,

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahaina_Banyan_Tree



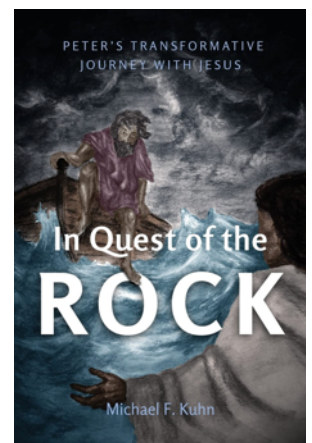
Adult Education -

Continuing Discussion of Concepts in *The Quest for the Rock*

Due to popular demand, we will continue discussing the concepts in the book *The Quest for the Rock* by Mike Kuhn. This class will run 7 - 10 weeks in the Chapel, depending on room availability. We certainly recommend you read the book, but even if you haven't read it, please feel free to come on Sunday mornings at 9a starting September 13th.

The discussion will center around some concepts of discipleship that will be of interest to all. We all benefit from each other's comments so we encourage you to come and add your ideas.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Farrow (jmfsucceed@gmail.com).





Clubhouse Catch-Up

CPC Kids Clubhouse - We've found a "fort" for our Sunday Kid's Clubhouse gathering time! Ever wonder where exactly the kids disappear to after being dismissed from main service during the Passing of the Peace? Well, for the past several years, the kids have been using 2-3 classroom spaces just down the hall. These particular rooms are now packed tight with the school equipment of our new shared-space neighbor - Bellingham Christian School. So a search for a place to hold our children's ministry program began. Over the

summer we temporarily used the Youth Activity room for Sunday Kids Clubhouse times, and it is in this room we are going to stay! The space works well for our current (though growing) needs and doesn't disrupt our other shared-space neighbors - the Mosaic Children's Ministry team.

This September:

Key Passage: Hebrews 11:6

Big Picture Question: How can we be saved?

Answer: We are only saved through faith in Jesus.

September Lessons: People Rejected Jesus (Luke 4), People Were Amazed by Jesus (Luke 4), Peter Worshiped Jesus (Luke 5), We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus (Hebrews 11)

Children's Ministry Committee and Teaching Team - Please pray and consider joining the Children's Ministry team. Our group of Kids Clubhouse regular attenders is increasing! We are just about to bust the seams of our "one room/all ages schoolhouse" teaching model. This is super exciting! This means opportunities for more folks to make a difference by stepping into a regular role in this vital and foundational ministry. Contact Children's Ministry Director Bonnie Hollingsworth (BonnieH@cordatachurch.org) for more information.

CPC Block Party - Our annual Block Party is Sunday, September 10th from 12-2p! CPC will be partnering with Mosaic Church again to create a welcoming and fun event for both our congregations and most importantly, our Cordata Neighbors. Come and enjoy lunch, play games, enter the cornhole tournament, and have fun! As with all events, many hands make light work. We will need help prepping food and making a big balloon arch on Saturday, September 9th as well as some light set-up on the day of the event. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.



Coming this Fall:

Clubs 4 Kids - During the final days of Fun in the Sun, the kids were already asking when our after-school Clubs 4 Kids will begin. This highly relational and fun time helps build up local kids and is set to resume on **Tuesday, September 26th**, and continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the fall.

Ask Kristin French or Bonnie Hollingsworth for more information about how you can make a difference in the life of a child.

Family Fun Night - Bring your families and friends for a **Movie Night on Friday, September 29th**. We will be showing a sweet, family-friendly film and serving popcorn and other treats.

Open Gym - Once-a-month Open Gym times give us the opportunity to share our wonderful facility and continue building trust and a sense of community with our Cordata Neighbors. **Open Gym will begin Sunday, October 15th, and last from 1 to 3p**. These events are a great way to gather with CPC and Cordata Neighborhood families and also to connect with local middle through high school students. Pickle ball, hoops, games, and crafts provide a little something for everyone.

Fall Festival 2023! A few space-use adjustments have been considered and this much-loved event is all set to happen on **Friday, October 27th**! Fall Festival is CPC's largest outreach event and one the community looks forward to each year. Contact Bonnie Hollingsworth (BonnieH@cordatachurch.org) for more information and to share any ideas you may have.

Be sure to pick up and share the CPC Fall Events Schedule cards in the CPC foyer.

Thank You So Much!

The summer programming for children (from Sunday Kids Clubhouse to Fun in the Sun) was ONLY able to happen due to the amazing selfless efforts of some very special people.

A sincere "Thank You So Much" goes to:

Kristin French, Suzanne Rautiola, Ellie & Hayden Hollingsworth, Hiroko Suenaga, Ella & Kaela Ruble, Anne Slee, Julie Farrow, Janet Moritz, Barb Mills DeSpain, Cindy Edwards, the Hodges Family, Margaret Rudy, Maggie Ellis, Stephanie Kuhn, Elaine White, Lindsey Snyder, and to everyone who prayed for and over these ministries while I was out on family medical leave! (* I hope I didn't miss anyone!)

Way to make Kingdom impact! You all are the best!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Hollingsworth

CPC Children's Ministry & Family Life Director

CPC's Little Free Library Teams Up with Imagination Library of Washington

CPC's Little Free Library has teamed up with the Imagination Library of Washington, a statewide program of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to share information with library visitors about enrolling children to receive free books! **And, our Little Library has become a partner in this program. We are distributing information to parents on how to enroll.**



Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children (**birth to age 5**), addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family. Dolly first launched this program in 1995 in her home county in East Tennessee. She wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, Dolly could ensure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income. The first book order in 1995 totaled just over 1700. Today, Dolly's Imagination Library sends more than 2 million books per month to children around the world, inspiring them to "Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More".

How can you help?

- Tell parents of children ages 0-5 about the program and invite them to learn more at imaginationlibrarywashington.org
- Our Little Library has the information on the window of our box with a QR scan to enroll or a link to enroll at: littlefreelibrary.org/imaginationlibraryWA.

We received a thank you for being a catalyst for building community and for our help to inspire the next generation of book-lovers.

For more information, see Sandy Hiorns.

CPC Missions Helping to Support Chronic Patient Program for Pokomchi

We are happy to report that your Missions Committee was able to use discretionary funds this summer to support a special appeal for the Chronic Patient Program helping Pokomchi villagers. Our liaison members, Brenda Risser and Jayme Fergoda, passed along information on the urgent need for medications for chronically ill Pokomchi people in Guatemala. The medications purchased are used to treat diabetes, seizures, and high blood pressure. We were pleased that our budget allowed Cordata Church to send \$1,000 above our regular giving to Hope of the Pokomchi for this program.

Dunamis Essentials is Offering *Gateways to Empowered Ministry Online*

The Dunamis Project is the central training of PRMI (Presbyterian Reformed Ministries International) to help you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in whatever ministry you may have.

The first of six Dunamis Projects, *Gateways to Empowered Ministry Online*, looks at a Scriptural view of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. By the end of the first Dunamis Project you will have a sound, Biblically-based knowledge of

- **who** the Holy Spirit is.
- **what** the role of the Holy Spirit is today.
- **what** it means to be **filled with the Spirit**.

The sessions will be September 27 - 30 (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 6p to 9p, and Saturday, 8:30a to 1:00p). The cost is \$20 for materials that will be shipped to you. Sign up for this powerful teaching online at:

Dunamis Essentials Online: Gateways to Empowered Ministry - Presbyterian-Reformed Ministries International (<https://www.primi.org/event/dunamis-essentials-online-gateways/>)

You won't want to miss this.

Linda Black, Worship Elder



Fall Prayer Focus

As in years past, we will have a special prayer focus for fall. This year we will have a different focus for each month and will list them in the Beacon and the bulletin.

The prayer focus for September is for the children, teachers, administrators and bus drivers who will be returning to school this month. Ask that God will keep them safe, and that He will keep them healthy, give them courage, and keep them mindful that He is always with them. Especially keep Bellingham Christian School in your prayers as they enter our doors. Pray for an easy transition as BCS and CPC share this wonderful building He has given us.

Ephesians 6:18 With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and stay alert in this, with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Linda Black Worship Elder



JOIN THE CHOIR

Rehearsals ~ Wednesdays at 7p in the Chapel

Start Date Wednesday, September 6

Intercession Prayer Time

Join others who understand the power of prayer as we meet by Zoom Wednesday mornings from 9-10a each week. We spend time praying for the needs of our congregation, our community, country, and our world. We would love to have others join us.

To get the Zoom link, please contact Julie Farrow at jmfsucceed@gmail.com.

Connect with a Small Group

Rick Warren, pastor and author stated, "Small groups are the purest expression of the church", and certainly we believe they are important to each of our faith journeys. If you are not already in a Small Group, we encourage you to consider joining one.

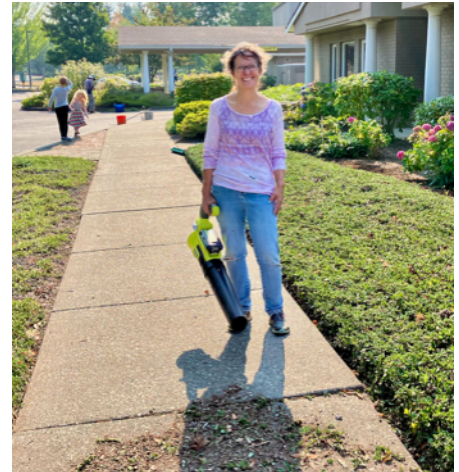
Small groups meet on different days or evenings of the month and at different times. Some groups form around a particular course of study or book and some involve food. Those who join the group determine the specifics of time, place, and study. There will be a facilitator to help get the group started and guide the first few meetings.

The Discipleship Committee will have sign up sheets out in late September to allow you to show your interest in joining a small group. You will then be contacted to determine your availability and interest. Look for the sign-up sheet!

CPC Gets "Spruced Up" for the Fall

A huge **thank you** to all the congregants and staff who helped with outdoor cleanup Saturday, August 26. We got all the crucial areas cleaned up and ready for the start of Bellingham Christian School and the Block Party in a little over two hours. We appreciate all your help!

Below are a few of the helping hands with Chris Battershill suited up for bee and hornet battle.



Fun in the Sun
Finishes on a High Note!



Our Thanks to Our Guest Preachers and Worship Leaders



Seth Thomas (joined by John Risser on drum) takes on an additional role during the annual August "Pastor Swap".



While Pastor Greg joins Karen Block and Kalani Snyder as worship leaders, Elder Julie Farrow brings the message.



The Blessing of the Backpacks means summer is nearing an end and school is starting soon!



Jason Houtsma (Mosaic), joins Maggie Ellis, Jake Larson, and John Risser in welcoming new Worship Director Sarah Allen (on piano) to CPC.

