



Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

June, 2025



Message from Pastor Greg: *Summer Kick-off Gathering*

What a wonderful time of worship to wrap up the month of May we had at our *Many Congregations, One Spirit* service last Sunday. Almost 300 people from 6 congregations came together to embody unity in the Spirit, regardless of our diversity of denomination, style, etc. Hans Erchinger-Davis preached a powerful word encouraging and challenging us to break out of our comfort zones by seeing faith and the world around us (including the poor and homeless) through the “eyes of our heart,” i.e. enlightened by God’s vision of humanity.

Now, we are looking forward to June, when we’ll have an important opportunity to gather again for worship and a special time together on a unique Sunday. **We will worship, eat, and meet at the Fisherman’s Pavilion in Zuanich Point Park on Sunday, June 15th.** I encourage everyone to attend. We are intentionally going off-site, because sometimes changing our usual routines helps us become more open to the change that is happening within us. Plus, Fisherman’s Pavilion is a very beautiful and fun place to gather. Here are a few key reminders about that upcoming Sunday:

1. **The worship service will start at 10a on June 15th.**
2. **There is plenty of parking at Fisherman’s Pavilion.**
3. **The Pavilion is easy to access for all, including those with canes, walkers, or wheelchairs.**
4. **We are encouraging everyone to come in person.** (With apologies to our members who may be unable to leave their homes, there will be no online broadcast that Sunday. We will do our best to report back to anyone unable to attend.)
5. **We’ll have lunch!**
6. **We’ll elect new church Elders, Deacons, etc. to serve and lead us in future years.**
7. **We’ll hear how we are doing financially so far in 2025.**
8. **We’ll learn more about (and maybe even practice some) church resiliency.** What does that mean? You’ll have to come to find out!
9. **We’ll have fun and fellowship and talk a bit about the future!**
10. **God will be with us,** because that’s what God has promised.

So please mark your calendar, and make plans to come for this special time together on June 15th at Fisherman’s Pavilion. (For more information see page 2.)

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Greg

Rain

By Carol Lawrence

Ironically, I painted this image of mountain rain while I was in Arizona. Such rain is rare in Tucson's Catalina Mountains, where the average annual rainfall is a mere 10 inches. On that day, I had planned to hike in the mountains, assuming the day would be sunny and warm (or more likely blazing hot). Seemed a reasonable assumption, since Tucson has an average of 350 days of sunshine per year. The plan was foiled, however, by rain.



This past winter, Arizona's rainfall was about 1.5 inches below normal. This may not sound like much for those of us used to Washington's average annual rainfall of 45 inches, but for Tucson, the deficit was substantial. And it showed. The desert's beauty is always rather stark, but after the exceptionally dry winter, the landscape was looking quite desolate.

Back in Washington, spring's lush green is a welcome sight. I'm reminded of the Johnny Cash song *Forty Shades of Green*. I'm thrilled by the dark greens of the Western Red Cedar and Douglas Fir, delighted by the bright spring greens of the Big Leaf Maple and Red Alder, charmed by the pink and white blossoms of the dogwood. And it's not just the sight – the fragrance of the big evergreens is invigorating, energizing. Even the weeds in my garden have a certain charm, as reminders of the abundance of God's creation.

Do we really need any other proof of His love for us? What a glorious world He has created. How fortunate we are to live amid such a profusion of natural beauty. Even the rain seems a blessing, as a harbinger of summer's coming bounty of tomatoes and sunflowers. Scripture reminds us *He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven*. (Acts 14:17 NIV) I'll try to keep that in mind as I'm out running errands in the rain.

🎵🚣 "By the Sea, 🌈 By the Sea, 🎸🌊 By the Beautiful Sea, 🧑 You and 🧑 Me,
🎵 You and Me, Oh How Happy 😊 😊 We Will Be....🎵

If you have not already, it's time now to **SAVE THE DATE** for Cordata's day at the park—**Sunday, JUNE 15!**

NOTE: EVERYTHING TAKES PLACE AT ZUANICH POINT PARK FISHERMAN'S PAVILION!!

2599 South Harbor Loop Drive--just off Roeder Blvd. along the waterfront

- 10a WORSHIP IN THE FISHERMAN'S PAVILION**
(Note—no stairs, lots of parking right in front of building, some handicapped parking available)
- 11a Lunch and Congregational Meeting** regarding church matters, including finance, missions, discipleship, leadership, and elections

Followed by updates and next steps with Resilient Church Project and cookies!

- 12:30p Wrap up and Clean Up**



CPC Kids Clubhouse Catch Up

CPC Kids Clubhouse — We'll be wandering the desert, learning how to be God's people with the Israelites this month in the CPC Kids Clubhouse. Kids will see that God continues to show Himself faithful to the Israelites, even though He knew they would be unfaithful to Him. God gave His people commands to follow, because He loved them. God instructed the Israelites on how to love Him and other people. He gave them clear instructions on what it means to worship Him alone.

Big Picture Question: Why do we need to be saved?

Answer: People are sinful and cannot save themselves.

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 2:2

NO Kids Clubhouse Class on June 15th — Children will remain with their parents during this special off-site service at Zuanich Point Park. We will provide activity sheets and busy bags to help keep “the wiggles” at bay (ha — get it — we’ll be at the Bay). Kids will be welcome to hang out just outside the pavilion with Bonnie and Evangeline during the meeting portion of the service.

June Lessons — Unit 5 “God Instructs His People”: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19–20; 31), The Golden Calf (Exodus 32; 34), Building the Tabernacle (Exodus 35–40), Worship at the Tabernacle (Leviticus 16; 19; 26)

New Baby and Toddler Space—Attention, parents of toddlers and babies...has your baby or toddler outgrown the Cry Room? If yes, be sure to check out the new play area in the Chapel. If your little one gets extra wiggly, you can now enjoy the service via live stream while your little one plays with toys within the large playpen area. Please check in with the children's ministry team at the Welcome Desk before service begins to ensure all is ready. Ideally, we would like to offer a full nursery area; however, we need a volunteer team first. For information on volunteering for nursery and toddlers, please contact Children's Ministry Director Bonnie Hollingsworth (BonnieH@cordatachurch.org).

Clubs 4 Kids (C4K) — What a great school year of Clubs 4 Kids it has been! This year has been an adventure with many new kids joining the fun. Our amazing C4K leader team: Suzanne Rautiola, Kristin French, and Evangeline Bentley made this year run especially smoothly while being super fun. Their dedication, love, and patience is greatly appreciated by everyone involved but especially by me, Children's Ministry Director Bonnie Hollingsworth. Thank you for answering the call to serve these kids! An Official “Thank You” also goes out to everyone who donated snacks and supplies!

C4K 2024-25 concludes on Thursday, June 5th. This will give us a couple of weeks to prepare/shift gears to our Fun in the Sun program.



(More photos on page 7.)

Fun in the Sun (FITS) 2025 — The countdown to FITS has begun! **Starting on Tuesday, June 24th**, we will begin presenting the “Fruits of the Spirit” through playing games, enjoying lemonade and iced coffee, making crafts, and building relationships! This unique program is a blessing to our neighborhood as well as to everyone who helps put it on.

Come join the FUN — We will meet every Tuesday and Thursday, out in front of the church from 1-2:30p from June 24th-August 21st.

We need a few more folks to make this FITS season the best ever! Say “YES” to making a positive difference in our Cordata neighborhood. You won't regret it!

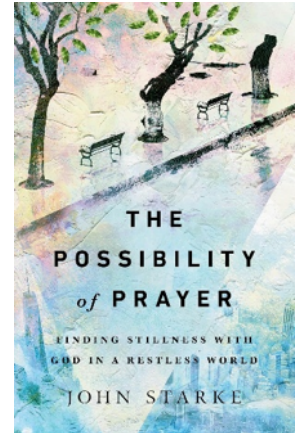
Discipleship News

Summer Read

The Discipleship Committee has chosen a great new summer read, *The Possibility of Prayer: Finding Stillness with God in a Restless World*, by John Starke. If your prayer life is already robust, satisfying, and fully life-giving, you may not need this book. But if you desire a deeper, more authentic, transformative connection with God through prayer then this book is for you.

Here's a little teaser about the book, "The world clamors for efficiency and productivity but the life of prayer is neither efficient nor productive. Instead, as we learn in the Psalms, prayer calls us to wait, to watch, to listen and to see. These things are not productive by any modern measure - but they are transformative." The author invites us to discover the possibility of prayer through practical guidance and ancient rhythms which help us to become people who live and love a prayerful life.

We hope you will join us in this summer's read. This book can be purchased through Amazon for \$16.00. It is also available through Kindle and Audible and likely, it will be available in other book stores as well. The Discipleship Committee plans to buy several copies to place in the foyer for your purchasing convenience, but you can also pick it up on your own.



Adult Education

On June 22nd we will start a class discussing the summer book, *The Possibility of Prayer* by John Starke. This will be a casual class, a book club of sorts, for those that choose to read this helpful book. We will spend some time practicing the techniques the author suggests and support each other as we grow in our prayer life together.

Julie Farrow
Elder for Discipleship

Summer Opportunity to Share your Musical/Vocal Gifts during Worship



As many of you know our beloved choir will be taking a break this summer. If you would like to share your musical gifts vocally and/or instrumentally with the congregation during the offering time this summer, please contact Jayme Fergoda at 360.961.7548 or email Jayme at jaymefergoda@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you!

Next Landscaping Work Party June 21st

Thank you to all the participants who helped clean up outside the church building on May 3rd. Those helping were: Jeff Crnich, Jim Zander, John Risser, Sue Wright, Kristin French, Dale Kreider, Dan Moore, Gary & Nina Buma, Roger DeSpain, and Margaret Rudy. We might have been small in number, but we got a lot of areas clean of weeds, etc.

Our next cleanup is scheduled for June 21st at 9a. Plan to join in the fun as we continue to clear the weeds around the building. Bring your weeding tools, 5 gallon buckets, rakes, etc. For more information, contact Roger DeSpain (RogerD@cordatachurch.org) or Margaret Rudy (MargaretR@cordatachurch.org).



What Do the Deacon Folk Do?

(To the tune of *What Do the Simple Folk Do?* from Camelot)

By Jackie Schoonover

What do the deacon folk do?
When people attending are new?
They welcome them and add them,
Into their parish care
They check how things are going
And show them they care.
O what do deacon folk do? We do not?

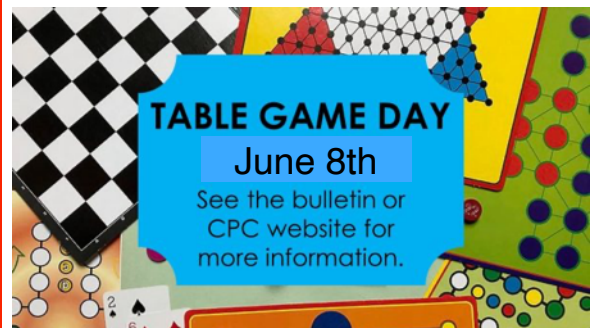
I have been informed,
By one who knows them well,
They may attend a meeting or two.
But when the need is great,
They never hesitate,
To make a call or even visit you
And when you're feeling blue,
They love to pray for you,
No matter what
You are going through.
And that's what deacon folk do,
So they say.
They pray?
So they say.

What else do the deacon folk do?
When asked about a church job or two?
They help prepare communion,
And host memorials too.
They hold a Deacon Sunday,
Just to meet up with you!
And that's what deacon folk do,
So they say,
So they say.



What's New in the Puzzle Section of the CPC Library?

Over the next few weeks we'll be introducing several new puzzles, all in the fun category and the medium hard difficulty range. There will be just a few new ones at a time starting with Waldo. You can check out these puzzles and more from the CPC Library.



Join us in the foyer after coffee fellowship. We have many games or bring your favorite.

Light snacks will be available or bring your own sack lunch.



Remembering Richard Lee Griffin

August 27, 1942 — February 18, 2025

Editor's Note: Reprinted in part from obituary at www.sigsfuneralservices.com for those who were not able to attend the Celebration of Life for Richard.

Richard Lee Griffin, age 82, passed from mortal existence to eternal life on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. He was born August 27, 1942, in St. Paul, Minnesota to Carl and Elvira (Hollmichael) Griffin. Richard leaves behind his wife Grace (married happily for 42 years) and his sister Barbara Peterson....

Richard loved growing up at Angle Lake, SeaTac, WA., where his parents lived for 50 years. Richard was a great swimmer and loved his dog Smokey. His middle school years were spent in Tokyo where NorthWest Airlines transferred the Griffins. Richard's later teen years were spent fixing cars and car racing, and working at Boeing & NWA. Richard served in the USAF as a weather observer. He earned 2 degrees (an A.A. & an A.S. in Computer Science from Santa Barbara City College). He was a problem solver, appreciated efficiency of effort, loved to work on crossword puzzles and reading.

His paychecks from working as a BMW mechanic went toward financing his love of cars, sailing, mountain biking, and skiing. He loved being in nature. His best and most challenging job was at Able Engineering Co. where he built and tested a 200 foot deployable structure for the NASA space station. Richard was a man of determination and integrity.

Richard came to trust God as his relationship with Grace became serious and together they renewed their faith in the Lord and married in 1982 in Santa Barbara. Richard was a faithful and gentle husband. As his parents aged, Richard and Grace moved to Bellingham in 1989 to be closer to them.

Richard & Grace volunteered to join the Chuckanut Fire Dept. in the 1990's. He enjoyed hiking through the Chuckanut hills with his big dogs, Tika and Terra.

After being laid off by Boeing, Richard earned another A.S. Degree in I.T. at Skagit CC. Then in 2002 he began managing a rental and assisted Grace with the International Student Ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

Richard volunteered with the Bellingham Red Cross and helped with crises across the USA. As Parkinson's Disease stole Richard's strength and stamina, his last volunteer commitment was delivering meds for Whatcom Hospice.

We owe a huge thank you to Whatcom Hospice with helping us as Richard's health declined to his death.

....Family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Lighthouse Mission Ministries, 1312 "F" Street, Bellingham, WA 98226.

Unsung Heroes

There are many folks in our congregation who step up when they see a need without applause or fanfare. Two of those folks are Carole Wallace and Roger DeSpain.

Carole noticed that many of the plants that decorate our church were dry and needing attention. So, every week when she serves at the Welcome Desk, she takes the time to water and care for them. She

researches what they need and always strives for consistency of care.

That same level of care is given by Roger DeSpain. Although he is the Elder for Facilities, he goes above and beyond assisting our building Superintendent Chris Battershill in important maintenance. In addition he often handles security on Sunday mornings and during the week can be seen around the building doing needed repairs and upgrades (like installing a chair rail in the Chapel and repainting the walls around it).

We are so blessed to have people in our midst who give of themselves without expecting notice or praise, like Carole and Roger.



Save the Date

Tuesday, June 3rd, 4:30p, Last Week of Clubs 4 Kids, Foyer - See page 3.
Wednesday, June 4th, 6:30p, Choir Rehearsal Ends for the Summer with a Party
Thursday, June 5th, 4:30p, Last Day of Clubs 4 Kids until September, Foyer - See page 3.
Sunday, June 8th, After Coffee Fellowship, Table Game Day, Foyer - See page 5.
Friday, June 13th, 5p, CCF Talk Time, Family Life Center
Saturday, June 14th, 8a, Men's Breakfast, Palm Room
1p, Celebration of Life of Steve Hagan, Worship Center
Sunday, June 15th, Worship, Congregational Meeting, Resilient Church Initiative Report, and Lunch,
Fisherman's Point Pavilion - See pages 1 and 2.
Tuesday, June 17th, 3p, Celebration of Life of Steve Greene, Worship Center
Friday, June 20th, 11a, Celebration of Life of Frank Phillips, Worship Center
Saturday, June 21st, 9a, Landscaping Work Party - See page 4.
Tuesday, June 24th, 1p, Fun in the Sun Begins, Church Lawn - See page 3.

Regularly Occurring Events

Sundays - 9a, Adult Education Class, Chapel,
10:30a, Worship, Worship Center
10:45a, CPC Kids Clubhouse/Sunday School - See page 3.
After Worship, Coffee Fellowship, Foyer
Mondays - 2p, Tai Chi Exercise Class, Chapel
Tuesdays - 1p, Fun in the Sun, Church Lawn - See page 3.
Wednesdays - 9a, Weekly Prayer Group, Zoom - Contact Admin@cordatachurch.org for link.
2p, Tai Chi Exercise Class, Chapel,
5:30p, Youth Group (5th to 8th Grade), 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Thursdays - 1p, Fun in the Sun, Church Lawn, - See page 3.
Fridays - 2:30p, Free Groceries - Miracle Food Network, Foyer

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**Clubs 4
Kids Crafts!**



For National Bee Day



**Celebrating
Beginning of Spring**



**Creating
Mother's Day
Gifts While
Receiving a
Trumpet
Serenade**

