



Cordata Beacon

A Publication of **Cordata** Presbyterian Church

October, 2025



Message from Pastor Greg: *Preparing for the Harvest*

For me, October always calls to mind the riches of the Fall harvest. Apples, pears, pumpkins, potatoes, and so much more grace our pies and plates in this season of abundance in the PNW. How about you? Are you enjoying some of the fruits of the Fall? God's word uses the Harvest as a metaphor for the fruits of our life in Christ and in the Spirit. Consider these gems:

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3:18 (NIV)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matt. 9:36-38 (NIV)

Don't these verses seem to describe our current life together at Cordata? God has blessed us abundantly with an increase in worshippers; with the recent addition of Andrew as Director for Youth Ministry and Worship Music Director, we are fully staffed for the first time in several years; our Fall kick-off Youth Group meeting had 22 5th thru 9th graders in attendance (20 boys and 2 girls!); our Session, Deacons, and congregation are joyfully engaged in ministry.

And of course, we are preparing for our annual Fall Festival, when hundreds of neighbors, strangers, and friends will gather in our church building to enjoy a family-friendly time of fun. I encourage anyone, who is able, to come help host this event (see page 4 or contact Director of Children's and Family Ministry Bonnie Hollingsworth for details). Surely, we will see people there who are like "sheep without a shepherd" and can greet them with simple smiles. Those who cannot help host in person are invited to pray for everyone who comes to this annual outreach event. May the Lord use our efforts to build God's kingdom and share the good news of Jesus.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Greg

Many Paths

By Carol Lawrence

Isn't this a lovely path? It's one of many in Bellingham's Cornwall Park—some level and wide; others hilly, narrow, and full of tree roots. The paths wind through the park's 70 acres of majestic evergreens and deciduous trees coming into glorious fall color. Whether I am in the mood for an energetic uphill climb or a casual stroll, I can find it here. For me, it's impossible to be in the park without offering up prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Creator who has provided such joy.

The Bible has much to say about various types of paths. For some reason I don't understand, or maybe for no reason, I've been reading the book of Proverbs, start to finish. This isn't my usual approach. More often, I'm looking for something short and sweet, a pithy saying that supports what I already think. *Mea culpa*. The book reads well as literature. It's a great example of the 'compare and contrast' structure. Early chapters describe the contrast between the paths of those who *lack wisdom and have left the straight paths to walk in dark ways* (2:13) with the those who find wisdom, whose *ways are pleasant ways, and all [her] paths are peace* (3:17).

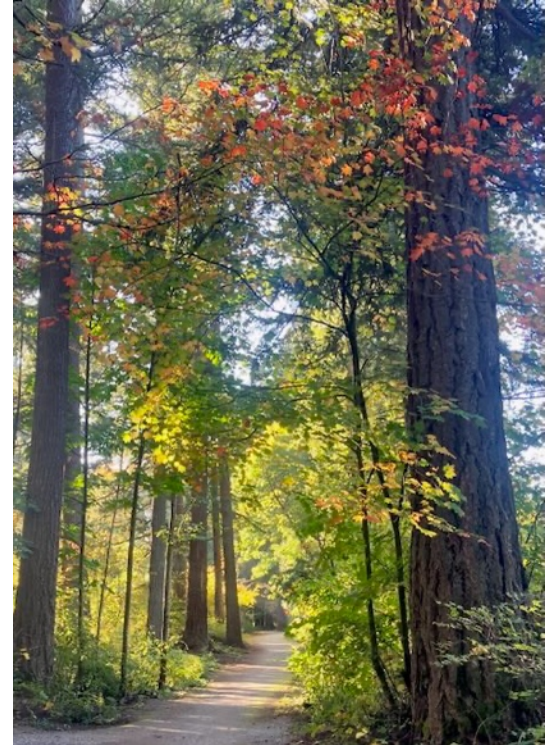
The importance of wisdom shows up again in Ecclesiastes: *God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please Him* (2:26, Life Transformation Bible). Of course we all want to please Him. So when we seek wisdom, valuable in itself, we also will receive the joy of knowing we are pleasing Him. As Christians, we know where we can find wisdom, if we remember to look for it:

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction* (Proverbs 1:7).

Let's remember to thank Him for the wisdom He gives, for the life paths he guides us to, and for the glory of the forest paths He has created, right here in Whatcom County. Before I leave to go walk in the woods, I'll close with one more reference to Proverbs:

*In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths* (3:5).

Amen.



Let's Help Each Other

Share Your Best Money Saving Tips \$\$

As we all are probably experiencing, finances can be tough right now. The Generosity Team is asking for your help with our project to collect and share great money-saving tips from members of the congregation. We are hoping people have all kinds of ideas on any topic from food to clothes, utilities, entertainment, investments—anything, big or small. Let's have some fun with this.

There will be bulletin inserts you can fill out to submit your written ideas in the marked envelope on the tables in the foyer. We will also have a camera set up in the library after the worship on October 5th for video taping some of the tips. Whether you want to be "on camera" or not, please share your ideas in writing.

Thanks in advance for your wonderful help on this.

The Generosity Team



CPC Kids Clubhouse Catch Up

CPC Kids Clubhouse - "God Sees and Hears" Unit 9.

I can't think of a better theme for our current times. These days we can easily feel God is distant and that evil is getting a stronghold. However, God was in total control then and certainly is now. Regardless of sin patterns and disobedience, Sunday Clubhouse kids will learn that God continued to see His people and hear their requests and desires. God's provision will be seen through His gifts of a kinsman redeemer for Ruth's family, a son with a prophetic calling for

Hannah, and freedom and protection for the Israelites from the Philistines. God's plan remained steadfast, despite humanity's brokenness. In this broken world, in these current challenging times, it will be a comfort to study these Bible stories and have faith in God's sovereign plan.

Big Picture Question: How does God care for His creation?

Answer: God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

Key Passage: Philippians 4:19

October Lessons: The Story of Ruth (Ruth), Samuel Was Born and Called (1 Samuel 1–3), The Ark Was Captured (1 Samuel 4–6), Freedom from the Philistines (1 Samuel 7)

Clubs 4 Kids - Our after-school program – Clubs 4 Kids — resumed Tuesday, September 16th, to a nice sized group of kids. Tuesday's Club time focuses on books and crafts while Thursdays are all about table and card games. This autumn will have "Whacky Calendar" themed crafts and activities. Some of the crafts and activities will require unique supplies. Take a look at the suggested donation list on the foyer table to see if you can help meet some of these needs.

Please also consider sharing an afternoon (or two) helping make connections with these special kiddos. Club time is 4:30-5:30p.

The kids are often hungry after school. Thank you so much to those of you who continually donate lemonade mix and snack items! They are greatly appreciated.

CPC Block Party Recap - The threat of rain and a 1p Seahawk/49er game could not stop this event from being super successful! We had a huge turnout of CPC members, returning neighbors, and many new families and folks in attendance. "Pats on the back" all around to everyone who shared their gifts, talents, and time toward this outreach event! Special Thanks to the Rautiolas, Dave Ruble, and Nele Iwansky, the Rubles' exchange student, who graciously welcomed everyone through the balloon arch entrance. An Extra Special Thank You goes to Carol Anderson who took on the large challenge of organizing all the food needs and to the small army of culinary helpers who made it look effortless!

The two new activities (Ga Ga Ball and Builder Boards) were enthusiastically received, as were the two new twists on icebreaker games.

The community resource tables were another great point of interest that helps the community.

Additional bonus... We received an email from the Opportunity Council singing our praises for our "positive impact in the community"! (More photos on pages 7 and 8.)

Well Done Cordata! Way to be "Resilient"!

(Kids Clubhouse Catch Up
Continued on Page 4)



(Kids Clubhouse Catch Up Continued from Page 3)

Fall Festival 2025 - Preparation has begun for our Annual Fall Festival. With less classroom space at our disposal this year, we are getting creative and hope to start new a tradition... student designed Rube Goldberg candy dispensing machines! All the Meridian and Bellingham Middle School Science and Math teachers received an email inviting their classes/clubs to participate in this new and unique addition to our event. As of the end of September, we have at least one class from Shuksan take up the challenge!

Donations of candy, trinkets, and Duck brand duct tape are now being accepted. The volunteer sign-up sheets for decorating day and the actual event will be in the foyer on October 5th. Contact Bonnie Hollingsworth for more details (BonnieH@cordatachurch.org)

CPC Christmas Eve Keepsake Ornament - It's already October and way past time for us to decide on a design for our annual handmade ornament. What ornament you may ask? At the end of our Christmas Eve "tree decorating" service, we gift all families in attendance with a special keepsake ornament handmade with love from our crafty congregation. Each year's design includes a heart shape of some kind. Please contact Bonnie Hollingsworth for more details or to submit a design idea.

Fall Youth Group Has Started!

We have 20-30 youth (grades 5-9) attending our Youth Group. Most of these youth are from the neighborhood and most of these youth are boys. We invite you to pray for the Spirit of Jesus to find a home in each one's heart and for the multiplication of leaders and volunteers to meet their needs. Special thanks to the Rubles (volunteers) and Evangeline (staff) for their loving service and continued dedication to this ministry.

Andrew Souza Lewis, Director, Youth and Worship Music

Tuesday Together at Cordata Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 – 5:30p

All are invited to join us for our next Tuesday Together gathering on Tuesday, October 14, at 5:30p, for only \$7. This special evening will be filled with fellowship, food, and an inspiring program you won't want to miss!

The menu isn't complete yet, but Fellowship Elder Carol Anderson notes that it will include pork loin roast and cheesy potatoes. A comfort food menu for a cool evening in October. After sharing a meal around the table, we'll enjoy a presentation by Dancing for Joy, a vibrant dance group of all ages from Bellingham. We will be receiving a preview of their upcoming show, *Nativity*, which will be performed at the Mount Baker Theatre. Their performance will bring energy, creativity, and joy to our evening together.

Tuesday Together is the perfect chance to build community, reconnect with old friends, and make new ones. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for this meaningful evening.

Come hungry for a meal, stay for the fellowship, and be uplifted by the gift of dance!

Fellowship News - Volunteers and Donations Needed

If you enjoy hosting, you're a person who could add so much to the Fellowship Team. I invite you to have a conversation with me, Carol Anderson. Please contact me at 656-800-2993.

If you happen to have too many 9" x 13" glass or metal pans, we could use those in the church kitchen. Please bring them to the Welcome Desk. And thanks for sharing your abundance.

Carol Anderson, Elder for Fellowship



Save the Date *Trumpeter/Missionary*

DON SHIRE AT TOGETHER TUESDAY – November 11th, 2025

Don Shire, missionary, internationally known trumpeter, and recording artist, will be at Cordata Presbyterian Church for its Together Tuesday dinner, November 11, 2025, at 5:30p. He currently is the featured guest in churches, mission conferences, and evangelistic outreach throughout the United States and internationally. Music from Don's recordings can be heard on radio in the United States and internet radio worldwide. He also coordinates short-term mission trips for church groups and individuals. Don's ministry reaches to orphans, widows, and refugees. His ministry now supports several orphanages and homes for widows in India, Haiti, and Honduras. Don Shire Ministries also supports refugees in Ukraine and Poland.

We hope you'll join us for this memorable evening.

A Report on our Little Library – September, 2025

From January through July, 2025, our Little Library gave away 354 children's books and 110 adult books. Since we began in March of 2022, we have given away 2,394 children's books and 792 adult books for a total of 3,186 books.

But on August 1, 2025, we received notice from Chris Battershill that the door on the library had been ripped off and books had been burned. Yikes! Unfortunately, we had two more incidents during August and made the decision to leave the box empty for things to settle down.

Good News! The Little Library is back! We were so happy to have the Little Library stocked and ready by the day of our Block Party. Many friends and neighbors commented that they loved our Little Library and were glad we could once again share books. It was a good time to celebrate!

The Missions/Outreach Committee has also purchased a library cart so we can share books with Clubs 4 Kids, too. We are always looking for more books, and if you would like to donate, we are accepting new or gently used children's books and adult books. There is a plastic bin underneath the sign-up table by the coat rack for your donations. Thank you!



Sandy Hiorns

Book Club Meets Friday, October 24th

The next gathering of the book club hosted by Carol Lawrence will be on Friday, October 24, 3:30 to 5:00p at Carol's house. The group will continue its discussion of the book *Abraham, A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* and choose another book for the club to read.



Thank You, Volunteers! Next Outdoor Work Party - November 1st, 2025

A huge thank you to the few volunteers who came on a cloudy Saturday morning to prune, sweep, and clean up the outside of the church. We were small in numbers, but we got our projects done. Those helping were: Doug and Carol Cowgill, Joel and Suzanne Rautiola, Roger and Barb Mills DeSpain, Jim Zander, Dan Moore, Jeff Crnich, Dale Kreider, and Margaret Rudy.

Our next (and probably last for 2025) work party is scheduled for November 1 at 9a. Plan to join us as we rake leaves to get our church site ready for the Fall and Winter seasons.



Winter Coat Drive

Cordata Church is partnering with Interfaith Coalition in its annual Winter Coat Drive. Our church will be collecting coats October 5-26. A box for collections will be placed near the Welcome Desk on Sunday—October 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th—or anytime during those dates at the church during regular office hours. You'll see a poster near the collection box.

Help keep our neighbors warm this winter by donating new or used (and freshly laundered) winter coats. XL, XXL, XXXL and children's size are most in demand, but all sizes are being sought.

Cordata has had great success in its participation with this drive in past years. Let's continue that success.

If you have any questions, please email Rich Emerson at dremers@msn.com.



Cordata Church Scene

Doug Cowgill is installed as Elder for Facilities.
Melissa and Tony Huang are ordained and installed as Deacons.



Pastor Greg recounts his journey to Israel at Together Tuesday.





The Block Party!



More Block Party Photos



Save the Date

Sunday, October 5th, After Worship, Explore Cordata Church - See below.
Tuesday, October 7th, 5p, English as a Second Language Class Begins - See page 5.
Friday, October 10th, CCF Talk Time, Family Life Center
Sunday, October 12th, After Worship, Explore Cordata Church - See below.
 After Worship, Table Game Day, Foyer.
Tuesday, October 14th, 5:30p, Together Tuesday, Family Life Center - See page 4.
Saturday, October 18th, 8a, Men's Breakfast, Palm Room
Sunday, October 19th, After Worship, Explore Cordata Church - See below.
Friday, October 24th, 3:30p, Book Club, Home of Carol Lawrence - See page 5.
 6p, Fall Festival - See pages 1 and 4.
Saturday, November 1st, 9a, Outdoor Work Party - See page 5.
Tuesday, November 11th, 5:30p, Together Tuesday - See page 5.

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 - **4:30p, Clubs 4 Kids, Church Foyer** - See page 3.
 5p, English as a Second Language
 7p, The Chosen Series
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
 7p, Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
Thursdays - **4:30p, Clubs 4 Kids, Church Foyer** - See page 3.
Fridays - **2:30p, Free Groceries - Miracle Food Network, Foyer**

Explore Cordata Church

Newer attendees and folks seeking ways to become more connected with CPC are encouraged to consider joining our series called EXPLORE. Get answers to questions such as:

- * How do we organize leadership for areas of ministry?
- * What are some opportunities to become connected?
- * What are the fundamentals of our faith in practice?
- * Why might I consider formal church membership?

Contact Admin@cordatachurch.org to indicate your interest in attending.

Cordata Beacon - a publication of:
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CPC Directory Update



Get your photo taken & update
 your directory information
 now through October 5th.

2025 directories are scheduled to be distributed on Deacon Sunday.

