

ctk life

WINTER 2022

every life
tells a story



CHRIST THE KING
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Your story matters.

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS since we last published CTK Life... and what a couple years they've been!

CTK Life has always been your one-stop resource for information and opportunities to connect, grow, and serve.

But for this return issue, we wanted to share more stories of what God is doing in people's lives as they've engaged with their church and the community we live in.

We hope you'll be inspired and encouraged by these stories. And maybe you'll be challenged to consider your own story as a gift from God, no matter what your story is.

We'd love to hear your story.

Email stories@ctk.church



Scan the QR code to email us your story

A Note from Grant Fishbook LEAD TEACHING PASTOR



Let me tell you a story. More than a decade ago, I was sitting at the front desk of the church. I can't honestly remember why, but there I was, and the phone rang. I felt God prompt me to pick it up. "Hello, Christ the King Community Church. How can I help you?"

The deep voice on the other end of the phone quietly said, "My wife is dying of cancer. I need a pastor to come and pray with us." We talked, shed a few tears and I headed out to pray with Andy and Jill.

That visit turned into many visits as the days and weeks passed. On one late night vigil at Jill's bedside, I asked Andy a question. "What do you want written on your tombstone?" Believe it or not, that was not a strange query considering the journey we were on together. Andy's response surprised me. "I want my tombstone to read 'Andy fed the hungry'"

Jill passed a few weeks later, but the profound nature of that God conversation and the friendship that ensued stayed with both Andy and me.

What did God do with that late-night conversation? Jesus turned it into the CTK Farm! Today, that farm yields more than 100,000 pounds of fresh produce per year for hungry people in Whatcom. Andy provides the land and CTK provides the people. Together, we are making good on the dream of Jesus:

*He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them—
he remains faithful forever.*

*He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.*

*The LORD sets prisoners free,
the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous. — Psalm 146:6-7*

Only God could have written this story, and he's not done writing our church's story... or yours.

Grant





Stories matter. They define who we are as individuals, as families, as generations and as a culture. Stories are foundational to how we think about the world and live our lives. The stories we tell, listen to and engage with are one of the most powerful forces in our lives.

In telling our stories, we reveal how we think, what we feel, and why we make the choices we do. Stories reveal what we value. When we listen to or read about the story of another person, we broaden our view of the world. We intentionally place ourselves in someone else's shoes, and experience life from another's perspective.

Jesus was a master storyteller. He told stories about greater truths because he knew the power they have to change someone's mind and heart — to change their perspective.

In this edition of CTK Life, you'll encounter stories of how people's lives intersected with Jesus and it changed the story they were writing about themselves and the world around them.

As followers of Jesus, we have been changed by the greatest story in existence—the life changing power of a personal encounter with a loving God. My challenge to you during this season: reflect on the story you are you telling, the stories you choose to engage with, and be brave enough to ask yourself why. Don't just settle for the story you've been given. Choose the story God wants to write in you.

The world has learned to harness the power of story and influence what we think, feel, and choose. As Jesus followers, let's be the best storytellers in the world. Tell someone your Jesus story today.

Blessings,
Melonie

what's inside

- 4 Families
- 6 Kids
- 8 Young Adults
- 10 All Adults
- 12 Women
- 13 Men
- 14 Small Groups
- 16 Care Ministries
- 18 Hospitality
- 19 RightNow Media
- 20 Service Times



families

Family Spiritual Growth

It's heartbreaking to hear prayer requests for grown children who've chosen poorly. While every child makes their own decisions, parents can choose to pour into them ingredients and experiences that will significantly increase their capacity to make healthy life choices. Some of those ingredients include open communication, a relationship with Jesus driven by love, and your unconditional love toward them.

To that end, every month in 2022 we'll provide a Family Challenge that will give you ideas, tools, and opportunities to create open communication, help your family build a relationship with Jesus, and give your children different ways to see of how much you love them.

Visit www.ctk.church/bellingham/families every month to find the newest ideas and that month's challenge. Take advantage of this fun way to help set up your child for long-term success.



Walking the journey of motherhood together

A new ministry provides connection and community

Looking to get out of the house, connect with other CTK moms and let your littles burn off some energy? Mothers & Munchkins welcomes you!

This fall we started Mothers & Munchkins with the hope of creating a community where moms can celebrate each other's successes and provide support when life gets tough...and our mommy and me group has done just that! We all cheered when Azaylia showed us her new skill of crawling. Two moms exchanged smiles and

"thank you's" as a bag of clothes was passed on from one family who outgrew them to a family with a younger baby. We slowed down to pray for a mom with family in the hospital.

Moms have been so impacted by this time that they've invited other moms they know from the gym and the mall... and they accepted the invitation! It's clear that this space for connection and community is needed. We know that we "mom" best when we do it together, so join us on Thursdays!

Moms in Prayer

Every Tuesday Morning
(Not meeting April 5)
10:00-11:00 AM in Room 214

Moms, do you worry about your children or their future? Come replace your anxiety and fear with peace and hope by praying with other moms. Moms in Prayer brings moms together to pray specifically and scripturally for our children, our teachers, and our schools. Whether you're already in the habit of praying for your kids or you're just ready to dip your toe in the water, this group is a safe supportive place to connect with other moms and pray for the next generation.

No need to sign up, just show up any Thursday. For more information, contact Angel (angelf@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)

Mothers & Munchkins

Thursdays starting January 13
10:00-11:30 AM in the Nursery

Mamas, let's connect! Bring your infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to play in the CTK Nursery. This weekly "mommy and me" time is full of free play and the opportunity to chat with other CTK moms.

Follow CTK Families on Facebook for occasional updates.

No registration needed. Just show up any Thursday morning. If you have any questions, email MacKenzie at mackenzieg@ctk.church



Follow **CTK Families** on Facebook

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Family Movie Night

Coming Friday, February 25
6:00 PM -8:30 PM Meeting Place

Pack up the family and join us for a fun night of activities, popcorn, and a movie of course! Keep an eye out for movie details in early February at info.ctk.church and in our weekly email. **Watch for more details in February.**



Adventure Academy

For kids in K-5th grade

Selected Wednesdays

January 12 – June 1

6:15 PM - 7:45 PM in Base Camp

No one accomplishes great things without spending a lot of time learning and practicing. From the basics to advanced skills, the experts know it takes time and dedication to be the best and enjoy the freedom of that success.

For any kid who wants to live the greatest adventure, who wants to be free and have the best kinds of fun, we are excited to invite them to Adventure Academy. Adventure Academy is a place for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade to explore, train, and practice the basics (and some advanced skills) needed to live as ambassadors for Jesus.

We'll exercise our bodies, our minds, and our hearts as we play fun games, make friends, and memorize Bible verses. We'll discover what it takes to follow Jesus behind enemy lines, bring light into darkness, and restore beauty and wholeness to what has been broken in the world.

A discipleship-focused program, Adventure Academy is free and will help your children discover the joy of following Jesus.

No registration needed, just show up on any of these nights:

January 12, 19 & 26

February 2, 9 & 16

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30



Scan QR code
for more info



When wonder is stirred up...

The questions kids ask lay the path for a lifelong adventure of pursuing Jesus

BY CHARLES MOLENKAMP, CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Each week at Adventure Academy we end the night by telling a story. It could be the story of someone in the Bible who lived out their faith, one of our leader's stories, or an account of someone in the past whose life modeled the adventure of following Jesus. One stormy Wednesday night, we watched a short video on Jim Elliot who was a pilot with Christian Aviation Fellowship and a missionary in Ecuador. He was killed by the tribe of people he was trying to share the good news of Jesus with. His wife Elizabeth, instead of giving up in bitterness, would eventually build a relationship with tribe and many of them, even some of those who were involved in Jim's death, decided to follow Jesus.

Our focus that night was that sometimes we walk through scary places as Christians. We had spent most of that evening memorizing Psalm 23 verse 4, which is a reminder that God is with us even in scary places. One of our fourth graders raised their hand and asked, "What is a Christian?"

In that moment, all the work it had

taken to create and staff and pull off Adventure Academy became worth it!

It's in those honest, open, and real questions that true knowledge is gained and long-term life change starts. There was the practical side of just not knowing what a Christian is, but then there were also some deeper questions... What would make someone risk their life? What's so important about being a "Christian"? There are people who live differently than my family and I do – who are they and what are they about? What does it really mean to be a Christian, and do I want to be one?

It's that sense of curiosity and discovery we are working so hard to instill at Adventure Academy. We could teach children all sorts of facts and "bribe" them with rewards to memorize verses. But when they develop their own questions, when wonder is stirred up in them and they have that internal thirst, it becomes a lifelong pursuit of Jesus. A pursuit that will lead them on an adventure with Jesus that will last into eternity.





Compass for Kids

For ages 6-12

8 Mondays starting February 7
6:15 PM -8:00 PM in Base Camp

Childhood isn't always easy. Whether it's because of divorce, loss of a loved one, bullying, or any number of difficult situations, it can be hard for kids to know how to process life's stressful seasons. Compass can help. Through fun activities, relevant teaching, and small-group interaction, kids learn foundational truths and valuable skills they need to navigate life's minefields. This winter, kids ages 6-12 are invited to come learn all about families. No family is perfect, every family is unique, and each member of a family has an important piece to contribute

Register at kids.ctk.church or contact Katrina (360-733-1337 x2221 or katrinaj@ctk.church)



Scan QR code
to sign up



PHOTO: SCOTT SAVERS



Kingdom Labs: Pathways

10 Thursdays starting January 28
7:00–8:30 PM at Norway Hall
1419 N. Forest Street • \$20

You were made intentionally, specifically, and uniquely. In our young adults course *Kingdom Labs: Pathways*, we use the Enneagram (a personality type model) as a tool to help you shape a spiritual pathway toward a deeper relationship with God and a greater understanding of how your unique design informs your spiritual life.

The Pathways course will dive deeper into the intricacies of the ancient Enneagram as a tool for cultivating a healthy life of discipleship.

Register at kingdomlab.org



Scan QR code
for more info

What do I want my life to be about?

Ekklesia helps 18-35 year-olds pursue their own answer

All of us ask this question, and on our best of days we may have a semi-clear glimpse of what that might entail. On most days, the moment we pick up our phone, open our computer, go to class, clock in for work, or turn on the TV, we're bombarded with visions for what our best life could look like. Most people have walked countless paths—including religious ones—following these visions, and found that they really don't satisfy.

Ekklesia is a community where you can discover the joy of following Jesus alongside others who are asking similar questions and experiencing similar tensions.

If you're in college, in your career, single, married, or anywhere in be-

tween, you're invited to be a part of the body of Christ at Ekklesia. We believe that there is a great desire for those in their 20s and 30s here in Whatcom County and beyond to follow Jesus, be a part of a church body, and experience authentic community.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here to ask questions, to have doubts, and ultimately experience the joyful life of following Jesus and being a part of his Kingdom coming in Bellingham as it is in heaven.

Join us Sunday Evenings
6:00–9:00 PM at Norway Hall
1419 N. Forest St

Follow us on Instagram @ekklesiabham
Visit www.ekklesiabellingham.com



PHOTO: MATT GARZA



Restless Hearts Podcast

A podcast about the questions that make you restless

Let's be honest: being a Christian comes with a lot of doubts, questions, and complexity—and it doesn't help that we live in a time and space that is hyper-polarized. It seems that every cultural and religious issue comes with vastly different viewpoints, making it difficult to navigate the world, and ultimately creating a nagging sense of restlessness within us.

That's where The Restless Hearts Podcast comes in. Pastor Garret Shelsta, Kenna Warren, Molly Martin and Josh Lease sort through all of this complexity through the lens of one idea... the way of Jesus is different. In this podcast, we unpack how his profoundly unique vision helps us to find rest, clarity, and hope in the complexity of a polarized world.

Subscribe to the podcast as we ponder a wide range of topics such as *Would a Loving God Send People to Hell?*, *How to Know God's Plan for Your Life*, and *Why Can I Trust the Bible?*

Subscribe at ourestlesshearts.com



Scan QR code
to subscribe

PHOTO: MATT GARZA



all adults

Baptism Classes

In Person

After any service on January 22 or 23 in Room 210 • 1 hour class

Online via Zoom

Tuesday, January 25 at 7:00 PM
Visit baptism.ctlk.church for link

If you've decided to follow Jesus and would like to be baptized in one of our services on January 29 or 30, be sure to come to one of our baptism classes after services either in person on January 22 or 23, or join us online Tuesday, January 25. We look forward to hearing your story and explaining what baptism is all about.

No need to register, just show up!

Parents of children who want to be baptized should sign up with Charles Molenkamp, Children's Pastor (360-733-1337 or charlesm@ctlk.church)



Baptism
web page



PHOTO: SCOTT SAYERS

Starting Your Journey With Prayer

3 Thursdays starting January 27
6:30–8:00 PM Online via Zoom • \$10

The spiritual practice of prayer is one way we can hear from God and he can hear from us. We have an open opportunity to talk with God at any time, but many of us wonder how to start that conversation. In this interactive 3-session online class, you'll learn about different types of prayer and have a chance to practice them real-time. Join us as we discover together new ways of communicating with God.

Register and find out more at ctlk.church/bellingham/adults or reach out to Julie (julieb@ctlk.church or 360-733-1337) with questions



Register

Starting Your Journey With the Bible

3 Tuesdays starting March 22
6:30–8:00 PM Online via Zoom • \$10

Has the Bible seemed like a closed book to you? Do you get lost easily or even have a tough time knowing where to begin with the spiritual practice of Bible reading? You're not alone! We all start there and we're so glad you are on the road of discovery with us. Join this interactive 3-session online "Bible Basics" class to begin understanding and applying the Bible like never before. You'll learn simple principles that will empower your journey with Jesus.

Register and find out more at ctlk.church/bellingham/adults or reach out to Brian (brians@ctlk.church or 360-733-1337) with questions



Register

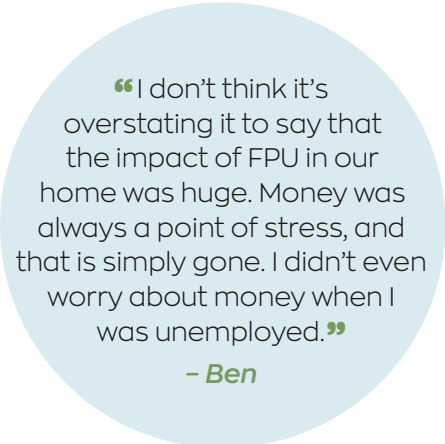
Financial Peace University

9 Sundays starting February 6
9:15–10:30 AM in Room 216



Over the last decade at CTK, Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) has been a remarkable resource for anyone wanting to be more intentional and win

with their finances. We've seen couples who are struggling in their marriage finish the class with a renewed sense of hope and togetherness. We've seen singles gain tools and insights in how to best manage their money. Within the first 90 days, the average household that participates in FPU adds \$2,300 to their savings and pays off \$5,700 of debt.



– Ben

In this 9-session class, you'll gain budgeting insights, build a step-by-step financial plan, and enjoy an atmosphere that helps and celebrates progress.

Register and pay through the FPU website AFTER January 2nd at: www.fpu.com/1143470 (must purchase a 3-month subscription to Ramsey+). Contact Ryan (ryane@ctlk.church or 360-733-1337) for more information.



Register any time after January 2

Beauty for Ashes

Resilience in Trauma and Grief

4 Tuesday nights starting February 15
7:00 – 8:30 PM in Room 215 • Free

Is it possible to “bounce back” from life’s deep hurts and losses? This 4-session class for men and women explores the impact of grief and trauma and offers Bible-based tools to develop a mindset of resiliency.

Local Christian counselor Mike Black defines resiliency as being empowered by God and others to “bounce back” from adversity through renewal of your mind and a restored identity in Christ. Through Mike’s teaching and group time, you’ll learn and process:

- How trauma and grief can hinder our spiritual and emotional growth
- Fixed mindset vs. growth mindset from a biblical perspective
- How trauma generates anxiety — and tools to manage it
- Practical tools that empower you to “bounce back” from adversity or trauma, increasing your ability to be an ambassador for Christ

Register at ctk.church or contact Kevin (kevinb@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)



Register

Senior’s Lunch

2nd Thursday of Every Month
10:30 AM – Noon in the Meeting Place

Seniors meet monthly for fun, fellowship, and to enjoy lunch together. Invite a friend (50+) and join us. We will be meeting on January 13, February 10 and March 10. \$2 donation for lunch is appreciated.

To find out more, contact Ron Walton (ronw@ctk.church or 360-733-1337).

Marriage Mentoring Experience

Starts Thursday, February 24
6:00–8:00 PM in the Meeting Place • \$20

Have you ever wondered what it takes to thrive in all of your relationships? Your relationship with God, with yourself, and with your partner? In this 9-session experience, married or engaged couples will be paired with a mentor couple. Together, you’ll walk through a biblical framework and research-based practices that foster healthy boundaries and loving relationships in every facet of life.



Along with off-site mentor/couple get-togethers, there will be three all-participant gatherings held in-person on February 24, March 17, and April 7. The entire experience runs 9 weeks.

Watch for registration information coming in early February. Contact Ryan (ryane@ctk.church or 360-733-1337) for more information.

Lamentation

6 Thursday Nights starting March 3
7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Meeting Place



Lamentation is a 6-session class that addresses loss due to the death of a loved one. Grief from loss is significant and can change individuals and families in their search

for relief and healing. This class provides a safe and supportive environment where you can grieve in community and experience hope and healing together.

Dr. Dale Pollard is the author of the book *Lamentation* and has extensive experience coming alongside people on the journey of grief, both as a pastor and as a funeral director.

Register at ctk.church or contact Kevin (kevinb@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)



Register

Note: If you’re looking for online grief resources, we recommend:

- **Whatcom Hospice** offers 6 week online support groups that start regularly on Tuesday evenings. Find more information at whatcomhospice.org/grief-support-groups.
- **Dr. Henry Cloud** has some short teachings on grief that are a good place to start. You can find those videos as well as many others on RightNow Media (see page 19 for sign-up details.)

Childcare During Selected Adult Classes

Free childcare is available for ages 5 and younger during adult classes on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Pre-registration is required by January 24 for Monday classes and by January 26 for Wednesday classes. Registration may close prior to these RSVP deadlines if childcare classes fill up.

Register at ctk.church, at reception, or contact Katrina (katrinaj@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)

women



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLIDE

WOMEN'S 1-DAY CONFERENCE

Collide: Mended & Restored

Friday, February 11
6:00–9:00 PM at CTK Bellingham

Admission: \$25-50 depending on student status and early bird pricing

Collide is a community of women from many local churches and every background imaginable. They're excited to welcome Lisa Harper and Emily Jamieson for their winter conference, Mended & Restored, hosted here at CTK.

Collide conferences draw women from all generations, faith backgrounds and experiences. Grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and coworkers come from all around to experience these life changing events. Join us this February for an encouraging night of stories, speakers, worship, dessert and more! We can't wait to see you there.

Purchase tickets and find out more at www.wecollide.net.



Register

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

He's Where the Joy Is

7 Monday Nights starting February 7
6:15–8:00 PM in Room 216

or

7 Wednesday Mornings starting Feb. 9
10:00 AM–Noon in the Meeting Place or
Online via Zoom, 10:30 AM–Noon

\$20 for materials



It's hard to know a God we don't understand, and it's hard to love a God we don't know. But our God wants to be known and loved, and he's told us a lot about himself in the pages of

his Word. Join us for this 7-session women's study as we break down the intimidating doctrine of the Trinity. You'll discover a beautiful, foundational view of our Triune God that will lead you to deeper intimacy with God and greater joy in knowing him!

Register and find out more at ctk.church/bellingham/adults or reach out to Missy (missym@ctk.church).

For in-person sessions, free childcare is available for ages 5 and younger with RSVP by January 24. See details on page 11.



Register

men

Stand Firm

13 Tuesdays starting January 18
6:30–8:30 PM Room 211 • \$25

Men, are you struggling with poor personal choices that are damaging your relationships and your life? If you're stuck in a self-destructive sexual addiction or battling any addictive behavior that is controlling you, please come join this class to gain understanding, skills, and support you need to find freedom from it. Stand Firm provides a safe, confidential experience that will help you understand the root causes of destructive behaviors, then help you find God's grace and strength to change and grow and become the man God wants you to be.

Register at ctk.church/bellingham/men or contact Ron Walton for details (ronw@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)



Register for
Stand Firm

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 19
8:30–10:15 AM in the Meeting Place

Drum roll, please... our men's breakfast is back! It's a fun and meaningful launch point for a deeper relationship with God and other men. Come enjoy a delicious free breakfast and hear about upcoming events, classes, and groups for men at CTK.

RSVP to Ron Walton
(ronw@ctk.church or 360-733-1337)



small groups

Small Group Experience

ONLINE

3 Sundays, January 9, 16 & 23
12:30–1:30 PM Online via Zoom

or

IN PERSON

3 Wednesdays, January 12, 19 & 26
6:15 to 7:45 PM in Room 216

Childcare available (see below)

Are you looking for a way to grow closer to God and to connect with other people who want to grow closer to him as well? Join our Small Group Experience to find a small group and start meeting in the new year. Over 3 Wednesday evenings in January you'll get to know other people and see what being in authentic Christian community is all about. At the end of the three weeks you'll have opportunity to start with a new small group that works for your schedule.

REGISTER at groups.ctk.church or contact Jayne (jayned@ctk.church or x2272).



Scan QR code
for more info

Childcare for the in-person Session

If you'd like to be part of the in-person Small Group Experience in January, limited free childcare is available for Pre-K and younger with RSVP by January 5th. As well, Adventure Academy can make a place for kids age K-5th grade on these three evenings.

REGISTER via the QR code below email Katrina (katrinaj@ctk.church).



Scan QR code
to register for child care

Together apart, together still

A long-distance small group unites four strangers through the pandemic

BY "ALABAMA DONNA" PAYNE PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA PAYNE

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **HEBREWS 10:24-25**

It was the spring of 2019 and I was so deflated. Due to the pandemic, I would not be able to make my summer spiritual pilgrimage to Bellingham, Washington. I had been coming since 2015 to spend time in personal sanctuary to grow spiritually, to be available to share God's love with everyday people I met, and to be refreshed in the beauty and coolness of the Pacific Northwest!

The journey was always a great shot of health and personal wellness.

On pilgrimage in 2016, I discovered CTK and loved the Christian fellowship, worship, and friends I made there. Blessed with the online sermons that were posted every week, I could stay in touch all year as I worshiped with my home church in Huntsville, Alabama. A great double dose of Jesus!



The summer of 2019 I would not be able to come so I canceled all my reservations. Bummer! Then, I saw the CTK notice that something new was coming to help those of us isolated in this hard time to stay connected.

Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the end of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

ISAIAH 42:9-10

CTK was going to launch new small groups and offer an online Zoom platform for gathering. Wow! Here was a new way that I could stay connected



in fellowship from the isolation of my home. I confess that I thrive on fellowship and being engaged with people—anyone, anywhere. The time of isolation from everyone was such a burden on my soul and countenance.

CTK's offer was a lifeline along with many other online groups that developed in the next months across our country. Churches, including my home church, had to step into technology to keep our church families alive and growing. I was delighted to sign up to be part of a group and was surprised when my friend Pastor Brian Steele called me.

"Hey Donna, I see you signed up for the Zoom small groups. Would you be interested in being a small group leader?" he asked.

"Well, why not? From over 2000 miles away! I'm in!"

What a blessing that step has been for me! I was linked to four others, complete strangers, to form a group. Kris, Larry, Ami, Robert and I began a wonderful friendship and fellowship that has been faithful all this time. Over Zoom we got to know one another, dig deep into Bible study, and most importantly pray for one another.

We have been there to pray for each other's friends, families, and ourselves in crisis circumstances. We've been able to celebrate the positive circumstances as well. Sharing our week and laughing together has been a highlight in our get-togethers. Laughter can be medicine for the soul! In a depressing time, this weekly meeting was monumental to us all.

With the blessing of vaccines and our world coming back into some



normalcy, I was able to come back to Bellingham this summer of 2021 and finally meet my best friends in person! We were able to enjoy fellowship of some weekly group meetings, outings, and church in-person. One highlight was a San Juan Cracked Crab dinner cruise and our treat of seeing orcas show up to help us celebrate the completion of our Rooted group.

We have continued to meet weekly with few exceptions since that spring of 2019 and we're looking to add a few more to our group.

On behalf of our group, I encourage you to try out a small group whether it's online or in-person. Small groups can make such a difference — in your spiritual growth, as you serve together, in your worship experience, and as a very needed support in your life and circumstances.

God bless and protect you!

Alabama Donna

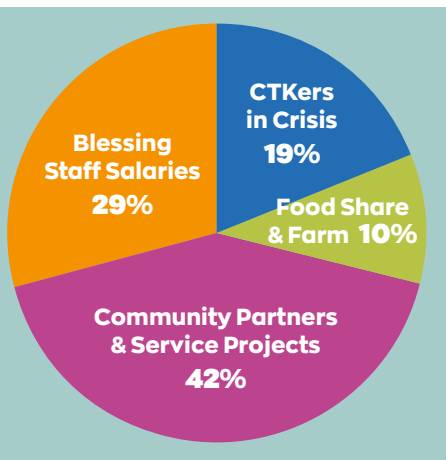
Caring well means caring together

Collaboration extends the CTK Blessing's reach

BY WENDY POWELL, COMMUNITY OUTREACH PASTOR

The CTK Blessing is our way of caring for our church family and the community we live in. In each of its three areas of ministry, the CTK Blessing team seeks out partners to help our church find and meet needs through relationship. Collaborating with others is a core value of our Blessing ministry. So here are some things you might not know.

The CTK Blessing is funded completely by our congregation's generosity. Here's how Blessing funds are used:



Our Blessing Coordinator connects individuals or families with the resources your generosity provides. One way she becomes aware of needs we can meet directly is through our partnerships with two local nonprofits, the Whatcom Dream and Support Officers Community Care.

The Whatcom Dream offers financial literacy group classes and programs that give participants a “hand up” along the way.

Support Officers Community Care sends specially trained civilian volunteers who respond to 911 calls including a fatality to support the family and the first responders who serve them

Our **Food Share & Farm** ministry doesn't give food directly to those who are hungry. Instead, we supply our 26 incredible hunger safety net partners below with fresh produce and grocery goods to add to their food distribution or meal program.

- Blue Skies for Children
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Teach One to Lead One
- Lighthouse Mission
- Lydia Place
- Engedi Refuge Ministries
- Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic
- Kids in Motion
- Cascade Connections
- Bellingham Food Bank

Where does all the CTK Farm's produce go?

Since moving from a single CTK food bank to our current food share model in 2015, we've partnered with the following 24 local organizations to ensure our fresh produce gets into the hands of those who need it most.

Food Banks	Community Programs	Kids Programs

Community Partners

While we help directly with financial needs inside our church family, we have chosen to meet the needs of others in our community through community partners. Because these trusted organizations are “serving specialists” in our community, they are best positioned to identify who to help – and how. Currently, we partner with the following organizations:

Here's what our community partners are saying...

“**Blue Skies for Children** is blessed to have CTK sharing our mission with the community through love, prayer, conversation and hope. We truly appreciate the direct support to our programs through financial contributions, coat and backpack drives, your knitters group, youth group projects and fundraisers, and blanket donations. All of

your support is greatly needed for our local homeless, low-income and foster youth.” – **JULIE GUAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

“Working in partnership with CTK has meant positive development for the **Bellingham Food Bank** in so many ways. Comfortable space to distribute food on the north side of town, accommodating staff who meet new ideas with energy, and nutritious fresh-grown produce to share with folks all over Whatcom County are the highlights of our collaboration. Thanks, CTK!”

– **MIKE COHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

“**The Whatcom Dream** has an ongoing strategic partnership with CTK. We receive CTK Blessing funds for key projects. In turn, the CTK Blessing coordinator connects CTK members experiencing financial difficulties the Whatcom Dream where they can benefit from support, community resource knowledge, and financial coaching .

– **TRUDY SHURAVLOFF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

“CTK has been an integral partner for **Lydia Place’s Campus Housing Program**, which includes six housing campuses totaling 29 units, all owned and operated by Lydia Place. CTK volunteers have helped us create safe and beautiful environments for our families through ongoing maintenance and landscaping projects. Having CTK members on our property is one way we can show our neighbors in need that they are welcomed and loved. We are eternally grateful for all the love, support, and service CTK provides to Lydia Place programs and the people they serve.” – **LYDIA PLACE STAFF**

Two opportunities to partner in caring

Disaster Relief Interest Meeting

Saturday, February 5
7:30–8:30 PM via Zoom
or

Sunday, February 6
12:30–1:30 PM in Room 215

As we’ve done in the past, CTK is interested in sending volunteer teams to disaster sites around the country to work with Samaritan’s Purse. These teams assist in relief and rebuilding efforts where peoples’ homes and livelihoods have been devastated by natural disasters.

In our services on January 14 & 15, we’re commissioning a team of 6 leaders to serve in Lake Charles, Louisiana which was hit by both Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020. After they return, you’re invited to come hear about their experience and learn about the 3 trips they’ll be leading in 2022.

If you’ve ever served with Samaritan’s Purse or a similar ministry, we encourage you to re-engage and lend your



experience to these newly forming teams. If you’ve always been interested in something like this, come learn more about how these trips work, what they cost, and how serving is a key component of your spiritual growth.

Choose from two identical interest meetings, one via Zoom after the Saturday service on February 5th one in-person after the last service on Sunday, February 6.

No need to sign up; just show up (online on Saturday or in-person on Sunday).

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays
10:00 AM–Noon in Base Camp

Join with others who knit or crochet to create shawls, blankets, hats, and scarves to give away to people dealing with a health crisis or difficult time in life. These items offer comfort and a reminder that the CTK family cares. The group meets to knit and pray on the 1st and 3rd Thursday mornings of each month. Donations of yarn are always welcome and can be dropped off at the front desk.

If you would like to participate, donate yarn, or know someone who would appreciate a shawl, contact Judy (dfjpl@gmail.com).



hospitality



Join a Hospitality Team

We want CTK to be a place where people don't just find a seat, they find a place to be seen, to be welcomed, to belong. Unfortunately, we don't always have the volunteers to make that happen, and people fall through the cracks.

If you call CTK your church home, getting connected to a volunteer team is a great way to take your next steps toward community while helping others do the same. We'd love to tell you more about our greeter, connector, or section host teams. For more information, please fill out our Hospitality Interest Form or email Angel at angelf@ctk.church.

To learn more, fill out a Hospitality Interest Form at serve.ctk.church or email Angel at angelf@ctk.church.



Scan QR code to fill out the interest form

Always a place for you

Hospitality teams members take the first step in helping people connect

BY CRAIG SARGENT, SECTION HOST VOLUNTEER

Like a lot of other people, when I first started attending CTK I sat in the back and soaked up great music and great preaching but left pretty quickly after the service ended.

One weekend, I met someone and we started talking almost every Sunday. But then several weeks went by where I didn't see him. I figured that maybe he wasn't able to make it, or for one reason or another we were just not running into each other.

When I finally saw him again, he commented that he had been gone from the church for almost 3 months and nobody had reached out to contact him. I could tell he was very disappointed that nobody had connected to him. How disappointing! He came to church to connect to people, but no one connected to him.

The exchange got me thinking

about the many people that come to church but never get connected to the church, never feel like they belong to the body of believers. We say "there's always a place for you" here at CTK, but sometimes people don't reach out and find it. Sometimes they need someone who's already here to make the first step of reaching out to them and inviting them to participate.

I got involved in the section host ministry because I had the personal experience of meeting someone who didn't feel connected. I see the section host ministry as being a first step to connect with others who have come looking for Jesus, and looking to connect with others who follow after him. It's a great way to show that people matter at CTK, and more importantly, it's a great way to show that they matter to God.



rightnow media

rightnow MEDIA

CTK's Bible study library is now digital...

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for kids, youth, and adults.

android chromecast  iPhone & iPad **Roku**  tv fireTV

www.rightnowmedia.org



RightNow Media is a great tool for taking the next small step in your spiritual growth. Like a Netflix of Christian Bible study, RightNow has more than 10,000 Bible study videos, sermons, and kid's videos online.

As a CTK attendee, you have unlimited access from your computer, mobile device, and even newer Apple TVs. Take advantage of RightNow Media for your personal study and growth or share with friends and family in small groups or one-on-one Bible study.

To get started with RightNow Media go to **ctk.church/rightnowmedia** or ask at Reception for assistance.



service times

Saturdays at 6:00 PM

Sundays at 9:30 & 11:15 AM

All services are offered in-person and online

Children's program for 5th grade and younger
at all in-person services



CHRIST THE KING COMMUNITY CHURCH

BELLINGHAM CAMPUS

4173 Meridian St • Bellingham, WA 98226

360-733-1337 www.ctlk.church

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

@ctkbellingham