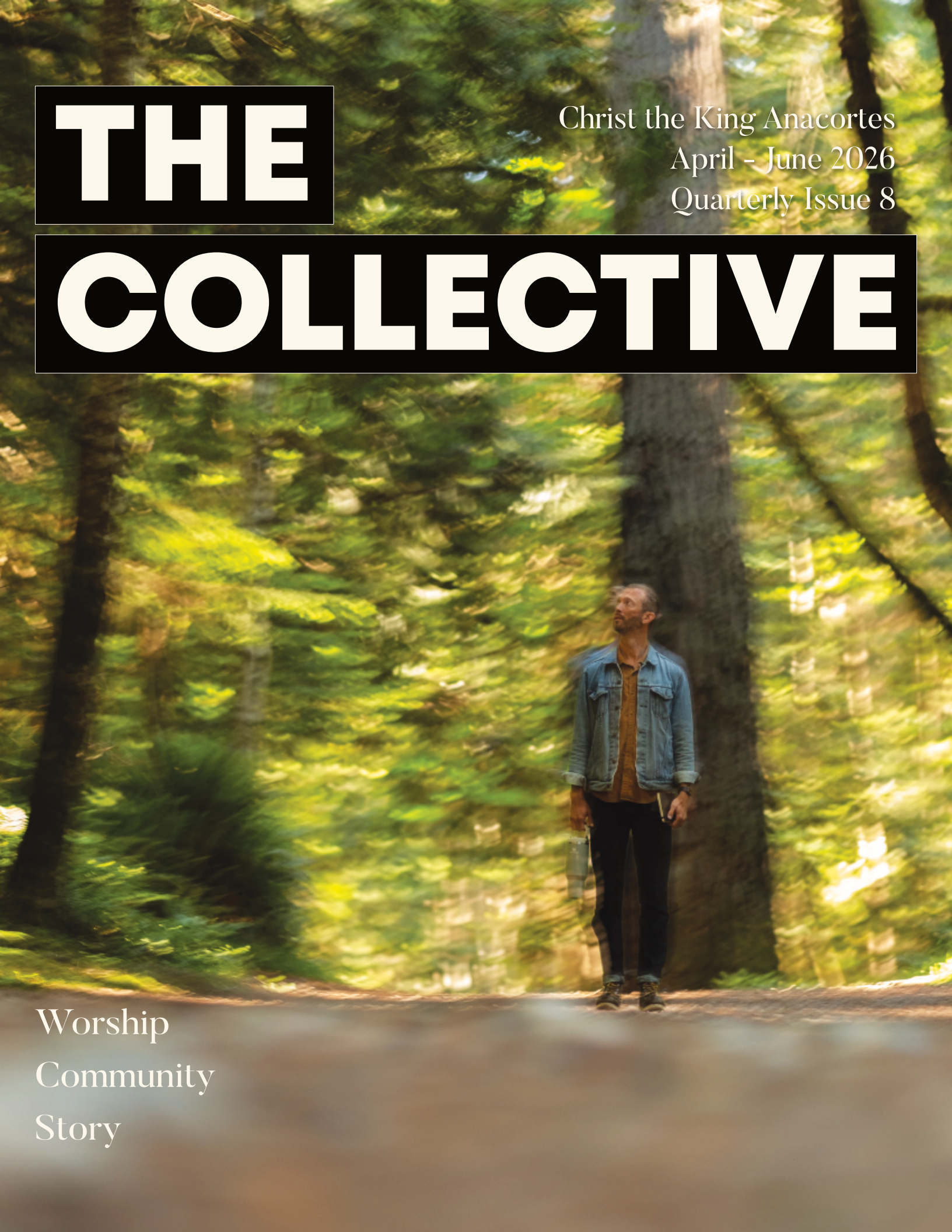


A man with a beard, wearing a blue denim jacket over a brown shirt and dark pants, stands on a dirt path in a lush green forest. He is looking upwards and to the left. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, dappled light effect. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and small plants.

THE

Christ the King Anacortes
April - June 2026
Quarterly Issue 8

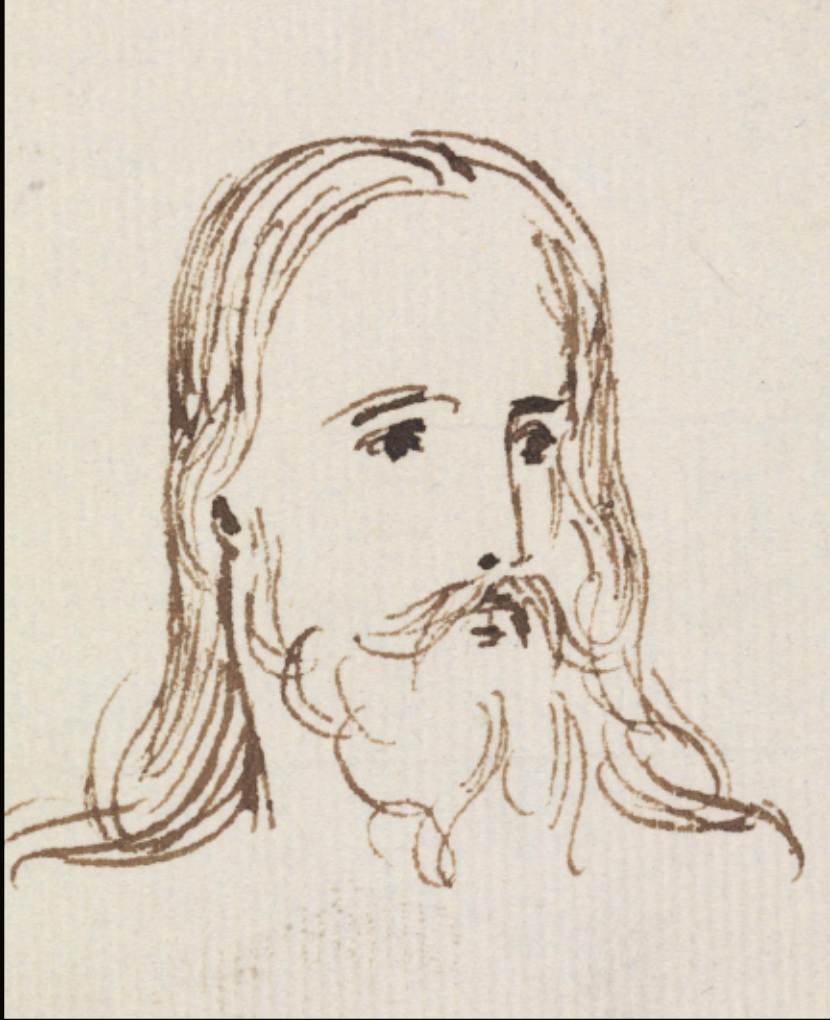
COLLECTIVE

Worship
Community
Story

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Information about upcoming events can be found on the back cover!



Editor's Commentary

So it's officially summer: the temperature's up, the BBQs and lawnmowers are out, and the sun is breaking through the ever-present Northwest gray skies. Or at least, that's what summer should look like. But every so often, the summer clouds sneaks up on us. Even as I'm writing this in the middle of June, glancing out my window, I can't see a lick of sun. So, what do we do when our summer plans get trampled on by showers and cloudy skies?

In all honesty, one of my favorite pastimes is sitting in my car by the waterfront or in a corner of my home on an overcast, rainy day (not a heavy storm, just a light drizzle) and watching the rain fall. There's a rejuvenating feeling to it that I can't necessarily explain. Slowly, as I stare out my window, my senses become heightened. I begin to focus on things I hadn't noticed before: the way the raindrops hit the ocean's surface, the different colors of people's raincoats, or the inconsistent sounds of the pitter-patter on my window. Sometimes I put on some instrumental music; other times I just sit in silence. I might bring a devotional or a journal for my thoughts, or I might not. This isn't a regimented routine; rather, it's simply a way to relax, unwind, and decompress amidst the beauty around us.

I can hear some of you asking, "Beauty? What beauty?" Granted, as someone who was born and raised in the PNW, an overcast sky is much easier to stomach. (I feel sorry for all the Californians reading this.) However, when you begin to appreciate silence and solitude, all of God's creation becomes beautiful, no matter the weather. Additionally, although it's a bit of a trite analogy, without the rain there would be no green. Thus, the grey makes you appreciate the sun more.

Here at CTK, silence and solitude are among the nine core practices of Christ that we attempt to embody in our daily lives. However challenging it may be, I'd invite you to participate in this rhythm. Now, it doesn't have to be a grandiose venture; you don't need to spend a month away on a silent retreat, although that may be appealing to some. Rather, anyone can find silent moments in their everyday routine. To share some more trite sentiment, silence is also the enemy of the modern age, but if we can break away from the monotony of screens and scrolling, we can find beauty in the same meditative actions that Jesus incorporated into his way of life.

This Collective edition focuses on stories of individuals experiencing God's beauty through contemplative action, whether it be in the midst of parenthood, through the lens of a camera, or on a walk through the ACFL. As you read through these pages, we invite you to incorporate your own contemplative practices into your routine.

- Jacob Hoxie

Welcome!

Whether this is your first time reading our publication or you've been attending CTK for years, there's something for everyone within these pages.

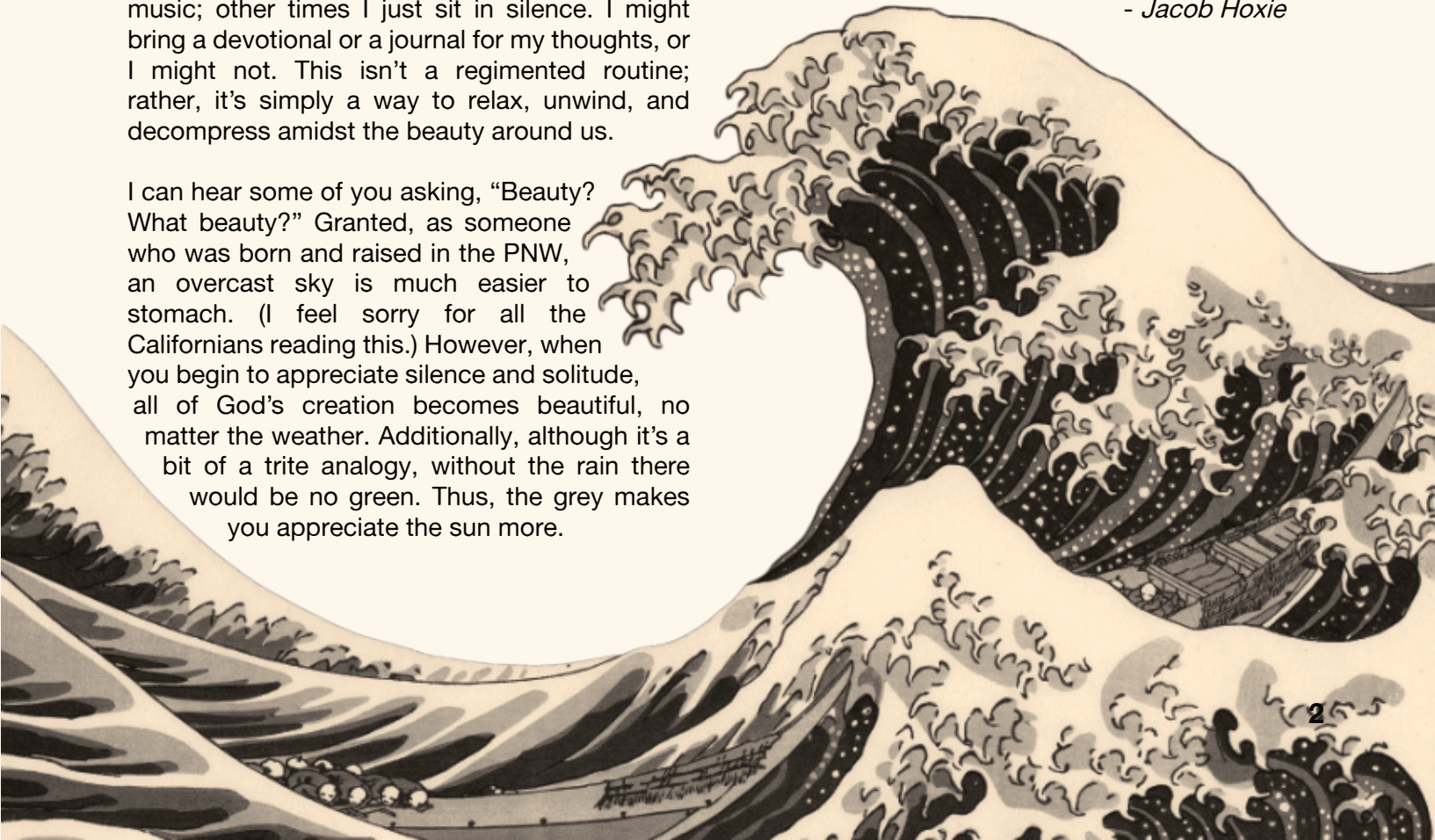
But if you are new, here's a little bit of context to our church:

Christ The King is a community of disciples seeking to love Jesus, become like Him, and do what He did. Together on Sunday mornings and in small community groups throughout the week, we set the table where individuals can encounter Jesus. In everything, we desire to glorify God as we seek to be Entirely His, being formed by His Spirit into people of love for the sake of others. Everyone is welcome to the table.

If this sounds interesting to you, we encourage you to keep reading! The stories, thoughts, and information within these pages will give you greater context to our community and our beliefs.

If you'd like to learn more about our church, we encourage you to visit us online at ctkanacortes.com or visit us in person on Sunday morning.

Where: 916 8th St
Anacortes, WA
When: Sundays
9 & 10:45 AM



Contemplative Walking

“Outdoors we are confronted everywhere with wonders; we see that the miraculous is not extraordinary, but the common mode of existence.”

— Wendell Berry



I wrote this piece while walking. It would not come to me while sitting still. Desk-bound, the doorway to inspiration remained locked and shuttered. Memory, anecdote, and insight danced just out of reach, glibly resisting my every effort to shape them into some meaningful whole.

Then, a simple, stupefyingly obvious thought gently drifted into my consciousness, “Maybe try a walk? See if that helps. That is, after all the whole point you poetically want to convey: when the words on the pages of Scripture seem lifeless, and there is no solace within stillness, or when your prayer-room holds not even a whisper of the Holy Ghost, simply go outside armed only with your naked, yearning awareness, and you might discover that Jesus has been patiently waiting there to join you on a walk.”

Beautiful things happen while we walk.

When you’re walking—especially without distractions—the brain often alternates between the default mode network—associated with self-reflection and autobiographical thinking—and networks involved in attention to the environment. This oscillation often brings fresh perspectives or creative insights; it lowers our stress hormones, inviting us into the present moment, setting the stage for experiences of ordinary awe and wonder that open us up to connecting with the God who walks beside us.

All of this makes good sense when we consider that God has been in the holy habit of walking with his kids from the very beginning. Genesis 3 describes how, after having tasted the forbidden fruit, shivering with shame, Adam and Eve heard “the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day,” compassionately calling to them with a question:

Where are you?

“Where are you?” Is quite often the very same question I have carried with me out the door in many different seasons of life and faith, on many a walk.

Where are you in this heartbreak, fear, doubt, addiction, doldrums, depression, or anxiety? Where are you within all this noise, and violence, and distraction? Where are you? If only I could find you, I know you have what I need, whatever that might be.



Time and time again, I have discovered the comfort, courage, or clarity I seek at some unexpected point on even the most familiar walk. Yet, not all walks are created equal. I’ve walked hundreds of miles with my earbuds in, listening to music, books, or podcasts. There was nothing wrong with those walks. I learned quite a lot about a great variety of things that way. I found that giving my feet something to do freed my mind to focus more deeply on whatever it was I was listening to. However, one Lent,

years ago, I felt God inviting me to put away the headphones and the voices of others, and learn to walk in silence, listening for his voice alone. It was then that I discovered how powerful contemplative walking can be in our journey of formation.

By contemplative walking, I simply mean prayerfully setting an intention as I walk outside to encounter something of God’s beauty, goodness, or truth in the world. To pay keen attention to whatever the world has to offer that day.

When I discover that my mind has wandered to worry or distraction to simply take a deep breathe and refocus my attention on the world around me. This practice helps me consciously receive this created world as the gift of God it is and allow it to nourish my mind, heart, and soul, awakening me to the reality that “Christ plays in ten thousand places”, as the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins says.

Another poet, Mary Oliver, produced a glittering body of Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry through a daily practice of walking with a notebook. Walking and paying attention. She said, “Attention is the beginning of devotion,” and I have found that to be true.



My favorite walks are the ones where I come home delighted, having discovered a poem out there that was waiting for me to write. I feel God’s pleasure and the Spirit’s presence powerfully whenever I pay attention enough to write a poem. Attention breeds devotion, which gives birth to creative acts of worship. The opening two chapters of Genesis themselves use powerful poetic language when describing God’s loving creation of the cosmos, so it makes sense to me that when I gaze at the world with holy eyes and write a poem myself, I am simply echoing back the “good, good, good” that God sang out as the world took shape. I return home grounded and grateful, better able to receive and live from that wonder-working love of Christ that delights to do a new thing in you and me.

- Joseph Carlson



Deliverance

The electric skitter of a lizard
Feet a-blur beneath him, or her.
The delicate scent-cloud of
A hillside of nasturtium in bloom.
The shimmering black-blue back
Of a split-tailed swallow.
How the estuary has filled with sand
And changed the rivers final flow.
The bright shower of sparks
Cascading between the metal workers knees.
The acrid smell of scorched iron,
burnished to an incandescent sheen.
Where did all my worry go, just now?
What dream did I awake into?
Where have all your accusers gone?
Go now, and sin no more.

Can You Find Joseph?

If you've read our last few Collective issues, you may remember our "Find John" pages in which our Worship Director, John, can be found hiding somewhere in a biblical painting. This was our creative take on John's recent absence, as he continued to promote his new album. However, John is now back on our team full-time as our Worship and Arts Pastor! Despite this, we have a new staff member currently absent from our team, as Jospeh, our Associate Pastor, and his wife Kelley recently welcomed a new child into the world. As he takes his paternity leave, we decided to flip the script. Can you find Joseph hiding in John's new album cover? If you don't know what Joseph looks like, you can read his article on the previous page.



Photos from our Called to Make Women's Tea Luncheon

All of Life Is Christ

A conversation with musicians John Van Deusen & Tenielle Neda

Tenielle Neda is a Christian recording artist from Western Australia. She and I have been friends for nearly a decade, maintaining our friendship over thousands of miles. She is incredibly kind and very talented; her music is peaceful and rooted in strong theology. Last year, my wife Annababe and I went to Australia to spend time with her family and play some shows together. This interview gives our congregation a chance to hear her speak about her life as a mother, artist, and follower of Jesus.

- John Van Deusen

Let's start light: How did you and I become friends?

Well, a friend of mine sent me your music. And that friend was sent your music by another friend, who heard your song "Every Power Wide Awake" on a student radio channel in Western Australia, which doesn't normally (if ever) play any sort of Christian music... so that's funny. Then I went and listened to your whole album and loved it. I had had a similar journey with secular music and coming to faith. At that time, I was starting to write "devotional" Christian music. So I reached out and said how much I loved your record... and then we sort of became penpals! I am so grateful for your friendship: that we can create music together, and have a creative community even across continents.

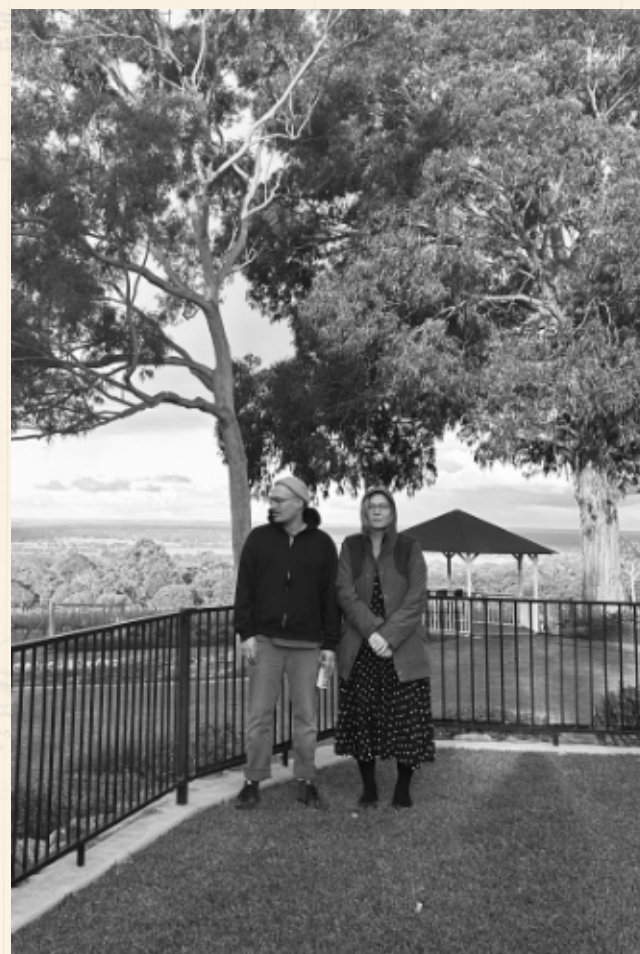
You drove trains in the outback for many years (I myself have received some awesome videos from your train window). What was the most rewarding part of that career and what was the most difficult? Do you miss it?

I do miss it. I miss the solitude sometimes of just being alone on a train in the wilderness, and it's pretty fun to drive some of the longest trains in the world. The scenery can be amazing. It was a

12-hour work shift, and I don't miss the 12-hour night shifts. Sometimes there were dingos or wild dogs that would approach the trains. Thankfully, I never got approached.

How nervous were you when you auditioned for Australian Idol?

SO nervous. I was extremely shy as a kid, even as a young adult, and never sang in front of anyone. Idol was petrifying for me. But I am grateful because it was a catalyst for me to move to Sydney, which then opened up a lot of doors musically for me (Although, I wish I could delete my auditions forever from Youtube).



How did Jesus win your heart? Did anything in your life have to die before you understood your need for Christ?

If I had to boil it down, I think I was acutely aware of my sin/guilt, and I felt so unworthy. I remember my pastor sitting with me one day, reading with me all the Bible passages that speak of God's love and sacrifice for us in Christ (Romans 5, etc). The Holy Spirit opened my heart to accept that truth, and I just cried and cried. Isn't it so beautiful? It doesn't matter how people have loved or failed to love me in the past. I am loved by the Lord of all creation: My saviour and my God. It's an objective, unchanging truth, not someone's opinion or subjective view. That has anchored me and brought peace and joy in such a way I can't describe.

Yes, many things had to die in my life. I was pursuing a career in secular music, which was like a roller coaster ride, and I was in an unhealthy relationship. I had misplaced my worth and my identity in music and relationships. I had to do some serious "pruning," which was painful at the time, but necessary for dying to self-sufficiency & pride.

As somebody who achieved success as a young person and then became a believer in Christ, what advice would you give to the young people in our church about priorities and finding healthy ways to pursue your goals?

I don't think it's bad or sinful to have goals. In fact, it's good and healthy to be motivated, but they need to be in surrender and submission to Christ: to his plans and his will for our lives. I think of Proverbs 3:5-6. I also think of his greatest commands: love God and love my neighbour. How am I using my time, gifts, talents, resources to that end? Am I treading on people or neglecting my responsibilities to achieve these goals? Is it ambition for the sake of ambition? Is it for human praise? I think it's important to always be assessing our motives. When I was making secular music, it was all about me - my album, my tour, my songs, etc. It always made me feel a bit icky even before I was a Christian. Now, I feel a peace about making music because I feel a purpose and calling to it, and I sincerely want to honour God & point to him and his words, his works, and his love, and to serve his people



through the music he gives me. Of course it's natural that I would want people to hear it. And sometimes I still get caught up in Spotify stats and followers, but I come back to the prayer: "Lord, do with it what you will, and help me to be content with that." So I think we should create art, or do whatever we do with our best efforts, to the glory of God.

As a mother of three who is also a creative, how do you keep the creative spark alive when there are so many demands of your time and energy?

This is hard. I have seasons where I don't write a lot, and then I will write ten songs in a month. But I try to write honestly for the season I am in. For example, if I am exhausted and overwhelmed, I take that to God in prayer and in song. I try to channel what I am feeling and experiencing into poetry, writing, and song. My songs nearly always come as a result of time in God's Word or time in prayer. For example, a song I wrote called "Call to Perseverance" is really me praying to God, asking him to help me persevere in loving and serving my family faithfully as a mother. I have written about death, marriage, parenting - all through the lens of the gospel, because there is no sacred/secular divide.



All of life is Christ. “The Lord is My Shepherd” is a rendition of Psalm 23 that I wrote in a season of extreme sleep deprivation when my 3rd child - my daughter - was really young. When I can, I try to get quiet moments. I do wish for more if I am honest. I am learning that I need space to think and write, and finding that time in motherhood and homeschooling can be extremely challenging. I ask my husband, my family, or my friends to help me carve out time because it helps my sanity. I believe music/art can be used powerfully by God to share the gospel with the world. Thus, it’s not superfluous or unimportant. I think sometimes when we are limited in our capacity, we treasure those little moments of inspiration all the more, and look for them eagerly. And maybe the songs that manage to come through are the ones that really needed to be written.

Where do you find inspiration within the repetitive simplicity of everyday parenthood?

To be honest, I have to look for it, and fight for it. I have to remind myself to be thankful and intentionally look for beauty in moments of the mundane. I think some people find this easier than others. Maybe creatives can find this harder than some because we feel close to God in those quieter moments that are far and few between. I wrote a song on my 2nd album, which comes out later this year, called “Ordinary Things,” and it’s about just seeing and treasuring the simple things we take for granted, and how actually being consistent and faithful as a mother is what my kids need; how being “ordinary” in many ways is actually what can change the world and shape people, rather than the spectacular things. I don’t think our characters are necessarily formed or defined by huge one-off events, but all the little cumulative moments and experiences of our lives. I pray to God to help me love and value things like order, consistency, faithfulness, and selflessness so that I can be a more content, present and loving mother, wife, and friend. Noticing things like birdsongs, my child’s joy when they see me returning home, watching the sun set over the ocean, going for a walk on the beach, looking at beautiful art, laughing with a close friend, listening to music...Those things help (As does chocolate, coffee, and wine in moderation). And as I said before, writing about hard things, as well as the joyful things; writing honestly, earnestly, sincerely - with reverence and awe toward God and gratefulness for his saving gospel of grace, even when I am struggling to feel it.

Our church family has a handful of children with special needs. As a mother of a child with special needs, do you have any resources you’d recommend? Anything you’d say to offer hope and encouragement when things get difficult?

Nothing has humbled me like becoming a parent of a child with special needs. Sometimes I feel as though I am being poured out like an offering. Sometimes it feels like I have absolutely nothing else left to give, and I am at the end of myself and all my strength, effort, and wisdom...which just continually brings me back to the feet of Jesus, asking, begging, relying on him for his wisdom and grace, and continually reminding myself to rest in his grace and love for me.

Becoming a parent has made me appreciate God as a parent to me all the more - as a loving, heavenly Father who meets us in our pain and inadequacies. I think all parents experience a “dying to self” when they sacrifice for their kids. The daily dying to self when parenting a kid with extra challenges would lead me to despair if I didn’t know and feel that this love had eternal significance; that Jesus gives me and my children eternal hope, that He sees me in my need, frailty, and weakness and has mercy and compassion on me. I try to allow my heart, in a sense, to be “parented by God” as the gracious and good Father He is, and to be shepherded by Jesus. I also, in difficult times, remind myself to see my child as a precious child of God, made in his image with inherent value and worth - a gift from God, and that God made him a part of our family intentionally and for a purpose. Every morning I wake up and ask God for help, wisdom, patience, and strength, and when I fail (which is usually moment to moment), I ask him for his forgiveness. He is hope and life. Where else do we have to go? A book I have appreciated is called “Take Heart,” which is simply other Christian parents’ testimonies and stories of raising kids with special needs. Hearing their journeys made me feel like I wasn’t alone, because it can feel at times very lonely and isolating. There are books on practical strategies, but I think abiding in Jesus and finding people who love you and love Jesus to walk the journey with is so imperative.

What would you say to young Tenielle about her identity?

Your identity is not in a successful career, or a boyfriend, or in material possessions, but in Christ. Jesus defines your worth. The Son of God came down, lived the perfect life you could never live, died a death he didn’t deserve, and rose from the dead, conquering death and sin, so that you might have life forever. And he did this for you, because he loved you and chose to love you before the foundation of the world. So don’t worry about what other people think: know, trust, and rest in what God has done for you. When you live and love from that place, it’s liberating.

What is your favorite song to lead in a worship service?

I have a soft spot for “Before the Throne of God Above”. I love the line, “A great high priest whose name is love, who ever lives and pleads for me.” The image of Christ interceding for me is just so humbling and precious. I also love the melody, and people tend to sing it with passion and zeal!

What would it take to get your family out here to Anacortes to have you play a show?

Wow, I am humbled by the thought! Well, there are five of us, so unless I came solo, it would be five airfares. If I came solo, it would be short, albeit sweet (two weeks max). If it was the family - for the time, cost, and jet lag - we probably wouldn’t embark on a trip to the US for less than four to six weeks (I think a visitor’s visa is up to 3 months). We would need some place to stay too, so I wish I could say “Not much, I will come visit next week” , but in reality, it would take some pretty decent logistical and financial juggling/ miracles.

If you moved to Anacortes, Washington, what would you and Dan be looking for in a church? What’s the first thing you notice when visiting a church?

We would love to come to Anacortes one day, Lord willing! I wonder if we would survive winter? I guess a church who loves God and loves one another: A church that is grounded in the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seeks to live it out with their minds, hands, and hearts. We are part of a church plant at the moment, and the pastor keeps saying, “We want to be a lifeboat church, not a cruise ship church.” Not comfortable, cliquey, or complacent, but intentionally seeking to love and serve the community that we are in, grounded in a deep conviction and love of the gospel. A church where Christ is central. He also says we don’t want to be a “coconut” church - hard on the outside, watered down on the inside, but like a “peach” - soft on the outside, but a firm seed inside at the core. One of our friends said, “So basically we want to be a peachy lifeboat?”

- Tenielle Neda



Photos from our Volunteer Appreciation Night



If you read our last Collective issue, you may recall an article highlighting our new building on 7th Street, and all of the new exciting ministries we have been/are planning on using it for. “Table & Porch” is now the newest space open to our church and the public, and the name is no accident.

The “Porch” is the beginning, where we meet the public with open arms, and serve those in our community. Or, as Pastor Ben said in his sermon a few months ago, it’s “Where private life meets public community - a welcoming communal and public space which fosters connection, trust, and mutual care.” The “Table” takes it a step further. It’s where those seeking formation can dive deeper, where they can gather with like minds to meet their physical and spiritual needs in a communal space.

Our new logo for the space reflects these values. Illustrated by Ben and Candace Boatright, this new image perfectly encapsulates what we want to achieve with this new space. The silhouettes of people represent the public we are seeking to serve, and the loaf of bread represents the table where those hungry and wanting can satiate their desire. The emphasis on a hand-drawn style is also no accident: we’re all human, we’re all imperfect, but we can all find peace in communal living with Christ.

We have many new ideas for how we want to utilize our Table & Porch space, so stay tuned for more exciting things happening at the T&P here soon!



God surrounds me, Jesus walks with me, the Holy Spirit guides me, and evidence can be found in my photos. The noise of this chaotic world dampens down when I focus through a camera lens. I'm not just a point-and-shoot photographer; with intention, I invite Him in and say, "Open my eyes, Lord! Show me what You want me to see! Show me what You want me to share!" This prayer washes me with His peace and presence, and assures me I am not alone.

I did not pick up a camera until after my husband died. Alone, I turned to the forest. Though I was afraid to hike by myself, there was an unexplained pull to the trees, to the quiet. I wanted to be there but was afraid of the unknown (the unknown of the forest and the unknown of being a widow). I was emotionally lost and afraid! I'd startle at every sound. Imagination was not my

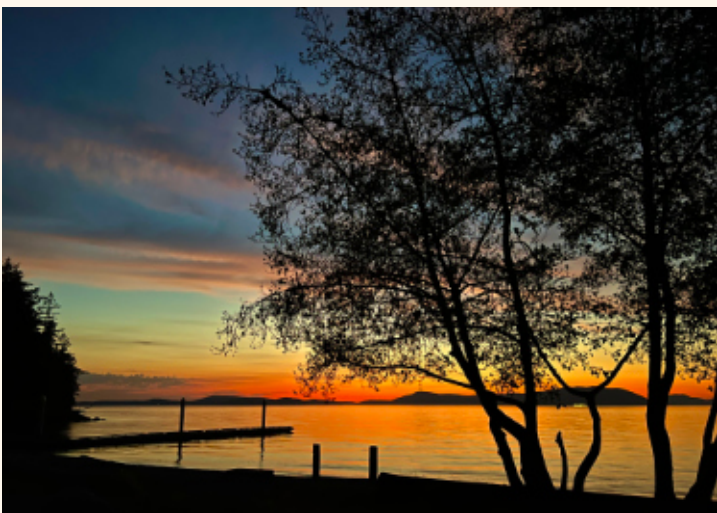


friend! I found myself hiding behind the narrow viewfinder of my cell phone camera lens, seeing nothing, whispering tiny prayers into the woods: "Please God, protect me, stay with me, help me – I'm scared!" And He did! He was not casual about it! For what felt like no reason, I'd suddenly stop on the trail and be brought to my knees in the dirt, overwhelmed, KNOWING God held me! I could feel Him!!! This happened to me more than once (I was undone!)

The "habit" of taking photos will alter your eyesight! Where I used to step out the door and just go, now, I look up at the sky and notice how light falls on grass and field. I see rays of light form shadows and silhouettes. I note the hour of sunrise or sunset, the shape of a leaf, the face of a flower. God wants us to delight in these: to set our intentions on Him daily as we step out the door! It really does soften the noise of the world. My iPhone is my only camera! You have everything you need. The camera is in your pocket. Imagination is uniquely your own. You and I can stand side-by-side, take a photo of the same thing, yet we will capture a different story: A story uniquely our own. When we share our photos and captions, the viewer's interpretation will mold the story yet again into their own story.

So invite Him in! As you look through the lens of your own curiosity, whisper the prayer, "Open my eyes, Lord, to what you want me to see. What do you want me to share?" Then share it! Share Him! And keep it simple! There is always the "Delete" button. It's about the "invitation" not the photo! So, in all things, invite Him in!

- Jan Latta



Gospel Renewal in Paraguay

In a city like Asunción, this kind of ministry matters. Evangelio & Vida is still in its early stages, which means much of the work is slow, relational, and foundational. Giacomo serves as pastor, giving leadership to preaching, discipleship, and the formation of the church. Miriam shares in the life and ministry of the community as they build relationships, welcome people, and raise their family amid cross-cultural mission. They are offering their whole lives to the work of seeing people come to truly know Jesus and grow as his apprentices.

For me, this partnership is not simply about sending financial support overseas. It is an invitation to become more deeply connected to what God is doing beyond our own walls. I believe that healthy mission partnerships are mutual. We have encouragement to offer Giacomo and Miriam, but we also have much to receive from them. Their courage, faithfulness, and commitment to discipleship can help us see our own calling more clearly.

That is why we are preparing now to visit them in Paraguay this August. The purpose of this trip is not tourism or a short-term project disconnected from long-term relationships. It is a relational ministry and spiritual formation experience. Our team will spend a week with Giacomo, Miriam, and the Evangelio & Vida community; worship with them; prayer walk through the city; learn from their ministry context; and help serve their discipleship efforts.

One of the gifts of being part of the body of Christ is that our church family is larger than our city, our nation, and even our language. Through our Arrows Out partnerships, Christ the King has the opportunity to stand with faithful servants of Jesus, both nearby and around the world. One of those partnerships is with Giacomo Sardone, Miriam Alberti, and their family in Asunción, Paraguay.

Giacomo and Miriam are an Italian missionary family serving in the heart of Asunción, where they are helping establish Evangelio & Vida, a young church community committed to making disciples of Jesus. After years of pastoral ministry in Italy, they sensed God leading them to Paraguay to participate in a new work of gospel renewal, church planting, and spiritual formation.

Their vision is beautifully simple and deeply biblical: life-on-life discipleship. They are seeking to form a community where people learn to follow Jesus together in ordinary life - through worship, prayer, hospitality, teaching, friendship, and shared mission. Their work reflects the pattern we see throughout the New Testament: the gospel takes root as lives are opened, meals are shared, Scripture is taught, and people learn to become family in Christ.



As we've been reading in Acts, the gospel often moves through ordinary people who are willing to go, speak, serve, and give. Sometimes God scatters his people so that grace can be seen in new places. Our partnership in Paraguay is one way we get to participate in that same story. As Giacomo and Miriam pour out their lives in Asunción, we want to stand with them in prayer, encouragement, generosity, and friendship.

Please pray for Giacomo, Miriam, their children Irene and Elia, and the Evangelio & Vida church. Pray for deep roots, open doors, wise leadership, and lasting fruit. And pray that through our partnership, God would continue forming us into a people that lives with arrows out—for the sake of the gospel, the good of our neighbors, and the glory of Christ.

- Rick Thompson



I've wanted to return to short-term mission trips for many years. As a little background, I have a BA in Spanish, a BA in Education, and a minor in Latin American Studies. I love the language and eagerly anticipate delving into the culture in Asunción. In the past, I was unable to participate for various reasons. As such, when this opportunity came up, I was immediately very excited, so much so that I had to stop myself from just jumping in, choosing instead to pray over it for a couple of days to ensure I was saying "yes" for the right reasons. I must confess my initial excitement was filled with what were probably fairly touristy ideas; I disliked that notion. I spent a couple of days asking the Lord if He has work for me there, and if so, to send me; here am I.

I have a heart and passion for the people of South America. I travelled to southern Chile on a short-term mission trip in the early 2000's. I connected with people I still stay in contact with. I'm looking forward to building new relationships in a vibrant city, seeing the work the Lord is doing there, and opening myself to how He can use me to further His kingdom in Paraguay.

- Jim Stiles



If you would like to know more about Giacomo and Miriam's ministry, or any of our other Arrows Out members, visit the Arrows Out page on our website, or take a look at the Arrows Out wall in our foyer. In total, we support 14 different ministries doing work locally in our community and around the world.

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We hope you enjoyed this issue of The Collective. We here at Christ the King love the opportunity to highlight how God is working in the lives of those we love, and we hope you do as well!

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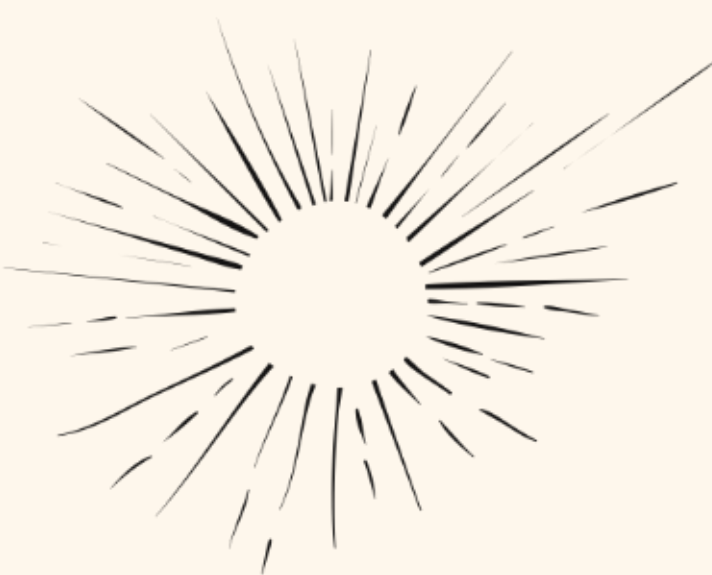
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Thank You For Reading!

Do you or someone you know have a story you would like to share? Would you like to be highlighted in our next issue? Let us know! We would love to hear from you. Feel free to visit our website at www.ctkanacortes.com/connect to fill out a connection card or email jacob@ctkanacortes.com so that we can learn more about what you have to share.



If you haven't already, please subscribe to our mailing list via the QR code so that you automatically receive a digital copy of this publication when it's released each quarter. Our next issue will be published in October 2026.



Upcoming Events

August

**Washington Park Service 2nd
10:00 AM | Washington Park**

Due to events happening downtown, our church will be meeting at Washington Park on the 2nd. Join us afterward for a BBQ and celebration of baptisms in the Salish Sea. **Please bring a chair and a dish to share!**

There's always something happening here at CTK, and we want you to be a part of it! If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for any of the events listed here, please visit www.ctkanacortes.com.

Please note all dates and times are subject to change. For updated information, check our website or Sunday bulletin.

***Online RSVP may not currently be available for some events, but will be updated in a timely fashion.**

July

**28th King's Kids
29th Summer Fun Days
30th 9:30 AM | Wisteria Gardens**

Calling all kids! Join us at Wisteria Gardens for a three-day extravaganza, complete with lots of great activities and plenty of fun. Register online at ctkanacortes.com

**29th Circle Group Open House
2:45 PM | 1815 Copper Pond Pl**

If you are a mother of a baby or a woman who would like to mentor young mother's, join us on Wednesday July 29th at 2:45PM for a casual afternoon of play, snacks, and getting to know one another. Contact mary@ctkanacortes.com for further information!

September

**14th The Gathering
5:30 PM | CTK Anacortes**

For all community group leaders, join us for a night of food, fellowship, and sharing what is happening in your group. Please RSVP online if you plan to attend.*

**27th Fall Kick Off
10:00 AM | Wisteria Gardens**

Due to events happening downtown, our church will be meeting at Wisteria Gardens on the 27th at 10AM. Join us as we discuss our ministry goals and achievements. Please bring a lawn chair, and stick around for coffee and bagels after!