



# The Good News

A Newsletter for Friends and Members  
of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ  
April 2018



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***No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!***

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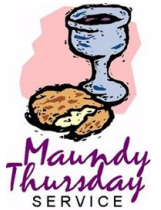
An Open and Affirming Congregation \* Member of Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Parish  
A Greening Congregation \* Affiliated with the Center for Progressive Christianity  
An Advocating Congregation of the Faith Action Network

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## From our Pastor:

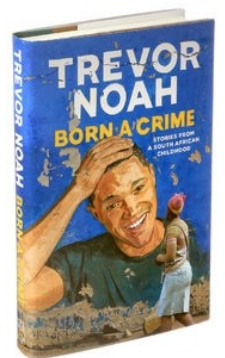
Dear Church,

Holy Week is here and here we are in the midst of a week where emotions swing wildly. As I write on this Tuesday morning the exhilaration of Palm Sunday is already starting to fade, though the intimacy of Maundy Thursday's Last Supper is soon to come. But so too is the desperate desolation of Christ's arrest, the pain and injustice of the crucifixion, and the hours of waiting until we can sing "Alleluia" on Easter. I look forward to seeing you along the way—during Thursday's dinner and Tenebrae service, on Friday at the GKEP noon-time service, and at our own Easter morning service in the Sanctuary. Blessings on your Holy Week journey!



Easter is the most important day of the year for Christians because it serves as a reminder of the power of God's love—a power that Christ's resurrection tells us is greater than death. I am grateful that in our part of the world we experience Easter during the springtime. As the flowers are beginning to bloom and the landscape begins to show new colors I am reminded that new life abounds everywhere!

However, I often find it challenging to hold onto the joy of Easter because it is easily lost in the clutter and "busy-ness" of life. One of the ways I am looking to slow down and hold onto Easter's joy is by digging into reading...and I would like to invite others to join me. I am starting a reading group that will read and discuss books that have a theological or sociological theme. We will begin with Trevor Noah's book, "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" which discusses his upbringing as a bi-racial child during South Africa's Apartheid. I propose starting as a monthly lunch gathering beginning on the first Tuesday of May (May 1st); depending on who is interested in taking part we can change the time as needed. Let me know if you are interested!



Blessings to all of you during this Holy week!

*Ryan*

P.S. We are holding the family of Donna C in our prayers after her death last week. A memorial service has been scheduled for 1:30 pm on April 12<sup>th</sup>, which would have been Donna's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope you can join us to support her family and celebrate her life.

# HOLY WEEK EVENTS

by Gale P

- Thursday, March 29 ~ Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service ~  
Simple Dinner at 6:30pm in the Lounge  
Service Celebrating the Last Supper & stripping the Sanctuary
- Friday, March 30 ~ Good Friday  
Stations of the Cross Walk  
12:00noon service begins at St. John's Episcopal Church followed by Stations of the Cross Walk through Kirkland to Marina Park Pavilion. This community event is sponsored by GKEP (the Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Parish)
- Sunday, April 1 ~ Easter Sunday  
Worship at 10:30am in Sanctuary  
Easter Egg Hunt following worship service



For children ages toddler through 6th grade ~ following the 10:30am worship service:

## After Church - Education Hour

Sunday, April 1st:  
Easter Sunday Worship  
With Communion



Sunday, April 8th:  
"Confirmation for All Ages Class"  
Helliwell Room, 12:05pm  
Theme: A survey of Christian History

Sunday, April 15th:  
There will be no Adult Education class this week. The Table is also canceled.

Sunday, April 22nd:  
"Confirmation for All Ages Class"  
Helliwell Room, 12:05pm  
Theme: A survey of United Church of Christ History

Sunday, April 29th:  
"Confirmation for All Ages Class"  
Helliwell Room, 12:05pm  
Theme: Forgiveness and Grace



by Gale P

There will be no Adult Education Class or Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

There **will be nursery care** available for infants and toddlers through age 5. All other children are encouraged to attend worship with their families.





On Easter Sunday, April 1st, bring your Lenten Prayer Jars back to church with the coins you have collected.

Our Lenten donations will be given to the One Great Hour of Sharing to enable our brothers and sisters in faith to have access to clean and safe water both here in the United States and around the world. We will help them know and experience God's love through us.



**WATER**



**FAITH**



**Faith Uncorked** is a ministry of Kirkland Congregational Church, which gives us an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about our faith in a different venue, and also an opportunity to help others who might not normally connect with church to come find out what a Progressive Christian community is like!

Where: Home of Marjie and Van K

When: Tuesday, April 10th

Bring: Favorite bottle of wine or non-alcohol beverage and an hors d'oeuvre to share.

Time: 7:00pm

**Don't keep it bottled up  
— Uncork your Faith!!**



**KIRKLAND**

**nourishing  
networks**

is an organization that works to build community by trying to fill some gaps in food security and other basic needs for our families in Kirkland. They help identify gaps (through school counselors) while they seek more sustainable solutions for these kids and their families. They help hungry Kirkland kids by providing a box of food for over the school breaks for ALL Kirkland elementary schools with need.

The next school break is Spring Break (April 1st-9th). That means donors provide for over 200 boxes of food – helping over 150 families! Each box is under \$50.00 with a standard menu of items. Our neighbors struggle more than we think; but, together, we can help to fill real needs.

This Spring Break, KCC will provide 4 food boxes to Kirkland Nourishing Network for kids and their families. We will be using remaining food you donated in February along with funds from our Common Cents Fund to purchase missing items. Our food boxes will be delivered on March 29th to the distribution center.

**This is another example of how the coins you drop into the Common Cents basket on Sunday morning are working on your behalf for the children in our community. Thank you for your continued support.**







# The Season of Easter

by Gale P



The purple of Lent does not last forever. Easter arrives, dressed in white and gold, and with a flurry of Alleluias. We celebrate with the disciples that Jesus is alive in a new way, and we move toward Pentecost when we welcome the Holy Spirit.

The experience of Easter and the days that follow are at the same time personal and communal. Jesus has individual encounters with some of his disciples (Mary Magdalene, Thomas) after the Resurrection, but he encourages them – and all of his disciples – to go and share his message of love, justice, and peace with the whole world. As the disciples go about laying the foundation of the early church, Jesus urges them to remember his commandments, gather in unity, and lean on the Holy Spirit as a guide.

## April 1 – Easter Sunday ~ *Love Comes to Life*

**John 20:1–8**

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43

Mark 16:1–8

### **Something to think about, talk about, or do**

“I have seen the Lord” (John 20:1–18). “...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” (Mark 16:1–8). In this year, we have two gospel stories of the Resurrection from which to choose. In John’s gospel, Mary Magdalene has an encounter with the risen Christ. In Mark, the women see the empty tomb and are told by “a young man, dressed in a white robe” that they will see Jesus in Galilee. In John, Mary announces what she has seen; and in Mark, the women run away.



### ***Together this week***

***\*Read both stories side-by-side and simply reflect on the differences.***

***\*Share stories about the most amazing thing that has ever happened to you.***

***\*What is the biggest surprise in each one’s life?***

***\*How does it feel to be so completely taken unaware?***

### **Prayer ~**

Awesome God, your love and compassion astound us. Thank you! Alleluia! Amen!

## April 8 – Love Is in Response to Grace

**John 20:19–31**

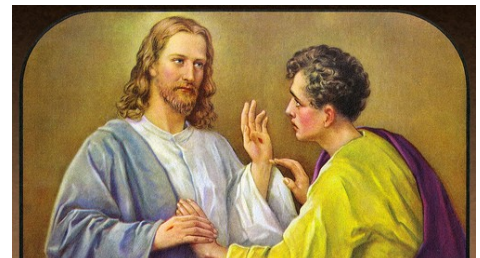
Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1—2:2

### **Something to think about, talk about, or do**

In the stories of Jesus’ resurrection, we read about Jesus doing amazing things, even walking through locked doors!



And yet, Jesus' friends recognize him and were overjoyed to be with him once more. Jesus understands Thomas' need for proof and is gentle with Thomas. In this passage, we receive the gifts of Easter – peace and the Holy Spirit – and are charged with the Easter task of forgiving. These were gifts for the first disciples and now are given to us.

***Together this week***

***Reflect and discuss:***

***Where is Jesus' presence alive for you?***

***What can you do to welcome Jesus' presence?***

***How can we make Jesus' presence known and felt by others?***

**Prayer ~**

Living God, we know and recognize your presence among us. Help us to always recognize and be open to you. Amen.

**April 15 – *Love Means Showing Up***

**Luke 24:36b–48**

Acts 3:12–19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1–7

**Something to think about, talk about, or do**

Luke tells us that after the Resurrection, Jesus' body was new and different. Jesus appeared in locked rooms, but he was not a ghost because he could eat and drink. The disciples recognized Jesus and were startled and a bit afraid by his presence among them. Jesus comforted the disciples with words of peace and helped them to understand more about his death and resurrection. Then Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us so we can always know God is with us.



***Together this week***

***Reflect on and discuss:***

***How can we be different now that Jesus is alive again?***

***What can we change, make better?***

***What are loving ways we can show the world?***

**Prayer ~**

Forgiving God, thank you for new life and the chance to try again. Help us to share your love. Help us to share the good news. Amen.

**April 22 -*Love in Truth and Action***

**John 10:11–18**

Acts 4:5–2

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16–24

**Something to think about, talk about, or do**

The gospel of John tells us that we are like sheep who are part of Jesus' flock. Jesus is like a loving shepherd who knows and cares for each and



every one, providing and protecting. Jesus knows us by name and gathers us into a loving community. How wonderful it is to be the recipient of such abiding love and protection. Jesus asks us to love others in the way the shepherd loves and cares for sheep.

***Together this week***

*Think of your best friend.*

*Think of the ways that you are kind and loving to this friend.*

*How might you show Jesus' love to your friends this week?*

**Prayer ~**

Protective God, we know we are safe with you. Your love surrounds us and we say, "thank you." Help us to share this love with others. Amen.

**April 29 - Love Abides**

**John 15:1-8**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

**1 John 4:7-21**

**Acts 8:26-40**



**Something to think about, talk about, or do**

Like branches on a vine, Jesus' love connects us to God. When we are connected to God and God's community, we grow in God's way. We grow tasty fruit such as kindness, forgiveness, service, and caring natures. The vine Jesus talks about in the gospel does not grow like potted plants in a house. Instead it grows outside in fields and is cared for by farmers. We, too, live as God's people in the world and we share our fruit with those around us.

***Together this week***

*Reflect on and discuss:*

*What kind of "fruit" are you growing for God?*

*How do you share this fruit with the world around you?*

**Prayer ~**

Loving God, thank you for helping us to learn and grow. Help us to always live your way. Amen.





## From *Earthkeepers*

### Another Look at Earth Day

by Paul H

We are well into the 21st century and what, and how, should we be celebrating Earth Day this year? Cynics might ask, “what is the point?” That is, recycling is commonly accepted, logging practices, although not perfect, are sharply monitored, the air seems cleaner, at least around here, than ever before, and coal and oil companies are on notice to clean up their act while clean energy production thrives. But there is still much to do.

The big issues confronting our youth today have shifted from saving the planet to saving the rights and welfare of people on the earth. Those issues are paramount in the minds of many citizens in this current stew of political discord.

Planting seeds of equality and fairness in our societal soil may be the essential “planting” we should celebrate this year.

So this April, and on through the year, let us do two things.

First, remind our children, grandchildren and beyond about the value of having a “conservation ethic”. All should be living a life committed to the care of God’s creation. Be alert to backsliding political policies.

Second, to do all we can setting examples for our families and friends by calling for equal rights for all, for equity in employment and advancement, and for empathy toward all members of the world community—all part of God’s creation.



### N-Sid-Sen Camp & Conference Center 2018

- Women’s Retreat - May 18—20
- Emerging Adult Camp— June 15—17 (ages 19-35)
- Work Camp (Free/all ages) - June 18—21
- Senior High Aqua Camp - July 8—14 (going into 10th grade-entering college)
- Kid’s Camp - July 15—18 (going into grades 2-4)
- Intermediate Camp - July 15—21 (going into grades 5-6)
- Rainbow Retreat—July 20—22 (age 18+)
- Family Camp #1 - July 29—August 4
- Junior High Aqua Camp - August 5 — 11 (going into grades 7-9)
- Family Camp #2 - Aug 19—25

For information: call 208.689.3489  
or visit: [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org).

### Pilgrim Firs Camp & Retreat Season 2018

- Service/Mission Camps  
June 24—29, July 15—20



For information: call 360.876.2031  
or visit: [pilgrimfirs.org](http://pilgrimfirs.org)

### Vacation notices:

Jim P will be on vacation from April 7 - 14th.

Pastor Ryan will be on vacation from April 13 - 16th. (Please contact the church office for pastoral emergencies.)

Gale P will be on vacation April 11 -19th.

Terri H will be on vacation April 6 -15th.

**The KCC office is closed on April 13th.**





## Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List



In your time with God this week, please lift up the following people in prayer:

Family & friends of Donna C

Pat R

Family & friends of Wes C

Sarah J

Ruth W

Barbara L

Ruth Ruff

Family & friends of Dwight B

LaVerne F

Carrie C

Verna T

Judy H

Friends & family of Wayne K

Meredith G

Jerry R

Dorris K

Brenda B

Winter L

Mary C

Victims of abuse

Victims of crimes and violence

Residents of Camp Unity

Victims of natural disasters

Residents of Tent City4

Please contact the church office to add someone to the prayer list or to have a name removed. Call 425/822-3811 or email [kccucc.office@gmail.com](mailto:kccucc.office@gmail.com).



# Happy Easter

