



# The Good News

A Newsletter for Friends and Members  
of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ  
August 2019



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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

## From our pastor:

Dear church,

When I was in middle school, prompted by a newspaper headline, I once asked my grandmother who she was supporting in the upcoming election. Her response was simply to say, "Polite people don't talk about politics, money, or religion." In later conversations she would indirectly add death and sexuality to the list of taboo topics by noting that she preferred we say someone "lost their dad" rather than saying "he died," as well as reminding us that my aunt "was in a family way" rather than "pregnant." As I remembered my grandmother's birthday earlier this summer I lovingly remembered these conversations and I also realized how deeply they still hold on inside of me.

I suspect that many of us have a list of topics that sometimes makes us uncomfortable to address, depending especially on who is involved in the conversation. Faith, money, and death are often chief among the topics that are difficult to talk about because they provoke strong feelings within us. Because our culture teaches us to fear death, it often feels like any planning related to death is morbid, which only increases our uncertainty and fear about this difficult topic. Even in the church we don't speak honestly or directly enough about death and the faith questions and decisions that arise around death. This issue was placed directly in front of me when Shauna and I realized how out of date our own Estate Plan and Will had become. My own memorial service plans and our directives for how we would like our estate to be used to show our family and faith priorities need to be updated. Our children are now old enough to be included in and aware of this process, and it is something that needs to be done with intention. I suspect that I am not alone in needing to revisit some of these important questions.

Some months ago Martha Baldwin went to an event about Estate Planning and the Church, but the brochures from that event have been sitting on my desk since she passed them on to me. I am writing this article because I feel like I have been remiss in asking you to engage in a deeply important faith conversation mostly out of my own discomfort. Faith, money, and death should not be taboo topics, and in fact they are topics we should all consider in an integrated way. We should all have a plan for what we want as a part of our memorial service. We should all have a plan for how we want our financial resources to be used after our death. We should all have the chance to faithfully wrestle with our questions about death and with how we hope to leave a legacy beyond our lifetime. Sadly, most of us put this planning off for another day...and another day, and another, etc.

So rather than letting discomfort rule the day I am asking you to interrupt your summer relaxation to prayerfully think about the plans you have made or the plans you need to make. I am asking you to think about your family, your beliefs, your church, and your hopes for the future. It is not taboo...it is holy!

Blessings,

**Ryan**



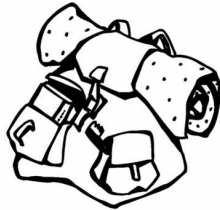
## KCC UCC Camp Scholarship Fund 2019

So far this year our donations total \$540.00 which exceeded our goal of \$500. Thank you to each of you who contributed to enable our members to attend a camp program without concern about the total cost.

This year, we have 6 children and youth; 5 adults camp at NSS

**It's not too late!!** This is an ongoing fund and throughout the year, we will continue to receive donations for our KCC Campers,. Support your church family as they experience the wonders of the outdoors and explore their relationship to God, themselves, and to others.

**Please give  
generously!!!**



## Our August Monthly Mission Project:



### *Granola Bars for the Students of Barbara Lynch*

Barbara Lynch's classroom is known at her high school as a place where low-income students can get a granola bar to ease the pain of hunger due to the lack of food and nutrition at home. Many of us have been donating boxes of granola bars to Barb and her students throughout the year..

This August, we want to provide enough granola bars to support her students for several months rather than just a few days.



### Collection Dates:

August 4, 11, 18, 25, Sept. 1



# Living the Season After Pentecost

## Ideas for nurturing faith and discipleship at home

Perhaps you not able to participate in church activities regularly during the summer. Or maybe you are looking for faith experiences to share together at home. Whatever your particular circumstance, this resource will help you nurture faith and discipleship at home. "Living the Season at Home" provides a weekly engagement of the focus passage from the lectionary. These passages will possibly be the same ones you hear in church on Sunday.

Even as you set aside space and use special material, Sacred Presence is always with us. Therefore, faith conversations can happen anytime and anywhere. Wherever you see signs of love, God is there. Wherever kindness and fairness are extended, God is there. Wherever the sacred story becomes our story, God is there.

## August 4, 2019 *Loving God Back*

Hosea 11:1–11

Psalms 107:1–9, 43

Colossians 3:1–11

**Luke 12:13–21**

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

God has given us so much. In response, we love and give back. We can probably think of times when we've been a bit greedy or tried to hoard. Sometimes we get bogged down by all the things we have. Where does that get us? We can celebrate grace-filled love by loving God back. Sharing is a way to respond to God's steadfast love for us.

### Together this week,

**\*\*Mindfulness meal** Eat together and think about each piece of food. How was it made? Think of everything that went into it being placed before you on the table: who are some of the people whose work made it possible for you to eat this meal? This might include those who planted, harvested, processed, packaged, shipped, sold, prepared and served the food. Offer thanks for these people, and for all you have.

**\*\*If it is harvest time in your area**, and you have a garden, look for ways you can share some of the produce from your garden with others or join with people to share things together, such as preserving or canning produce together and sharing it with one another. Or, if it will be planting season soon in your area, make plans for a cooperative garden at your church or somewhere in your community, offering to share the land and work together. Maybe you have more garden than you can use, or someone you know has land that could be used for a garden, and you can help them care for it, and share the produce together.

**\*\*Explore ways** that you can reduce, reuse, and recycle so that you can care for the earth by using less and wasting less and reducing the amount of garbage that is created.

### *Prayer*

*Generous God, help us to follow the example of Jesus, sharing with generosity until all have enough. Amen.*

## August 11, 2019 *Faith Is*

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20

Psalms 50:1–8, 22–23

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

Luke 12: 49–56

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

**What is faith?** The author of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that faith is trust in God, God's promises, and in things we cannot see. Faith helps believers do great things. We often hear amazing stories in the Bible and wonder why people did the things that they did. How could they go on? How did they persevere in hard times? The answer: faith. They had faith in God, God's promises, in others, and in themselves. Stories of our faith ancestors help deepen our own faith and trust in God. The author of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that faith is a gift from God and, like grace, you don't have to earn it.

### **Together this week,**

**\*\*Talk about ways of expressing anger that are helpful, not hurtful.**

**\*\*Draw up a list of suggestions and display it where family members can see it every day.**

### **Prayer**

*Faithful God, grant us the strength to live in your ways as our faith ancestors did. Help us to encourage one another as we journey in life and grow in faith. Amen.*

## August 18, 2019

### *Faithful Witnesses*

Isaiah 5:1–7

Psalms 80:1–2, 8–19

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Luke 12:49–56

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

Being a faithful witness means sharing the joy and trials of being faithful. As faithful witnesses, we have the opportunity to experience and celebrate our ongoing story as

God's people. We know that faith is a belief and trust in things unseen when we witness these events and share the story of them with others we are faithful witnesses for God, and our faith story continues on.

Stories of people persevering in faith helped the early church in hard times, and these same stories can help us. When we are feeling discouraged, we can remember stories of our faith ancestors – people in the Bible, and other followers of Jesus since then – and realize that God has been with us for a long, long time.

### **Together this week,**

**Faith stories:** Together, try to name and remember some of the faith stories that are mentioned in the Hebrews passage. (You may want to eliminate verses 35–37.) Is there one that reminds you of your own family story?

**\*\*Draw a picture of it together and put it on your refrigerator and each time you see it, you will be reminded that we are all faithful witnesses.**

**\*\*Think of contemporary faith stories of people you know about; for example, someone fighting cancer, a person raising money for a worthy charity, someone who is passionate about saving the wildlife of this world. Share what might bring them joy, trust, and hope.**

**Cloud of witnesses** Think of names of people who inspire us in living as disciples/followers of Jesus – inspire us to live and love in God's way.

**\*\*Write them on cloud shapes as visual reminders that we are surrounded by these people as we go about faithful living this week**

### **Prayer**

*God of our being and doing: We come from so many places; places of play and study and work; places of joy and worry and fears; places of loneliness and friendship. We give you thanks that you meet us at all the places in our lives. Amen.*

## August 25, 2019 *Out of the Shadow*

Jeremiah 1: 4–10

Psalms 71: 1–6

Hebrews 12: 18–29

Luke 13: 10–17

**Something to think about, talk about, or do**  
Jesus believed that people are more important than rules. Nothing could stop Jesus from healing, restoring people to wholeness, and welcoming all. Jesus showed that the way to keep the Sabbath day holy was to help bring healing and liberation. Jesus wanted people to know that we should never miss an opportunity to help others experience wholeness. Jesus taught us to care for and include those who feel excluded, or left out, or kept in the shadows.

**Together this week,**

**Prayer:** Think of a setting where liberation could happen in our world – perhaps situations of people suffering or hurting, situations of hunger or war – and write or draw these on paper and place them in a bag.

**\*\*Read Luke 13:10–17 and imagine the woman in the story carrying the burden of this bag.**

**\*\*Read or describe the burdens in the bag, pray for these situations and be open to ways you might bring God's healing.**

**Agents of God's healing:** Think of people in your family and church who carry heavy burdens, grief, illness, and more.

**\*\*What can you do as a family to help one of them?**

**\*\*How can you be agents of God's healing?**

It doesn't have to be a big thing; we know that small things can make a big difference. Simply reaching out to someone makes them feel included and helps them know that healing is possible.

**Prayer**

*Loving God, when we feel down, your love lifts us up. Guide us as we show your love in the world. Amen.*



# Free Family Movie Night

**August 24, 2019**

KIN (Kirkland Interfaith Network) is sponsoring an Outdoor Family Movie Night.

**Date:** Saturday, August 24, 2019

**Time:** 8:30 pm

**Location:** East Lawn of the Totem Lake  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
13220 NE 132nd Street  
Kirkland, 98034

**Movie Title:** TBA

**Food:** Popcorn, Ice Cream,

**Seating** will be on the grass lawn. Guests encouraged to bring blankets and/or folding chairs.

**Volunteers are needed:**

Contact Sarah Johnson if you would like to help with setup, etc.



**KIRKLAND INTERFAITH NETWORK**



# Light A Candle For Children



## Forty Days of Prayer for Children

Begins on Wednesday,  
September 11, 2019

**Light a Candle for Children**, is an advocacy and prayer vigil project that invites congregations to join in **Forty Days of Prayer for Children**. It begins forty days prior to the national observance of **Children's Sabbath**. This year we will observe the Children's Sabbath on **October 20, 2019**

**This Year Again!!!**

Everyone will receive a votive candle holder with a wax or battery votive candle on:

*Sunday, September 1, or September 8*

Along with our KCCUCC  
Children's Prayer Booklet

During the 40 days from September 11– October 20, you are asked to set aside times during the day to light your candle; reflect on the needs and gifts of children; and offer a prayer or share in a moment of silence remembering the children connected to our congregation in a variety of ways, as well as the needs of children in our community, state, country, and around the world.

***You do not need to return the candle, but keep it to pray for children as often as you wish during the 40 Days of Prayer.***

On Sunday mornings at KCC, we will place larger candles representing each of the 40 days, in the front of the sanctuary. These will be lit during the worship service and we will watch the flames grow in number as we journey towards Children's Sabbath Sunday.

We can and should make a difference where the needs, hopes and dreams of children are involved. Let the candle of their lives inspire you and light your pathway as you advocate on their behalf.



## Children's Sabbath 19th Annual Healthy Start Project

**This year we will continue our expanded  
Children's Sabbath Mission focus.**

**What other needs do the families serviced by HopeLink  
have that limit their efforts to provide a healthy home  
for their children???**

The Food Bank Coordinator for HopeLink provided us with a list of 8 items that are extremely important to these families, especially because they can not buy them with their EBT cards (an electronic benefit transfer card).

Each of the 5 weeks during the 40 Days of Prayer, you are asked to bring the designated items to church, culminating on Children's Sabbath Sunday. If it is difficult for you to get out to shop, contributions to the Common Cents Fund are an excellent alternative — we will shop for you.

During the week of September 15— **shop for Baby Wipes and Baby Shampoo**  
Return items to church on Sunday September 22.

Week of September 22 — **shop for Diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and Pull Ups**  
Return items on Sunday, September 29.

Week of September 29— **shop for Facial Tissue and Bathroom Tissue**  
Return items on Sunday, October 6.

Week of October 6 — **shop for Bath soap and Laundry detergent**  
Return items on Sunday, October 13.

Week of October 13 — **shop for Toothbrushes and Toothpaste**  
Return items on Sunday, October 20.

Each week during the Offering Time, you will be invited to bring your donated items forward to be dedicated during the Prayer of Dedication.

**Let's make this happen !!!**



## Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List

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

Sunni S

Nancy L

Lisa G

Jesse A

Jerry R

Sarah J

Dorris K

Ruth W

Barbara L

Judy H

Philip V

Janet G

Barbara D



106 - 5th Avenue

Kirkland, Wa 98033

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

