



The Good News

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



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

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,

At the Annual Congregational Budget meeting held on January 27 the 2019 budget was unanimously approved as it was presented (and mailed). Thank you for your dedicated pledges and your faithful support! I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you and for the time, talent, and financial resources that you contribute to our church. The ministries of our church and our building are a testimony to your dedication!

Often at this time of year we are shifting quickly into Lent, but because Ash Wednesday does not occur until March 6 we have an unusually long stretch between celebrating Christmas and beginning the march toward Holy Week and Easter. I must admit that I am enjoying the thought of this intermediate time, which has allowed me to dive into several books that I am considering using to guide our worship life as we journey through Lent. One book in particular has caught my attention, **“Because of this I Rejoice: Reading Philippians during Lent”** by Max O Vincent. I am drawn to this book because Lent is so often couched as a time of necessary darkness, but I wonder if that doesn't keep many of us from truly exploring the season when we have plenty of darkness to battle without our faith asking us to go deeper into that darkness. And thus I am spending this time looking to re-frame what Lent will look like this year.

As we end worship each week my benediction often reminds us that we are called to be the hands and feet of God in the world. As such I am gearing up to join our conference's Pilgrimage and Relief trip to Puerto Rico at the end of March. As you know Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused severe damage across the island in 2017 and the people of Puerto Rico are still in recovery mode. Our delegation will go to Puerto Rico to partner with the people of Puerto Rico to repair and rebuild homes. I am excited to note that Randy Crowe, who grew up at KCC and led similar conference trips to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, will be guiding this trip. So far our church delegation consists of Van K, Grace L, and me. **(At press time there is still room for 6 more people in our conference delegation! You can sign up and pay your initial \$315 fee at n-sid-sen.org)** The council has given its blessing to invite church members to donate to the Puerto Rico Pilgrimage Fund to help defray our delegation's costs for this relief effort. You may donate beginning Sunday February 3! We are excited to be going on your behalf!

As a scheduling note, I will be taking a week of Study Leave from February 18-23. As the 5th Anniversary of my call to serve as your pastor approaches on July 1st I am beginning to look at sabbatical options for the summer of 2020. Many program applications and grants that support sabbaticals are due during this spring and summer, and those applications will be the focus of my study leave.

Blessings to you as we walk through this holy and ordinary time!

See you in church,

Ryan

After Church - Adult Education

1st Sunday of Month ~

Sunday, February 3rd: Soup Sunday

3 Homemade soups,
bread,
and beverage served
in the Lounge following
worship



“Souper Bowl” Sunday

Collection of non-
perishable food items
for Nourishing Networks Food Boxes



2nd Sunday of Month ~

Sunday, February 10th:

Adult Education Class

- Podcast

Noon—Helliwell Room



3rd Sunday of Month ~

Sunday, February 17th:

Adult Education Class

- Podcast

Noon—Helliwell Room



4th Sunday of Month ~

Sunday, February 24th:

The Table—5:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
(Worship, Soup
Dinner, Music)



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 and find out what a Progressive Christian community is like!

Where: Home of Pat J

When: **Tuesday, February 12th**

Bring: Favorite bottle of wine, non-alcoholic beverage, and an hors d'oeuvre

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



“Souper” Bowl Sunday

MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$60 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving.



Sunday, February 3 and 10, 2019

**This year, we will be collecting food for
Kirkland Nourishing Networks Food Boxes**

These food boxes are distributed to children in the Lake Washington School District to assist their families through the school vacation breaks. We have donated 2 boxes of food this school year for the Thanksgiving and 3 boxes of food at the Christmas break.

The next break will be the Mid-Winter break in February.

Here are the specific foods needed for each box: (sizes are approximate)

**Instant Oatmeal Packets boxes,
Canned soup (Progresso/Healthy Choice 10.5 oz cans),
canned corn, green beans or similar (14.5 oz cans),
canned fruit (15 oz cans),
Rice (32 oz bag. Jasmine, white, brown, etc),
Crackers (Ritz, Club, wheat thins-16 Oz box),
Peanut butter (28oz-no glass),
Cooking oil (olive, canola, etc—32oz plastic bottle)**



KCCUCC February Mission Project

Donations made to the “Common Cents Fund” will be used to purchase fresh produce items.

February 14, 2019

The United Churches of Olympia | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Interfaith Advocacy Day



Join advocates in your legislative district to bring voices of compassion and justice to our elected officials

206-625-9790 | FAN@FANWA.ORG | WWW.FANWA.ORG

FAN Legislative Agenda for 2019

- Advocating for a Biennial Budget that Protects the Poor and Vulnerable
- Restoring Justice in our Criminal Justice System
- Funding Housing for All
- Caring for Creation
- Protecting Immigrant Families and Civil Rights
- Ensuring Healthcare and Mental Health for All

To carpool with Ryan to Olympia meet at KCC at 7:00am.

Committee Meetings

Lay Care Committee:
Wednesday, February 13th
10:00am
Home of Jo H

Church Council:
Monday, February 25th
7:00pm
Helliwell Room

Don't Forget:

Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs Camp
and Conference Center
February 1-3, 2019



Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

Please look for the clip board to sign up to provide after worship refreshments, soup (on Soup Sundays), and/or to be a lay worship leader.

Your participation is much appreciated!

The office will provide you with the worship bulletin and scripture lesson prior to the Sunday you are serving as the lay worship leader.

Many thanks!
Pat J

Fighting Discrimination in Kirkland

from Sarah J

As you may know, Kirkland government and local organizations have been working on follow-up to the unfortunate incident of apparent discrimination that happened at Menchie's Yogurt shop in Kirkland in early November. In that incident, police were called and they asked an African-American person who was in the shop on legitimate business to leave. When the incident came to light, the police department and other city staff apologized and vowed to do better. Citizens responded, too, first organizing a well-attended citywide meeting. Here is the internet location of a brief report on what was said at that meeting: www.ikwa.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Finding-Solutions-Summary.pdf. I will put copies on the bulletin board of some of this information.

After the citywide meeting, there was work on the part of the city to prevent such incidents, which is reported on the city website, along with very detailed reports of what happened. Notably, the city has specific plans for more anti-bias training for police, 9-1-1 call center personnel, other city staff, and council members. They also have plans to engage the wider community in efforts to become more sensitive to discrimination and more welcoming. This could involve us! Stay tuned and do look at the reports if you can. I hope we can talk about this as a church in the future. City website with details is at: https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/CMO/Reports/Menchies_Incident_Report.htm

Camp Unity Meals

Camp Unity is now located in Woodinville at **Carol Edwards Center**, 17401 – 133rd Avenue Woodinville, WA 98072. You can call the camp at **425. 652.9170**. There is a camp supervisor on duty, with the phone, 24/7. They are still in need of hot dinners (they hope for a hot dinner delivered at 6 pm every day). If you are (continued next column)

interested in providing one, either by yourself or with others, below is information on how to do that. Currently, the population of the camp is around 20 people. Contact Sarah J. if you'd like to work with someone else. To sign up:

<https://campunityeastside.com>.

Choose **Calendar**, then **Events**, then **Meals**.

Tips

Please bring disposable plates, cups, napkins and cutlery. Bring serving utensils and don't forget to take them home with you. Remember that there is no stove or oven at the camp. (They use a microwave for leftovers.) Simple, family meals are good—stews, casseroles, thick soups, etc. Some of the residents have dental and gum issues, so nuts and raw vegetables are not easy for them to eat. Cooked vegetables and green salads are always welcome.

Milk and juice are good choices for drinks.

Usually 2 gallons of either is sufficient.

Serving time is at 6 p.m. On Tuesdays there is an all-camp meeting at 7 p.m., so it is particularly important to serve dinner promptly that night

Bring your meal hot and ready to serve.

Groups of all sizes are welcome to serve. If only one person is bringing all the food, there will be plenty of CUE residents that are willing to help. You are encouraged to join them for dinner.

A few days before you are scheduled to serve a meal you should contact the camp at 425.652.9170 to get an idea on the number of people you will be serving.

Plan for every resident, your group if eating with them, and a few extras. If there are leftovers they will not go to waste. CUE residents will help with set up and clean up, if needed.

If you are running late, cannot find the location or have a last minute question, please call the CUE camp at 425.652.9170.



Living the Seasons



Continuing the Season After Epiphany

The Season after the Epiphany invites us to open ourselves to new insights, new understandings, and new ways. In the synagogue and on the level plain, Jesus proclaims release, recovery, and liberation; and we are encouraged to strive, live, and grow into the people God intends.

The focus passages for Epiphany draw heavily on the gospels, especially Luke. Strong relationships and characters are at work in these narratives. They do not shy away from bold words and deep trust. Signs abound that something important is being done by God, and by those who trust in and work toward God's ways. In keeping with the whole of Luke's gospel, those ways are revealed as seeking justice for all.

February 3rd ~

Living Our Calls

Jeremiah 1:4–10

Psalms 71:1–6

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

Luke 4:21–30

Something to think about, talk about or do

In the story last week, Jesus announced that the Spirit of God was helping him to bring good news to those who were suffering.

This week, Jesus says that God has heard the cries of those who not part of the Jewish nation or tradition. Jesus teaches that God doesn't just care about the Jewish people of his hometown. God cares for all people. This idea angers those who want to see God as being only on "their side."

Together

**Talk about ways people still think of God as being on "their side" – favoring their church, their team, or their nation.

**Brainstorm a list of prophetic sentences of

God's love, such as God loves people of other religions; or God doesn't care about which team wins – in God's eyes they tie; or when God looks at their world, there are no borders or boundaries.

**Choose an "edgy" sentence to write on a piece of paper and decorate with ideas of how you can live out this "edgy" love.

February 10th ~

Being Surprised

Isaiah 6:1–8, (9–13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

Something to think about, talk about or do

It was during their everyday living that many people encountered Jesus. Jesus called Simon Peter, James, and John when they had been fishing all night. They were not really in the mood to listen to Jesus' challenge! Yet they did, and the result was astonishing.

In another of today's readings, the prophet Isaiah heard God calling in the temple, and Isaiah was not eager to respond, either. In fact, both Isaiah and Simon Peter did not think that they were good enough to serve God.

God calls each of us to follow, to serve. And God believes that we are good enough – all of us. We are part of God's surprising catch.

Together

****Invite each person (if they wish) to share a reason why they might feel unworthy of God's call. Then, have each person say something positive about each other person, affirming a gift or talent that they have – something that shows God's love, or can be used to show God's love and God's way.**

****Decide on a way you might affirm each other's gifts.**

February 17th ~

Being Blessed

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26

Something to think about, talk about or do

Imagine the world that Jesus is talking about. It's a world of generosity, love, life, compassion. Those are things people who are hungry, poor, and sad understand and long for. They're ready and waiting for God's world, or reign, to come – and they'll welcome it with joy when it does!

People who live in ways that make life good for themselves but hard for others don't have much space for generosity, love, life, compassion. That this kind of world will come is a very hard message for them to hear. No wonder Jesus says they are going to weep.

Jesus promises this reign will come, and those who long for it will be blessed. But even

by saying it, Jesus gives those who long for it a moment of blessing and gives all of us a challenge. What do we need to let go of or change so that God's reign can be a blessing for all?

Together

****Read Luke 6:17–26 and then imagine what Jesus would be saying if he were at your table speaking to you. Make a prayer together as a family. You could use the lines "God will bless us when..." and "Shame on us when..."**

****Write up the prayer and post it on your refrigerator so you can say it each time you get something to eat.**

****Depending on your Bible, these verses might say something like "blessed are" or "happy are..." The same Greek word means both things. It can be understood as "things will go well for you." In the later verses, some Bibles say "woe to you" which is a way of saying, "shame on you..."**

February 24th ~ *Be Holy*

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Psalms 37:1–11, 39–40

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Luke 6:27–38

Something to think about, talk about or do

"But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27).

Jesus makes a controversial claim about how to treat those who believe and act differently: Love your enemies. Sustain all regardless of your judgment of them as good or bad. Be merciful because God is merciful. Here, Jesus turns our focus from trying to be perfect to a life of compassion.

As we grow into the people God imagines us to be, as we follow the commandments and the way of Jesus, let us remember that what we will become is more beautiful than what

we can imagine because it is God who has created us.

Together

Compassion has been described as a strong feeling of sympathy and sadness for the suffering or bad luck of others and a wish to help them.

****Each day, look over the news.**

**Pay attention to your
compassionate response.**



The Table

Sunday, February 24th

5:30pm

**Worship, Soup and Salad Dinner,
Music, Community**

106 5th Ave — Kirkland

You're Invited to this Special Event

Connection Beyond Conflict

Interfaith Solidarity & Peacemaking in the Holy Land & Beyond

Thursday, Feb 21st, 7:00pm

**Northlake Unitarian Universalist
Church**

308 4th Avenue S, Kirkland WA 98033

Guest Speaker: Sheikh Ghassan Manasra, International Director, Abrahamic Reunion. For the past 15 years, The Abrahamic Reunion has been working steadily to create harmony among the four faiths of the Holy Land in Israel and Palestine, even — and often especially — in the midst of conflict and tension. Their successes are only just now becoming known and recognized.

Hear stories from Sheikh Ghassan's many years of front-line engagement with inter-religious dialogue, interfaith spiritual activism, and multi-faith peacebuilding in Israel, Palestine, and around the world.

Contact: seattle@abrahamicreunion.org
www.abrahamicreunion.org

Sheikh Ghassan Manasra is a globally recognized interreligious dialogue expert and



facilitator. He is also a Fulbright Scholar and lecturer. He currently serves, and has served in the past, on the boards of numerous Israeli, American, and international peace-making organizations, including The Middle East Civic Forum, the

Sulha Peace Project, Anwar Il-Salaam (Lights of Peace Center), and the World Congress of Imams and Rabbis for Peace. He is from Nazareth, Israel.

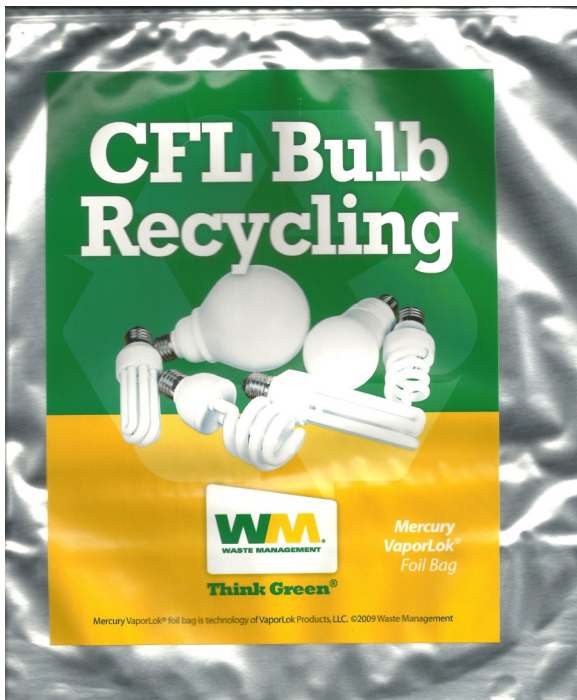
Earthkeepers



Question: *How do I recycle CFL Bulbs (compact fluorescent lights)?*

Answer: *There are several options without needing to wait for a big recycling event where they take almost everything.*

1. **Kirkland City Hall, lower level entrance:** The City has bins located just inside the lower level entrance where they take batteries, CFL bulbs, and cell phone batteries.
2. **Get one of these special bags from Waste Management:** Place your CFL bulbs inside of this bag, seal it and place it on top of your recycle bin. Waste Management will take it free of charge. You can call WM at 1-800-592-9995 and they will deliver a CFL Bulb Recycling bag to you.



3. **CFL Bulbs only** can be recycled at 3 Kirkland locations of Bartell Drugs

Unused Medications: Unused medications (prescription drugs or over the counter medications in pill form and out of date vitamins) can be safely disposed of at the **Kirkland Police Station**. They have a special secure container that you drop the pills into. The pills need to be removed from the bottles or packaging before disposing of them in the receptacle.



On February 3rd, 2019, at 7 PM, Nadia Bolz-Weber is coming to University Temple United Methodist Church to share from her new and most personal book *Shameless: A Sexual Reformation* (Convergent, Hardcover, January 29, 2019).

In her latest release, Bolz-Weber is out to slay a giant by going after the church's teachings on human sexuality. She deftly weaves narrative, history, scripture, and wit together to show how Christianity has so often turned the glorious gift of our bodies into something ugly and shameful, telling us that true holiness equates to sexual repression— "as if the God of the Universe had programmed into creation a passive-aggressive test of our willpower."

Join Nadia for a lively evening of truth-telling, conversation, humor, healing and maybe a short dance party as she proposes "...a sexual reformation for those who have been hurt...for those who have done the hurting...and for those who are certain they know all there is to know about what God thinks of sex." Also on stage for a conversation with Nadia will be Gail Song Bantum.

NADIA BOLZ-WEBER first hit the New York Times bestseller list with her 2013 memoir—the bitingly honest and inspiring *Pastrix*, followed by the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Accidental Saints* (2015). A former stand-up comic and recovering alcoholic, Bolz-Weber is the founder and former pastor of a Lutheran congregation in Denver, House for All Sinners and Saints. She speaks at colleges and conferences around the globe and has been featured in BBC World Service, the Washington Post, Bitch magazine, NPR's Morning Edition, Fresh Air, More magazine, The Daily Beast, and more.

Purchase tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nadia-bolz-webers-shameless-book-tour-in-seattle-wa-tickets-52158202588>



Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List



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

Sunni S
Jesse A
Dorris K
Judy H

Nancy L
Jerry R
Ruth W
Carole F

Sarah J
Barbara L
Barbara D

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.



Kirkland Congregational
— UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST —

106 - 5th Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

