
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,

We are currently traveling along through the season of Lent and although it seems like we have barely washed away Ash Wednesday's ashes by end of this month we will be immersed in Holy Week. During this week we follow Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (March 25th) to the intimacy of the Maundy Thursday meal (March 29th), a meal that pushes him toward the precipice of his arrest; then we walk with Jesus in his final hours and death on Good Friday. As the shadow of the cross lingers we grieve Jesus' death until we awaken to the light of Easter (April 1st) and remember that death does not have the last word. The Lenten season and particularly Holy Week always feels like something we are hurtling toward, and then it is something we hurtle through—feeling deeply its mixture of triumph, sadness, despair, and hope—emotions that leave me grappling with the meaning of my own faith. I hope that you will participate in our holy week services, hear our story once again, and find your faith deepened. (Please see page 3 for the services for Holy Week.)



At first glance it feels like something of a holy joke that Easter falls on the day we know as April Fools' Day. While the origin of April Fools' Day is widely attributed to Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, I wonder if an Easter link might not be more appropriate than we would first believe. For doesn't it seem like foolishness to believe that the horrible death of Jesus wasn't the end of his story? And yet, 2000 years later we still proclaim the story of an empty tomb. In 1 Corinthians Paul even writes of being "fools for Christ," and so I invite you to perhaps think about what kind of foolishness your faith is calling you to get involved with. A new prayer discipline? Joining our choir? Reaching out to begin reconciling a long-broken relationship? As Easter/April Fools Day approaches I invite you to embrace your inner fool!

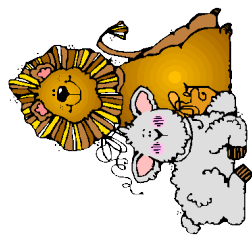
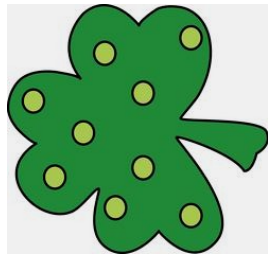


I would like to share with you that last weekend I joined in a local gathering of the gun safety organization Moms Demand Action. This meeting was attended by nearly 400 people and was so large because of our community's desire to respond to gun violence in the wake of the Parkland school shooting in Florida. In the aftermath of that shooting I noted in worship that I didn't feel I had words to properly address **yet another** instance of gun violence. But while I couldn't find words, I did find comfort in our community's desire to come together to respond to gun violence. I believe that supporting this organization and their work is a way that we can faithfully do so. Please check out their website at momsdemandaction.org. and join in their efforts as you feel called.



Blessings,

~Ryan



March 2018

Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship at 10:30am Soup Sunday 	5 	6	7	8	9	10
11 Worship at 10:30am Daylight Saving Time begins 	12 	13	14 Lay Pastoral Care Team Mtg 10:00am Location TBA 	15  Judy H Sue S	16	17 
18 Worship at 10:30am The Table - 5:30pm  Vanessa K	19 CE Committee Mtg 7:00pm 	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship at 10:30am Palm Sunday 	26 KCC Council Mtg 7:00pm 	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm Worship and dinner Lounge & Sanctuary 	30  GOOD FRIDAY GKEP Stations of the Cross Walk 12:00	31

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH



After Worship

1st Sunday, March 4th: Soup Sunday

- 3 homemade soups, bread, and beverages served in the Lounge following worship



2nd Sunday, March 11th:

- Following worship :
Confirmation for All Ages Class
in the Helliwell Room - 12:05pm
Theme: Worship & The Sacraments



3rd Sunday, March 18th:

- Following worship :
Confirmation for All Ages Class
in the Helliwell Room - 12:05
Theme: A survey of Christian History

- The Table — 5:30 pm
Fellowship Hall: music, worship,
soup & salad dinner & community



4th Sunday, March 25th :

- Palm Sunday
Palms and Hosanna!



Holy Week

Palm Sunday ~
March 25th

Celebrate Jesus' entry
into in Jerusalem,
waving Palms and
Shouting Hosannas!

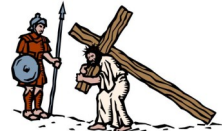


Maundy Thursday ~
March 29th

Worship and dinner
including Tenebrae
Lounge & Sanctuary—6:00pm



Good Friday ~
March 30th



GKEP

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk
Starting at St. John's Episcopal Church
at Noon and walking to the Marina
Park Pavilion: This is a very powerful
experience as we join with members of
the other GKEP churches and members
of the community.

Easter Sunday ~
April 1st



10:30am—Easter Service in Sanctuary
with Communion and special music.
Return your Lenten Prayer Jars

Easter Egg Hunt — following the
10:30am worship service; for children:
ages toddler through 6th grade



MARTIN



Journey Through the Season of Lent



The Season of Lent takes us on a journey of discovery of God's presence throughout history and in our lives today. This year the Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and lasts until Easter Sunday.

It is a season of quiet reflection when we bring our deep thoughts and feelings to God. Often people will observe Lent with something the church calls spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, meditation, fasting, and service to others.

What would help deepen your relationship with God and one another this season?

The Season of Lent is denoted by the color purple. Lent is a gift to us. A gift of slowing down, of quietness, of taking time to ponder and ask questions. Lent invites us into ourselves and our own wonderings. As we journey with Jesus, getting ever closer to the cross, we are encouraged to focus on the things that really matter to us; yes, Lent is a gift.

March 4th – Third Sunday in Lent “Contemplate God’s Glory”

Exodus 20:1–17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

John 2:13–22

Something to think about, talk about, or do

Psalm 19 begins with the bold claim that all the earth and all of its elements are not totally mysterious happenings nor are they the random act of capricious gods, they are the direct result of God's continue activity and that everything that happens on earth proclaims God's glory. Within this context, God's law – God's way of life for the world – brings joy and light to all who live within it.



Together this week

*As a Lenten practice, look for God's glory around you.

*Each day, write down examples of God's glory in your calendar or journal, or snap a photo with your mobile phone and post it to social media.

Prayer

Wise God, you offer us wonderful ways to love. Thank you for caring for us so deeply.

March 11th – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“God’s Love Is Steadfast”

Numbers 21:4–9

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Ephesians 2:1–10

John 3:14–21



Something to think about, talk about, or do

In Psalm 107, we hear that God’s love is for everyone. From every direction on Earth, God gathers us into safety. No matter what sort of mess we may have made of our lives or our relationships, God is steadfast, loyal and unwavering in love. God saves us from our distress and regret. In return, we thank and praise God. Let us sing out our gratitude with joy.

Together this week

*Whom might you know who is in need of love that is forgiving and steadfast?

Pray for these people this week.

*Extend an invitation to join you for a meal or to attend worship with you.

Give thanks for each other.

Prayer

Loving God, who never leaves us, thank you for all that you hold out to us.

Help us offer this great love to others.

March 18th – Fifth Sunday in Lent

“God’s Love Is on Our Hearts”

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16

Hebrews 5:5–10

John 12:20–33



Something to think about, talk about, or do

There is a difference between keeping rules someone else makes you follow and keeping rules you have chosen yourself. Sometimes, the Hebrews rebelled against God’s rules and broke them. Jeremiah promised that God would make a covenant that they would keep because they wanted to, not because they had to. God’s words in our hearts will draw us ever closer to the One who loves us so unconditionally.

Together this week

*Imagine a community where God’s people know the promises of God “by heart” – where no one has to teach her or his neighbor to know the ways of God.

*Imagine a relationship with God so warm that God's way is known, deep down and all around.

*Talk about what things you might do each day to help remember God's loving ways.

Prayer

Dear God, your ways are deep in our hearts. Thank you for asking us to share your love with others. Amen.

March 25th – Sixth Sunday in Lent “Love Arriving” — Palm Sunday

Liturgy of Palms

Mark 11:1–11

or John 12:12–16

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalms 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39, (40–47)



Something to think about, talk about, or do

Jesus rides a colt into Jerusalem where there are two kinds of crowds to greet him – those cheering “Hosanna!” and those calling for his death. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Jesus’ Passion. His real identity is about to be revealed. He is the Messiah and this is the week life turns to death and to life again.

Together this week

*Wonder about ways you can be present for one another as you journey with Jesus during this holy week.

*What undertakings can be made to Jesus, and to one another?

Prayer

Strong and loving God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for loving us and never deserting us. Amen.





N-Sid-Sen Camp and 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: August 19-25

For information or to register call
208-689-3489 or visit: n-sid-sen.org.



Pilgrim Firs Camp and Retreat Season 2018



Service/Mission Camps
June 24-29 and
July 15-20

For information or to register:
call 360-876-2031
or visit: pilgrimfirs.org



Results for 2018

Congratulations!!!

We collected approximately 190 special food items and \$50 in cash donations for this year's February Mission Project.

With your support we were able to provide 3 School Break Food Boxes for students in the Lake Washington School District through the Kirkland Nourishing Network. This was to support students and their families during the Mid-Winter Break in February.

Not only did you provide enough for 3 boxes for this school break, but you donated nearly enough food for us to be able to provide 4 boxes of food for the Spring Break coming up the week of Easter Sunday. We will use our Common Cents Fund to complete these boxes and purchase the fresh fruit and vegetables needed.

Great Job!! Thank you!!





I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Jesus shared in the human experience of thirst when he shared a drink with a Samaritan woman at the well.

*Women and girls in Africa and Asia often spend more than 6 hours collecting water every day.

*663 million people worldwide do not have regular access to clean water.

*Rain collection cisterns and irrigation systems help communities mitigate drought conditions.

*The water crisis in Flint, Michigan, brought to public attention the severe effects of contaminants in water supplies and the importance of good infrastructure.

How can you help with this?

What can you avoid consuming by drinking a glass of water instead?

***Substitute** your fancy coffee drink from a coffee shop for a glass of water; then donate the cost of the coffee drink to your prayer jar.*

Maybe your drink of choice is a carbonated soft drink, a fancy hot chocolate; a specialized tea; a glass of wine...

What ever you frequently choose to consume, drink a glass of water instead and donate the funds you saved to your prayer jar.

If you feel that you really want that favorite beverage; then match the cost by donating to your prayer jar.

Remember:

You are drinking water so others can have clean, safe water.

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25: 40.



On Easter Sunday, April 1st, we will bring our jars back to church with the coins we 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.



"2018 Lenten Prayer Project"



Lenten Thank You Jars

The Season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th, "Ash Wednesday" continuing to Easter Sunday. Lent is a quiet time in which we make space for reflection, prayer, and self-examination. Our focus will be on prayer and how we can make improvements in our own lives as well as the lives of others.



Each year the funds we collect are given to the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. This year, once again our focus is concerning WATER; safe clean water both here at home and abroad. We want to "tap" into that special focus with our Lenten Prayer Jars.

Think of all the ways that you have used water so far today.

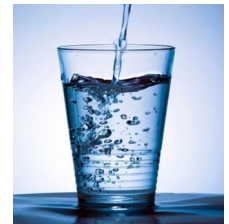
Did you take a shower this morning?

Did you flush your toilet?

Or wash your hands?

When you made, or ate breakfast, was water used?

How about when you cleaned up after the meal?



Now imagine walking many miles each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Now let's imagine that each year for several months you don't have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up.

How would you get by?

What parts of your daily routine would you have to abandon?

How would you provide water for your family?



University Congregational UCC is hosting “Faith on the Move”

Faith on the Move: Reframing the National Conversation **with Rev. Dr. David Vasquez Levy, President Pacific School of Religion** **March 9, 10, 11, 2018**

Join Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, immigration leader and President of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, for a hopeful and practical look at our communities’ ability to reframe this critical conversation. Tickets are on sale now: Visit brownpapertickets.com.

Friday, March 9

7 – 8:30 pm Law and Story: Reframing the National Conversation on Immigration

Our laws and our narratives—the stories we tell ourselves—and the ways we interpret them, are key to framing our understanding of ourselves and our communities. In the face of growing nationalism in our own country and abroad, our academic, legal, and religious communities have an opportunity and an obligation to move our discussion of immigration away from fear and towards a more compelling vision of our place in an increasingly global society.

Saturday, March 10

9 am – 2:30 pm Faithfulness Beyond Boundaries: Reading Ruth on the Move

Whether following a dream or leaving behind a difficult situation, humans have, throughout history, followed the pull and push of migration. The marvelous story of the book of Ruth captures the fears, challenges, and hope of those who find themselves away from home. But more than that, it invites us to realize that boundaries—of creed, space, or culture—are no limit for God’s faithfulness. Explore how this ancient text, seen through the eyes of contemporary immigrants, can challenge and inspire our understanding of our increasingly interconnected world. Sessions include:

9:00-10:15 Pushed by Loss, Pulled by Faithfulness (Ruth 1)

10:30-12:00 Daring by Hope (Ruth 3)

1:00-2:30 pm Forward Together (Ruth 4)

Sunday, March 11:

9 – 9:45 am: Prophetic Imagination: Spiritually Rooted Leadership for a World on the Move
While not original to the period of the Reformation, this phrase—“The reformed church, always reforming”—captures the movement of the Spirit throughout the history of the church. As we live through a time of major transition, what New York Times columnist and author Thomas Friedman calls “the age of acceleration,” how does the church draw on its tradition of reform to lead a world in desperate need of prophets and visions? How might we engage a world literally on the move to revisit and draw on our Sacred Text to learn anew to be a people on The Way?

10 am Sunday service sermon: The Gospel Outside: Healing at the Border Luke 17:11-19



Faith Uncorked is a small gathering of folks who come together to share in conversation about various faith topics, from the perspective of progressive Christian theology. Come and experience wonderful, thoughtful, and at times, challenging discussions, while respecting each persons' point of view. Enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage.

Where: Home of Pat J
Kirkland

When: Tuesday, March 13th, 7:00pm

Bring: Your favorite bottle of wine or non-alcoholic beverage, & an hors d'oeuvre to share

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

The Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting is coming!

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall BREAK FORTH into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

Breaking Forth is the theme of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference. This meeting will happen April 27-29th in Yakima, WA. The keynote speaker is Bishop Dwayne D. Royster. Bishop Royster has served in pastoral ministry for the past 20 years and is the Minister Emeritus and founding Pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ in Philadelphia. He is currently serving as Political Director for People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO). PICO believes in building a more just world by teaching people of faith how to build and exercise their own power to address the root causes of the problems they face. At the center of PICO's model of faith based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation – of people, institutions, and our larger culture.

If you are interested in attending as a delegate please contact Ryan for registration details.



Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List



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

Friends & family of Wayne K
LaVerne F
Carrie C
Verna T
Judy H
Donna C

Pat R
Jerry R
Dorris K
Brenda B
Winter L

Meredith G
Sarah J
Ruth W
Barbara L
Ruth R
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.



The Table

Sunday, March 18th

5:30pm

**Worship, Soup and Salad Dinner, Music, & Community
Fellowship Hall - 3rd Sunday of each month**



Kirkland Congregational

— UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST —

106 - 5th Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

