



The Good News

A Newsletter for Friends and Members
of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ
March 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,

The few shady spaces in our yard are where the last remnants of our February snow still reside. The small plies of icy, dirt-encrusted snow no longer provide a blanket of beauty, but instead serve merely as a reminder of the chaos that this winter's snows brought to this region. Each time I see those small piles I am reminded of how this season's storms nudged us to remember we are not in control of all things. In many ways the snowfall and chaos it brought was the perfect preface to the season of Lent—especially Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 6 this year, we are asked to remember that although our lives are filled with many modern conveniences and complications, we all begin from the dust of the earth and we will all eventually return there. And so we will begin this season marked by ashes remembering this simple truth.

The season of Lent asks us to do some work to prepare ourselves for Easter, for we cannot really know the joy of Easter Day if we haven't on some level wrestled with the heart-ache, fear, doubt, or indifference that confronts us as we live our daily lives. This year, thanks to an idea shared on twitter by the Rev. April Fiet, we are inviting you to prepare for Easter by focusing daily on one word. As you hold that word close through your day we invite you to find something that represents that word in the world—in a picture, a poem, a song lyric, or some other representation. We invite you to share these representations or to collect them for yourself. Please see page 3 for the list of words. I will have a few examples for you on Sunday March 3rd to help inspire your creativity!

In preparing for Lent and Ash Wednesday I came across a spare and simple poem by the British poet Edwina Gately (edwinagately.com) that feels very much like a preface to Lent. You will find the poem on page 11.

Blessings to each of you as we enter into this holy season,

Ryan

After Church Events

Sunday, March 3rd: Soup Sunday

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



Sunday, March 10th: First Sunday in Lent

Adult Education Class
Helliwell Room 12:05pm



Sunday, March 17th: Second Sunday in Lent

Adult Education Class
Helliwell Room 12:05pm



The Table — 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall,
Worship, Music, Food,
Community



Sunday, March 24th: Third Sunday in Lent

Adult Education Class
Helliwell Room 12:05pm



Sunday, March 31st: Fourth Sunday in Lent



Lent Begins in March

Ash Wednesday
March 6th

Service at 7:00pm
including the
imposition of ashes.



COME
TO THE TABLE

The Table

Sunday, March 17th
5:30pm

Worship, Soup and Salad Dinner,
Music, Community

106 5th Ave — Kirkland
3rd Sunday of each month



LENTEN SNAPSHOTS/ REFLECTIONS 2019

A New Lenten Journey Experience for 2019:

You are invited to participate in a daily Lenten Photo or Inspirational Reflection Experience Project.

How to Participate: *Each of the days during the Lenten season has been given a special word that relates to the biblical text for the day. You may take a photo or find an inspirational quote, a poem, drawing, picture, graphic or cartoon that represents what that word of the day means to you.

*Submit your items each day by email to Terri or Gale or bring them to church on Sundays during Lent (March 6-April 21).

*We will create a special page for each word of the day and post them on our KCC website, as well as on the bulletin board near the lounge.

*Be creative and have fun!

Here are the words for each day:

#LentenSnapshots2019

March 6 - Busy
March 7 - Hurry
March 8 - Impatient
March 9 - Productive
March 10 - Tempo
March 11 - Fast
March 12 - Slow
March 13 - Fit
March 14 - Style
March 15 - Burden
March 16 - Heavy
March 17 - Prepare
March 18 - Table
March 19 - Enemy
March 20 - Presence
March 21 - Still

March 22 - Sit
March 23 - Another
March 24 - Tune
March 25 - Still
March 26 - Connect
March 27 - Notice
March 28 - Dwell
March 29 - Nourish
March 30 - Welcome
March 31 - Lighten
April 1 - Stop
April 2 - Serenity
April 3 - Space
April 4 - Flourish
April 5 - Give
April 6 - Make

April 7 - Time
April 8 - Season
April 9 - Rhythms
April 10 - Lines
April 11 - Blurred
April 12 - Cost
April 13 - Limits
April 14 - Rest
April 15 - Remember
April 16 - Weary
April 17 - Silent
April 18 - Love
April 19 - Stillness
April 20 - Holy
April 21 - Life

First Presbyterian Church - Scottsbluff, NE

Examples: March 6—Busy

A busy life makes
prayer harder, but
prayer makes a busy
life easier.



Lenten Project #2

Our Mission Project
for the Lenten Season



What: We will be having Work Parties to make 4 “No Sew Blankets” which will be donated to a service organization within our community. These are extremely easy to make.

No experience required!

Who: All ages and genders are invited to join in the work, fun and fellowship.

When: Wednesday afternoons, 1:00pm
March 20, 27 and April 10, 17

Where: Fellowship Hall, KCC UCC

Snacks and Beverages Provided



Results for 2019:

Congratulations!!!

We collected approximately 80 special food items and \$150 in cash donations for this year's February Mission Project.

Our goal was 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.

Because of the snow storms, schools were closed the week of February 12, so the Food Box program was cancelled. We will save the donated items and the Common Cents Funds to provide 4 boxes of food for the Spring Break. Spring Break is the week of April 7-14.

The drop off date for the Food Boxes will be April 3. You may continue to donate the special food items needed.

Great Job!! Thank you!!



Committee Meetings

Christian Education Committee

Next meeting date is:

Monday, March 18th

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

Church Council Meeting

Monday, March 25th

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm



F.I.R.E.

**Fostering Interfaith
Relationships on the Eastside**

The next F.I.R.E. Dinner Dialogue will be on Sunday, March 31st at the IMAN Center in Kirkland.

The discussion topic will be:

“The Problem of Evil: How does your faith define and respond.”

The meal this time will be a catered Halal meal rather than the usual Potluck dinner.

Consider attending as we work as a community to foster interfaith relationships with our neighbors.



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: TBA

When: Tuesday, March 12th, 7pm

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

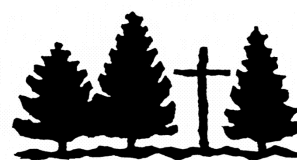
**Don't keep it bottled up
— Uncork your Faith!!**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS
SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH**



KCC Office hours are from 9:00am to 12 Noon.

Ryan is often around later and is available by appointment.



N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center 2019



Women's Retreat -

May 17—19

Emerging Adult Camp— July 19-21

(ages 19-35)

Work Camp (Free/all ages) - June 10-15

Intermediate Camp - July 7-13

(going into grades 5-6)

Junior High Aqua Camp - July 7-13

(going into grades 7-9)

Kid's Camp - July 14-17

(going into grades 2-4)

Senior High Aqua Camp - July 14-20

(going into 10th grade-entering college)

Rainbow Retreat—July 20—22

(age 18+)

Family Camp #1 - July 28—August 3

Family Camp #2 - Aug 4-10

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

Pilgrim Firs Camp & Retreat Season 2019

Women's Retreat—May 10-12

Service/Mission Camps
June 23-28



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





Living the Seasons



Continuing the Season After Epiphany for One More Sunday

The Season after the Epiphany invites us to open ourselves to new insights, new understandings, and new ways.

March 3rd ~ *Living in Glory*

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Luke 9:28–36, (37–43a)



Something to think about, talk about or do

The disciples had been faithfully following Jesus around as he preached, taught, and healed. They had watched him and knew they were in the company of someone extraordinary, yet even they were amazed by this experience. Jesus was there with Moses and Elijah, two of their greatest faith heroes. It was too good to believe, too good to leave, and too good to find the words to describe.

If only faith were like this every day! If only we could sit in the presence of Jesus and other great people of faith, and bask in the mystery and glory of God. But we're about to move into the Season of Lent, preparing for Easter. This is a time when we prepare for the very unexpected nature of God's greatness. We cannot stay on a mountain forever, but the mountain gives us the hope to go on.

Together

This week on Shrove Tuesday (March 5th), have a pancake party.

*Make some pancakes together. Include lots of special toppings, and talk together about the things you have done as a family over the last few months. Share together in a prayer of thanks.

*Close the Season after the Epiphany by talking about how God's light and love have been shining through you, and how you have been able to show Christ's love to others.

I reflect God's love by the way I...



Living the Season Of Lent



The Season of Lent can be a time of transformation and growth. In our busy world, there are few opportunities to slow down and rest in God's love. Lent can provide the opportunity to catch our breath and be still in God's presence. It is a deepening time when we reflect on our relationship with God and the awareness of our hope in Christ.

At the start of Lent, create a quiet place in your house – a sacred space where family members can go to read, reflect, meditate, tell stories, and meet with God.

March 10th ~

A Place of Justice and Grace

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16

Romans 10:8b–13

Luke 4:1–13



Something to think about, talk about or do

As Lent begins, we remember that all we have comes from God. In a land of plenty, the people might be tempted to forget that God provides and cares for them.

In Deuteronomy, we read that the people are asked to bring the first fruits of the harvest to say “thanks” for all God has done. This also helps them remember that God is with them always. God asks that we share with others from the best we have, not from what is “left over.”

Together

****Light a candle and think about how God has blessed you.** What stories about God and God's love will you remember and pass on?

****Using a variety of art supplies, decorate a shoebox or another box about that size. Think about things for which you would want to say “thank you” to God.** Have everyone find an object to represent one or two of these blessings (such as a toy, photograph, can of food...). Place the objects in the box. Each day this week, select one item, talk about what it represents and give thanks together.

****Get out the family photograph albums** and share family stories, starting with, “Remember when...” Give thanks for God's loving presence through the years.

March 17th ~

Journey toward Trust

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Luke 13:31–35

Something to think

about, talk about or do

Abram and Sarai are elderly when they set out on their journey of a lifetime, yet God promises that they will have a child. As time goes on, Abram begins to question God. Will God prove trustworthy?

God offers encouragement, telling Abram to look up at the night sky, full of stars. “you will have descendants as many as the stars,” God promises.

Abram's lament and God's loving response are words that can help us through our own times of doubt when we are unsure of God's purposes and promises. Abram's lament and God's loving response are words that can help us through our own times of doubt when we are unsure of God's purposes and promises.

Together

8 ****Cut out lots of paper stars.** These stars



remind us that we are all God's children. Have each person take a bag of stars and encourage one another to leave these reminders of God's love in as many different places as possible. Stars could be fixed to mirrors, put on refrigerators, slipped inside lunch boxes, school bags, sock drawers, and other surprising places.

****Go outside in the evening to look at the stars. Read Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18.** Think about God's amazing promise to Abram and Sarai. Think about God's other amazing promises – to love and care for all Creation. Say a prayer of thanks for the wonder of Creation and God's love.

March 24th ~

Fed by the Glory

Isaiah 55:1–9

Psalm 63:1–8

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

Luke 13:1–9



Something to think about, talk about or do

Sometimes, we invest too much of our energy and money in things that don't last, like material objects. Sometimes, we worry we will be excluded from community because we don't have the money or the talents of others. But the prophet Isaiah has a message for the people: God loves all. The prophet encourages us to seek after God and God's ways above all. God gives something to all who seek – steadfast love.

Together

****Celebrate God's love with a praise procession through the house.** Put on some lively worship music. Dance, sing, jump, and give thanks to God.

Accompany the procession with homemade musical instruments such as pot lid cymbals, saucepan drums, plastic containers filled with bottle caps.

****Make a wreath by decorating a circle with heart shapes.** Invite younger children to trace the circle shape round and round with a finger. Comment that God's love for

(child's name) is like a circle, it never, ever, ever, ever, ends. You might make this a bedtime ritual this week.

March 31st ~

A Traitor for Grace

Joshua 5:9–12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32



Something to think about, talk about or do

This is a story about finding a home and knowing where we belong. We're all different. Some of us know where our home is all the time, others have to leave home to discover where they belong. This is also a story that often touches hidden sadnesses in our lives – for those of us who never left home in the first place, so never had a party in our honor; for those of us who wait for people we love to come home; for those who have returned home to no welcome; and for those who have been forced to leave home but never wanted to. God's love is like no human love – it is limitless, boundless, and weeps for all.

Together

















****Think of those for whom home is so unsafe they have to leave.** There are 66 million refugees around the world, people who would desperately like to return home, but who cannot. Life for them, even in our safer communities, is tough. They often struggle to find some of the very necessities of life. Others struggle with learning how to shop, use public transport and other basic activities. This week, make some time to contact a refugee support service in your local area. Ask whether there are some basic needs you may be able to help with.

****Plan a special meal this week to celebrate God's extravagant love.** Invite each person to contribute something to the evening, such as table decoration, activity to share, and so on.



March 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship at 10:30am Soup after worship  	4 Mary M 	5	6 Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm 	7	8	9
10 Worship at 10:30am Daylight Saving Time Begins  	11 	12  TBA at 7pm	13 Lay Pastoral Care Mtg 10am 	14	15 Judy H Sue S 	16
17 Worship at 10:30am The Table 5:30pm Happy St. Patrick's Day  	18 Vanessa K CE Committee Mtg 	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship at 10:30am 	25 KCC Council Mtg 7pm 	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship at 10:30am. 						

Let Your God Love You
Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God—

Prayers and Support for our Puerto Rico Pilgrimage Crew

Four members of our congregation are participating in the Pacific Northwest Conference's Pilgrimage trip to Puerto Rico from March 31st through April 6th. Dick J, Van K, Grace L, and Pastor Ryan will be a part of the 25 member delegation that is going to Puerto Rico to support post-hurricane rebuilding efforts with our siblings in faith who live in Puerto Rico. Please keep our members and the whole delegation in your prayers!

If you would like to help our delegation defray costs you may donate to our congregation's "Puerto Rico relief fund."



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
Philip V

Lisa G
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

