



The Good News

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

I am fresh off our conference's Annual Meeting, which took place April 26-27 at First Congregational Church in Bellevue, and I want to share a few reflections on that gathering and our and shared ministries. I am grateful for the lay folks, clergy, and churches that make up the Pacific Northwest Conference and attending Annual Meeting always reminds me of the uniqueness of our connection to each other. In the United Church of Christ we hold each other in covenant, rather than in any contractual bonds. At first glance it might feel like this structure would cause us to have little allegiance to each other, but in my experience the bonds of covenant help us hold a deeper connection than any contract would. Thus, in our gathering and our work together as a conference, I have experienced and seen deep appreciation for the gifts of every ministry setting. Our structure invites us to see each other as siblings in faith. Therefore, when a ministry, no matter how geographically removed from us, is thriving, we are thriving as well. In turn, when one of our sibling ministries is struggling, we too are struggling. It is easy to think of the church as only being situated at 106-5th Avenue in Kirkland, and yet the bonds of our conference covenant serve to remind us that our church truly stretches to Forks, Washington, to Anchorage, Alaska, and to Wallace, Idaho!

During the Annual Meeting we had the opportunity to hear reports from the Rev. Mike Denton, our Conference Minister, the Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, our Minister for Church Vitality, Wendy Blight, the Moderator of the Conference, and many others. While much of the meeting was uplifting, one of the more difficult **and** important pieces of business that we attended to was to hear from clergy of color who have experienced discrimination while working within our conference. Their experiences were read aloud by members of our conference's Racial Reconciliation team, which allowed some anonymity for the clergy who had experienced these race-based aggressions. Our conference is filled with churches that lead the way on many issues, but we are also a conference that mirrors the realities of living in a society that is racist. We should not be surprised then that racism does not stop at the door of our worship houses. I am grateful for the courageous words of my colleagues who shared their own painful experiences in an effort to help our conference confront the realities of racism within our covenanted relationships. As a conference there is a commitment to continue to work to confront the racism that exists within our structures and within our churches. The next steps in this work will undoubtedly be painful at times, but this is important work as we continue to live into the promise of our denomination that "all may be one" (John 17:21).

(continued on page 7)



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 Gale P

When: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

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

Time: 7:00pm

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

The No-Sew Blanket Making Project continues

The Christian Education Committee wants to thank each of the people that came to the Blanket Making Parties during Lent. It was a very successful project; so we decided that we wanted to make it an on-going project.

Therefore, our next Blanket Making Party will take place on Wednesday, May 8.

What: We will make 2 or 3 additional "No Sew Blankets" which will be given to someone within our community.

No experience required!

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

When: Wednesday afternoon,
1:00pm, May 8, 2019

Where: Lounge, KCCUCC

Snacks and Beverages Provided





KCC UCC Camp Scholarship Fund 2019

Each year we make an effort to provide 50% of the camp registration fee for each camper from KCCUCC that attends a summer camp, and/or a retreat at either of our camp locations. This fund is available for all children, youth, and adults. In the past years, the fund has supported campers at Kid's Camp, Intermediate Camp, Junior High Camps, Senior High Camps, Family Camps, Women's Retreat, Men's Retreat, Confirmation Retreat, Regional and National Youth events.

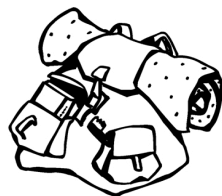
The Outdoor Ministry Programs in our Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ are among the best. Our Camp and Conference Centers of Pilgrim Firs near Port Orchard and N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene, outside Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, are outstanding facilities in magnificent locations that are changing lives for the better, forever.

Last year, many KCC UCC adults, children, and youth attend a camp or retreat at one of our sites. We want to be able to send our youth, our children, our adults, our families to the camp or retreat of their choice this year, but we need your help.

Our KCC Camp Scholarship Fund is at an all time low.

During the next 6 weeks, the Christian Education Committee will be accepting donations to the KCC Camp Scholarship Fund after church to reach our goal of \$50. 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!!!**



N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center 2019



Women's Retreat -
May 18—20

Emerging Adult Camp— June 15—17
(ages 19-35)

Work Camp (Free/all ages) - June 18—21
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 19—25

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 24—29,



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

After Church Events

Sunday, May 5th
Adult Education Class
With Podcast



Sunday, May 12th ~
Mother's Day



Sunday, May 19th
Adult Education Class
With Podcast



Sunday, May 26th ~
Memorial Day Weekend

NOTE: The KCC office will be closed on May 27th.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, June 1:
Spring Clean-Up
9:00am—2:00pm
Lunch provided



Sunday, June 2:
Bible Sunday and
Christian Education
Appreciation Sunday



Sunday, June 9:
Pentecost Sunday
Confirmation



KCC Congregational
Annual Meeting
following worship



All Church BBQ,
following meeting.

Details to follow in June Good News.

The Nominations Committee is at Work!

Eloise B, Naomi L, and Pastor Ryan are working to fill the nominations slate for 2019-2020 for the KCC Council and Officers. We are asking people to consider serving in new places and new ways, so if you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider the opportunity!



Living the Season after Easter

For the next 50 days, we continue with a time for joyous celebration! The impossible has happened. On Easter morning, we are reminded that violence, destruction, and death do not have the last say. The empty tomb is the first witness that God has done a new thing and the season erupts with joyful alleluias. The Season of Easter is fifty days long and leads to Pentecost Day when the church celebrates the gift of God's spirit

Throughout the Easter season, we will meet witnesses of God's new way. We are introduced to a variety of early followers: women and men, Jews and Gentiles. Each story contains the ancient promises that God is present and has the future in hand.

May 5: *Turning Point of Transformation*

Acts 9:1–6, (7–20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11–14

John 21:1–19



Something to think about, talk about or do

This week, we meet one of the great leaders of the early Church. Saul experiences a dramatic encounter with the risen Christ while journeying to Damascus and is radically transformed. But this is also a story of the call of Ananias, which is also a story of transformation. Jesus comes to Ananias in a vision and calls him to go to Saul and bring healing to an "enemy." It is an encounter with Christ whose call to reconciliation remains as timely for the church today as it was for Ananias. By the end of the story, both Saul and Ananias have had visions that transform not only them but also their communities.

Together

****Talk about who acted like Ananias – eye opener and Spirit giver – in your life. Who has helped your faith to grow? Consider sending them a note of thanks.**

****Just as a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, so Saul's life was transformed when he experienced the risen Christ. Cut butterfly shapes from brightly colored card stock or heavy paper. Decorate, if desired, and glue onto spring clothes pegs/clothespins. Make several and clip them to curtains, placements, clothes, or other places.**

Prayer ~

Spirit of Christ, we meet you in ways and places that are familiar as well as in ways and places that are surprising and unexpected. Help to discern your voice, trust your call, and move with others along your way. Amen.

May 12: *Identity of Resistance*

Acts 9:36–43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9–17

John 10:22–30

Something to think about, talk about or do

Tabitha's ministry with the widows of her community is evident in this week's story. Tabitha made clothing and, more than that, showed caring compassion in her work.

Caring, compassionate, holy work is shown by words and actions that wipe away tears, restore life, and testify to God's love. What does Tabitha do? She sees a need and responds in love as Jesus did. Like Jesus, Tabitha ministers with those on the margins and, in so doing, draws together a community who grieves her death, celebrates her gifts, and witnesses her restoration to life.

Together

****Talk about what you might do as a family to respond to those in need. Can you think of someone who would appreciate a visit, some free babysitting, or homemade goodies?**

****Among other things, Tabitha made clothing for people who had none. Pass around a piece of clothing or gift that has been made by hand. Envision the love and care that went into every stitch.**

What may Tabitha teach us about ministry that is both ordinary and boundary-breaking?

What might others "show" as evidence of our love, compassion, and care?

****Choose some of your clothing that no longer fits but is still wearable and take it to a local distribution center, bin, or thrift store. Or buy some socks or underwear to donate to a group that provides services to those who are unhoused.**

Prayer ~

Caring God, we are thankful for all the ways you care for us. Help us to show care to others. Amen.



To each person who has been like a mother to you in your life.

May 19, *Spirit of Solidarity*

Acts 11:1–18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1–6

John 13:31–35

Something to think about, talk about or do

The Spirit empowers the community of Christ to move in new ways. God has called Creation good and when we try to set boundaries God's grace always tries to break through. Peter appears before the Jerusalem believers, some of whom have taken exception to the outreach to the gentile community. Peter has been stirred by a vision of God's people and all Creation and acts on it. The good news of God's love, expressed in the life of Jesus, and the Spirit's presence are for all people. God has done, and still does, new things in our midst. Where the Spirit leads, the church is called to follow in love.

Together

Peter comes to realize that everyone is to be included in the community of God's people.

****Have a meal that incorporates food from several different places and cultures.**

Talk about the food and where it comes from.

Identify these countries on a globe or world map.

Say a prayer of thanks for the wonderful gift of diversity in

God's world.

Prayer ~

God of our dreams, we are thankful for our community of faith and for the ways you help us imagine a new way with you.

Amen.

May 26: *The Power of Listening*

Acts 16:9–15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23–29 or John 5:1–9

Something to think about, talk about or do

Currents of God's Spirit carry us in directions we may not have gone. The book of Act weaves its story with the theme of openness to and opening by God's Spirit. The Spirit opened Paul to a new geographical direction. Now the Spirit opens Lydia's heart to the gospel's words of love, justice, and new life. Lydia and her household are welcomed into community through baptism. Lydia practices hospitality in return. She urges Paul to stay in her home and, from her gracious hospitality and their theological conversations, a new church is born.

Together

****Gather around a table, light a candle, and share a simple snack together. Talk about your church.**

What was it like when you first went to your church? If you have gone to different churches, what are some of the things you remember about them?

****What are some of the ways people learn about God's love in your church?**

****Weave paper placemats.**

Cut parallel slots 2 cm/1 in apart in large pieces of construction paper. These are the "looms." Cut 2 cm/1 in strips from complementary colored construction paper. Weave these strips into the looms you prepared in an alternating pattern.

****Write a letter to a woman in your church (or another woman) who has influenced you or take her a gift or invite her for a meal.**

Prayer ~

Welcoming God, we are thankful for Lydia, Paul, and all who show us how to welcome others in your name. Amen.

(continued from page 1)

Another important piece of our Annual Meeting was to pass the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Our own Martha Baldwin serves as the Conference Treasurer and was key to developing our conference's budget. Most of you know that Martha works professionally as a CPA, and that she does our church's payroll and financial work. But perhaps you don't know that she also helps churches across the conference with their financial and bookkeeping needs. She is also a consistent "go-to" for many clergy as they have questions about financial rules and personal taxes. It is not a stretch to call Martha's work with our church, the conference, and the churches of our Conference a ministry. I am grateful for Martha's work and for the generous and often behind-the-scenes ministry that she does to support so much ministry within our conference. **Thank you, Martha!**

Blessings,

Ryan

Support the Youth Climate Strike May 3rd

Grace L. is helping to lead the WA Youth Climate Strike, a movement to raise consciousness about climate change. The next event is at Occidental Square in Seattle at 10 am on Friday, May 3rd. Support our youth as they lead the movement for legislation that will make care for the earth a priority in our state and beyond!

For more information: Look for @climatestrikewa on twitter and facebook.

Feed Your Soul

A PNC-UCC Conference Women's Weekend at Pilgrim Firs

May 10-12, 2019

**A joy-filled, nourishing women's weekend of music,
creativity, sabbath and spiritual exploration**

**This weekend is designed to encourage women to take a break
from their normal routine and perhaps try something new.**

**During full group gatherings, small group discussions, and
mini-workshops, you will have an opportunity to
embrace creativity and playfulness.**

**Opportunities include movement, art, music, spiritual exploration,
time to nap, hike, read, visit, and enjoy the quiet beauty
and radical hospitality of Pilgrim Firs.**

**Yes, this is Mother's Day weekend. What a great opportunity to
give yourself the gift of time and renewal. Our program will be
completed by 10 a.m. on Sunday so you can still be present for
family celebration. We would love for you to join us!**

**This retreat is designed for all who identify as women.
Teens 16 and older are welcome, but must be accompanied
by a parent or guardian.**

**Retreat leadership team: Emily Tanis-Likkel, Kaila Russell,
Brigitta Remole, Tara Barber, Rosemary Hashimoto, Jamie Shilling**

Cost is \$150

Register at www.pilgrim-firs.org



Uplifting 100 years of making a difference, together

On July 22, 1919, representatives of 62 congregations gathered at Plymouth Church and founded the Seattle Federation of Churches. Join us today in uplifting 100 years of working together as what is now called the Church Council of Greater Seattle, bringing about justice through faith in King and South Snohomish Counties. The theme for this year is “**The Together Difference**”—acknowledging and affirming the deep values and commitments that bind us together as The Church Council. **Together we gather. Together we vigil. Together we advocate. Together we organize. Together we serve.** There are many ways to join in the celebrations!

Community events

Annual Assembly took place on Thursday March 28, 2019, at Seattle First Baptist Church. This year, the Assembly took the form of an ecumenical worship with interactive elements in celebration of our 100th year. The usual, formal business was woven into the worship.

Our flagship **100th Anniversary Community Celebration** will take place at 6 PM on Saturday June 1, 2019 at Plymouth Church in Downtown Seattle. At the church where the Seattle Federation of Churches was first formed, we invite you to join us for an interfaith celebration in the sanctuary and reception to follow. Please note that, in support of the observance of Ramadan, the reception will take place at 9 PM.



















House Parties will hold space to share stories in person and raise support for the 2nd Century of faithful action. These will take place October – December, 2019 in a home near you.



May 2019

Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Jim K Worship - 10:30am  	6 Arria G 	7 	8 Blanket Making Party - Lounge 1pm	9 	10 	11 Nancy L 
12 Mindy G Worship - 10:30am Mother's Day  	13 	14 Father's Day At Gale P's 7pm 	15 Kelly P 	16 Jerry R 	17 	18
19 Worship - 10:30am 	20 CE Meeting 7pm 	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship - 10:30am 	27 Memorial Day KCC 	28	29	30	31	

Committee Meetings

Christian Education Committee

Next meeting date is:



Monday, May 20, 2019

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

Church Council Meeting has been moved to ~

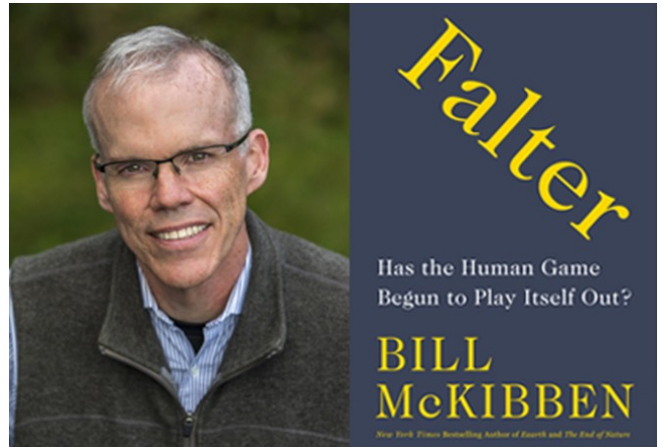
Monday, June 3, 2019

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

Laycare Committee

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Woodland Terrace



Bill McKibben to Speak at Kane Hall at the University of Washington Thursday, May 2, 2019, 7:30 – 8:45 pm

Thirty years ago Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about climate change. Now he broadens the warning: the entire human game, he suggests, has begun to play itself out.

Bill McKibben's groundbreaking book *The End of Nature* -- issued in dozens of languages and long regarded as a classic -- was the first book to alert us to global warming. But the danger is broader than that: even as climate change shrinks the space where our civilization can exist, new technologies like artificial intelligence and robotics threaten to bleach away the variety of human experience.

Falter tells the story of these converging trends and of the ideological fervor that keeps us from bringing them under control. And then, drawing on McKibben's experience in building 350.org, the first truly global citizens movement to combat climate change, it offers some possible ways out of the trap. We're at a bleak moment in human history -- and we'll either confront that bleakness or watch the civilization our forebears built slip away. *Falter* is a powerful and sobering call to arms, to save not only our planet but also our humanity.

Bill McKibben is a founder of the environmental organization 350.org and was among the first to have warned of the dangers of global warming. He is the author of the bestsellers *The End of Nature*, *Eaarth*, and *Deep Economy*. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and the winner of the Gandhi Prize, the Thomas Merton Prize, and the Right Livelihood Prize. He lives in Vermont.



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
Gordon G

Nancy L
Jerry R
Ruth W
Philip V
Barbara D

Lisa G
Sarah J
Barbara L
Barbara A

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

