



The Good News

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

September 2018



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,

Happy New Year! I always think of Labor Day weekend as the beginning of a new year...at least in the life of the church. As school starts back into session and people return from their vacations the church has an annual restart of sorts. I hope that your summer months have been productive and wonderfully filled with joyous and relaxing times. As we gather together in September we will be jumping back in with a number of things that signal that the Spirit is moving at our church!



Our September includes a very full month of exciting events. On Sunday September 9th we start out our year with a pancake breakfast beginning at 9 am. During worship we welcome back our choir and our church school begins again for our children. We will also kick-off our after church Adult Education and Spiritual Formation class (see article on page 12). On September 23rd we welcome the Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, who will lead us in worship and will be working with our council in her role as the Minister of Church Vitality for the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. Finally, on Sunday September 30th we will be joining with Lake Washington Christian Church at 343 15th Ave. to celebrate "Work-ship" together as we worship by putting our hands and feet into a morning of service.

As a reminder Camp Unity has now moved onto our property and we are serving as their hosting congregation through Thanksgiving weekend. Our own Al C. is on the Camp Unity board and has been instrumental in helping the camp get situated. I hope that you will take time to stop by Camp Unity and offer the residents a greeting. I am proud to serve a congregation that so willingly offers its property as a public witness to the compassionate love of God. As Camp Unity is using our entire parking lot there is a significant impact on Sunday mornings. I would ask people who are comfortable walking a little bit to consider parking in the City Hall parking lot on Sunday mornings, so as to leave the spaces directly in front of the church for those who need easy access to the building.



Finally, as we move beyond summer and toward fall I have been thinking about the number of people in our congregation who are travelling through significant times of change. Whether it be retirement, grief, a change in job, a change in relationship status, a change in health status, or becoming "empty-nesters," these changes can cause a great deal of upheaval and I would remind folks that I am here as a pastoral voice in the midst of these changes. I also know that there is a great deal of wisdom in our congregation, so I ask you to trust me and each other to nurture, advise, and support you in your season of change.

Blessings,

Ryan

P.S. To help give Camp Unity space, the doors from the parking lot side of the building will be locked. Please remember to enter the building through the 1st Street entrance.



Fall Program begins

Sunday, September 2nd: Communion Sunday

Sunday, September 9th: Rally Sunday ~

- Pancake Breakfast in Lounge
9:00—10:10am
- Worship Service—10:30am
- Sunday School Resumes
- Adult Education class
begins: Podcast Series in
Helliwell Room at 12:05pm



Wednesday, September 12th:

- 40 Days of Prayer begins

Sunday, September 16th:

- Worship Service—10:30am
- Sunday School
- Adult Education class —
Podcast Series in Helliwell
Room at 12:05pm

Sunday, September 23rd:

- Worship Service—10:30am
Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear
as guest preacher
- Sunday School

Sunday, September 30th:

- “Workshop” Service with
Lake Washington Christian Church—
10:00am (in their sanctuary)



Learning Opportunities

We will kick off the Fall 2018 Christian Education Program on **Sunday, September 9.**

The Christian Education Committee is at work planning a variety of learning opportunities to meet the needs of the congregation, from our youngest members to our adults.

Our Elementary aged children will participate in a multi-aged program using the Seasons of the Spirit resources. This class will be for children ages 6 -12.



Child care is provided by our new Nursery Caretaker, **Andrea M.**, for infants and toddlers, up to age 5, each Sunday in the nursery

beginning at 10:15am

Various opportunities for learning and faith development will be provided for adults throughout the year. We will start the year with a series of Podcasts on a variety of relevant topics.



Podcasts

September 9 ~ A conversation with host DeRay Mckesson and sociologist Brene Brown about Joy, Privilege and Discomfort.

September 16 ~ WNYC’s Death, Sex, and Money series on class in America—how our faith might help us bridge that divide.

For All ages: Check out www.spiritseasons.com for Bible study groups, “Spirit Sightings” and an interactive “Action Zone” for kids.

Schedule A Time To Share Your Talents and Faith

As you turn your calendar to September and begin scheduling, be sure to schedule some time to volunteer for the church.

There are a lot of short time commitments: being lay leader, setting up and supplying goodies for coffee hour, and being a greeter are a few of the opportunities.

Remember, if you find standing to read scripture challenging, we have a lot of comfy chairs and a good microphone system to assist you up front.

And if you are like me, I appreciate the provided larger font scripture reading print out.

Schedule a time and then email or call Terri, or text or call me at 425-753-3877.

Thanks for considering sharing your gifts with the congregation.

by Pat J

Christian Education Committee

Next meeting date is:

Monday, September 10th

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

Church Council

Next meeting date is:

Monday, September 24th

Helliwell Room at 7:00pm

Soup Sundays:

Watch for Soup
Sundays to
resume on
Sunday,
October 7th.



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.

These gatherings will resume in **October**.

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

Common Cents Fund



Helping Children at Risk In our Community

Thank you for your generosity over the past few months. Your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars which you contribute multiply quickly. The mission of the Common Cents fund is to help children at risk in our community.

Thank you for your pennies and other loose change, and yes those dollar bills, too! Keep them coming and together we can help a lot of children. The next big projects are the "Healthy Start Project" for Children's Sabbath in October, a food item for Thanksgiving baskets, the "Tree of Angels" during Advent, and the Souper Bowl Sunday in early February. You can help make a difference in the lives of local children with your continued support of the Common Cents Fund.

Living the Season of Creation

by Gale P

The Season of Creation is now being celebrated in a number of countries around the world. Aqua, the blue green colour of the planet Earth when viewed from outer space, invites us into the Season of Creation, and the pulsing of God's spirit that moves in and through all creation. During this four-week season, we experience the deep impulse of God's word that calls forth creation and stirs life. We affirm our kinship with everything God has created and is creating, are made conscious of the crisis of human domination, and encouraged to live in and toward a vision of new heavens and new earth.

Why a Season of Creation? There is a growing concern in Christian communities about the ecological crisis and the way Earth has been treated. One of the most effective ways to focus this interest, we believe, is through worship. By concentrating our worship on God's creation and worshipping with creation, we are more likely to find ways to heal rather than exploit our planet.

The four Sundays this year are Planet Earth, Humanity, Sky and Mountain. The scripture texts for each week help us think about the theme and explore how it connects with our own living.

As we journey through this Season of Creation, may we be mindful of the overarching theme for this year – God's Word. We are reminded that "The Word is a deep impulse summoning forth creation, evoking praise from creation and stirring life in creation." May we find our lives stirred that, as part of creation, we might praise God!

September 2nd ~ Planet Earth

Genesis 1:1–25

Psalms 33:1–9

Romans 1:18–23

John 1:1–14



Something to think about, talk about or do

Some people may find aspects of the first creation story in the Bible a little surprising. Notice that there is something that already exists before the story starts – water. Notice, too, that repeatedly God marvels at the creation (such as at the end of verse 10). Notice how the world is created with purpose and majesty. Lastly, note that this is simply one story about creation that the Bible gives us; Genesis 2, Psalm 8, and Proverbs 8 all present other views. This helps remind us that the Bible is not a science book, but a wonderful collection of tales about God's activity through history, and love for all creation.

Together this week

Write a thank you letter to God describing what you find beautiful about Earth.

Prayer

Thank you, dear God, for all we see and hear and smell on planet Earth.

September 9th ~ Humanity

Genesis 1:26–28

Psalms 8

Philippians 2:1–8

Mark 10:41–45



Something to think about, talk about or do

Creation of humans should not be seen as separate from other elements of creation. Rather, God created human beings as a part of an overall plan that included stars and

rivers, animals and trees, nighttime and day, as well as people. We are intrinsically part of God's world. We are called to be God-like in our care for Creation. As God cares for even the minute details, so are we called to care for each thing, large and small.

Together this week

Discuss ways where you might show compassionate care.

Prayer

Thank you, dear God, for our family and our friends. Help us to work together to help take care of our world. Amen.

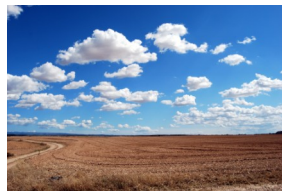
September 16th ~ Sky

Jeremiah 4:23–28

Psalms 19:1–6

Philippians 2:14–18

Mark 15:33–39



Something to think about, talk about or do

The unbridled praise of God's creative power in Psalm 19 helps to counter the negative imagery of Jeremiah 4:23–28. While this latter passage speaks of Earth having no hope, still God proclaims, "I will not destroy it completely." Even in the midst of God's anger and despair at humankind – often for ways we have abused Creation – still God does not abandon us, or Earth that is our home. Indeed, we can look to the heavens and feel the power and presence of God.

Together this week

Sit comfortably outside, or in a place where you can see through a window. Write about what you see in the sky.

Take a breath, and feel the wondrous presence of God in that air, offering you the gift of a moment of being.

Prayer

Thank you, dear God, for the sun and moon and stars and clouds. Thank you for all these things in the sky that can remind us of you. Amen.

September 23rd ~ Mountain

Isaiah 65:17–25

Psalms 48:1–11

Romans 8:28–39

Mark 16:14–18



Something to think about, talk about or do

God is always creating things anew. Even as one thing dies, another comes to life. As plants and animals return to the earth, they nurture the growth of new beings. In this kind of world, how can we do anything but rejoice? Indeed, the prophet Isaiah declares how wonderful life can be in God's new world. When we remember our place in Creation, and how we can support one another, life on God's "holy mountain" – this planet – becomes wonderful beyond our imagination. Even the wolf and lion will lie down together!

Together this week

Draw or paint your dream for Creation.

Prayer

Awesome God, we see you in the mountains and say, "thank you." Thank you for this beautiful world. Amen.

September 30th ~

Getting Out of the Way

Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22

Psalms 124

James 5:13–20

Mark 9:38–50

Something to think about, talk about or do

Jesus tries to redirect the disciples from focusing on who is with them or against them to thinking instead about how they might be a stumbling block to following Jesus' way. It's always easier to find fault in others than to critically examine our own motives. To build a community of faith, hope, and love, we must lift one another up and not look to tear others down.

Together this week

Lift others up: Take a piece of paper and make a list of people who you can encourage this week. Place the list where everyone can see – on the refrigerator at home or in a shared document/space online. Invite everyone in your family or group to select at least one of the people on your list and do a small act of kindness for that person. Report back and add your deed to the list when you've completed it.

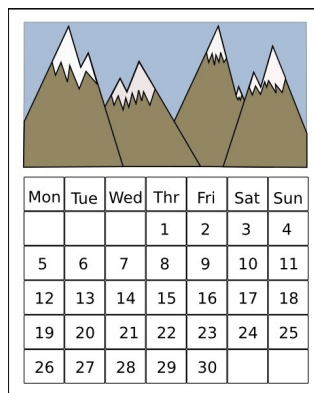


Prayer

Creator God, when I think that I have all the answers, remind me that you are God. I need to get out of the way – and let you be God. Amen.

Calendars wanted!

To help her students Barb L is collecting those 'free' calendars that we get in the mail from donating to various groups. If you have extra calendars please bring them to church.



Come one, come all!

Lay leaders, ministers, pastors, youth leaders, interested individuals, church leadership councils, outreach teams, social justice teams, mission teams, worship teams . . .

Come to **Weaving Our Strengths**, a day-long conference of fellowship, inspiration and skill-building to strengthen local churches' efforts for the common good. The day includes worship, two sessions of workshops, and an afternoon session moving from conversation to action. This year's theme is **Narratives of Hope**.

Conference information is up on our website at www.thechurchcouncil.org/wos including workshop descriptions and presenter bios, logistics, ways to share the invitation, and registration.

Workshop themes include organizing for church vitality; our call to advocacy; water in Scripture, our lives and world; standing with our Muslim neighbors; equity in daily life; racial justice; civility; environmental and housing justice; spirituality & justice "reset"; cultural humility; and discernment.

When: Saturday, September 29th
8:00am to 3:15pm

Where: Mercer Island Presbyterian Church
3605 - 84th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

- **Bring a team!** Take advantage of more workshop offerings, build shared capacity and help implement learning. There are group rates, along with student and individual rates.
 - **Early Bird** rate for individuals ends **Sept. 4**
 - **Scholarships** are available
 - **Free childcare** available with pre-registration by **Sept. 21**
 - **Free parking** available
- Coffee, tea, snacks provided.
Food vendor invited for lunch

Light A Candle for Children

Forty Days of Prayer for Children

**Begins on Wednesday,
September 12th**

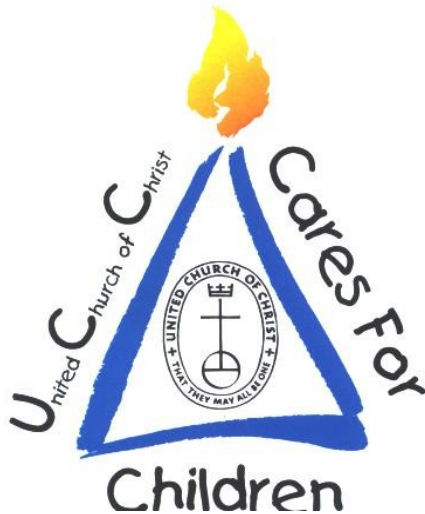
Light a Candle for Children, is an advocacy and prayer vigil project that invites congregations to join in **Forty Days of Prayer for Children**. It begins forty days prior to the national observance of **Children's Sabbath**. This year we will observe the Children's Sabbath on **October 21st**.

This Year Again!!!

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

Sunday, September 2nd or September 9th

**Along with our KCC UCC
Children's Prayer Booklet**



During the 40 days from September 12– October 21, 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 18th 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 16— **shop for Baby Wipes and Baby Shampoo**
Return items to church on Sunday September 23.



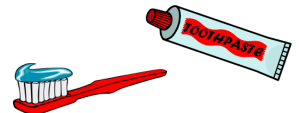
Week of September 23 — **shop for Diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and Pull Ups**
Return items on Sunday, September 30.

Week of September 30— **shop for Facial Tissue and Bathroom Tissue**
Return items on Sunday, October 7.



Week of October 7 — **shop for Bath soap and Laundry detergent**
Return items on Sunday, October 14.

Week of October 14 — **shop for Toothbrushes and Toothpaste**
Return items on Sunday, October 21.



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 Reads, Creating Conversations

This “all city reads the same book program” is happening in Kirkland during September and October. The community is invited to come together to read and discuss *Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream* by Joshua Davis. *Spare Parts* is the true story of four high school students, immigrants from Mexico, who defied the odds by winning a robotics competition against one of the nation’s top universities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In conversations about the book, Kirkland residents, employees, and visitors can explore intersecting themes around the immigrant experience, friendship, achievement, technology, competition, personal values, and equal opportunity. Join a scheduled discussion, organize your own, or contact Sarah J. if you’d like to join other church folks.

Below are some of the planned events.

(Be sure to get the latest detailed calendar at kirklandreads.org.)

- The first events happen during Welcoming Week on Sept. 15 and 16 when books and discussion guides will be available at the both Kirkland and Kingsgate libraries from 12 to 3. Also, books will be available at the Boys and Girls Club on Sept. 15 from 12 to 3. Throughout the program, The Book Tree book store on Market St. in Kirkland will give discount coupons for purchase of the book.
- Reading the book won’t be the only way to engage. There will be free showings of two movies based on the book, a Hollywood movie, *Spare Parts*, on Oct. 4, 6:30, at Kirkland Library and Oct. 16, 6:30, at Kingsgate Library. A documentary, *Underwater Dreams*, will be shown at Kirkland Teen Union Building, 348 Kirkland Ave, on November 3rd at 3 p.m.
- There will be workshops for kids from elementary to high school to explore robotics Sept. 22 at Lake Washington High Cafeteria from 10 to 3.
- On Oct. 21st at 3 p.m., Peter Kirk Community Center, Fredi Lajvardi, one of the teachers who inspired the kids, will speak.

Please join the conversation!

by Sarah J



Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List



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

Family & friends of Verna T

Jerry R

Ruth W

Sarah J

Barbara L

Dorris K

Judy H

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.



Celebration of Life for Verna T



Plan to join with Verna T’s family as we celebrate her life on September 15th. The service will be at **1:30pm** in our sanctuary and there will be a reception to follow in our church lounge. Please come to this joyous time as we celebrate a life well lived by Verna, who was a beloved friend to many and a saint of our church.

Holy Family Blood Drive:



Dear Holy Family Parish Community,

As some of you know, for most of last year, our 4-year-old Jane battled stage IV kidney cancer. Before we started this journey, we had no idea how essential blood and platelet donations are in the war against childhood cancer. See the dark line snaking out of Jane's pajamas and down her chest? That's the blood of a stranger who is probably unaware of the desperate fight kids like Jane are waging against cancer and how vital their donation is to victory. I bet they have no idea how a grateful mom is *still* moved to tears by their generosity.

To the many of you who came out last September and those who donate regularly, let me thank you on behalf of all the moms and dads at Seattle Children's. Many of our kids received too many transfusions to count during treatment. While it takes under an hour to donate blood, it takes over three hours to be transfused with it, so we've had a lot of time to think about you, the people helping to keep our babies alive. We are grateful beyond measure.

While Jane is currently in remission, the fight goes on. That's why we are holding the 2nd Annual #4SweetJane Blood Drive. Did you know cancer kills more kids than all other diseases combined? There is no choice: to survive, these kids need blood from donors. They need YOU.

2nd Annual #4SweetJane Blood Drive

Saturday, September 8 • 9am-3pm

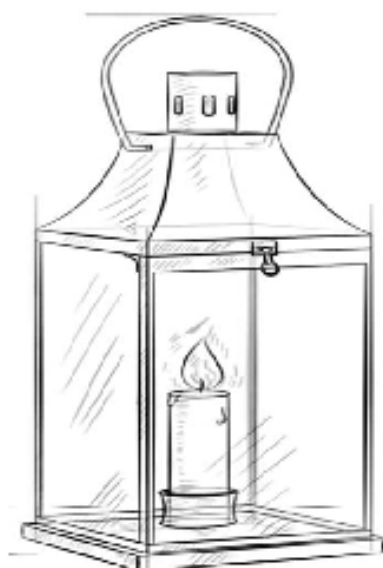
Holy Family Church

7045 120th Ave NE Kirkland, WA

Please come and bring a friend!

*Jane's Mom,
Christine O*

Schedule your appt here --> <https://bit.ly/2mjDlR0>



Light the Way *help faith communities build* *homes and hope in 2018*

Join us for fellowship and the hands-on work of Habitat for Humanity! Get together with all faith members to respond to King County's housing crisis.

Members of all faiths are welcome! We strive to be an example of what we can accomplish when we all work together.



get involved

join our building days

Sign up for one or more of our October 2018 Interfaith Build Dates (**Oct 4th, 6th, 11th, and or 13th**) - volunteer your time for build activities, interfaith learning while helping your community!

engage others - spread the word!

Talk to your community, friends & other groups about expressing your faith through building with Habitat.

event details

Interfaith Build: This year's event will include joint build days in Sammamish, lunches prepared by faith volunteers, the sharing of cultural traditions, and an Interfaith prayer service to be held on October 14th.

Please click [here](#) to pre-register for the event

Faithfully building a world where everyone has a decent place to live



Adult Education Class begins September 9th



Podcasts

This fall's adult education series will feature podcasts as a jumping off point to stimulate conversations about a diverse set of topics. The format will use 20-30 minute episodes of various podcasts that will help us explore topics that impact our faith. We will begin this class on September 9th by listening to an excerpt of an episode of *Pod Save the People*. This episode features a conversation between activist/host DeRay Mckesson and sociologist Brene Brown about joy, privilege, and discomfort. Our September 16th class will use an episode from WNYC's *Death, Sex, and Money* series on Class in America, which will springboard us into a conversation about how our faith might help us bridge that which divides us.

After a two week hiatus to allow us to engage with the Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear (Sept 23rd) and our siblings in Christ from Lake Washington Christian (Sept. 30th) the class will meet regularly beginning again on October 7th.



Happy Fall!