



The Good News

A Newsletter for Friends and Members
of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ
August 2017



A Progressive Christian Voice in the Heart of Kirkland

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 hope everyone is enjoying the summer. I write from N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene, where I am directing Family Camp, and although it is an exhausting experience it is also one of the highlight weeks of my year. Thank you for supporting the outdoor ministries program of our conference by including a week of camp in my call agreement!



As most of you know, Terri and I have been working on updating the church website to add new functionality and offer a new view from our “digital front door.” I am quite excited about the work we have done and look forward to its debut during the first week of August. As we have pieced the new site together I have been struck by the impact of writing about who we are and what we believe. We have a remarkable history and the website updates offer us a new way to share the story of our church—past, present, AND future. One of the things that has been triggered by this process is the idea of looking at a long-range plan for our church. We are now three years into our shared journey and I

believe that the time is right to begin to look ahead and prioritize what we would like to do and be over the next few years. Although the church council is currently dealing with how to approach the repairing of our roof, we will also be reading Molly Phinney Baskette's ***Real Good Church*** with an eye toward putting together a vision plan for our future. Stay tuned as we seek input and ideas from the whole congregation beginning in September.

Finally, each day I am aware of the losses our congregation has experienced due to the deaths of folks that I would label as the matriarchs and patriarchs of our congregation. Taken one at a time we might be able to grieve in healthy ways, but the cumulative effect of our losses feels heavy to me. To that end I would like to offer an opportunity at 7 pm on August 22nd for our community to gather so that we might talk, pray, and share in our individual and collective grief.



Blessings to each one of you,
Ryan

Welcoming Week Is Coming!

Welcoming Week is scheduled for September 15-24, 2017. Kirkland will be participating in it, joining cities around the U.S. Here is some background: Sponsor of Welcoming Week is Welcome America (www.welcomingamerica.org), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is leading a movement throughout the U.S. to ensure that all residents feel that they belong and can fully participate in society. The organization works to help localities create communities where immigrants and refugees, as well as those who have always lived in the U.S., can work toward mutual understanding.

Last year, there were more than 400 events in 150 communities throughout the U. S., and this year the number of events is very likely to increase. Examples of past activities for the week include storytelling, service projects, arts and crafts, and sports. Stay tuned for more Kirkland specifics as the time gets closer. And, please, contact Sarah J. if you'd like to participate in planning events for the week. It should be fun!

Looking Ahead:



1 Green Planet

**FREE ELECTRONICS
RECYCLING EVENT**

Saturday, September 16th

9:00am—3:00pm

KCC UCC parking lot

**Begin collecting your electronic
equipment, appliances, scrap metal, etc.**

Women's Holy Spirit Poetry Group



**Monday
August 14th
Helliwell Room
7:00-9:00 PM**



Through donations to our Common Cents Fund we were able to purchase ten backpacks for some school children who could not afford them. This effort was accomplished through our connection with KIN (Kirkland Interfaith Network). Thank you to all who donate those coins on Sunday mornings!!



We also collected *many* boxes of books for the summer school reading program - thanks to your generous donations; this was also accomplished through our affiliation with KIN. Thanks to all who donated books!

PICNIC in the park!

We will once again sponsor an information table at the Norkirk-Highlands picnic on Saturday, August 26th, from noon to 4 pm at Crestwoods Park. This will be an opportunity to share our story with our neighbors. We hope you will plan to help staff our table! Look for sign-ups during the month of August, or let Ryan know if you would like to help!



Our August Monthly Mission Project:

Granola Bars for the students of Barbara L



Barbara's classroom is known at her high school as a place where low-income students can get a granola bar to ease the pain of hunger due to the lack of food and nutrition at home. Many of us have been donating boxes of granola bars to Barb and her students throughout the year...

This August, we want to provide enough granola bars to support her students for several months rather than just a few days.



Collection Dates:
August 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th,
and September 3rd



Strengthen the Church: Multiple Choice

What is church?

- a) Worship on Sunday mornings
- b) Protests and rallies in support of the least of these
- c) Helping to feed the hungry and support the addicted
- d) All of the above!

Where is church?

- a) In the sanctuary and church building
- b) In breweries and coffee shops
- c) Around a dinner table
- d) All of the above!

Why church?

- a) To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves
- b) To be united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all
- c) To vision a just world for all, united in Christ's love
- d) All of the above!

Where does Strengthen the Church money go?

- a) To seed brand new churches that bring hope to people on the margins who wouldn't set foot in church otherwise
- b) To help established churches begin projects Working with refugees and immigrants
- c) To fund creative ideas experimenting with new way Christian millennials are gathering
- d) All of the above . . . and so much more!

If you answered "d) all of the above!," then you're not only correct, but you're thinking outside of the buildings and boxes that have defined the message of Christianity for the last several decades. You're thinking on the forefront of the United Church of Christ and the way in which we are Strengthening the Church not only for the church we have grown up knowing, but for the church God is calling us to be!

Will you join us through our Special Mission Offering to Strengthen the Church? How?

- a.) Time - I will pray alongside the offering
- b.) Talent - I will tell the stories of my own church's engaging a Just World For All (justworld@ucc.org)
- c.) Treasure - I will donate towards Strengthen the Church
- d.) All of the above! ;)

We will collect this Special Offering at KCC on August 6th. Please give generously.

Forty Days of Prayer for Children

Light A Candle for Children

**Begins on Wednesday,
September 6th**

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 15th**.

This Year Again!!!

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

Sunday, September 3, or September 10

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



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 17th 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 10—**shop for Baby Wipes and Baby Shampoo**
Return items to church on Sunday September 17th
- Week of September 17—**shop for Diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and Pull Ups**
Return items on Sunday, September 24th
- Week of September 24—**shop for Facial Tissue and Bathroom Tissue**
Return items on Sunday, October 1st
- Week of October 1—**shop for Bath soap and Laundry detergent**
Return items on Sunday, October 8th
- Week of October 8— **shop for Toothbrushes and Toothpaste**
Return items on Sunday, October 15th



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 !!!



Living the Season After Pentecost

The Season after Pentecost is a time in the church year when we hope to grow as a community and individually in our relationship with God. During this time, we explore what it means to be the church and how we are called by God to live out God's love in the world today.

August 6th -- Struggle

Genesis 32:22–31

Psalm 17:1–7, 15; Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:13–21

Something to think about, talk about, or do
Jacob schemed and took his brother's birth-right. Jacob dreamed and he knew God would help him live as a blessing. Jacob worked and he married two loving wives, Leah and Rachel. Now, as he makes his way back home, Jacob struggles with a stranger in the night. One can wonder how much Jacob struggled with himself as he prepared to reconcile, if he can, with his brother Esau.

Jacob struggles through the night and rises with a new name. Jacob names the place Peniel, saying: "because I have seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved"

Together this week

Choose a place to gather, outside if possible. Bring along a full watering can. Everyone who wants to do so can take a turn (or two, or more) pouring out troubles.



- Begin by thinking of something you are struggling with right now, such as getting along with someone, learning a new skill, or dealing with a challenging situation at work or school. Pour water onto the ground and say aloud, or think silently of a specific struggle.
- When everyone has had the turns they want to take, gather in a circle – face to face – for the following prayer. Repeat each line after it is read. In this way, everyone is offering the prayer to each other.

Prayer

May God be with you in the struggle. With the love you need, with the strength you need, with the hope you need. And we will be here, too. We are here for you. Amen.

August 13th -- Jealousy

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b

Romans 10:5–15

Matthew 14:22–33



Something to think about, talk about, or do

"Here comes this dreamer," is what Joseph's brothers said about him, and we might imagine their tone of voice, and the way they probably rolled their eyes.

The brothers are out working hard and Joseph is at home near his father. Joseph is his father's favorite, and seems to spend his time giving "bad reports" on others.

Joseph's father, Jacob, sends him to check on the brothers. It's a situation ripe for jealousy and sibling rivalry, and that is exactly what happens. Joseph's brothers sell him to a group of slave traders travelling to Egypt. Joseph is gone and Jacob is grieving. This is definitely a "to be continued" story.

Together this week

As the story of Joseph shows, it takes effort to live in loving ways within a family.

- Plan a family meeting. Set a time limit, bring refreshments. Together set an agenda about things to be discussed. Items might include family agreements on chores, letting the family know where you are when you're away from home, and telling on each other.
- Work together to create new agreements, or modify old ones.

Prayer

We each have a place in the family of God. Some to be dreamers. Some to be doers. All to be people who love and look after each other. Amen.

August 20th -- Reconcile

Genesis 45:1–15

Psalm 133

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

Matthew 15:(10–20), 21–28

Something to think about, talk about, or do

This is a story of a tearful reunion. Joseph has moved from being a slave to a position of influence in Egypt.

Now his brothers come begging for relief from a terrible famine. But they do not recognize this one whom they betrayed. Joseph recognizes them immediately and can't contain himself – he must make himself known to his brothers and let them know that God has been with him, that everything has worked out for good.

Joseph sends everyone except his family from the room and declares, “It’s me!” Joseph weeps.

Circumstances bring the brothers together again and Joseph seizes the moment to bring unity where there has been brokenness.



Together this week

In Psalm 133, this week’s psalm, the writer declares, “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.”

- Do something in unison as a family or household. Cook a meal together or sing songs or play a game. It can be something you always do together or something totally new.
- Whatever you do, make note of why you’re doing it: to experience how pleasant it is to do things together in unity.
- If you have a good time together, talk about it later in the week, especially recalling the feelings of togetherness.
- Talk about specific things people can do to bring unity back when you aren’t experiencing it together.

Prayer

We celebrate how good and pleasant it is to live together in unity, and, with God’s help, we will play our part: forgiving, asking for forgiveness, and treating each other kindly. Amen.

August 27th -- Defiance

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1–8

Matthew 16:13–20

Something to think about, talk about, or do

The courageous and defiant midwives

Shiphrah and Puah, are named in the story but the pharaoh is not. Moses is given name, “Drawn out of the water,” but the princess who drew him out is not.



Many people must have talked about Shiphrah and Puah – women who went against the pharaoh’s orders in order to defend children. Do you know of any similar stories of courageous people who resisted the influence of the powerful in order to follow God’s way?

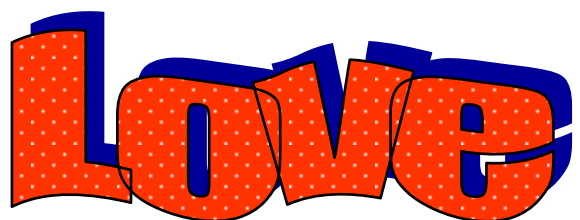
Together this week

Visit someone who has helped or rescued someone, such as a firefighter, police officer, Red Cross worker, emergency responder, school nurse.

- Ask questions such as: How were you trained?
- What difficult situations have you faced?
- What did you worry about?
- How did you stay calm?
- Let this be a way of discovering a local “hero” and opening up your eyes to some courageous possibilities.

Prayer

May love be genuine in us. May love be genuine between us. May love be genuine from us to others. We hold on to all that is good. Amen.





Kirkland Congregational Church Prayer List



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

Ellen Z
Kirsten S
Jani G
Barbara L
Winter L
Lisa S
Donna C

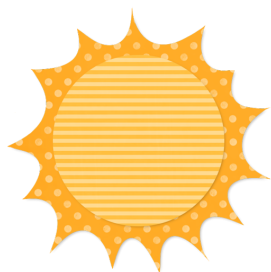
Ruth W
Joyce C
Brenda B
Dorris K
Ruth R
Eloise B
Victims of abuse

Jo H
LaVerne
Jerry R
Judy H
Steve H
Verna T

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.



Enjoy your summer!