



The monthly newsletter of The Community Church of Issaquah April 2011

A Word from the Pastor

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” – 1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

A few years ago there was a “reality show” on television called *The Fear Factor*. In the show people competed against each other in overcoming fearful situations. The show did quite well for a few years before flaming out.

I wish that the “fear factor” would similarly “flame out” in relation to religion and politics. For many people the promotion of religion in general and Christian faith in particular has to do with inciting fear. The central motivator to Christian faith is to incite a fear of hell in people. Faith is a little more than eternal fire insurance. Books like the *Left Behind* series play upon this even more by trying to make people fearful of a violent end of time where God comes in and wipes out the unbelieving world.

Present-day American politics has much of this fear factor in it as well. “Immigrants are trying to take over our country!” “Islam is out to destroy us!” “Gays and Lesbians are waging war on the family!”

It’s like the only motivator strong enough to change people is fear, so let’s ramp that fear up as much as we can to get people to do what we want.

In light of this approach, the letter of 1 John comes to us with a decidedly different approach.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear...” In this season of Lent we should especially remember that Jesus Christ came into the world not to ramp up our fear of God and death, not to wave punishment in front of our face, but to love us, to tell us “fear not, I am with you” and to take our punishment upon him. That’s because God understands that love is a better motivator of human behavior than is fear. Why shouldn’t that be so? The Bible tells us that we were made his Image; in the Image of the one who IS love! (Gen. 1:26; 1 John 4:7-8).

Some might point out that this conflicts with how the Old Testament speaks of a fearsome God who destroys the world in a flood, and rains down hail and brimstone on a sinful city, or who orders war as retribution. But even in the Old Testament that is only part of the picture. There are nearly a hundred times in the Bible where God calls us to “Do not be afraid,” or “Fear not.” Favorites of mine include: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, Therefore *we will not fear*, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea...” (Psalm 46:1-2; and “...do not be frightened or dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

“Perfect love casts our fear.” Maybe the reason this is true is because when you know God is love, and when you know God is in ultimate control, what is there to be afraid of? So, instead of trying to fill people with fear in order to control them, why not fill them with the love of God in order to set them free?

-Pastor Keith Madsen

Special Dates for April

- Fourth Sunday in Lent, April 3, 2011
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 10, 2011
- Holy Week, April 17-23, 2011
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 17, 2011
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 21, 2011
- Good Friday, April 22, 2011
- Holy Saturday, April 23, 2011
- Easter Day, April 24, 2011
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 27, 2011

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Perhaps you would like to add these church family members
to your prayer concerns:

1. Marge Armstrong, Lake Hills Family Home
2. Faye Cooper, at Marionwood
3. Rose Matthai, Aegis Assisted Living
4. Robert (Bob) Pusch, Group Home, Burien
5. Ken Schmelzer, at home
6. Dorothy Swearson, Issaquah Care Center
7. Sylvia Olsson, living with daughter in Maple Valley
8. Florence Watkins
9. Martha Nordhagen Adams House, Oregon
10. Geri Hardesty

Women's Mission Fellowship - April Meeting

Tuesday, April 5th at 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

This year we are alternating meetings with a speaker one month and a service project the next. April's meeting will be for cleaning the kitchen/refrigerator/cabinets, packing toiletry bags for Friends of Youth and boxing roller bandages to send to mission hospitals in Haiti. Experience the wonderful feeling of comradery and joy at being of service to others. All women welcome, guys too if you want to join the fun.
Questions? Ask Lynora Reeves (255-4863) or Charlotte Scherer (392-1185).

CCI RETREAT AT CAMP BURTON

Coming Soon
May 20 & 21

THEME: VICTORY IN CHANGE
PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14
(... "running toward the goal"...)

Back due to popular request, the retreat theme song
From Glory to Glory He's Changing Me

For your enjoyment: games, music, talent show, snacks.
For your spiritual growth: quiet time, small groups,
group input, and challenges beyond.

Arrive anytime after noon on Friday the 20th
for free time/games/registration. Dinner @ 6:30
Return home after dinner on Saturday.

See Carol Schubert for registration details.
Included are 4 meals and modern accommodations.
(\$40 per person)

**If you wish to help defray costs for CCI; paying the full
amount of \$85/per person is an option.**



L E N T E N

Bible Study

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible study series on the last week of Jesus' life continues this month with Bible studies at 6:30 p.m. on the following days:

Wednesday, April 6th – The Arrest and Trials (Luke 22:47-23:25)

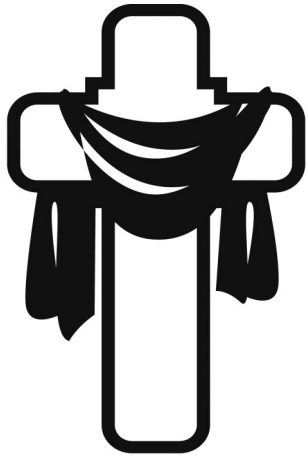
Wednesday, April 20th – The Death and The Resurrection (John 19:16-23:25)

Our Speaker Series at the Library

We have scheduled our first two speaker in our series, "Faith and Today's World." The series will be at the Issaquah Public Library in order to provide more convenient access for the public. All interested persons of any faith are encouraged to attend. These sessions will be from 3-5 p.m. one Sunday a month.

Sunday, April 17th (3-5 P.M.) – "Faith and the Challenges of Immigration" – Michael Ramos will be our speaker. Michael is the Social Ministries Director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Sunday, May 15th (3-5 P.M.) – "Interfaith Relations – Christianity & Islam" – Imam Jawad Khaki of the Iman Center in Kirkland will be our speaker. For more info, see our website under "Coming Events" (www.commchurchiss.org)



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday and Easter

We will be joining the Mountain Creek Fellowship for a special Good Friday service on Friday evening, April 22nd at 7pm. Easter service will be at our normal time at 11 am Sunday morning. We are planning some special music for this service as well as a Easter egg hunt for the kids

A Summer Parking Lot Sale!

We are wanting to have a “Parking Lot Sale” this Summer, where we will sell unneeded items in the church building, as well as donated items from church members and friends (save up items to donate instead of donating them to Goodwill or having a separate garage sale!). Proceeds from the sale will go towards a combination of church expenses and a mission outreach project, such as a proposed regional mission trip to Haiti next year. We need people to volunteer to help with the planning and carrying out of this sale. Any volunteers? Talk to Pastor Keith.



UPcoming EVENTS


Coming Social Events at CCI

There are some of the Social Events coming up at the Community Church of Issaquah.

Sunday, April 24th – Easter Egg Hunt after church. Grandparents bring your Grand kids for some fun! If anyone would like to donate candy they may.

Saturday, May 14th – Mother's Day Tea at 3:00 pm.

Saturday, June 18th – Father's Day Breakfast at 9:00 am.



Monday, July 4th – 4th of July
BBQ.

Saturday, September 17th – Game
Night.

Sunday, October 30th – Harvest
Festival after church.

Sunday, December 18th – Christ-
mas potluck after church.

More details to come!!

April 2011 at CCI:

- WMF Meeting - Tuesday 4/5..... at 1:00 pm
- Deacons Meeting - Thursday 4/1 -----at 10:30 am
- Trustees Meeting– Sunday 4/3 ----- at 12:30 pm
- Council Meeting - Sunday 4/10----- at 12:30 pm
- Young At Heart-Thursday 4/21-----at 11:30 am
- Bell Deadline - Monday 4/25

Happy April Birthday to.....



- 4 Earle Jones
- 6 Sherry Pepke
- 7 Austyn Little
- 12 Elvira Lindsay
- 18 Anita Karr
- 28 Wilma Hill



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