



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Schedule for Holy Week

- Palm Sunday Service
April 13, 11am
- Good Friday Service
April 18, 7pm
-

Easter Morning Events

9am

Congregational breakfast
A-M bring bread or pastry
N-Z bring fruit for sharing

10am

Easter egg hunt for the
young and the young at
heart. On the church
grounds.

11am

Festive Easter service

*Invite your friends to
celebrate the
Risen Savior*



Passing It On

April 2014

An Interview with Pastor John



Pastor John, you've been at MIUMC for almost four years now. What do you see as the strengths of this church?

First, I'd say there is a warm and welcoming spirit here; that is, our people accept others as they are without prejudice or judgment. We are encouragers, supporting others in expressing their gifts and talents. Members go about their church responsibilities, getting the job done with a willing heart. They are a quiet presence in our midst. I see our people practicing "radical hospitality" to people they know and those who are new to our church. I see a concern for the outside community as our members serve others: Mary's Place, Tent City, and the Emergency Feeding Program are examples of our outreach. I see that we are connected to God in a real way and

that we have a deep passion for making this church a spiritual home for all.

Mercer Island is becoming a more diverse home to those from other cultures. What comments have you heard from visitors from other countries?

Visitors say that we smile and greet guests in an authentic way so they feel at ease in our midst. They sense that as we practice the Christian life, we accept visitors for who they are and that we have a sincere desire to be inclusive.

What are some of the ideas and practices that you think make for a healthy church?

To me, a healthy church is what Paul describes in I Cor. 12:12-24. He says the church is one body with many functions, one part no more important than any other. That is what a vibrant church must be: people on the front line respecting all unique gifts, talents and different backgrounds. In this understanding we can break down the walls of ignorance, prejudice, and bigotry and instead build a bridge of love and acceptance through the grace of God.

What is the most important ingredient of your leadership style?

Without a doubt, I believe in open communication and a collaborative approach to problem solving. I also believe that mutual respect is key in all our relationships—talking to each other gently and softly as we focus on our message and then listening with our heart in response. Please remember, my office is always open to you.

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

Spring: a season of new life and an appropriate time to revive our monthly newsletter. We hope it will be a helpful communication tool of interesting and relevant items with the emphasis on NEWS. News about our church, its members and activities, and about relevant events in our local community, as well as items across the nation.

To make this a reality, we need your help, and you are invited to submit your ideas, articles, and photos each month. For further information see page 2.

Wednesday Lenten Bible Study

April 2

Mark 14:53, 55, 61-68, 70-72
Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate
Bill Blakney, facilitator

April 9

Mark 15: 15b-23
The Torture and Humiliation of the King
Diana Blakney, facilitator

April 16

Mark 15:25-39
The Crucifixion
Carla Neames, facilitator

MIUMC Leadership Administrative Council

Chairpersons

Bill Blakney and Chick Hodge

Pastor - John Chae
Secretary - Judith Hullin
Diana Blakney
Linda Hodge
Bill Parker
Sanny Bold
Dave Hullin
Jim Maners
Caleb Neames
Carla Neames
Sue Ogilvie

Newsletter Information

Passing It On will be published the first working day of the month. Submit items and ideas to miumc@hotmail.com. Deadline for May 1 issue is April 24.

Spotlight on...



Mary's Place is located across from the Greyhound Bus Terminal in downtown Seattle. It provides a day shelter for over 100 homeless women and children every weekday. Families are fed breakfast and lunch, use shower and laundry facilities, get help with public services, meet with therapists, get job training, and most of all, receive love and support from a wonderful staff.

The program has been expanded to provide overnight accommodations as well, which includes shelter at various local churches. This February, MIUMC hosted a group of families during a week of some of the coldest weather this year. Our volunteers from the Mercer Island Women's Fellowship and from our congregation provided meals, evening activities, overnight supervision, and transportation.

Our church will host Mary's Place families for a second time this year: June 24-July 1. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy summer activities with these families and give us many opportunities to serve. Contact Judith Hullin if you'd like to join our Mary's Place team of volunteers.

Bridge at MIUMC

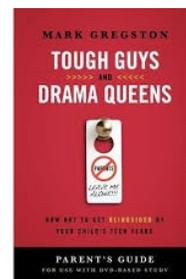
This February, MIUMC began providing rental space for the Mercer Island Bridge Group, a member of the American Contract Bridge League. Experienced bridge players meet Tuesdays at 11am and Thursdays at 7pm. In April a group for newer bridge players will meet here on Monday evenings.

"We are very happy to be here," comments group leader, Barbara Nist. "Bridge is wonderful for exercising the brain and while it is a partnership game, players can come as a single and partner up for the game itself," she states. Many lasting friendships can be made at the bridge table, and Barbara invites you to attend any game. For more information: Bnist2@gmail.com

Tough Guys and Drama Queens

Many parents will agree that the teen years are a challenge, and while the teen-age personality hasn't changed much, the culture has. How do parents then cope? Mark Gregston's book, subtitled *How Not to Get Blindsided by Your Child's Teen Years*, addresses the issues that parents of teens face every-day. Reviewers say this book is a down-to-earth, sensible approach to parenting and promises to provide an opportunity for a lively discussion.

Sessions will meet Sundays at the church—7pm—while the Youth Group meets. Everyone interested in sharpening their parenting skills in a supportive environment are invited to attend.



Spring Grounds Spruce-up



Saturday, April 5, from 10am—2pm, rain or shine, is our church grounds clean-up opportunity. Bring gloves, pruners, wheelbarrows, garden rakes, etc. and enjoy beautifying our property with friends, old and new. Bring lunch makings to share and pray for sun.

Donations for disaster relief (Oso mudslide) may be made to PNW Disaster Relief Fund. Designate *PNW Disaster Response Advance Special #352* on the check's memo line.