



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Easter Week Events



Service
April 3
7pm

EASTER SUNDAY
April 5
10am-Breakfast
10:40am-Egg Hunt
11am-Easter Service



Passing It On

April 2015

From Pastor John



As we approach Easter, we remember the story from John 21:1-17 telling us how the risen Christ gathered His disciples around Him after His resurrection. The Sea of Galilee was the place where they first met after He called them to follow Him. Imagine the disciples—disappointed, disillusioned, and frightened, and behind locked doors. Their dreams were shattered, and they were trying to pick up the broken pieces. Imagine their shame after leaving their homes with dreams and meaning to follow this man, who had died as a common criminal. And now it all had come to nothing.

The disciples went back to their homes wondering what to do next. Under this kind of stress and depression, they wanted to return to their familiar life, their old lifestyle. But the good news is that the risen Christ was calling them to return to the place where their life in God first began. When He appeared to reassure them of His loving presence, He asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" Peter's response was, "You know that I love you."

This question and its answer give us an opportunity to examine ourselves and set God as our first priority in life. We must return to the place where our life in God first began as we respond to His question, "Do you love me more than these?" and to answer as Peter did, "You know that I love you."

The Risen Christ came to give the disciples—and us—a new opportunity to close the door on past failures, to make a new start and a fresh beginning. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" and Peter replied, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Then Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." This was Jesus' reminder once again of their commission from God.

We know that the past often has power over us, restraining our hope of who we long to be. The good news of Easter is that we gain a new dimension of life filled with hope and joy. The Risen Christ breaks all our chains of shame, fear and death so that we can rise and come out of the tomb that imprisons us. To live in joy on this day of resurrection is to cast aside the deadness of our stale, unsatisfied and unrealized existence and be restored to the joy and purpose that life in Christ brings.

As we celebrate this special day, let us experience the risen Christ and realize the important things—life over death, love over hatred, acceptance over resentment, forgiveness over guilt and joy over remorse. And let us restore our first love with our Lord who calls us to renew our commission to feed His sheep.

Peace and Grace.

Pastor John

Rethink Church



Open Hearts

Our hearts are full of love for our local communities and our world. Our service reflects that love.



Open Minds

We all think in different ways. But when we work together to serve others we share a common goal.



Open Doors

Our doors swing wide, not just to let others in but so that we can all get out to serve our community.

MIUMC Leadership Administrative Council

Chairpersons

Bill Blakney and Chick Hodge

Pastor - John Chae

Secretary - Judith Hullin

Diana Blakney

Linda Hodge

Sanny Bold

Dave Hullin

Carla Corkern

Jim Maners (at-large)

Newsletter Information

Passing It On is published the first working day of the month.

Submit items and ideas to miumc@hotmail.com.

Beyond Good Friday

This year Easter Sunday is on April 5, but before we celebrate that triumphant day, we must recognize the event that had to happen for us in order to receive the joy of Easter. That event is Good Friday, April 3, at 7pm when we will have the opportunity to consider through scripture, music and reflection, the sacrifice Christ made for us through His crucifixion. All who are able are encouraged to join us on Good Friday for this deeply moving service.



Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord.'
John 20:18



...go and make disciples of all nations...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19 & 20

Christ has Risen!

*He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay.—Matthew 28:6.*

This year our Easter celebration begins with a congregational breakfast at 10am and egg hunt at 10:40am followed by our Easter service at 11am. Special guests at the breakfast will be members of First Church, Christ Scientist. MIUMC members A-M please bring bread or pastry; N-Z bring fruit.



New Members to be Received Easter Sunday

On April 5, the following people will be welcomed into our church family:

Ann Hunsberger—Letter of Transfer

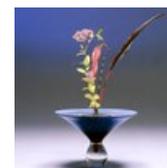
DP (full name to be identified to congregation in person)—Affirmation of Faith

David Ellis—Letter of Transfer

Yun Hwan Chung—Affirmation of Faith

Next month our newsletter will present biographies of our new members plus photo highlights of the Easter breakfast and egg hunt.

Ikebana International Exhibition at MIUMC
April 11: 11am-5pm / April 12: 12:30pm-4pm
Demonstrations on April 12 at 1:30pm



Ikebana is the ancient art of Japanese flower arranging. Come and enjoy a beautiful expression of natural shapes, graceful lines and color combinations that express the experiences of the present age.