



MERCER ISLAND  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## February Events

### February 10



Service 7pm

### Sun-February 14



Mon-February 15  
President's Day

### February 17, 24

Wednesday  
Lenten Bible  
Study and  
Soup Supper  
6:30pm—8pm

See more information on

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# Passing It On

February 2016

## From Pastor John



Lent is a six-week period of time, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb 10, when we prepare for Easter. It is a special time for a spiritual journey of openness and change in every area of our lives. We reflect on the Word of God, and reveal to God any hidden things that we have. It is the time to break down our idols and direct our eyes toward God.

During the Lenten season our focus is on returning to God. We are usually involved with secular concerns in our daily life, but Lent is like a “homecoming” journey. We reconcile with God and with those around us. It is a time of refocusing on the eternal truth and reclaiming our true identity in Christ.

To celebrate the resurrection and new life in Christ, we must first experience turning around from any false attachments such as greed, hatred, impatience, fame, etc. A self-centered life, concerned with only ourselves must be examined in our hearts so that we might be transformed from seeking self glory to seeking God’s glory—what honors God. It is a time to experience God’s passion, suffering and pain during the Holy Week, the last week of Lent.

On Good Friday, we reflect on Jesus’ seven last words: *Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. Today you will be with me in Paradise. Woman, here is your son—here is your mother. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? I am thirsty. It is finished! Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit.*

These seven sayings impacted the church and all of us as individuals with profound meaning. I hope this season brings us a deep understanding of God’s compassion and calling. Let us use this time to return to God.

I’m praying that this Lenten Season will be a meaningful time for us to refocus on our spiritual journey together.

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 Neames

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](mailto:miumc@hotmail.com).

## Rev. Melvin Woodworth Preaching Here



We welcome Rev. Melvin Woodworth to our pulpit on Sunday, February 7. Pastor Woodworth, a retired United Methodist minister, will preach on Luke 9:28-36—*Can You Radiate God's Glory?*

Growing up in a family that was welcoming of all, Pastor Woodworth became active in the Civil Rights movement while in high school and has continued his passion for knowing and understanding people and cultures throughout his career. He has served several United Methodist churches in the area including Tacoma First UMC and Bellevue First UMC and has helped initiate and nurture the formation of the First Tongan UMC of Seattle, the Eastside Fire Chaplains program, the *Hope for the Children of Africa* relationship with the Congo, and six building projects at Camp Indianola.

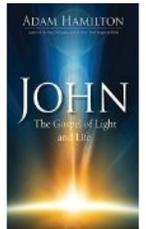
Shortly before his retirement, the Pride Foundation presented Pastor Woodworth its Diamond Hall of Fame Rainbow Award for lifetime achievement in the pursuit of dignity for sexual minority persons. He states that he believes each individual is an amazing miracle of God's creation, that the inequities of our current world are a curse, and that God empowers us each to find happy, productive and fulfilling lives for ourselves and others.

## Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper/Bible Study Begins Feb.17

This Lenten season you are invited to join a time of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal as you explore the major themes of the Gospel of John. Sessions are Feb. 17, 24, Mar. 2, 9, and 16 beginning with a soup supper at 6:30pm and followed by Bible study at 7pm.

The study this year is Adam Hamilton's *John*. In this book the author explains the context of some of the best known verses in the New Testament. *For God so loved the world..., I am the resurrection and life..., And the Word became flesh...*

John's Gospel is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels and includes some of the loftiest and most loved verses in the Bible. Come join in this meaningful study.



## Summary of Ad Council Meeting—January 13, 2016

**Present:** Bill Blakney, Sanny Bold, Pastor John, Chick Hodge, Linda Hodge, Dave Hullin, Judith Hullin, Jim Maners

**Financial Report:** Sanny reported that expenditures were under budget and income almost \$20,000 over projections. To date 18 pledges for 2016 have been received. The 2016 budget will be finalized soon.

**Non-profit Room Use:** All but one of our recurring groups has signed 2016 room use agreements. All room rates have stayed the same except the Sanctuary fee that increased from \$25 to \$32/hour.

**Mary's Place** will be at MIUMC March 1-8. A collection bin for needed items will be available for donations. Contact Judith Hullin if you can help.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor John thanked the congregation for the staff Christmas gifts. He also thanked those who participated as facilitators for the weekly Advent series. Also: \$800 was donated Christmas Eve for the Imagine No Malaria project.

**Trustees:** Dave Hullin reported that electrical work in the Fellowship Hall will be finished soon. He also reported that First Church, Christ Scientist, who holds services here, is interested in helping financially with building projects.