

Newsletter

MERCER ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER — September

A Playful Companion

This is a hard time. Really hard. We don't have to look far to find trouble... Tornadoes, floods, fires, riots, homelessness, bombs, and of course the pandemic. What kind of God do we seek in the midst of all this?

*Fall
Is
Here!*

Someone in our Tuesday morning women's group lifted up a poem by Carol Mariano that addresses that question. So with Carol's permission, here is that poem from her book "The Cry of Being Born." Hopefully, seeing God as a companion who enjoys our company, and wants to be with us gives us a measure of reassurance in the midst of this hard time.

-Linda Hodge, Lay Leader

Rooted in Love

-Carol Mariano

**Holy, holy,
Holy is God's name.**

**You call my name, O God.
I call your name,
but how can I say-
how put words to
that enormous painful gripping
fear
that confronts me when I seek
you?**

**Letting go is easy to say,
falling is nowhere, empty,
too big, too small,
I am only me
and I don't know how
to trust you anymore.**

**Come, play with me
In the imagination of my mind,
the dreaming of my heart.
only then will I know
that you care,
that you do, indeed
love me.**



Upcoming events & meetings

- **Holy Communion** on **September 5th** during our Sunday outdoor worship.
- **Labor Day** on September 6th
- **Rally Day** to kick off the Sunday School year on **September 12th** during our Sunday worship
- **Newsletter articles & pictures** for October due by **September 27th**.
- **Administrative Council** on **September 29th** (Tuesday) at 11am.
- **Movie Night** (to be arranged)



FROM THE PASTOR:

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." [1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18]

The nature of the Spirit-filled Christian is in giving thanks always to God regardless of any circumstance:

'Being filled' with the Holy Spirit is translated from the Greek, 'being soaked (πληροῦσθε)' with the Holy Spirit.

That means we are not just receiving and holding the Holy Spirit within us, but we are truly wet, covered, and dripping with the Holy Spirit. Wherever we go as a church, it is obvious that we are noticeable, visible, and even sensed by fragrance like "sweet perfume."

When we are soaked with the Holy Spirit, "we talk with each other much about the Lord, quoting psalms and hymns and singing sacred songs, making music in their hearts to the Lord."

It is known as 'Grace', the oil painting picture that hangs in homes, restaurants and churches across America and other places around the world.

However, the original picture came from Eric Enstrom's photography studio in the tiny mining town of Bovey, Minnesota in 1918. A bearded, saintly old man, with foot-scrappers to sell,

knocked on a door of his studio. Enstrom wanted to take a picture that would show people that even though they had to do without many things because of the war they still had much to be thankful for.

A picture of the old man praying with folded hands to his brow be-

fore partaking of a meager meal that seemed to say, "This man doesn't have much of earthly goods, but he has more than most people because he has a thankful heart."

It is no accident to us even today that the sign of Christian journeys soaked with the Holy Spirit is 'gratitude' and 'thanksgiving' to our God in all circumstances. Amen.

Pastor John

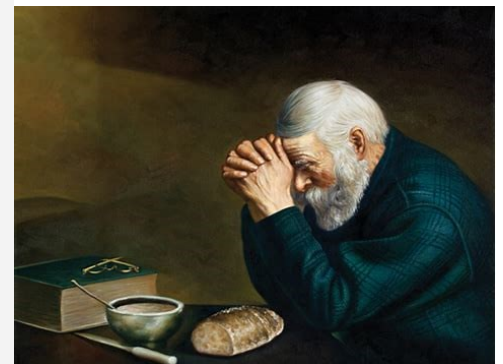
Pastor John Go



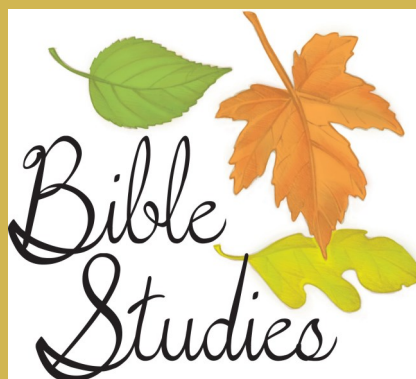
Holy Communion

For the Wesleys this table is a gift for everyone, seeker and Christian alike. God meets all who accept the invitation, and draws them closer to receive the fullness of life that God gives.

Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God as they encounter God's love afresh in this sacrament. All who desire their hearts to be perfected in love should come ready to receive life from God. As Charles Wesley said, in the Lord's Supper "we thirst for the Spirit that flows from above, and long to inherit thy fullness of love" (The United Methodist Hymnal, #635).



'Grace' by Eric Enstrom



Adult Sunday School

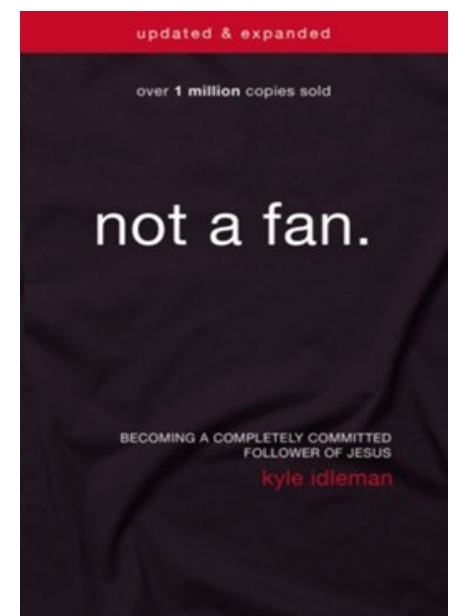
9:30A.M. Church Library

Dr. Vince Picozzi introduced a new book to read and study together thru Adult Sunday School in Fall 2021.

"Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman invites you to be a passionate disciple---not just a fan who admires Jesus from afar. Discover how to love, pray, and give your all for your Lord and Savior!

Also, you can join this class on Zoom with the link below:

<https://greaternw.zoom.us/j/92709757518>



Special Thanks to Everyone Who Worked on Service Day!



We cleaned and reorganized the kitchen cabinets and sorted out books and references in the library. Plus, our weeders and volunteers trimmed bushes and cleaned out the broken branches and debris around the church garden.

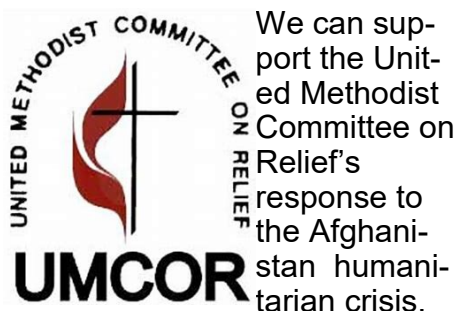


We're excited to have a new school year in these clean spaces for Sunday school and Tuesday Fellowships.

Thanks to Linda Hodge and Helen Shewmaker who provided snacks and refreshments that we enjoyed after our service to the church.



Fall Mission Opportunities



We can support the United Methodist Committee on Relief's response to the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis.

Global Ministries and UMCOR have long-standing partners in Afghanistan to provide humanitarian aid.

UMCOR is also prepared to assist with refugee resettlement through its partnership

with Church World Service and is currently in conversation about assisting Church World Service with temporary housing for Afghan refugees.

Those interested in supporting the UMCOR-CWS partnership can make gifts online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/3022144> or by checks sent to the church, with Advance #3022144 in the memo line.



We'd like to continue our partnership with our sister church, El Dios Viviente.

They have a food distribution ministry in their local neighborhood every Wednesday and Friday from 3-5pm.

If you'd like to contribute, please make your check to MIUMC indicating El Dios Viviente Mission in the memo section.

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SALVATION

*is nearer to
us now than
when we*

FIRST BELIEVED.

ROMANS 13:11, ESV