

Newsletter

MERCER ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER — November

Give thanks

Thanksgiving....a time to count our blessings and acknowledge them. In the midst of much hardship and anxiety, we still have so many reasons to be thankful. Whenever we gripe about having to wear a mask, let's remember to be grateful that we have some protection against the virus. And when we are cautioned to maintain a distance from someone in line with us, let's be thankful that we do not live in isolation.

During this time of Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for our Church:

For Pastor John's faithfulness in keeping us going and his devotion to our congregation

For Ryan's gift of music

For Gloria lighting the candles, collecting the offering, and playing the flute

For Grace reading the scripture and playing the piano

For Jim sweeping the walkways and making the coffee

For Carol leading us in worship and the Ad Council

For all who visit the shut-ins

For Vince who leads our Sunday School class and for all who participate

For our weekly Fellowship/Bible study groups

For those who keep our garden healthy

For those who give generously to the needy

The list goes on and on.

Please fill in where I have forgotten, and thank those who are truly "Doers of the Word."

-Linda Hodge, Lay Leader



Upcoming events & meetings

- **All Saints' Day Service** with the monthly Holy Communion during our Sunday morning worship on **November 7th**.
- **Annual Charge Conference** on Zoom on **November 19th** at 6:30pm for SPRC and at 7:00pm for All members.
- **Stewardship Sunday** with consecration for the 2022 Pledges on **November 21st**.
- **Thanksgiving Eve Gathering** on **November 24th** at 7pm.
- **The Advent Season** starts with the First Sunday of Advent on **November 28th**.

FROM THE PASTOR:

The Season of an 'Attitude' of 'Gratitude'

"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]

It is so easy to forget where we come from and who has helped us to become who we are today.

If God would ask for us to be 'faithful,' not just to be 'successful,' then we have to question ourselves seriously: "Are we faithful?"

How to measure if we are faithful? What would be evidence that approves our faithfulness to the Lord?

After 15 years in ministry, what attitude I have today is clear evidence of what faithfulness is meant to be:

Am I more grateful than before? Am I more joyful than before? Am I more humble than before?

Now is an opportunity to practice these 'Attitudes' of this season of 'Gratitude.'

Am I going to tell those who are close to me today how grateful I am because of them?

Am I going to say to those who are working with me today how joyful I am because of them?

Am I going to honor those who are around me today about how humbling it is to walk our spiritual journey together with them?

Let us talk a moment to express in gratitude our genuine and loving stories with those who are close to us, with those who work with us, and with those who walk along with us today.

With sincere gratitude,

Pastor John

Pastor John Go



The month of November
Scriptures & Sermon Titles:

November 7 All Saints' Day Service

Mark 1:29-38

"The Gift of Time"

November 14

Matthew 25:14-30

"The Gift of Talent"

November 21 Stewardship Sunday

Matthew 6: 19-24

"The Gift of Treasure"



On November 19th at 7:00PM, All members are invited to join our annual charge conference on Zoom:

Meeting ID is 614492269

Or call 253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID numbers to join us by phone.



Adult School with Advent Studies

at 9:45A.M. Church Library

During the upcoming Advent season, we will be inspired once again with the story of the birth of our Lord Jesus based on the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke. Each session will be led by Dr. Vince Picozzi, and stay tune for what theme of this year study will be.

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

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

SHARE YOUR STORY



A Birthday Celebration for Dee Philips in Tuesday Fellowship. "Yes, Indeed, You're His favorite, Dee!"



Greetings from Bev & Bob Parker at Aegis



A Halloween Picture of Damon's grandson, Eli, in trick or treating outfit from Nashville, TN



An Outdoor Movie Night was held in the church parking lot, expecting more audience to join

BEING HELD

Carol Mariano

you would be surprised at the beauty concealed in the memories your church holds.

A church is not simply a building; it is the shelter around the holiness and intimacy of faith.

When you enter some churches, you sense how the memories have seeped to the surface, infusing the aura of the place and deepening the tone of a spiritual presence.

Coming in from the outside world and its rasp of force and usage, you relax and allow yourself to be who you are in God's presence.

Where love has lived, a church still holds the warmth. Even the smallest church feels like a nest if love and tenderness dwell there.

The inner walls of a church are threaded with the textures of many souls, a subtle weave of presences.

Inspired by the words of John O'Donohue in *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*. A re-working of his poem, "Where Love Has Lived."

If you could see your church through the lens of the soul,

ALL SAINTS' DAY



May your day be filled with joy and peace today and lead you into the light.

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Give Thanks

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.*

1Ch 16:34