

Newsletter

MERCER ISLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER — December

Be Prepared

In Pastor John's sermon on November 28 we are encouraged to "Be prepared" for the Advent Season. His analogy of preparing for a fishing trip struck a chord with Darolyn Quayle.

Here are some excerpts from her email to Pastor John.



"When we were first married and I moved out here, Will introduced me to salmon fishing.

I grew up in Ohio where we fished

with cane poles for small perch, crappies and catfish. So needless to say when I hooked into a 50 pound halibut I needed to be better prepared, as we need to be for the Advent Season. And when you mentioned,

"We must prepare for the right tools to fish, using the right size of line, the right size of hook, the

right type of bait, etc., I mused to myself as I was not fishing with a cane pole but rather a rod with a big reel, heavy line and big hook with a large silver flasher.

And I ask God: May our God lead us to a good day of fishing through this season of Advent, anticipating the unexpected and amazing grace in the midst of our life journey."



Thank you Darolyn for these thoughtful words as they remind us to get ready for the birth of our Savior. What do we need to do to be prepared?

-Linda Hodge, Lay Leader



Upcoming events & meetings

- **Christmas Decorating** on December 4th at 4pm.
- **Second Sunday of Advent** with the Holy Communion Service during Sunday morning worship at 11am .
- **The Third Sunday of Advent** receiving a new member in worship.
- **A Wedding** of the newly moved couple on December 18th at 2pm.
- **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service** at 7pm: "Lessons & Carols"
- **New Year's Eve Celebration** (TBD)

FROM THE PASTOR:

Why Do We Sing Carols?

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.” [Luke 1: 47-49]

There is a PBS documentary TV show about the folk trio being celebrated with the title, “50 Years With Peter, Paul and Mary.” The trio released its first album in 1962. It was popular and politically active in the 1960’s, but disbanded in 1970. It reunited in 1978 at a benefit opposing nuclear power, and toured after that, often performing in support of political causes.

The most interesting part to me is the following statement from the trio’s interview that one of its members made to the question of why they sing: **“We took this traditional music and became a bridge to a certain interest in music. We’re just ordinary people with feet of clay in our day-to-day lives.”**

A question we may have today is “why do we sing?” Is there a particular reason why the ordinary people sing in their day to day lives?

Mary as an ordinary person sang a song that we call, ‘Mary’s Magnificat’ expressing her feelings and wonder at the moment when she heard the news. Don’t you think it becomes the bridge that carries us to the season of Advent?

Why should we sing? Are we supposed to sing like Mary?

Singing is not only the melody, not only the message to share with others, but also about the attitude and conduct of what a song writer or psalmist believes.

Mary could have been taken out and stoned because of her pregnancy. Mary could have been forsaken by Joseph after he learned about the baby. Her attitude was to

conduct herself in God’s greater purpose and to rejoice even in many difficulties that she was facing in her real life.

So, the answer of the question why we sing is because singing is reflecting our faith and our belief.

Why do we Christians sing, especially throughout this season of Advent and Christmas? It is because singing is our privilege to express joy, to alleviate pain and sorrow in our community, to experience a feeling of oneness with those around us, and most of all, singing brings us close to God. Yes, it is, most importantly, our bridge to the love through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who is coming in this season.

Pastor John



The month of December Scriptures & Sermon Titles:

December 5

Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

“How do we practice Advent?”

December 12

Luke 1:68-79

“How do we pray in Advent?”

December 19

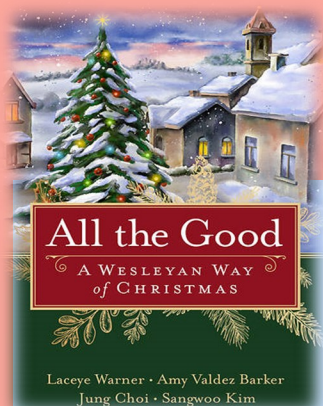
Luke 1: 39-56

“How do we practice of mercy?”

December 26

Luke 2: 1-21

“How do we receive
God’s perfect gift?”

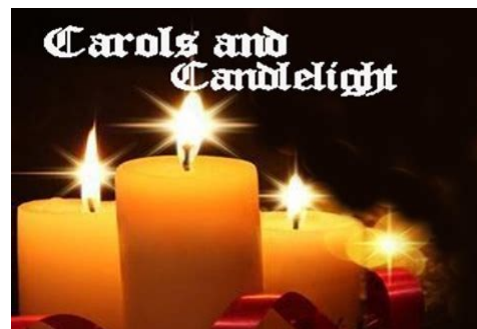


Adult Sunday School with Advent Studies

at 9:45A.M. Church Library

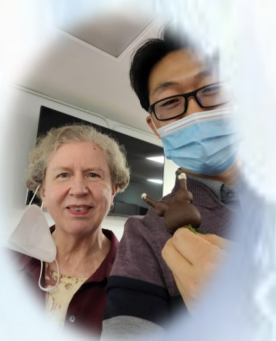
Advent is a season of reflecting and renewing hope. This year’s Advent Studies presents weekly opportunities for an explicit focus on a topic. This year, the studies will be led by Dr. Vince with the book, “All the Good”. Study books will be available in the class. Also, you can join this class on Zoom with the link below:

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



December 24 at 7pm

All are invited to a traditional ‘Lessons & Carols’ service on the Eve of Christmas.



GRATITUDE
— IS —
MOST POWERFUL
WHEN SHARED

Messages of Ann Iwano and Dottie Hughes from Timber Ridge on the day before Thanksgiving Day:
“This Thanksgiving of 2021, the item for which I am most thankful is the wonderful care we residents have received at our retirement home, Timber Ridge, during the Covid pandemic.” -Ann

“The person I would especially like to thank this Thanksgiving Day is my mother. A farm girl who was married too young and with a minimal education, she worked hard to make sure that my brother and I received the training had education what we needed to make a better lives for ourselves than she had.” - Dottie

Craft tables and games for everyone prior to Thanksgiving Eve



Playing THANKSGIVING BINGO game prior to Thanksgiving Eve Service.



John Zhang brought his tools, and fixed a leaky roof damaged by the recent windstorm. Very special thanks to John for his timely response and service.

The magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* presence.

BED, BATH & RESPOND

Please consider gathering the following new or gently used items for **Mary's Place.**

Please bring them to church for dedication on December 18th.

Twin size blankets
Standard pillowcases
Towels
Wash cloths

 **MARY'S PLACE**

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