



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2019

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 14TH



Valentines Day

FEBRUARY 18TH



President's Day

FROM PASTOR JOHN



In the Book of Acts Apostle Peter saw a vision of a large sheet holding all kinds of creatures. God told him to kill them and eat them. Peter refused, since as a Jew he could eat only certain foods, not those he saw in his vision. The vision God gave Peter was an audio-visual lesson to break down his deep embedded prejudice to the gentiles. In the vision God told Peter to not call his clean food, unclean. Three times this vision occurred, and then it was taken back up into the sky. Our history is a history of prejudice. If we could get rid of it and educate it well, then many problems in this world could be ended immediately. There was a lot of prejudice in the early church, too. The Jews treated Gentiles like dogs, and as if they were dirty, unclean and unholy. The Jews were the only people chosen by God to be God's special people. It was a very difficult challenge for them to accept the Gentiles as the same family of God at that time. The Jerusalem church caused a "fork in the road" as to the future of Christianity. Was it the way to be just a movement within Judaism, or was it to be a faith for ALL peoples? This amazing vision shifted the Jerusalem Church from a small Jewish box of tradition toward the new movement of Christianity. It was reaching beyond the boundaries that had kept them.

About 350 years ago a shipload of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year they established a town site. The next year they elected a town government. The third year the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness. In the fourth year the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway? Here were people who had the vision to see three thousand miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But in just a few years they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision. Without a clear vision of what we can become in Christ, we rarely move beyond our current boundaries. Let us continue to visualize God's vision to include the whole world in God's radical welcome. This is the focal point of spiritual growth: That we expand our hearts and community of faith as a space where people can come and breathe together and share of our common life situation and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor John

AROUND THE CHURCH

Tiny Homes Project

The MIUMC Womens Fellowship group visited the New Hope Tiny House Village on 17th and Yesler in Seattle on January 18th.

The homes were decoratively painted by Seattle volunteer artists.



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:18-19



Newsletter Information

Passing It On is published the first working day of the month. Submit items and ideas to miumc@hotmail.com

AROUND THE CHURCH (cont'd)

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.



Troop 457 Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony for Cosmo Kemuel Neames January 27th at the Mercer Island VFW Hall .

Congratulations Cosmo!

**Damon's son and new daughter
August 25, 2018 Wedding**

