



MERCER ISLAND  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2019

## JUNE CALENDAR

June 14th  
Flag Day



June 19th  
Father's Day

Happy  
Father's  
Day



### FROM PASTOR JOHN

First of all, Thanks to all for supporting and making the ministry of God possible. When I came to America 38 years ago, I was no different than any foreigner. It was a challenge to adjust in this new land; different language, culture, and people. One of the many blessings I've experienced in my ministry is serving in a multitude of churches with different cultural backgrounds. Through these ministerial settings, my eyes have been opened. I realized how easy we human beings are subject to biases and have a profound tendency to see what we want to see rather than what is truly there. We humans easily tend to pursue the same environment, group, race, language, color, cultural background etc.

In these ministerial settings, me and you both got through a process to understand God transcending the influence of specific cultures or specific territories and how to welcome all people beyond our differences. This is one of the most impactful aspects of spiritual growth that we learned as well as how to embrace all people. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve MIUMC and grow and learn together. I give thanks to God and all of you!

After retirement I plan to travel back to Korea and explore other countries. I will spend more time golfing, cooking, gardening and playing with my granddaughter Paige. When I became a grandfather, Regina and I were so happy to see Paige's growth process. I've learned what true unconditional love means from my 2 year old granddaughter. To me, retirement is the time to continue to expand my heart and world view in different life settings.

In the movie E.T, E.T is saying goodbye to his beloved friend before departing in his returned spaceship. They embrace. They cry. They realize that they must part. Of the limited vocabulary that E.T. learned, one word alone captured the occasion: "Ouch"--so simple, so true, and so deeply human. At this time, I also express my emotional feeling with the same word, "Ouch."

Thanks to all of you for your support and friendship in Christ that you have showed from your hearts. Me and Regina are going to miss you all.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor John

# AROUND THE CHURCH

The PNW Annual Conference titled "Love Like This" is being held in Puyallup, WA June 7-9. While Pastor John is away June 9th, Trina Burtenshaw-Freatman will be our guest speaker. Please keep the conference leaders and attendees in prayer.

Rev. Carol Mariano will be our guest speaker June 16th when Pastor John is on vacation.

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MIUMC hosted the Ikebana preparation for their 60-year Anniversary celebration at Embassy Suites the end of May. The Master from Japan was here for the week to demonstrate floral arranging. It was a wonderful experience to attend. Ikebana expressed sincere appreciation for use of our facility and said it is a wonderful place.



All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2nd Corinthians 5:18



## 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)

# 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.

You can imagine what Pastor John's lifestyle will be like from these pictures when he retires at the end of June! Please continue to pray for Pastor John's new life stage. The church is planning a farewell party in the Fellowship Hall after the service June 30th and all are invited to join.

Pastor John and Regina appreciate so much the opportunity to work with MIUMC in support of God's ministry these last nine years. Congratulations and best wishes as you begin this new journey of life. You will be missed!

