



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

“Seek Ye First” in November 2019

Our reading for November, the Stewardship and Thanksgiving month, comes from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 25-34. These verses come from the middle of Jesus’ most famous teaching known as ‘the Sermon on the Mount.’ In fact, ‘The Sermon on the Mount’ is an outstanding message about Jesus’ vision for his followers but it is not necessarily easy to follow. Rather, it requires a ‘paradigm shift’ to **see the world differently** from the perspective in God’s eyes.

Stewardship season for a pastor like me or the church financial committee can be stressful, because we must stress how important it is to have a ‘Pledge drive’ for the church budget and her following year of staffing and programs. Stewardship Commitment (our pledge) this fall can impact the most fundamental choices that we, the church will make in our weekly worship services and annual events of the next year. However, what if this campaign is also about how we can renew our relationship with Jesus Christ? Then I believe the rest will take care of itself.

Jesus in his ‘Sermon on the Mount’ invites us “to see beyond ourselves and our concerns, to consider the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, to seek ye first the Kingdom of God, so that we might notice God at work in the world.” I also invite you to read and study these verses from the Gospel of Matthew this month of November, what we’d like to discover together is ‘**I.C.N.U.**’ –“I See In You” through God’s eyes.

Therefore, let us ‘**Focus**’ on God’s hope instead of worrying about challenges that make us stop and get stuck. Let us be ‘**Relational**’ to God and to one another instead demanding and controlling things that we cannot control. Let us find ‘**Passion**’ in our hearts instead of repeating things that do not make us excited. Lastly, let us practice ‘**I.C.N.U.**’ as ‘Doers of the Word’ in ‘**Trust**’ and pay attention to what God can do through God’s faithful doers.

Members of Mercer Island United Methodist Church, it is an exciting time of the year not only because of what we can do for our faith community, but also because of who God is for us. To see with the eyes of God, you must remember each one of you are so precious in God’s eyes and God sees in you Christ Jesus as you seek first ‘Kin-dom of God’ and ‘Justice’ through your life. Yes, the rest will take care of itself. Amen.

With Thanksgiving,
Pastor John

1



SEEK
YE
FIRST

“But seek first
his kingdom and
his Righteousness,
and all these
things will be given
to you as well.”
Matthew 6: 33



WHAT IS COMING UP?

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

Pastor John's Stewardship Sermon Series:

- November 3 "Seek Ye First"
- November 10 "Kingdom vs. Kin-dom"
- November 17 "Righteousness Is Justice"
- November 24 "I. C. N. U. through God's Eyes"



The Month of November

- November 3 All Saints Sunday
- November 5 SPRC Meeting at the library 7p.m.
- November 9 Charge Conference at Wallingford UMC 4P.M.
(All church officers are encouraged to attend.)
- November 24 Steward Commitment Sunday
- November 28 Thanksgiving Day



Newsletter Information

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



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS ONE BY ONE

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.



Our doors swing wide. Not just to let others in but so that we can all get out to serve our community.

Open Doors

BBQ with the community!

It was a fun and excited time to enjoy a Saturday afternoon with the neighbors and the church family.

Thank you so much for all of your participations for the event!



Congratulations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary, Sulmo and Carol!



Hello from Alaska!

Ryan Fang
135 Phillips Dr,
Kenai, AK 99611

DOERS OF THE WORD

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Unless she is traveling, or perhaps visiting her beloved beach house in Arch Cape, Oregon, Ann Iwano is usually in a pew at Mercer Island United Methodist Church on Sunday morning, with a smile, a generous heart, and a dedicated spirit.

Ann was born in Seattle to Frances and John Lensrud. She was their only child but was also nurtured by loving grandparents and great aunts. When she was 2 1/2, her adventurous teacher father moved his young family to Bakersfield, California, but they returned to Seattle when she was 10. She considers herself a true Seattlite.

After graduating from Franklin High School in Seattle, she attended Western Washington University in Bellingham where she majored in English and minored in Social Studies.

After graduating from college, Ann then began a career teaching English, Social Studies and Remedial Reading at Asa Mercer Junior High School in Seattle. Summer vacations provided the opportunity for her to engage in her great love, seeing the world. Her travels have taken her to many countries of the world, including England, Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Canada, and most of the states in the United States.

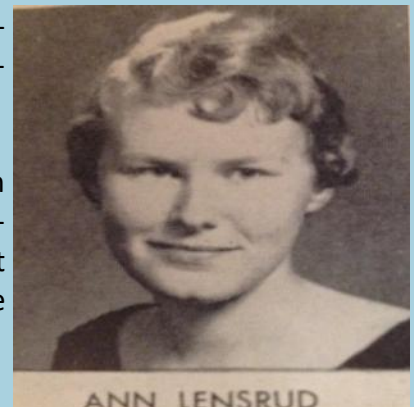
Her favorite country is Scotland where she lived and attended graduate school for a sabbatical year in Dundee. In August of this year she made her fourth return trip there to see old friends and renew memories.

Shortly after Ann retired from teaching, she accepted an invitation from a friend to attend an Elderhostel program on jazz in Aberdeen, Washington. Although she had taught at Asa Mercer Junior High School for 30 years, she still wasn't old enough to qualify for an Elderhostel course. However the friend was, and Elderhostel rules allowed a qualifying participant to bring along a younger person.

Attending that Elderhostel became one of the turning points in Ann's life. Joseph Iwano, a widower and retired physician from Mercer Island, was also attending the Elderhostel. Soon the two found themselves enjoying the music, dancing, and sharing meals. Back in Seattle afterwards, they began spending time together and were married on November 7th, 1993.

Joe attended Mercer Island United Methodist Church regularly, and Ann, a lifelong Catholic, joined him in worship and other church activities. Although it was the first time she had ever been inside a Methodist church, she soon became a regular and cherished attendant.

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IN NOVEMBER

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Two years after her marriage, Ann experienced another life changing event. She contracted a serious infection from the bite of her pet cat and almost lost her life. She lay in the hospital in a coma for a number of days and ultimately lost both her lower limbs. All the while, members of MIUMC were praying daily for her recovery. After months of treatment and rehabilitation, she was able to walk with her prostheses, and there are many in our congregation today who will never forget that Sunday morning when she returned to church walking on her own again. Now she drives, dances, climbs stairs, and inspires all of us.

When Joe's health began to fail, the couple moved to Timber Ridge, a continuing care facility in Issaquah, where he passed away on October 28, 2011. Ann continues to live there. We of the Mercer Island United Methodist Church are thankful for Ann and for the love and grace she shares with us.

Dottie Hughes



(Ann in Scotland with her friends)

Charge Conference

November 9 at Wallingford UMC 4:00p.m.

(2115 N 42nd St, Seattle, WA 98103)

All church officers are encouraged



**Steward Commitment
Sunday on
November 24**

Please make a commitment to serve to the Lord with your prayers and sharing of gifts, talents and time. Your commitments allow our church to budget for ministry in 2020.



**Community joint
Thanksgiving Service
On November 27 Wednesday
at 7p.m.
At Covenant Living at the Shores**