



MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



January 2020

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. God will not leave you or forsake you.”
Deuteronomy 31: 6

Communitas is a Latin noun referring to an unstructured community in which people are equal. Old hierarchies dissolve or are ignored. A sense of fellowship, spontaneity, and warmth emerges within newly undifferentiated social relationships; a new ethos of interrelatedness springs forth.
-HOW TO LEAD p. 15

From the Pastor...

At the end of the year 2019, our District Superintendent, Rev. Derek Nakano brought the concept of ‘Liminality’ based on the book, “HOW TO LEAD When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going” by Susan Beaumont. Regardless of how we are seeing ourselves, our local church or denominational church, one thing we are sure today is that we are constantly demanded to identify ‘Who are, Who we serve, and What we feel called to do or become’ during this liminal season. And this is how Susan describes the season: “Liminal seasons are threshold experiences where the continuity of tradition is called into question, and uncertainty about the future fuels doubt.”

About 18 years ago, I was a newly married husband who left his wife behind in Korea and brought himself to New York city searching for a next step in the U.S., a foreign land. I commuted most days and walked for miles from a public bus station near Broadway to Battery Park in the South end. I was able to witness some of the busiest lifestyles in the city where the Empire State Building, Wall St, and Chinatown are. Other days I went the city but explored for the Northern part where Central Park is located, and there I felt close to some ordinary lifestyles: schools, churches, museums, parks, and food carts.

This experience oddly brought me a sense of ‘diversity’ and ‘vitality’ in life. And each day for the next two months in New York, the city truly gave different colors of the world not because of all the bright neon signs of the buildings, but because of such little communities created and alive in the large scaled community of Manhattan. Therefore, liminality for me is an ongoing effort of exploration in-between the South end and the North end, but not knowing exactly what each new day would bring through my walks in the city. The importance is “in the liminal period something marvelous and transforming can occur. *Communitas* might emerge.”

As this year 2020 gets started, I would like you to join with me to experiment and learn about ourselves in a liminal manner. We may discover a new way of ‘being’ and re-discover ourselves fully alive and more open to divine encounters like I had 18 years ago, the most challenging moment of my life in the busiest city of the world. That doesn’t mean I am an expert to lead you, but excited to have an adventurous walk with you to find ‘*Communitas*’ in our midst. This walking and working process in our liminal season requires much of personal presences as well as tangible actions. Therefore, I humbly ask for your stillness with solitude and your prayers with courage. Then, we’ll come together to get clear about ourselves as a Blessed, Belonging, Beloved, and Believing Community.

This is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will strengthen our faith community here at MIUMC, so we can stand: watching to be witnesses of what God will do next and to follow God’s lead.

Many blessings,
Pastor John Go

WHAT IS COMING UP?



We pray together for

- Ann Knoll
- Jason and his family
- Karen Dunning
- Caleb and his sister Michelle
- Rev. Katie Klosterman and baby Kahlan
- Tom and Carol Graham
- World peace
- Disasters around the world

“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” (The Message)

Philippians 4:6-7

Pastor John’s Sermon Series: ‘Communitas’ of God

January 5

Psalm 1 - A Blessed Community



January 12

Romans 8:12-14, 31-39 - A Belonging Community

January 19

Micah 6 - A Beloved Community



January 26

Deuteronomy 31: 6 - A Believing (Eschatological) Community



The Month of January

January 5 (Sun) Epiphany / Communion Sunday

January 20 (Mon) Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 26 (Sun) Worship Team Meeting after the service



DOERS OF THE WORD



Women's group packed 22 Christmas gift bags for Eco Glen.



Children's Christmas Pageant Preparation



Christmas Pageant during worship service

DOERS OF THE WORD



Christmas Eve Service



New Year's Eve Gathering

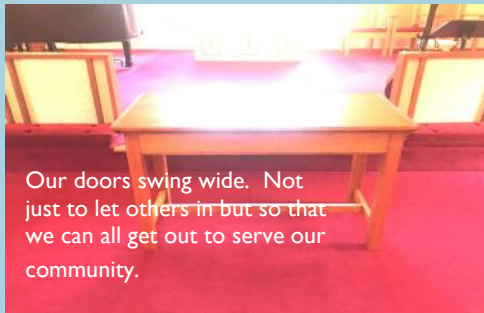


DOERS OF THE WORD

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

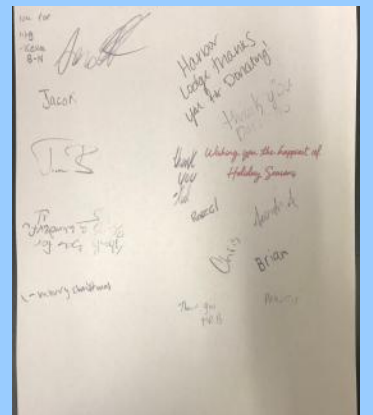
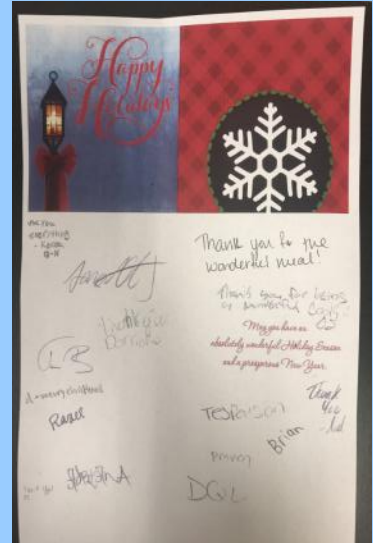
I am no longer my own, but yours.
 Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
 Praised for you or criticized for you.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
 And now, O wonderful and holy God,
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
 you are mine, and I am yours.
 So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 Let it also be made in heaven. Amen. -John Wesley

Congregations of various Methodist Churches often observe the Covenant Service during the watch night service of New Year's Eve or on New Year's Day itself, in order to renew one's commitment to Christ and the invisible church at the start of the year and services using the Covenant prayer .



Thank you to the Mariano family for donating the tables, John Strasburger for repolishing the communion table, and Dick and Becky for delivering donated items to Mercer Island Youth & Family Services.

Thank you card from **Echo Glen**



From: Rev. Terri Stewart

Hi all! I just got this from Spencer Mooers at Naselle Youth Camp way down in Naselle. Some of your gifts went there as well as Echo Glen Children's Home, Woodinville Community Facility, and Touchstone Community Facility. I think we need to hold the idea that for some incarcerated youth, the Christmas that we provided was actually their best Christmas.

From Spencer: Terri, Thanks you for all your efforts for the kids this year. Please pass this on to your helpers. Pat the Superintendent was talking with one of the residents about Christmas the resident said that this was the best Christmas ever!!! What you do is really important!!



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