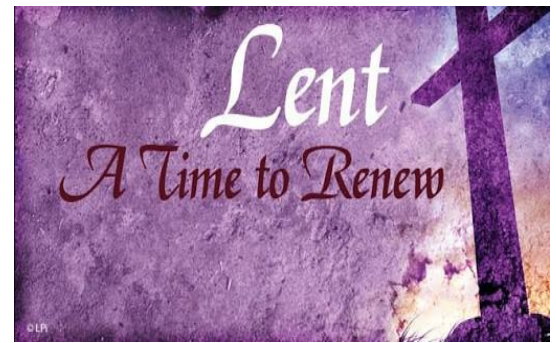




MARCH 2020

MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



From the Pastor...



“You Shall Be Holy, For I AM Holy”

“So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires... But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. [1 Peter 1: 13-16a, New Living Translation]

As we begin the season of ‘Spring-Lent,’ let us think about some of the spiritual practices traditionally required and practiced: prayers, fasting, almsgiving, self-denial, etc. They are all about ‘Intentionality,’ or an ‘Intentional practice.’ It is because the 40 days of Lent itself is an intentional practice for Christians. This intentional practice, I have called, ‘Juxtaposition.’ It means placing close together or side by side, especially for contrast.

For instance, if you visit Beijing, China or Seoul, South Korea, you would have noticed that the ancient palace still stands tall and proud, but not too far away, there are high skyscrapers also. These two structures totally contrast. In addition to that, juxtaposition can be found in paintings, photos, even in literature or movies. The recent Academy award winning movie, ‘Parasite’ can be an example. It juxtaposes the wealthy family and the poor family and their story together.

This intentional practice of ‘Juxtaposition’ for Lent draws us to the edge of those two contrast ideas and statuses, because there at the edge we may often recognize God’s presence, called ‘*coram Deo*.’ The word, *coram* is from the Latin *cora*, which is translated to “in one’s presence,” “face-to-face,” or “before one’s eyes.” The second word, *Deo*, is the Latin word for God. The key idea in the phrase, ‘*coram Deo*’ is not only to be intimate with God, who knows each individual, but also where things juxtapose very distinctively so that they challenge us to move forward to the edge. At the edge what we can imagine is unfamiliar, unknown and strange. Therefore, it won’t be necessary to be secure, comfortable, and easy.

Have you ever thought about yourself in the sight of the Lord? So, let us grasp this concept of living on the edge where ‘*coram Deo*’ distinctively arises throughout the season of Lent. Clearly, living ‘*coram Deo*’ means that we are not to make a separation between the sacred and the secular because the secular dwells in the presence of the sacred. It may only need some intentional practice like ‘Juxtaposition.’ What things do you need to put together during ‘Lent’? How about juxtaposing Ignored, unfamiliar, annoyed, strange, and unsecure things with your comfort, familiar, safe things side by side?

I prayerfully hope that this practice of Juxtaposition leads us to the edge where we can truly experience God’s presence, ‘*coram Deo*’ in our real world: the hunger, the thirsty, the lonely, and the broken. Where in pain, we may bring comfort, in sorrow hope, in loneliness fellowship, in broken healing, in death the new life through Christ Jesus.

Many blessings,

Pastor John Go

Pastor John's Sermon Series

- March 1** 1 Peter 1: 13–16, 22
“Godliness: Beyond the Right”
- March 8** Romans 12: 1–5
“Godliness: Counter-cultural”
- March 15** Revelation 3: 18–22
“Godliness like Refined Gold”
- March 22** Guest preacher
- March 29** James 1: 19–27
“Godliness: Living on the Edge”
- April 5** Mark 11: 1–11
“Godliness: Missional/Purposeful”



The Month of March/April

- March 1 (Sun) Communion Sunday**
- March 20-22 (Fri-Sun) Youth Retreat at Camp Indianola**
- March 22 (Sun) UMCOR Sunday**
- March 28-29(Sat-Sun, 12am-4pm) Ikebana exhibition open to public**
(Flower Arrangement Demonstration on Sunday at 1pm)
- April 5 Palm Sunday**
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Seder meal in the Fellowship Hall @6pm**
- April 10 Good Friday Prayer Station 12 pm-5 pm in the Sanctuary**
- April 12 Resurrection Sunday Service at 11am**
Brunch (10 am) and Egg hunts



Meet Helen Shewmaker!

On a bright Sunday morning in 2017, a spry and energetic retiree climbed the 24th Street hill to Mercer Island United Methodist Church and joined the congregation there for worship. Helen Thomas Shewmaker had been attending a Methodist church since she was two years old and was happy to find one so near her new home at the foot of the 24th Street hill on Mercer Island. She quickly became an active and dedicated member here at MIUMC.

Helen was born in Nickerson, Kansas, on April 28, 1927, and attended grade school and high school there. She was second to last of eleven children in her family and the last survivor of that family today.

After graduating from high school in Nickerson, Helen entered nursing school at St. Elizabeth Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Hutchison, Kansas. Upon graduation she became a surgical nurse at St. Elizabeth Mercy Hospital and thus began a career in nursing and health care that spanned more than 50 years.

She served at St. Elizabeth Mercy Hospital for 20 years, during which time she married and had three children. Then in 1960 the family moved to Idaho, where Helen worked at St. Benedict Hospital in Jerome, Idaho. She commuted from Jerome to Idaho State University in Pocatello where she took advanced courses in nursing, and subsequently she set up the first coronary care unit and the first intensive care unit at St. Benedict's.

In 1974, in response to the need for more health care professionals in Idaho and adjoining states, Helen studied at the University of Colorado and became a Nurse Practitioner with a speciality in geriatric care. For ten years, she served as the administrator for a 125-bed skilled nursing facility in Twin Falls, and then she officially retired. But she didn't really retire. Her volunteer activities in retirement included setting up a free health care clinic in Twin Falls and working as the clinic nurse there for ten years and volunteering as a Hospice Care nurse. Of her long career, Helen says, "I never had a job that I didn't like."

Among other things, she found the time throughout her career to serve as the first woman president of the Idaho Health Care Association where her duties included lobbying for health care in Washington, DC, she taught nursing classes at Twin Falls Community College, she taught Sunday school and held many offices in the Methodist churches she attended, and she provided a nurturing home for her family.

To be closer to family, Helen moved to Mercer Island in 2017. Daughter Becky lives in Seattle, daughter B.J. lives in Houston, Texas, and son John lives in Bellevue. She also has five grandsons and one granddaughter.

Helen has enjoyed traveling over the years and has visited most of the European countries and Great Britain and has enjoyed several cruises with her family. Her favorite country is Ireland, and she also enjoyed Wales because both her paternal and maternal grandparents immigrated to the US from Wales.

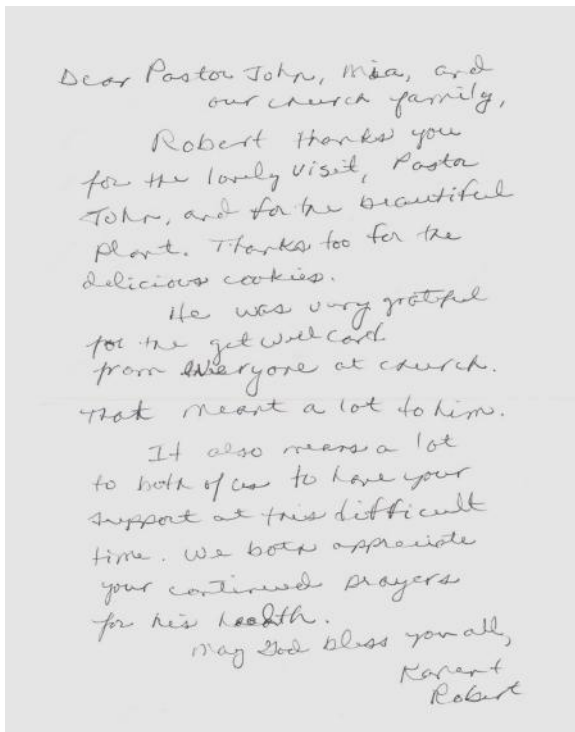
Helen now lives at Island House, an assisted living facility in downtown Mercer Island. She is a regular participant in the Adult Education Class, the Women's Group and other church activities. Her presence here enriches our church life, and we are thankful that she climbed the 24th Street hill back in 2017.

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS



Judith and Dave enjoyed their trip to the Caribbean and would like to share these two pictures with us. The left picture shows them wearing their summer hats but the right picture is the Methodist church without a roof since 2016 after hurricane Irma. What a Juxtaposition! We are encouraged to participate on UMCOR Sunday on March 22 to help with the needs of the places where affected by disaster.

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From Robert & Karen Gray



Tuesday women's group celebrated Mia's anticipation of commissioning.

Thank you everyone for your support and prayer!

Mia Park

Send the Youth to the camp with our blessings and prayers!



Four youth members (Karen, Julie, Grace, and Tiagan) and Pastor John will attend the Youth Retreat at Camp Indianola on Friday, March 20 ~ Sunday, March 22. Please contact Pastor John for more detail to find out way to support our youth.

Celebrating UMCOR Sunday on March 22, 2020.

This UMCOR Sunday celebrate and reflect the important work accomplished by the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR Sunday calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. UMCOR Sunday reaches children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.



**Maundy Thursday
Passover Seder**



The Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6pm.

The Seder is a ritual performed by a community or by multiple generations of a family, involving a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt, and sharing a meal. Each food in a Seder meal has symbolic significance. Come and join us and find out what the Seder meal is all about.

Good Friday Prayer Station 12 pm-5pm in the Sanctuary.

A service/misssional project also will be added to these hours.





March 2020 Newsletter

Mercer Island United Methodist Church

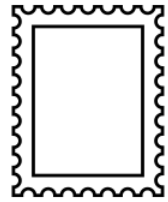
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