



APRIL 2020

MERCER ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



Dear Mercer Island UMC families and friends,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus who is the healer of all and the prince of peace to those who are in fear, pain, and loneliness from our recent social distancing and isolation. It is my understanding that most of us are staying home and are healthy, keeping up the guidelines and updates being provided by our civil leaders and health care leaders.

About a month ago, I invited us to observe a 40 Day Lent, to prepare for our Lord's passion and resurrection by practicing biblical 'godliness'. Our original focus was on how best to be holy or do holy works throughout this 'Spring-Lent' season as Christians, but the growing impact by the spread of COVID-19 limits our ability to be with one another in in-person worship and Bible studies nowadays.

Over 200 clergy members with our Bishop and her cabinet met virtually using the online meeting service, Zoom, yesterday. **"We will continue suspending In-person worship and other gatherings through April...and All United Methodist church buildings and other facilities in the Greater Northwest are to be closed, effective March 28 to all but essential services and only to the extent allowed by state and local government restrictions or advice."**

Which brings us finally to what we're going to do. We will keep our Facebook page updated with resources, including links to our online worship service which will be live-streamed and recorded, and also send out our daily email via Mia Park with members' notes, pictures, and prayer requests. I'm also planning to record videos for our faith studies with Rev. Carol Mariano, so if you'd like to participate, you will have a virtual opportunity to do just that.

Lastly, I am very grateful for you who are faithfully and willingly supporting our faith community in this challenging time with your gifts and offerings, making phone calls and writing cards to one another, and providing online worship and spaces to be connected. While we are parted and limited, let us not cease growing in love and spirit through 'Godly practices' you may have learned from recent messages: *"Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow; to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."*

-Unite Methodist Hymnal #431

I am looking forward to hearing from you by phone calls and social media, and also am longing to be together with you soon. This is my sincere prayer for all.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

Let there be
peace
on
earth
& LET IT BEGIN
with me

WHAT IS COMING UP?

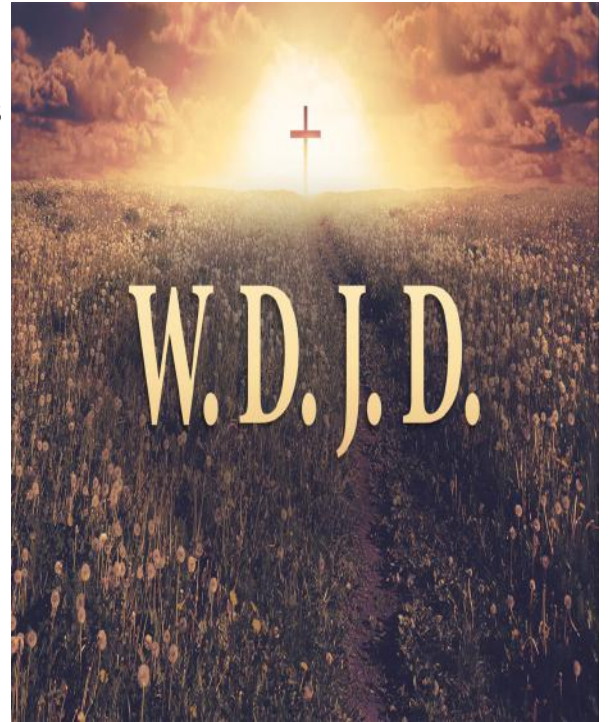
Pastor John's Sermon Series

What Did Jesus Do?

During this Easter season of 2020, we're starting a series of sermons on retrieving Jesus' appearances after His resurrection as told in the Bible. The goal of the series is to find ourselves shocked, discouraged, doubting, denying, and even being upset; yet to encounter Christ Jesus in person during this uncertain and challenging season. Please know that this series is actually designed to help you get started reading more stories in the Bible and joining Tuesday's zoom study led by Rev. Carol Mariano or a small group discussion while we're in quarantine.

I prayerfully hope these series and studies may guide us to overcome such an unpredictable time as Jesus' disciples were also experiencing, and furthermore, we can question to ourselves, "Then, What Would Jesus Do today?"

I just don't want this to be a series of sermons, so let us aim to create a tangible way of life, that helps us to be "Doers of the Word" for today's world as a church, the resurrected Body of Christ.



Below is our tentative sermon schedule:

- April 12 On Easter Morning: Mark 16:9, John 20: 1 - 18**
- April 19 On the Road to Emmaus: Luke 24: 13 - 35**
- April 26 On the Evening of the First Day: Luke 24: 36 - 49, John 20: 19 - 23**
- May 3 Eight Days after the First Appearances: John 20: 24 – 31**
- May 10 By the Sea of Galilee: John 21: 1 – 14, Matthew 28: 16 - 17**
- May 17 On the Road to Damascus: 1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11, Acts 9: 1 - 9**
- May 24 On Ascension Day: Acts 1: 2- 8**

WHAT IS COMING UP?

The Month of April

April 5 Palm Sunday

April 7 Good Friday

April 12 Easter Sunday

April 22 Earth Day

Every Tuesday small Group 9:30 am-10:30 am

All Worship Services and small groups in April will continue through Facebook and Zoom.
Please email or call the church office for more details.



*Thank you so much for your generous offerings.
Your pledges and special offerings
for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) and
our Hispanic Latino sister church,
El Dios Viviente UMC are precious seeds which will
expand the kingdom of God on earth.
May God's peace and love spread from you to our
neighborhood, community, and to the world.*

DOERS OF THE WORD

Meet Ann Knoll!



Mercer Island Methodist Church was organized in 1962, and now 58 years later, there are few of the charter members with us. However we are thankful and blessed to have one of those founding members with us every Sunday.

Eleanor Ann Thorne was born to Paul and Ada Thorne in 1925 in Kokomo, Indiana. She joined a sister, Miriam, who was 11 years older than she. During the depression years that followed, her family at times lived with her grandparents and several other relatives in a lively and loving household that cherished young Ann.

At Kokomo High School Ann sang in the glee club and wrote for the school newspaper. She also sang with the Grace Methodist Church choir. She graduated from Kokomo High School in 1943 with the ambition of becoming a singer or a journalist. After studying for a year at Indiana University, she returned to Kokomo and joined the stenography pool at Continental Steel Company.

By then, the country was in the middle of World War II. The Bunker Hill Naval Air Station was located near Kokomo, and hundreds of naval cadets were training there to be pilots and naval officers. Ann's mother learned of a dance being held at the USO for those trainees, and she encouraged Ann to attend, explaining to her the advantages of meeting the select young men who were going to become naval officers. Ann was not particularly eager to go but finally decided to attend. A handsome young naval cadet, Bob Knoll from Corvallis, Oregon, was one of the young men that Ann danced with that evening. Later Bob showed up at Grace Methodist Church where Ann was singing in the choir, and the flame of romance began to glow.



When Bob completed his training, he was sent to several other training stations around the country as an instructor, and the couple corresponded. In 1945 the war ended, and Bob returned to Corvallis and re-enrolled in Oregon State College.

In 1946 Bob borrowed his dad's Packard, and accompanied by a couple of buddies who were to be in the wedding, he drove to Kokomo to claim his bride. The trip east became a memorable one because of the many flat tires the young men had to cope with as they traveled. The wartime scarcity of tires had not ended yet.

Bob and Ann were married on June 30, 1946, in Grace Methodist Church in Kokomo. They honeymooned on the drive back to Corvallis, visiting Yellowstone and other scenic places along the way.

The couple remained in Corvallis after Bob's graduation. Ann became a housewife while Bob became the Director of the Alumni Association at Oregon State. Bob's position involved numerous gatherings and social activities, and Ann was always a gracious and charming hostess.

DOERS OF THE WORD



Over time four boys joined the family, and trips back to Kokomo and to the Oregon coast created happy memories. A family cabin in the mountains of Oregon by the McKenzie River was a beloved getaway where Bob and the boys fished, and Ann cooked their catch.

Ann, Bob and boys moved to Mercer Island in 1961 when Bob was recruited by Boeing for a position in the public relations department.

There was no Methodist church on Mercer Island at that time, so the family attended Bellevue First Methodist Church, but soon they helped to organize and then became charter members of the Mercer Island Methodist Church. In the ensuing years they became the proverbial “pillars of the church”, where they held many different offices and were always significant voices in the choir.

When the boys became older, Ann began a 25-plus year career with Farmer’s Insurance Company on Mercer Island. She retired from the Human Resources Department there in 1990. The year before she retired she was selected from among the 300+ employees of Farmers as the Employee of the Year.

The Knolls enjoyed travel, and as Mariner fans, going to Mariner spring training in Arizona was a favorite destination. They also enjoyed regular trips to Hawaii, Cannon Beach and Seaside in Oregon, and excursions to Disneyland In California and Disney World in Florida.

All of the Knoll boys have remained in the Seattle area. Sadly, Paul who became an oncologist, passed away in 2008. David is now retired after 30 years with the Circulation Department of The Seattle Times, and John managed Skippers restaurants and also worked for SeaFirst/Bank of America before retirement. Mark worked for Farmers Insurance Company and for Wyndham Resorts. In addition to her sons and their wives, Ann now enjoys 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Ann’s love of music permeated the Knoll household, and all of her sons grew up to be talented and skilled vocalists.

David recalls how his mother listened to classical music in their home for as far back as he can remember. Until her eyesight began to fail, she was a prodigious reader, and gardening was a lifelong interest. On nice days she and Mary Lou Lake could be found walking Ann’s whippet dog around Mercedale Park.



Mercer Island United Methodist Church is blessed by Ann’s many years of support of the church, and especially by the generous sharing of her musical talents. Her warm and friendly smile has welcomed the congregation since the church began in 1962. Thank you, Ann!

Dottie Hughes & David Knoll

THIS SPRING



All Worship Services in April will be on-line.

You could watch the service through YouTube or our church Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mercerislandumc/>.

You will receive an email every Sunday morning including the worship service link and sermon script.

Every Tuesday 9:30 am-10:30 am

With Rev. Carol Mariano by Zoom:

www.zoom.us/j/5851307339

All participants will receive an email reminder for meeting.

Those who don't have accessibility to Zoom could also join by calling at 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592. You will be asked to enter our meeting ID 585-130-7339 followed by #.



Celebrating Easter together during this time of physical separation

Production is underway for a Greater Northwest Area-wide celebration of Easter and Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky will deliver an Easter message complemented by the musical and vocal gifts of people across the Area. You will receive the link to join the service.



April 2020 Newsletter

Mercer Island United Methodist Church

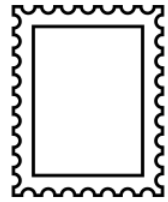
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