



**JUNE 2020**

**MERCER ISLAND  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**



“Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” [Luke 17: 20-21]

What Kind of Day is Today?

Standing on a gorgeous summer morning, we might hardly feel in pain or in danger. It is just nice to be outside feeling the warmth of the sun and a gentle breeze. Surely, Spring slowly hands its freshness and moisture over to the season of a green, growing, and glowing summer. Daylight is now much longer than any time of the year and it is such a beautiful time of the year. However, this season of growth brings with it some challenges, especially in this year of 2020: fear of Covid-19, anger from racial discrimination, and division by political polarization.

Observing the ‘Day of Pentecost’ in the book of Acts, we, the church, now must ask ourselves, “how are we to be the Church when she is interrupted and experiencing abnormality and even disturbance in her life as we continue to proclaim ‘God’s kingdom’ on earth that is meant to be here and now?”

What if life is all about growing? Constant growth is a sign of life. No matter what challenges are out there which we cannot simply avoid. For instance, in the garden, there are now all kinds of greens greeting us each morning and are proud of their overnight growth, but in the meantime, we are witnessing that there are other things growing, too. I personally feel obligated to pick those weeds around the trees, the lawn, and everywhere. That’s quite a challenge for me as well as any gardener like you.

Well, this coming summer is not an exceptional one from those ongoing challenges and responsibilities. In fact, it is a time for us to build healthy boundaries (plans & strategies) in diligence: tie up plants to support sticks so they grow taller and stronger and water them every evening or morning. After all, it matters how we practice and discipline ourselves during this challenging season.

Our spiritual practices and disciplines are also meant to be greener, growing, and glowing during this upcoming summer season. Although I am very grateful for your ongoing efforts to join online worship and prayers during this Pandemic, we cannot deny that we are still facing a significant transition of the church, which can be also an opportunity. How to be or identify ourselves as a worshipful, prayerful, and missional ‘Doers of the Word’?

Alan Hirsch, the author of ‘The Permanent Revolution’ said, “the Church that Jesus built is designed for growth—and massive, highly transformative growth at that... It is designed to be an advancing, untamed and untamable, revolutionary force created to transform the world.” I believe it is a liminal but adventurous time for Mercer Island UMC to pray together and envision together a church in the Book of Acts and we will be an evangelical group to spread the Gospel with our own authentic stories. That can be our spiritual cultivation and gardening for God’s Kingdom on earth we have been doing over the last 50 years and are called to do today continually through this season of growth ahead.

Prayerfully in Christ,

*Pastor John*

# WHAT IS COMING UP?

## On-line Sermon Series of the Month of June

### The Kingdom of God

June 7 “God’s Kingdom & Color” James 2: 1 –9 Pastor John Go

June 14 Preached by Rev. Carol Mariano

June 21 Preached by Minister Trina Burtenshaw Freatman

June 28 Preached by Pastor Mia Park

## The Month of June

June 9 (Tues) 10:30 am : Administration Council Meeting via Zoom

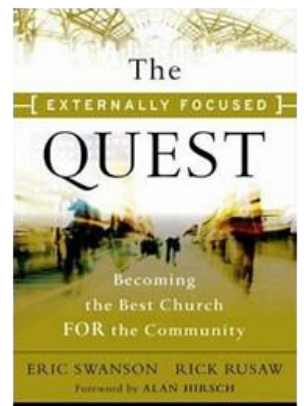
June 21 (Sun) Father’s Day

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

Every Wednesday 9:00 am-10:00 am : Wednesday Weeders

## Small Group Opportunity

“Most churches, blatantly or subtly, have an unspoken objective—‘How can we be the best church in our community?’—and they staff, budget, and plan accordingly. How we answer that question determines our entire approach to our members, staff, prayers, finances, time, technology, and facilities. Becoming an externally focused church is not about becoming the best church *in* the community. The externally focused church asks, ‘How can we be the best church *for* our community?’ That one little preposition changes everything. And this is the big question this book seeks to answer. This is your question; this is your quest, found in *INTRODUCTION of The QUEST* by Eric Swanson & Rick Rusaw



Pastor John would like to introduce to you a book, *The Externally Focused Quest*, which brings nine big missional concepts of how to become the best church *for* the community. Each concept will provide many of the tools we will need for our externally focused quest. It will be wonderful to see that you can join with John in sharing about ‘each concept’ through an every other week discussion by Zoom. The date and time (6:30P.M.) is to be announced soon.

# WHAT HAPPENED?

*Charlie: Dick and  
Becky's granddaughter*



*Joshua:  
Damon's  
grandson*



*Charlie*



# DOERS OF THE WORD

*From Our Lay-leader, Linda Hodge*

## Grateful, Faithful, Joyful...

Thank you once again, Pastor John, for those three words of encouragement. So let's talk about Faithful...

Examples of faithfulness have abounded during this crisis at MIUMC. To me being faithful doesn't just mean having faith, but putting it into action.

Being committed, being **"Doers of the Word."**

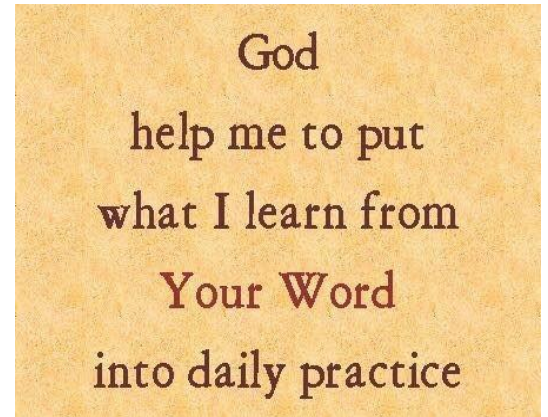
How have I witnessed these acts of faithfulness?

The walks are swept and the carpet swept. Compost is being shoveled. Weeds are pulled. Shrubs are trimmed. The grass is being cut. The Sunday service is recorded so we can worship virtually. Tuesday groups are being zoomed so we can stay in touch. A piano, new for us, is in the Fellowship Hall lovingly touched up. Coffee is being brewed in the kitchen. Smiles and words of welcome flow from the office. Our pastor wields a mean shovel as well as words of support and encouragement. Pledges are being honored. Cards, calls, emails are sent out to hold us together. Prayers are offered for those who need comfort.

We are blessed!

I am sure there are many more examples of faithful acts by our Church family.

These are just a few that come to my mind. What are some others that you can think of?



## ODE TO A SEED

**Joe Iwano** (Ann Iwano's late husband)

Oh seed, you tiny seed, amazing seed.  
 How do you know what to do?  
 A little loam, a kiss of the sun,  
 And gentle rain from the heavens above;  
 Then presto, a carrot, or lettuce,  
 Or even an apple tree.  
 Is there a brain within your tiny shell?



# DOERS OF THE WORD



Damon, John, Pastor John, and Linda

## "Make Dave Smile"

Service Day was MAY 29





# DOERS OF THE WORD

## T. C. SPIRIT VILLAGE THANK YOU!

May 18, 2020



Mercer Island United Methodist Church  
7070 SE 24th St  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Dear Mercer Island United Methodist Church,

On behalf of all of us at LIHI, thank you for your time and effort in building a tiny house! This will make a big difference in improving lives for people experiencing homelessness.

We are excited to share that the tiny house you built has been placed at a new village in the Central Area, T. C. Spirit Village, located at 612 22nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98122. The tiny house is already providing a safe space for someone experiencing homelessness to sleep behind their very own locking door. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, you are helping us with rapidly setting up additional shelter capacity for our unhoused neighbors who are especially vulnerable to exposure. We could not have done this without generous community champions like you!

The twelve tiny house villages LIHI operates provide shelter, community and safety to 1,000 people annually including single adults, couples, families with kids, and pets. Village case managers work individually with each resident to help them obtain long-term housing, employment, health care, education, child care, treatment and other services. Over the past four years, case managers have successfully transitioned over 550 residents into permanent housing. We could not do this crucial work without you, and we are immensely grateful for your contribution.

Thank you again for supporting the tiny house program and working alongside us in helping to solve homelessness in our region. We look forward to our continued work together!

If you have any questions or would like to go on a tour of T. C. Spirit Village after the stay at home order is lifted, please contact us at 206-957-8069 or email [tinyhouses@lihi.org](mailto:tinyhouses@lihi.org).

Best,

Sharon Lee  
Executive Director



Photo taken by Darolyn Qualyle



"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wild-flowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. (The Message, Matt 6:30-33)

# THIS MONTH



The Online Sermon Series in June is  
**"The Kingdom of God"**



The Administration Council Meeting  
is scheduled on **June 9th at 10:30A.M**  
via Zoom.

Agenda – Reimagining Life Together:  
Reopening the church facility &  
Ongoing online supports



Happy Father's day to Fathers,  
grandfathers, and all men who  
have had a positive impact on  
the lives of your children, nieces,  
nephews,  
or anyone you've influenced.

You are wonderful!  
You are appreciated!  
You are loved!



## June 2020 Newsletter

### Mercer Island United Methodist Church

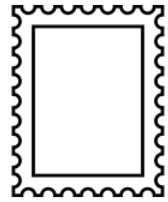
7070 SE 24<sup>th</sup> St., Mercer Island, WA 98040

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Recipient Name

Recipient Address Line 1

Recipient Address Line 2