



December

**MERCER
ISLAND
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



Nativity Set

Every December 1st we decorate for Christmas. The first step is to place our nativity set on the hall table at the top of the stairs. We do that first to keep things in proper perspective. What is the decorating about? What is at the center of our activity as we prepare for Christmas? Where is our focus?

By placing the set at the top of the stairs we see it often throughout the day. We see it before we look at the fireplace mantle, the Christmas tree, the snowmen candles, and all the rest of the holiday décor.

When I set up the nativity scene, I remember the journey that each figure has taken to reach the manger. The shepherds had to leave their sheep unattended to follow the star. The Wise Men travelled a great distance to reach the Christ child. And Mary and Joseph, unwed and expecting a baby any minute, walking miles to reach shelter. Their journeys were hard as they prepared to welcome the birth of Jesus.

So as I place each figure in its traditional place, I am reminded of the cost involved in reaching the manger and of the need for us to prepare our hearts for the days ahead.. How will we use this Advent season to get ready to receive the Savior into our hearts? What journey are we willing to take?

- Linda Hodge, Lay Leader

WHAT IS COMING UP?

Sermon Titles & Lectionary Reading the Month of December

December 6th Isaiah 40: 1—11

“ Loneliness to Solitude ”

December 13th Isaiah 61: 1—4, 8—11

“ Hostility to Hospitality ”

December 20th 2 Samuel 7: 1—11

“ Illusion to Prayer ”

December 24th John 1: 1—9

December 27th Isaiah 62: 1—4a, 10—12

“ Prepare the way for the people ”



“In the midst of a turbulent, often chaotic, life we are called to reach out, with courageous honesty to our innermost self, with relentless care to our fellow human beings, and with increasing prayer to our God.”

- Henri Nouwen

An online Live streaming worship service link is provided to the congregation by email at 10:45am each Sunday. Please contact the church office @ 206.232.3044, or miumc@hotmail.com if you need any assistance to join virtually in worship.

The link is also available on <https://www.facebook.com/mercerislandumc/>

The Month of December

December 6th 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 13th 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 20th to 24th 5pm through 10pm “Walk to Bethlehem,”
Celebrating outdoor Advent candles, lights, and nativity sets

December 25th Christmas Day

December 27th Confirmation Class @1:00 pm, meeting virtually

Every Sunday 9:30 am - 10:30 am Adult Sunday School through Zoom

Every Tuesday 7:00 am - 8:00 am Telios Bible Studay through Zoom

WHAT HAPPENED?

Volunteering Work by the Go and the Zhang family at Camp Indianola



A few sleeping bags and a boxful masks (750) were delivered to Tent-City 3 at Trinity UMC.

Special Thanks to Judith Hullin for the arrangement, and the Dudley family for donations.



The Dudley's are thankful for our warmth and shelter and Tent Cities around our region. And thankful for our little kiddos smiles, even if only thru our phones!

The Season of

My favorite hymn is "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come", so I became interested to learn who the author was so googled for info and here is what I found. - Darolyn

"I do this day in the presence of God, and my own soul renew my covenant with God and solemnly determine henceforth to be come his and to do his work as far as in me lies." These astounding words of determination came from an only 16 years of age, Henry Alford in 1826.

In alphabetical order, here's my Thanksgiving list for 2020

1. Being able to attend church on Sunday, even during the pandemic
2. Dottie Hughes -- we check in with each other every day by phone or E
3. People who volunteer to shop for me, including Dottie's daughter, Beth, and my stepdaughter, Elaine
4. Relatives and friends who frequently telephone or send E's, including Pastor John, Pastor Mia, and Lay Leader Linda
5. Scientists and other essential workers
6. The Timber Ridge staff which is taking excellent care of Dottie, me, and 500 + other residents

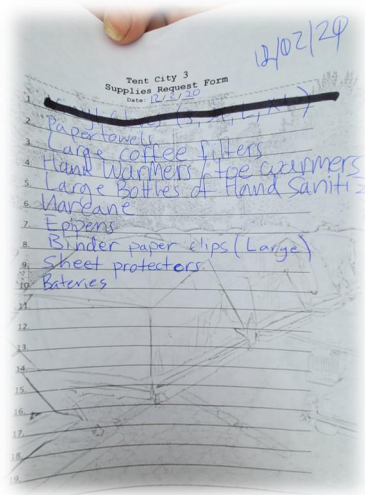
Ann Iwano



I am thankful today for the Lord's Prayer because every time I say it, I hear the resonant warm voice of my father repeating the deeply meaningful words with me. Memories of his faithful commitment to God carried on throughout his life encourage me to stick with it even in hard times. He surely faced enough of those and yet he didn't give up. He maintained a loving spirit through it all. I am so thankful for my father.

Carol Mariano

“Small steps can have a big impact. Create where it matters.”



Tent City 3 at Trinity United Methodist Church

Your donation to the church with memo, “Tent City” will go to Share/Wheel ministry for Tent City in Seattle. Tent City 3 is now preparing their next location at UW before December 20th. They are in need of big sized winter jackets and pants, batteries (AA & AAA), tool sets for moving prep (screw drivers and socket wrenches). If you’d have any extra or none-used items that you can donate, call Judith Hullin at 206-948-2882. Drop off or arrange items to the church office. It will be delivered to Tent City 3 before the group move to UW by 20th of December.

Outdoor Christmas Lighting at the church garden

There will be Christmas lights along the path of the church garden during the season of Advent and Christmas, not only for brightening up the property of the church during this dark winter time, but also for drawing our attention to the message of peace, peace, love and joy through Christ Jesus. While we are lightening up the path, there will be an outdoor Advent Candle Light station and the Star and nativity sets displayed around the garden, so our church neighboring community will celebrate the season with such a kind of “Walk to Bethlehem,” where our faith journey began.



Pledge Drive & Consecration Sunday (Jan.3rd)

During Advent, we’re preparing the year 2021 with our financial commitment to the church.

The first Sunday of 2021, we will renew our commitment, asking God’s blessings and provision with the pledges we are collecting throughout the month of December.

Please join with the heart of willing support and prayers, so we can not only survive, but thrive throughout the years to come before us.





November 2020 Newsletter

Mercer Island United Methodist Church

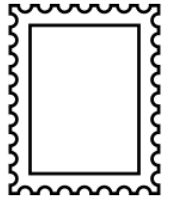
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