

Angel-Filled Advent

Wouldn't it be wonderful
if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?
Wouldn't it be perfect
if we were greeted on these December mornings
with a hovering of heavenly hosts
tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-la's?
Wouldn't it be incredible
if their music filled our waking hours
with the promise of peace on earth
and each Advent night we dreamed of nothing
but goodwill?
Wouldn't we be ecstatic
if we could take those angels shopping,
or trim the tree or have them hold our hands
and dance through our houses decorating?
And, oh, how glorious it would be
to sit in church next to an angel
and sing our hark-the-heralds!
What an Advent that would be!
What Christmas spirit we could have!
An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!
But in lieu of that,
perhaps we can give thanks
for the good earthly joys we have been given
and for the earthly "angels" that we know
who do such a good job of filling
our Advent with alleluias!

Ann Weems
Kneeling in Bethlehem
Westminster Press, 1987



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The Meaning and Symbols of Advent

We think of the four Sundays of Advent as a time of preparation for celebrating the birth of the Christ Child 2,000 years ago. Actually, Advent is about the future, the future coming of Christ and the future coming of the fullness of the rule of God in a new heaven and earth. Advent means “coming.”

The scriptures will be full of longing and hope for this future. Scriptures call us to wake up and watch, not to be so sated with stuff, not so busy with life, that we forget to watch for God’s coming, that we be found unprepared, unequipped to greet him.

The color for this season is purple, the color of preparation and repentance. Another color which has come into recent use is the deep blue of the night sky, evoking memories of the angels at night, and the star.

The tradition of Advent candles is from marking time before people had calendars. Weeks were often tracked with knots on a rope. More expensive (and therefore more special) were candles. We are simply making a visual calendar as we light a candle each week. Since this is a season of short days, the light reminds us of God sending Christ as Light into the world.

Various meanings attach to each week’s candle. A common system is Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. The third candle is often pink, signifying Joy. On that Sunday, Mary’s Song, the Magnificat, is heard in worship. It is her response to the angel’s message telling her that she will bear a child through the Holy Spirit. Mary the prophet praises God for raising up the poor, and casting down the haughty. The poor are filled with good food; the rich sent empty away. Mary rejoiced. (Can we?)

Advent candles in the home are usually white or purple. They may be lit during your devotional time, family grace and mealtime, when other candles are lit, etc. The first week, only the first candle burns. The next Sunday, two candles are lit, and so forth. On Christmas Day, light a new white pillar or taper to signify the birth of Christ.

The Sunday before Christmas Eve is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas Sunday is the Sunday following Christmas. We are in the season of Christmas from December 25 until Epiphany on January 6 (the 12 Days of Christmas). The color is white or gold. Epiphany means “Shining Forth” or “Revelation” and celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men from the East.

The most important meaning of Advent, however, is that it is time to spend making room in our hearts and our lives for Christ to be born within us.

See you in church,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight



December birthday wishes to...

- 8th ◦ Vic Bode
- 11th ◦ Robert Gray
- 15th ◦ Karen Shaffer
- 16th ◦ Jim Maners
- 19th ◦ Pam Driscoll
- 30th ◦ Lee Hartman



(Sincere apologies if we've missed yours! Please be sure to update the **BIRTHDAY BOOK** in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you, and many many more!)

<> *Parents' Night Out* <>

A community service of
Mercer Island United Methodist Church
 7070 SE 24th Street

First Fridays of the month

6:30pm–9:30pm (Open house style)

Games, dinner, and movies for the kids,
 while parents enjoy their own together time.
 Ages 3-12 are welcome.

Upcoming dates: **Dec 7, and Jan 4**
 Reservations are needed. Please call
 the church office at (206) 232-3044.

*Our thanks to Carla Neames
 and Aleta Toy for this opportunity!*

DECEMBER MYSTERY PERSON

Well, we had some folks guess, yet no one was able to correctly identify November's mystery couple. The bearers of the Bolivian cross were none other than Dr. James & Sue Ogilvie. (And for those keeping score, the year was 1970..)

As we pause to remember the infamous events of December 7th, it's an appropriate time for our December Mystery Person. This member of MIUMC had an uncle who was killed as he slept aboard the USS Arizona on the morning of December 7, 1941 in Pearl Harbor.

Can you name this mystery person?

Events and News

- Dec 1** Advent Decorating 3pm
- Dec 4** Charge Conference 7pm
- Dec 16** Dedication of ASC Toys 11am
- Dec 23** Christmas Potluck *with Santa* 12pm
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

Many thanks for the overwhelming generosity of our church for the funds raised by the Pass-It-On meal last Sunday, Nov. 18, hosted by friends of **Atlantic Street Center**. These funds of \$1,425 will be used to purchase toys for the ASC's Toy Store, to be held Wednesday, Dec. 19, at the Rainier Beach Community Center. The gifts will be dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 16, during worship. Thanks for contributing to this worthy event. *"Nothing is more important than what you do for a child."*

Save the Date! Atlantic Street Center's 98th Annual Dinner, "Open Your Heart to a Child", is Friday, February 8, 6:30-8:30pm, at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Join ASC as they celebrate 98 years of service to the community.

We are sorry to report that **Morley Horder** has passed away. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Morley built the addition on our little white church circa 1972-73. We received the altar cross for free, as "it's holding the window up." Condolences may be sent to: Sheila Horder, 1621 42nd Ave E, Seattle, WA 98112.

We are delighted to welcome **Jan Numata** into membership at MIUMC. Jan is Larry Numata's mother. She transferred her membership from Audubon Park UMC in Spokane. Her address for your records is 7650 SE 27th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040. Phone is 232-8781.

Thanks to Pastor Knight for a wonderful **Disciple Bible Study** series that concluded on November 28. Feedback from those involved indicates an exciting and enriching time was had by all! Expect more info shortly on a new series being planned to begin in January 2008.

November Financial Summary

Total Income Year to Date	\$144,068	Apportionments Paid YTD	\$ 20,328
Total Expenses Year to Date	158,095	(included in Expenses YTD)	
Income Less Expense	-14,027		
Designated Funds for Mission			
(to be Paid Out)			
General Fund Reserves	\$ 3,184	Pass It On	\$ 2,933
Building Reserves	17,480	Emergency Feeding	208
Organ Fund	14,000	Kids for Hope	518

Come Home for the Holidays



Please plan on staying after worship on Sunday, December 23, as we will be having an old-fashioned Potluck with a visit from Santa! Yes, Ol' Saint Nick will be delivering presents to good girls and boys. So please be sure to let Darolyn Quayle (one of Santa's elves) or the office know if you will have visiting family or neighbors with children attending, and the kids' names and ages. This way, Santa can make sure he has enough room in his bag for presents for all. (This'll also be a great chance for us to catch up with those college kids home for the holidays!)

And be sure to be here on Monday, December 24, at 7:00pm for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. It's always a moving experience to sing "Silent Night" in the darkened sanctuary with nothing but the candles' glow. There's no better way to usher in the coming of the King. Merry Christmas to all!

Emergency Feeding Program

Non-perishable foods carried to the altar during our worship offering are distributed by the Emergency Feeding Program of Seattle & King County.

The theme this month is *Holiday Treats!* December's foods of the month are Canned Peaches and Canned Fruit Cocktail. Or, \$15 to buy a whole case of canned fruit will bring a touch of sweetness to homeless kids who might otherwise taste the bitterness of hunger this holiday season. Thank you for keeping the true spirit of Christmas alive!

(More info can be found at: www.emergencyfeeding.org .)

December 2007

Except for Worship & unless otherwise noted: Groups meet in the Fellowship Hall for 1-hour

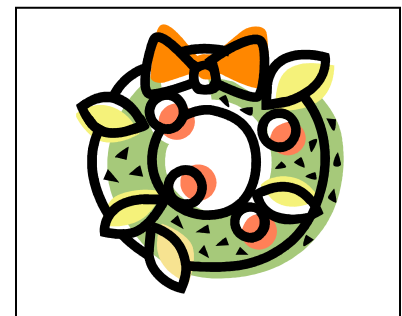
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Advent Begins 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step	3	4 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Charge Conference	5	6 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	7 6:30pm Parents' Night Out	8 9:30am-8pm Beit Messiah (Hanukkah Party)
9 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	10	11 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Finance/Ad Council Joint Mtg	12 7pm Cub Scout Troop	13 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	14	15 9:30am-2pm Beit Messiah 3pm-5pm Sons of Norway
16 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	17	18 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop	19	20 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	21	22 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
23 9:30am Chancel Choir 11am Worship 12pm Potluck & Santa 7pm Adult 12-Step	24 7pm Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group	28	29 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah
30 9:30am Chancel Choir 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step	31					

MIUMC Tel: (206) 232-3044 Fax: (206) 236-2281 miumc@hotmail.com

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am-1pm

BSF Women: Fellowship Hall, *Both Levels*
 Beit Messiah: Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
 Bible Study: Fellowship Hall, *Lower Level*

Cub Scout Troop: *Lower Level*, Room 3
 Men's Prayer: Fellowship Hall Library
 *Women's Prayer @ *Irene Fleming's*



“Passing It On” Online

Join our online newsletter list.

E-mail miumc@hotmail.com to receive an online version of our newsletter.

Passing It On

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Leslie Ann Knight

Editor: Brian Wilson, church office manager

Please deliver any submissions you may have for the upcoming newsletter to the church office (preferably via email) by the 20th of the month prior. So, that’s 12/20 for publication in the January newsletter. Thank you!



7070 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Tel: (206) 232-3044

E-mail: miumc@hotmail.com

**Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church**

Doers of the word



People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.



-- Eleanor Farjeon, 1928 (from the United Methodist Hymnal, #202)