

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 2 United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

On behalf of the United Methodist Church, UMCOR brings hope and aid when a catastrophe strikes. They rush to disaster areas all over the world with aid. And, along with food, clothing, shelter, and medical help, they stay to assist survivors rebuild lives. That's what United Methodists do in response to God's love.

From helping soldiers reintegrate into their communities as productive citizens to feeding schoolchildren to establishing medical clinics in remote villages, they are hope for millions in over 80 of the poorest countries in the world.

UMCOR receives no World Service funds or any other apportionments. This offering sustains the basic budget for UMCOR. It provides hunger relief, clean water, medical clinics, vaccinations and mother-child care, agricultural projects, refugee relief and resettlement, and disaster response. This offering also covers administrative costs so that when donations are given for disasters and special projects, 100% can go to that designated need.

Through your gifts to the offering, you can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain. Thank you for your support! For more information, please visit www.umcor.org.

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MIUMC Schedule for Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship Service March 16 11am

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae March 20 7pm
"Maundy" comes from the Latin word "Mandatum," or "Command." On this night Jesus gives us the commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It is the night of the Last Supper. We will share communion, and the story will be heard as a dramatic reading. "Tenebrae" means "Shadows." This is an ancient service, in which candles are extinguished and the shadows lengthen as we tell the story.

Good Friday Service March 21 1pm
Jesus dies on the cross, and is buried. The Good Friday service will be held at 1:00. The sanctuary will be open until 9 p.m. for prayer and meditation, and people will be able to come and go.

Easter Sunday Schedule March 23

Easter Breakfast at 9am

Easter Egg Hunt at 10am

Easter Celebration Service at 11am

Rejoice for He is Risen!

Ham and Eggs for Easter

Aleta and I will provide Ham and Eggs for Easter this year but we need you to help us make our traditional Easter Breakfast a true feast to celebrate our risen savior.

If your last name begins with A - K please bring fruit for our celebration. If your last name begins with L-Z please bring some breakfast bread or sweets.

Easter Sunday is on March 23rd. Please remember to invite your friends and family to join us for the breakfast, the egg hunt or for service. Many, many people attend church at Christmas and Easter, so please spread the invitations wide and far. You might be surprised who takes you up on the offer. Let's fill our church on Easter Sunday!

Best,
Carla Corkern
corkern@gmail.com



Are We Called to Host Tent City?

“From the earliest days of the Christian church, providing a sanctuary for the homeless and dispossessed has been an important means by which Christian churches have expressed their belief in the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. Providing sanctuary for the homeless and dispossessed has not been an option or a ‘fringe concern’ of most Christian churches; it has been a central tenant of the practice of their religion as disciples of Jesus. -- *Mark Rising* (Attorney for our annual conference, 2005. Mark Rising’s legal work for tent encampments has been used across the country.)

In 1999, a group of homeless persons sought refuge from the WTO protests in Seattle. They were received by Crown Hill United Methodist Church, and remained there for six weeks. They became known as Tent City. Since that time, many churches – UMC and other denominations – have been hosts to Tent City. TC 3 in Seattle. TC 4 on the Eastside. Churches report positive experiences. A number of these churches have preschools, and the experience has been positive for them as well.

It may be our time to decide whether we will be willing to host the encampment. The project would not be ours alone; this would be a cooperative venture with other Mercer Island congregations.

TC 4 needs a host church from early August through early November (about). 90 days. They would set up in our lower parking lot. For 90 days, we would have little or no parking in that lower lot. We would use the upper lot on 24th, our park-n-ride lot, and street parking.

We do not know if our parking lot meets city and TC 4 requirements, and we are asking for the site people to come and evaluate it. If the lot does not have adequate space to meet the city codes for encampments, then we will participate in TC 4 in some other way.

However, if our space in the parking lot is adequate to meet their needs, then we will move to the next conversation: Are we called to take this on, with all its challenges, and its blessings?

If the space is adequate, we will call for a congregational meeting to hear presentations, to discuss and decide. Details of TC 4 will be sent out by e-mail, and posted outside the office and in the back of the sanctuary.

See you in church,

Leslie Ann

Pastor Leslie Ann Knight

March birthday wishes to...

- 6th ◦ Chick Hodge
- 7th ◦ Bailey Lake
- 8th ◦ Dick Dudley
- 9th ◦ Chandler Neames
- 11th ◦ Toni Baullinger
- 13th ◦ Sue Ogilvie
- 14th ◦ Clay Dudley
- 15th ◦ Ben Shoemaker
- 15th ◦ Ann Iwano
- 22nd ◦ Fred Dowdy
- 23rd ◦ Bill Parker ◦ Bill Troxel
- 26th ◦ Mary Furer ◦ Mac Dudley



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

<> *Parents' Night Out* <>

A community service of
Mercer Island United Methodist Church

First Fridays 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: **Mar 7 & Apr 4**

Reservations needed. Call (206) 232-3044.

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

MARCH MYSTERY PERSON

Congratulations to Jim Ogilvie who was the first to answer last month's mystery person: Ann Knoll! Several others were able to identify our veteran choir member as well. (Thanks to Dick Decker, Elisabeth Chowning, Mary Furer, and Karen Gray.)

March's person is an MIUMC member born in Buffalo, NY, who spent two years on an icebreaker in the Antarctic, and also has six children.

Can you name this mystery person?

Signs of Lent: a Spiritual Encounter with Lent

Continues Wednesdays through March

Each session of "Signs of Lent" will use the scripture of the previous Sunday. An evocative presentation on DVD provides a springboard for discussion and reflection. Bring your favorite Bible, and the Sunday bulletin insert. This is open to one-time guests, so come and share the evening with us. **7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the library.**

Upcoming themes:

Lent 4: Earth (John 9:1-41) **3/5**

A blind man seeks healing and a whole community is shaken by the result.

Lent 5: Rock (John 11:1-45) **3/12**

The death of a friend challenges Jesus to put his own life in jeopardy.

Lent 6: Tree (Matthew 26:14-27:66) **3/19**

Judas becomes the instrument of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion.

Easter: Light (John 20:1-18) **3/26**

The risen Christ meets Mary Magdalene and commissions her as the first evangelist.

Weeding Work Day for Easter

Saturday, March 8, From 1:00 to 3:00

Come clear the winter debris, and get the weeds while the soil is soft. Bring your gardening tools. If you don't have tools, come and there will be extras. If you can, bring some bags of fine or medium bark mulch for weed suppression to preserve the areas you weed (2"-3" deep of mulch is needed). Some additional bags will be on hand. The mulch will also help lessen water need in the summer.

Council Decisions

Friends --

At the Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, the following decisions were made:

1. As of Easter, the cleaning service will end its work for us, and we will take over the cleaning of the buildings. A schedule and a system will be worked out.
2. As of June 1, the office position will close. The building will be open as it is now, and office tasks will be done by the pastor and volunteers. The office is not closing. (This is not a surprise to Brian, and he has been working on job networking. Keep the Wilson family in your prayers that a good opportunity open to him soon.)
3. We will keep the bookkeeping service. We will keep the lawn care service.
4. The organ fund (\$14,300) will be released for the general fund. Any donors who gave designated gifts to this fund will be contacted, if they have not already, to see if they are willing to redesignate their gift for the general fund, or another purpose. Designated gifts are legally and morally binding to the designation.
5. There will be further discussion about how much of the mission endowment **interest** should be budgeted for our fair share of denominational mission, especially the World Service Fund, conference benevolences, and Africa University. The \$83,000 endowment produces about \$4,000 interest each year. Our mission endowments are roughly \$13,000.
6. There will be further discussions and decisions about priorities for special gifts. We will have a plan in place for how undesignated special gifts and undesignated bequests will be used before any is received.

With these shifts, the Council felt that:

1. The Sunday morning experience is protected with high quality maintained in the music leadership (Anca and Elisabeth) and with child care (Inna). Most people experience the church on Sunday mornings and that needs to be a high quality experience of worship, study, and fellowship.
2. The \$40,000 budget gap is narrowed to approx. \$18,000 (allowing for 1/2 year of office salary, 1/2 the organ fund, and the cleaning service), which is within the range of special giving we have received in recent years, and allows for a cushion for emergencies.

These adjustments will stretch us. We will adapt and adjust. But we need to see these not as "getting through a rough patch." This will be our reality for an extended period of time. As we make these downward shifts and incorporate them into our routines, they will bring some additional relief. Our fair share of denominational ministry and mission is 20% of our salaries, program, maintenance and utilities. \$10,000 decrease will produce \$2,000 decrease in apportionments each year.

The Council recognizes that our life is not about cleaning. Our mission is not to vacuum floors or clean bathrooms. Our mission is not to balance a budget. **Our mission is to invite, nurture and equip devoted followers of Christ for faithful living. That applies to everyone who is already in relationship with MIUMC as well as those who have not yet found us.** We will be about finding ways to do that.

Your sister in Christ,
 Leslie Ann
revlaknight@aol.com

Emergency Feeding Program

The theme this month is *Luck of the Irish!* March's foods of the month are 24-oz Cans of Beef Stew and 15-oz Cans of Green Peas. If you prefer, a cash donation of \$15 will buy an entire case of stew.

These gifts will help bring some of the spirit of the Emerald Isle here to the Emerald City. For all those whom you help so generously with your donations, thank you very much. Erin Go Bragh!

(More info at: www.emergencyfeeding.org .)

March 2008

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

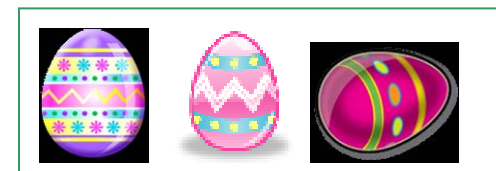
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship w/ Communion 7pm Adult 12-Step | 3 | 4 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* | 5 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 6 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 7 6:30pm Parents' Night Out | 8 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 9 Daylight Savings 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* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Finance Comm Mtg | 12 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah 7pm Cub Scout Troop | 13 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group | 14 | 15 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 16 Palm Sunday 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step | 17 Saint Patrick's Day | 18 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 7pm Ad Council Mtg | 19 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 20 Maundy Thursday 6:30am Men's Prayer 10a-12p Twins Group 7pm Tenebrae Service First Day of Spring | 21 Good Friday 1pm Good Friday Service | 22 9:30am-3pm Beit Messiah |
| 23 EASTER 9:00am Breakfast 9:30am Chancel Choir 10am Kids' Egg Hunt 11am Worship 7pm Adult 12-Step | 24 | 25 8a-12p BSF Women 9:30am Men's Prayer 10am Women's Prayer* 4pm Girl Scout Troop 7pm Sons of Norway | 26 7pm Bible Study 7-9pm Beit Messiah | 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 | | | | | |

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

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

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 3/20 for publication in the April newsletter. Thank you very kindly!



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Mercer Island
United
Methodist
Church

Doers of the word



Rejoice for He is Risen!

Be sure to welcome family, friends and neighbors to all of our events for Holy Week. Details can be found inside.

Especially, folks are invited to come hear the *good news* on Easter Morning! Breakfast at 9, Easter Egg Hunt at 10, and Easter Celebration Service at 11.

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Also, Daylight Savings Time begins earlier than it used to. So don't be late for worship on Sunday, March 9th. Remember to *Spring Forward!*