

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

January 2015 Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Java & Jesus



Reverend
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- Sunday Morning Service
9:30 am
- Coffee & Fellowship
Following Service
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- UMW



January

From the Pastor:

Epiphany – It's Time To Take A Look!

As we look at the church calendar, we see that in January we begin the season of Epiphany (which means "revelation"). It is a season where we take our cue from the wise men and take a look at what God is revealing to us in the sky above, in the words of ancient Scripture, in the Baby Jesus, and in the depths of our own heart and soul.



Look Up! It was wise men from the East who looked up and saw the star that told them a special King had been born. They kept looking as they followed that star which led them to Jesus. Take time one evening to look up at the stars, marvel at God's creation, and commit yourself to following Jesus.

Look Back! When the wise men got to Jerusalem, they asked King Herod, *"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?"* Mt 2:2. Herod called the chief priests and scribes to look back into the Scriptures. They found the answer in the words of the prophet Micah: *"You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."* Micah 5:2. Let us look at the words of Scripture that declare to us that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the fulfillment of all the prophecies of old, the revelation of all the promises of God.

Look Down! When the wise men found the child Jesus, they looked down, as they knelt before the Son of God and worshiped him. Only then did they give their gifts to the Lord. In this time of Epiphany, Let us bow our heads in prayer to the Savior, to come to church for worship, and to humbly offer our gifts to the One who has given so much to us – forgiveness, renewal, peace, hope, and love.

Look Around! The wise men who came "from the East" represent for us the Good News that God sent Jesus to earth to save all people from every part of the world. It is time, therefore, to look around at all the people in your neighborhood, workplace, circle of friends and share the Good News of Jesus' birth with those who may not heard about this blessed event or don't have a connection to a church family.

Look Ahead! The gifts the wise men brought to Jesus foretold the future of this tiny baby now before them. The royal gift of gold signifies the kingship of Jesus, who will reign over heaven and earth forevermore. Frankincense, a fragrant gum resin, was burned as incense in places of worship, and denotes the future priesthood of Christ, who will make intercessions to God on our behalf. Myrrh is a perfume often used in embalming, so it is a reminder that Christ will give himself up for our sins and be laid in a tomb before his resurrection on Easter Day.

Look Inside! This season of Epiphany is a time for us to look inside of our own hearts and see how God in Christ has revealed himself to us. Just as Jesus' mother Mary, "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," (Luke 2:19) we, too, need to allow the meaning of the coming of Christ into the world to sink into our bodies, minds, and souls. Through prayer, scripture reading, and reflection, we open the door to divine revelation.

Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><

Missional Journey Workshop Opportunity: Breakthrough Relational Evangelism

How do we reach new people in a world where people don't wake up on a Sunday morning thinking, "Where should I go to church today?" This workshop will teach participants how to develop a system of invitation so that their congregations are continually building relationships with new people and finding ways to offer Christ that work in our "spiritual-but-not-religious" American culture.

Participants will learn practical ideas for using existing networks to build new relationships, holding "just-for-them" events, planning a fishing expedition sermon series, and more.

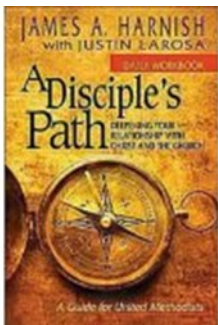
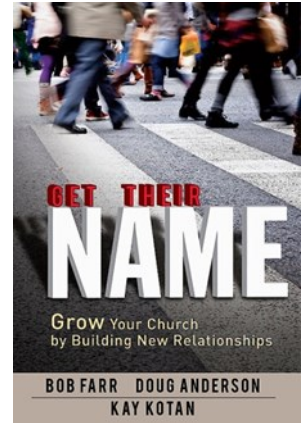
DATE / TIME: Saturday January 24, 2015 10:00a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: **(We'll carpool from Milaca UMC)**

Spirit River Community Church
1320 County Highway 5
Isanti, MN 55040

REGISTRATION: Let Pastor Joyce know you're interested by Jan 18th

Presenter: Kay Kotan is a church coach and consultant, and she helped develop materials for the Missouri Annual Conference's Healthy Church Initiative. She coauthored the book, *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Forming New Relationships*.



New 6 Week Study Beginning in February – "A Disciples Path"

Two Class Options:

Evening study – Tuesdays 6:30 – 8 pm beginning Feb 3

Daytime study – Thursdays 10:30 am – 12 pm beginning Feb 5

The following description of this study is provided by Cokesbury Publishing: *The program guides individuals to take the next step in discipleship and become dynamic, engaged followers of Jesus Christ. The study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Participants will develop spiritual practices, discover their unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation in their own lives, the lives of others, and the world.*

This Companion Reader provides invaluable insights that enable both participants and leaders to dig deeper into the spiritual practices essential to the life of discipleship. Each chapter corresponds to a week in the Daily Workbook, providing biblical and theological background on the week's theme from a distinctively Wesleyan perspective.

Please let Pastor Joyce know if you'd like to be a part of this study so materials can be ordered for you. Approximate cost for the workbook & companion book will be \$17.

January Sermon Series:

Pastor Joyce will be using resources from The Church of the Resurrection UMC in Leawood KS – the largest UMC in the country pastored by Adam Hamilton, for this series.



The tongue has the power to destroy or build up, to polarize or unite. How do we reign in hurtful words and instead, use our tongues to bless others? Join us for a practical, relevant and inspirational sermon series as we explore the power of our words in our families, at work, in the digital age and in the political arena.

This series will be a great one to invite your friends and neighbors to attend church with you. Here are the topics for each week:

Jan 4th - Tearing Down or Building Up?

Jan 11th - Family Words: Hurtful or Life Giving?

Jan 18th - Religion and Politics

Jan 25th - In the Beginning was the Word



January Choir Notes

Welcome to 2015!! On behalf of the choir we hope that everyone will have a safe and happy new year.

The choir will be taking a much needed break for a few weeks. We will hopefully be singing the 3rd Sunday of every month.

The choir will also be starting their semi-annual Heggies pizza sales. Sales will begin Sunday, January 4th with final orders due Sunday,

January 18 with delivery on Thursday, January 22nd. Again we will be selling 10" and 12" pizzas in a variety of flavors. Please contact any choir member to purchase your pizzas.

Java and Jesus Service

What does it mean to be “Getting It Right As a Christian?” I think that as I look at how Java and Jesus has evolved, it is shown what it can mean to get it right. When the youth and leaders hand deliver fliers and I invitations to provide free food to all who want it and need it in the neighborhood to come and share. When they show up to eat, listen to our simple songs and soft message about God- that is getting right!

Our journey with Java and Jesus started as an idea I picked up at Annual Conference in 2011- how to reach new people! Your neighbor in your community right outside your door- that’s where to start! “Feed my lambs” Jesus said to Peter, and that’s what we are trying to do- provide a good, healthy, free meal once a month (or more). It is a warm feeling to experience new faces in the church. Some bring children and come more than once- some we only feed once, but hopefully our subtle message will soften their hearts and bring them closer to Jesus and God- or us- can’t beat that! The warmth inside from seeing people come back again and smile with us, is what makes it all worth while!

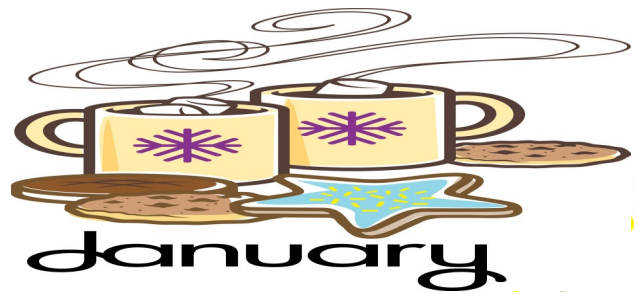
We would like to encourage people to come eat or help welcome or set tables, or help with clean up after singing. Or you could be a warm friendly face and a good listener and help us sing a song and lift your voice in praise! It is then that we Christians get it right in this church. Our next meeting and meal is January 11, 2015 at 6:00PM. Come and See!

By Jere Day

Caring, Sharing & Concerns

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. The Cookie Walk was a wonderful way to start the holiday season. We had a beautiful day with lots of joyful volunteers that helped make Cookie Walk 2014 so successful. After expenses the net profit was \$3654.41. Thank you for all your support during our transitional year, we couldn't have done it without you. Our next meeting will be January 14th after service at 10:45. During this meeting we will be discussing the cookie walk, so come ready to compare notes and with suggestions for Cookie Walk 2015. We will also be planning Souper Bowl Sunday which will be February 1st this year. Since Souper Bowl Sunday is a fundraiser for the Milaca Food Pantry we are issuing a challenge to the congregation to donate a hundred cans of soup during the month of February.

Until next month,
Melissa Gubrud
Secretary CSC



Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas with your families. Our family was at our daughter Karen's in St. Michael on Christmas Day and everyone was able to make it. It was a very good day and I was blessed to have them all there.

The 2nd of December I had surgery to remove a basil cell cancer growth from the corner of my right eye. It is doing very well and they got all the cancer. Thanks for your prayers and thoughts.

On Tuesday, December 9th we served our Annual Christmas lunch to the Christian Women. It was a very large group of ladies that day. They enjoyed chicken breast, cheesy potatoes, broccoli salad and pistachio dessert. Also, Christmas bread.

The middle of the month Betty A. and Sue Olson delivered poinsettias to the elderly and ones at Elim Home. Several also delivered poinsettias to bars with an invitation to Christmas Eve service.

Our Christmas lunch at Jeanette's was cancelled due to the sudden death of Bob Bunker. We served the lunch for the family after the service on Saturday, December 20th. Our deepest sympathy and prayers to all their family.

The next UMW meeting will be on Monday, January 19th at 9:30am. The Mary Martha Circle will serve the brunch. It is our Prayers and Self Denial services. We will also pay our dues for the year. We will be setting our meeting dates for the coming year, plus putting all district and conference dates on the calendar.

Keep warm – sounds like the cold weather is returning.

**Jan. 13th Christian Women 9:30am
15th High Rise lunch 11:00am
19th UMW 9:30am Prayer and Self Denial**

**Feb. 5th Circle of Hope 6:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church
15th UMW Sunday**

Audrey Bowe, UMW President

january

- January 19th – UMW Self Denial Program & Breakfast 9:30am
- January 22nd – Last date to order Heggies pizza from Choir
- January 25th – Newsletter items due
- January 29th – Delivery of Heggies pizza from Choir

January Calendar Items:

- January 4th – Agenda items due for Church Council
- January 6th – Finance meeting 6:00pm
- January 7th – Youth Group Meal 5:30pm
- January 7th – Youth Group Activity 6:00pm
- January 7th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
- January 8th – Church Council meeting 6:30pm
- January 11th – Java & Jesus Meal & Worship 6:00pm
- January 11th – Caring, Sharing and Concerns meeting
- January 13th – Christian Women
- January 15th – High Rise Meal 11:30am



What's Cooking?

High Rise Meal for Thursday, Jan 15th

Price \$4.00

Baked chicken on a bun with lettuce and tomato, baked beans, creamy cucumbers and glorified rice



25– Joyce Anderson Sr

31– Issy Copeland



Birthdays:

- 1- Tammy Stobb***
- 11– Matt Gardner***
- 12– Mitch Niesen***
- 13– Jane Creecy***
- 15– Mike Copeland***
- 18– Jeff Stobb***
- 19– Joshua Slostad***
- 19– Mary Smith***
- 24– Bob Green***

Anniversaries:

