



MILACA UNITED METHODIST



March 2015 Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Phil & Joyce Anderson's 40th Anniversary Party



**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



From Pastor Joyce:

In the sense that Advent is about "anticipation," Lent is about "realization." Grasping the reality of Jesus' suffering and passion, and knowing that his compassionate acts of sacrifice were done personally for us, can be life-changing for Christians. Lent is not about the future, as is the case in Advent. It is not about the past, either. Lent is about the personal impact Jesus having on our life and behavior, right here, right now. It is acknowledging that there is a time of judgment for each one of us. This understanding calls us to our own "reality check," illuminating our selfish, materialistic, insensitive character. Over the drone of busyness, we can barely hear the call of God to "return" or to "draw near the throne of grace." This is a season to "get real and honest" in our relationship with God.



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the transition from death to life, and from the darkness and despair of the Day of the Lord (Joel 2) to the light and hope of the Day of Salvation at Easter. We confront our own frailties and imperfections as we examine ourselves in the mirror of God's word. We see the reflection of arrogant hypocrites and hopeless sinners against the light of the Lord, who is justified in passing judgment. Even as we are on the verge of certain destruction, even then, God reaches out to us with both hands, calling us to return and to be reconciled. We meet the Lord in that secret place deep within each of us—our ashen, gray-black hearts—and in this encounter, our spirits become whiter than snow. We forgive and are forgiven, and begin to understand the extent of God's relentless affection for all.

Lent may begin with ashes, but it does not leave us on the ash heap. We move through a season of examining our spiritual lives, turning away from our sins and turning back towards God – this is repentance. We seek to grow deeper in our spiritual life. We move steadily onward with Jesus toward the celebration of Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Jesus Christ, God resurrects us from the dust and ashes, brings life out of death and makes us new creatures. The end of the Lenten journey is not death, but rather resurrection. With resurrection hope, this season remind us of a love that reconciles us inseparably with God. Ash Wednesday and Lent call us to turn back to the One who offers us all the living hope we will ever need.

I encourage you to plan to join us each Sunday in Lent for a time of worship and on Wednesday at various churches for the soup lunch & services.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1st – 2nd Sunday in Lent, Communion

March 4th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30 am – St Louis Catholic

March 8th – 3rd Sunday in Lent – 6pm Java & Jesus: meal and worship service

March 11th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30am – Zion Lutheran

March 15th – 4th Sunday in Lent – Choir sings

March 18th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30am – Milaca UMC

March 22nd – 5th Sunday in Lent – Pack the Pews for Foodshelf

March 25th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30am – St Mary's Catholic

March 29th – Palm/Passion Sunday – special worship - Youth sponsored brunch



Reminder of Our Tithes and Offerings

Just as you do, the church has bills to pay, salaries to disburse and ongoing expenses for ministries and programs that are more easily handled when everyone is up to date with their offering. Currently expenses have been running a bit ahead of income. Thank you for your giving – The Finance Committee.



Keys, Keys, Who Has a Key??????

The Trustees would appreciate the return of church keys that are not being used or if you have one from when you were the Chair of a committee, but are no longer it would be best to return it. We currently don't have any extra keys, but realize there are many keys out there. So to save the church the time and finances to make more keys please consider returning yours to the office. Many thanks

Don't be late for church!

Remember to change your clocks on Saturday March 7th



Fellowship Time in March – benefits the Milaca Food Pantry

There will be a donation basket and all offerings will go to the food pantry.

Pack the Pews – March 22nd

Bring 2 bags of food to worship and we'll fill up the pews with food for the food shelf.



Workshop Opportunity:

Breakthrough Community Connections

Saturday March 14, 2015 10a.m. - 4 p.m.

Anoka UMC 850 South St. Anoka, MN 55303



Our neighborhoods and communities keep changing. In order to be vital, churches need to be aware of those changes and find fresh ways to connect with the mission field. The most current and life-changing ways for churches to make critical decisions involve prayer and discernment to uncover how God is calling them to make a difference in their communities.

In this workshop, participants will learn how to successfully connect their congregation to their community. The session will include practical strategies for meeting the neighbors, discuss the important role of prayer and discernment in building new community relationships, and provide steps toward developing a signature ministry to serve the community. Attendees will spend part of the day developing a "Meet the Neighbors" plan that includes specific steps for moving forward.

We'll carpool from Milaca UMC. Please let Pastor Joyce know if you're interested in attending with the Missional Journey Team.



Invitation Sunday – April 19th (note date change)

Ask God using the prayer below to show you who you might invite to attend with you on April 19th. Tell them you will pick them up and that there is a delicious brunch following worship.

Prayer for Invitation Sunday:

Lord, place upon my heart some people that I know, that are in my circle of friends, that I already have a relationship with and can ask to come to church with me on April 19th. Give me courage to not be afraid to share the relationship I have with you with them. Amen.

Names of the person or people God gives you:

United Methodist Camping Brochures

They are on the table in the gathering space. Find out about the many opportunities of camping for various interests for all ages and even families! Employment for those 18+ is also available through our camping program visit the web site www.campminnesota.org and click on summer employment if you're interested.



Youth Group Schedule for March

Mar 4th – 5:30 supper, 6:00 Class

Mar 11th – 5:30 supper 6:00 upcoming missions

Mar 18th – 5:30 supper, 6:00 class

Mar 25th – 5:30 supper 6:00 fun activity for all

Family Game Day – Saturday March 21st 2-4 pm

Bring your favorite board game or puzzle and join us in the Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of fun and laughs. This event is open to the community so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors and invite them to attend with you. Treats provided by the Outreach Committee.



Community Lenten Lunches



Throughout the **Wednesdays** of Lent you are invited to gather with others from neighboring churches **at 11:30** for a simple soup lunch, fellowship and a brief service. This year's Community Lenten Lunches theme will be "**The Parable of Lent**" In this series we will learn that within each parable's plot is woven a unique message about what we receive through the crucified Christ.

Mar. 4	St. Louis Catholic	The Hidden Treasure
Mar. 11	Zion Lutheran	The Good Samaritan
Mar. 18	Milaca United Methodist	The Workers in the Vineyard
Mar. 25	St. Mary's Catholic	The Prodigal Son



SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS & UPC CODES

In case you didn't know the UMW is asking everyone to save their **Teals receipts** and the UPC codes from any Our Family products. These are turned in for rebates and the money has been used for mission work as well as helping to pay for things around the church. Place your receipts and codes in the labeled box on the counter in the gathering space – that's all you have to do. We have earned more than \$1500 dollars through this program!

Palm/Passion Sunday Brunch – March 29th

Following worship the youth and their parents will serve you a delicious brunch. There will be a freewill offering basket for your donations.





Another month has gone by already and I hope everyone is staying warm.

Several of us served Circle of Hope and Thursday, February 5th to a smaller group. There were some that cancelled because of sickness and it was also pretty cold. They enjoyed our meal of corn dogs, tater tots, Jell-O and bars. They are very appreciative of what we serve and gave us many thanks. We do this once a year.

Christian Women was Tuesday, February 10th and only 41 ladies came because it was very cold that day also. Several of the ladies in charge of it were very apologetic because of the lesser amount that came. They had reservations for 58 but you can't predict the weather and a few of the ladies come from Ogilvie and Cambridge. We served them a new recipe of individual chicken potpie, strawberries and monkey bread. They all liked it very much and are so blessed with being able to keep coming to our church. We give 10% of their gross proceeds to the church for utilities and 10% for missions. This is our 13th year of serving them and it is one of our Community Mission Projects. We feel very blessed to be able to serve them.

I would to thank everyone that participated in the UMW Service on Sunday the 15th for a very blessed day. A special thank you to Marilyn A. for her special music, Melissa for leading the hymns and Joyce's very good and informative service on the founding of UMW. Also Peggy for children's sermon. THANK YOU EVERYONE!! Again congratulations to our pin recipients Carolyn Ingle, Jeff Stobb and Ron Bowe. Their work and help in all they do for us and the church is very appreciated.

The UMW meets again in March on the 19th at 1:00pm at the church Fellowship Hall which Grace Sarah Circle serves. All ladies are welcome to come to our meeting even if you are not a member of a circle. We will not pressure you to join but come for fellowship and coffee.

March is our church's month to serve coffee on Sunday afternoons at Elim Home from 1:45-3:00pm. They furnish everything and just help serve. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex and only need a couple more for the last two Sundays.

March 18th we serve the Lenten Soup Luncheon at 11:30am. We will be serving chicken noodle soup, open face sandwiches and dessert. Keep the date in mind, as everyone is welcome to attend the luncheon and service.

Coming up in April is the Big Waters District Spring Gathering on the 25th at the Princeton UMC. More info next month.

Thanks again to everyone that served during UMW Sunday.

March dates to keep in mind.

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| March 1 st | Coffee Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm |
| 8 th | Coffee Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm |
| 10 th | Christian Women 9:30am |
| 15 th | Coffee Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm |
| 18 th | Lenten Soup Luncheon 11:30am |
| 19 th | Dining Site 11:30am |
| 19 th | UMW 1:00 which Grace Sarah Circles serving |
| 22 nd | Coffee Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm |
| 29 th | Youth Easter Brunch |
| 29 th | Coffee Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm |

Blessings until next month. Audrey Bowe, UMW President

March Calendar Items:

March 1st – Serve Coffee at Elim 1:45-3:00pm
March 1st – Dog Bowl Fireside Room 3:30-5:00pm
March 2nd – Service for Louis Smith, Visitation 10:00am,
Service 11:00am, Lunch after service
March 3rd – A Disciples Path 6:30pm
March 4th – Youth Meal 5:30pm Group Activity 6:00pm
March 4th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
March 5th – Ministerial Meeting 8:30am
March 5th – A Disciples Path 10:30am
March 8th – Serve coffee at Elim 1:45-3:00pm
March 8th – Java & Jesus
March 10th – Christian Women
March 10th – A Disciples Path 6:30pm
March 11th – Youth Meal 5:30pm, Group Activity 6:00pm
March 11th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
March 12th – A Disciples Path 10:30am
March 12th – Church Council 6:30pm
March 14th – Workshop “Community Connections” @ Anoka
UMC 10-4:00
March 15th - Serve coffee at Elim 1:45-3:00pm
March 17th – A Disciples Path 6:30pm
March 18th – Lenten Soup Luncheon 11:30am
March 18th - Youth Meal 5:30pm Group Activity 6:00pm



12 – Laura Stobb
18 – Garrett Hall
24 – Marilyn Anderson
26 – Bob Bunger
27 – Jane Johnson

Birthdays:

1 – Ed Bekius
1 – Jim Fladmoe
2 – Raymond Hoffman
8 – Jim Coughlin
11 – Jackie Myers

28 – Jere Day
29 – Lisa Bates

March 18th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm

March 19th – A Disciples Path 10:30am

March 19th – High Rise Meal 11:30am

March 19th – UMW 1:00pm

March 21st – Family Game Day 2:00-4:00pm

March 22nd – Serve coffee at Elim 1:45-3:00pm

March 22nd – 4H Mystery Dinner for Foodshelf

March 25th – Youth Meal 5:30pm Group Activity 6:00pm

March 25th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm

March 29th – Serve coffee at Elim 1:45-3:00pm

March 29^h – Palm Sunday

March 29th – Brunch following, worship provided by youth



High Rise Meal Thursday, March 19th

Price \$4.00

*Mushroom & onion pork chop, baked potato w/ sour cream,
squash, wheat dinner roll & raspberry parfait*



Anniversaries:

13 – Vern & Delores Quam
17 – Bob & Marilyn Anderson