

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

January 2016 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Dayna Hillcrest & William Barnes



**Reverend
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In this issue:

Front Cover	1,2
Pastor Joyce	
January	3,4
Study & Java & Jesus	
UMW	5,6
Audrey	
Calendar	7

- Sunday Morning Service
9:30 am
- Coffee & Fellowship
Following Service
- Bible Studies



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 de-notes the future priesthood of Christ, who will make intercessions to God on our behalf. Myrrh is a per-fume 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 <><

January sermon series:



They are simple phrases. They sound Christian – like something you might even find in the Bible: Everything happens for a reason, God helps those who help themselves, God won't give you more than you can handle, and God said it, I believe it, that settles it. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth – yet they also miss the point in very important ways. Join us as we search for the whole truth. *Pastor Joyce will be using re-*

sources from The Church of the Resurrection

UMC in Leawood KS – the largest UMC in the country pastored by Adam

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

January 3 Everything Happens For A Reason?

January 10 God Helps Those Who Help Themselves?

January 17 God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle?

January 24 God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A JAVA & JESUS MEAL?

A donation of \$50 will help provide a nourishing meal for those that come to us for a helping of food and faith. You can place your donation of any amount in the offering plate with "Java & Jesus meal" in the memo. Your donation can remain anonymous or be acknowledged whichever is your choice.



January Youth Group Schedule

Jan. 6 – supper @ 5:30 Classes @ 6 pm

Jan. 13 – supper @ 5:30 Mission @ 6 pm

Jan. 20 – supper @ 5:30 Classes @ 6 pm

New 6 Week Study Beginning in February – The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul

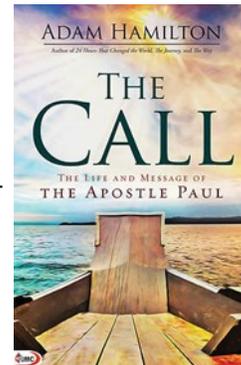
From the road to Damascus to the sun-drenched lands of modern-day Greece and Turkey to a Roman prison, go with Adam Hamilton as he follows the journeys of Paul in this six-week DVD study about Christianity's greatest teacher and missionary. You'll see exactly where some of the most dramatic events in the spread of Christianity took place, and through Hamilton's insightful and colorful teaching style, you'll quite probably likely gain a better understanding of Paul's missionary travels than if you had covered the many miles in person.

Two Class Options:

Evening study – Tuesdays 6:30 – 8 pm beginning Feb 2nd

Daytime study – Thursdays 10:30 am – 12 pm beginning Feb 4th

Sign up for your class preference on the sheet outside Pastor Joyce's office



JAVA AND JESUS – Casual worship experience & free meal Sunday January 10

6:00 meal – Dinner

6:30 worship time – lots of music and a short devotional time.

This service is open to all people: members and those in our neighborhood.

This service is designed for those who don't have a church home and have a need for spiritual and physical nourishment, but is open to any and all who want to attend. The service is led by Dayna Hillcrest, Jere Day and Pastor Joyce. Meals are provided by the Outreach Committee and members of the congregation.

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS & 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 an incredible amount of money for the church and missions through this program!





Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a Blessed and Merry Christmas with family and friends. Ours was very nice and all the family made it to our daughter's in St. Michael. There was a couple that couldn't make it but was a really great day with the family.

December has been a very busy month for us. We served a large group of ladies for Christian Women. There were 77 ladies there that enjoyed a Christmas lunch of chicken kiev, cheesy potatoes, broccoli salad, cranberries and Christmas bread with an ice cream dessert. It is a pleasure to be able to serve them and they are so thankful that we continue to serve them. It will be 15 years in March that we started serving them. It is our community mission project and also 10% of gross income goes to the church each month for utilities.

Wednesday, December 16th we served the lunch for Vincent Stobb funeral. There were 120 that were served. Our sympathy and prayers are with Joyce and her family for their loss.

On Friday, December 18th it was Carol Pearson's funeral which we served lunch after and that was a large funeral. Our sympathy and prayers go to Arne and all his family for the loss of Carol.

Jeanette had our Christmas meeting on December 10th and we had a very nice turn out for lunch. Pastor Joyce read a story of Christmas in Wales and it was an interesting and spiritual story. All had a blessed and joyful day.

Our January meeting will be Monday the 18th on Martin Lutheran King Jr Day. It is our prayer and self denial day and starts at 9:30am with brunch. We will be planning the UMW Sunday on January 31st services., plus finishing out the 2016 calendar dates.

Betty A, Sue O and myself delivered poinsettias to the elderly and shut ins. Betty and I delivered to Mary Smith and Lorraine Wade at Elim and they were both very happy and thankful for the visit and plant. Mary went home that week. Many thanks from both of them and also all of the other ladies that received them.

Have a Happy New Year and blessed, healthy year.

See you in church.

Audrey Bowe, President

Enclosed is a story I received from a very good friend of mine in Austin, MN. I would like to share it with you. Audrey Bowe

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier nearest to me. 'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan.'

After flying for flying about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would pass the time...

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy a lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base.'

His friend agreed. .

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty-dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned around and went to the front of the plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class.

'This is your thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be apart of it. Here take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at my numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seat belt I stood and took the Captain's hand.

With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers. Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached his hand out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.'

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers.

As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little.... A veteran is someone who, at one point his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

January Calendar Items:

- 6th – Ministerial meeting @ Trinity 8:30am
Scripture Study 10:30am
Youth Supper 5:30pm, Class & Confirmation 6:00pm
- 13th – Scripture Study 10:30am
Youth Supper 5:30pm, Mission Club 6:00pm
- 14th – Church Council 6:30pm
- 17th – Milaca Ministerial Holiday Dinner 6:00pm
- 18th – UMW Prayer & Self Denial 9:30am & Breakfast
- 19th – Food Pantry Volunteers Party 5-7:00pm
- 20th – Scripture Study 10:30am
Youth Supper 5:30pm, Class Confirmation 6:00pm
- 23rd – Ladies of 1973 Tea
- 24th – Newsletter Items Due
- 26th – Pastor Leading Service @ Elim Home 6:15pm
- 31st – UMW Sunday
Change Shaker Sunday



Thursday, January 21st 11:30am Cost \$4.00

BBQ on a bun, O'Brien potatoes,
broccoli raisin salad and pudding



- 1- Tammy Stobb
12- Mitch Niesen
13- Jan Creecy
18- Jeff Stobb
19- Joshua Slostad
19- Mary Smith
24- Bob Green
25- Joyce Anderson Sr
31- Issy copeland



Anniversaries:

No anniversaries for January