

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

March 2016 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Easter Sunday, March 27



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



Milaca United Methodist
310 3rd Ave NW
Milaca, MN 56353
320-982-6325
milacaumc@gmail.com



In this issue:

Front Cover	1,2
Pastor Joyce	
March Schedule	3,4
Youth & Coming Up	
New Members & More	5,6
Java & Jesus	
UMW	7,8
Poem by Pearl Powell	
Calendar	9

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



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 is 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 for the remaining Sundays in Lent and during Holy Week 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 6th – 4th Sunday in Lent, Communion

March 9th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30 am – at Milaca UMC

March 13th – 5th Sunday in Lent – 6pm Java & Jesus: meal and worship service

March 16th – Lenten Wednesday Lunch & Service, 11:30am – at St Mary's

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 20th – **Palm/Passion Sunday** – special worship - Youth sponsored brunch

March 24th – **Maundy Thursday** 7pm – commemorating the Last Supper

March 25th – **Good Friday** – 7pm ecumenical service with Trinity & Zion **at Zion Lutheran**

March 27th – **Easter Sunday** – special music and a resurrection message

Don't be late for church!



Reminder of Our Giving to God



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.

Thank you for your giving – The Finance Committee.

Wood Available

Some trees were taken down on the west side of the building near the kitchens and that pine wood is available. Please contact Pastor Joyce if you are interested as she has had inquiries from a community member wanting it.





Youth Group Schedule for March

Mar 2nd – 5:30 supper, 6:00 Class

Mar 9th – 5:30 supper 6:00 upcoming missions

Mar 16th – 5:30 supper, 6:00 class

Palm/Passion Sunday Brunch – March 20th

Following worship the youth and their parents will serve you a delicious brunch. There will be a freewill offering basket for your donations – ½ of which will go to the Milaca Food Pantry and ½ to youth activities. The Youth are also donating ½ of the money received from the Stew Supper.



Coming Up - Invitation Sunday – April 3rd

Ask God using the prayer below to show you who you might invite to attend with you on April 3rd. Tell them you will pick them up and that there is a delicious brunch following worship.

Coming Up - Invitation Sunday – April 3rd

Ask God using the prayer below to show you who you might invite to attend with you on April 3rd. 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 3rd. 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:

New Member Classes - March 9th & 15th

Interested in joining Milaca UMC? Want to know more about the United Methodist Church? Curious about the history of this congregation? If so, then attend the 2 sessions for those seeking information about this church and what is involved in being a member. All are welcome to attend. **Wednesday March 9th at 1pm** (following the Lenten soup luncheon) & **Tuesday March 15th at 1pm**.



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 "Living Lent as People of the Resurrection". A freewill donation is appreciated to help cover the cost of lunch.

Mar. 2	Zion Lutheran	Proclaim
Mar. 9	Milaca United Methodist	Praise
Mar. 16	St. Mary's Catholic	Pain

4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner

Sunday March 6th at 5pm

Come for an evening of fun and good food. See if you can figure out the mystery menu and if you'll receive what you think the menu clue indicates. This is an evening of great laughs for a good cause.



Milaca Food Pantry – March Drive - \$\$ and Personal Care Items



The Pantry always appreciates our food donations, but did you know they can buy three times as much food with your dollar donation than you can? They are asking for financial donations this March. Also, each church in the Milaca Ministerial Association volunteered their congregations to donate personal care items during the month of March – Milaca UMC has volunteered to bring **shampoo and conditioner**.

Easter Flower Garden

Look for the sign-up sheet in the gathering space for your opportunity to add to the beauty of the sanctuary on Easter morning. There are various flowers at varying prices that can be ordered. Please place your payment in the offering plate with "Easter flowers" in the memo line.





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 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 March 13, 2016 at 6:00PM.

Come and See!

By Jere Day



It sure had been nice weather for the end of February, but watch out for March, winter could be back!!

Thank you again to all the ladies that helped with the UMW Sunday Service and fellowship coffee. With everyone's help it went very well. Congratulations to Mary Patten as the recipient of the UMW pin for service.

February started by serving the Circle of Hope on Thursday, February 4th. There were about 40 served. We had corn dogs, tater tots, plain jello cups and bars. They really enjoyed the meal. It was a pretty cold night, so didn't have quite as many.

Christian Women fell early this month, so they met on Tuesday the 9th. They enjoyed a meal of mini pot pies, hash brown bake and strawberries. It was enjoyed by all and they had 60 ladies come out in the cold.

The Circles met this month and our next meeting is March 17th at 1:00pm at church.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for coffee serving at Elim Home on the Sundays in March. It is for two people to serve the coffee and treat from 1:45-3:00pm. March is a busy month in church with both Palm Sunday and Easter.

I received a letter from Emma Norton Services and they are having their Yearly Dinner and Silent Auction on Monday, April 18th from 5:30-8:30pm at the Minneapolis Marriott NW, Brooklyn Park. The poster will be up in the Narthex for anyone interested in attending.

We will be having the March 9th Soup Luncheon here at 11:30am. Anyone able to help us serve is welcome.

Until next month –Have a joyous and blessed Easter.

**UMW President,
Audrey Bowe**



OUR CHURCH

A pioneer spirit fifty years ago
Is still in our midst aglow,
We thank you, dear Father, in Heaven
For this little white church as a haven.

Not built of marble or gold
Yet the story of Christ is told
With the Bible as a foundation
As was in the Groundhouse station.

Many voices are silent
Whose song and prayer were spent
For the betterment of every soul
Which was their long sought goal

Ogilvie Community Methodist Church, yours and mine,
I pray that through the windows the sun may shine
On bowed heads, row after row,
Thankful for blessings only God can bestow.

Written for the Ogilvie Community Methodist Church History, 1902-1952

Poem by: Pearl Powell



March Calendar Items:

- 1st – The Call Bible Study 6:30pm
2nd – Ministerial Meeting 8:30am
Lenten Lunch @Zion 11:30am
Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Class 6:00pm
3rd – The Call Bible Study 10:30am
6th – Jail Ministry 1:00pm
UMW Serve Coffee @ Elim Home 1:50-3:00pm
4-H Mystery Dinner 4:30-6:30pm
8th – The Call Bible Study 6:30pm
9th – Lenten Lunch @ MUMC 11:30am
New Member Class 1:00pm
Youth Supper 5:30pm & Mission Club 6:00pm
Men's Group 6:30pm
10th – The Call Bible Study 10:30am
Church Council 6:30pm
13th – UMW Serve Coffee @ Elim Home 1:50-3:00pm
Java & Jesus 6:00pm
15th – Christian Women
The Call Bible Study 6:30pm
16th – Lenten Lunch 11:30am @St Mary's
Youth Supper 5:30pm & Class 6:00pm

- 17th – High Rise Meal 11:30am
UMW 1:00pm
20th – Palm Sunday Youth Brunch
UMW Serve Coffee @Elim Home 1:50-3:00pm
Newsletter Items Due
23rd – No Youth
Men's Group 6:30pm
24th – Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm
25th – Good Friday Service @Zion 7:00pm
27th – Easter
UMW Serve Coffee @Elim Home 1:50-3:00pm
Change Shaker Sunday
30th – No Youth



Thursday, March 17th 11:30am Cost \$4.00

Corned beef, oven roasted potatoes, steamed cabbage,
dinner roll, St Patrick's Day cake



- 1- Ed Bekius
1- Jim Fladmoe
2- Raymond Hoffman
8- Jim Coughlin
12- Laura Stobb
24- Marilyn Anderson
27-Jane Johnson
28-Jere Day



Anniversaries:

- 13th—Vern & Delores Quam
17th—Bob & Marilyn Anderson
28th—Joyce & Phil Anderson