

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

June 2016 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



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FISH FRY 2016



Reverend
Joyce Slostad



Milaca United Methodist

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Milaca, MN 56353

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



From Pastor Joyce

Hard to believe June is almost here. We are about to “Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” as Nat King Cole sang.



As we enjoy all that God's creation has to offer in the summer, I encourage all of us to not let things crowd Jesus and church out of our lives. Though we take vacation from work and routine – do we really want to take a vacation from our spiritual lives and the One who gives us life? Make a point to worship this summer, whether it is here at Milaca UMC or somewhere else; while vacationing or just visiting different churches or denominations to see what's happening in other parts of the Christian world.

Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



June 5 – Communion

June 12 – VBS Celebration Sunday, hear the learnings and songs from the participants, led by Lynne Olson

June 19 – Service led by Jere Day, Father's Day

June 26 – Change Shaker Sunday, Report from Annual Conference

Peter and I want to extend our thanks to the congregation for your care and support following Peter's mother, Alvira's death. Your cards and words of comfort meant a lot to us.





Pastor Joyce will be gone June 11 – 20

She and 27 of her immediate family will join with extended family and friends to celebrate her mother, Jean's 90th birthday in Lake Junaluska, NC.

Annual Conference June 21-23 in St Cloud

You may reach her by cell phone at 763-742-4241. She will be staying overnight Tuesday and Wednesday at the Holiday Inn in St Cloud.

Vacation Pastoral Care Supply

Please contact Rev. Kevin Dunn if you have a pastoral care need during June 11-20. He can be reached at home 983-5863 or on his cell at 320-492-3425.

Congratulations to our newest members: Garret Hall & Elizabeth Slostad

They were confirmed and received into membership on May 8, 2016



Help Us Decorate for VBS – following worship on June 5th

If you're looking for a small time commitment to help our VBS program, please consider being part of the decorating team on June 5.

After worship we will transform the sanctuary and other parts of the church into a beach paradise. Come join the fun!



HOW ABOUT OUR GRADUATES! On May 22nd we honored in worship Junina Hillcrest, Lydia Larson, Trevor Nyberg, Kimmie Seppala and Matthew Slostad. They received a gift from the United Methodist Women, a gift from Pastor Joyce & the congregation, we prayed over them in church and had a cake reception in their honor.

Here are their future plans:



Junina Hillcrest – will take a gap year and move to Germany. While there she will travel, intern and take classes at Valkshoch. When she returns she plans to get a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine at Hamline University and a P.H.D. at the U of M.

Lydia Larson – after the marching band season is over she will have a little over a month to enjoy doing nothing, will then head to Mankato State University to be a part of their marching band and major there in Music Education in order to be a Band Director.

Trevor Nyberg – will be taking 2 years of general education at St. Cloud Technical College and will then transfer to St. Cloud State University and obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Kimmie Sepala – looks forward to working full-time as a nursing assistant.

May 23, 2016



Washington, D.C.: Reviving a tradition that is more than 200 years old, the United Methodist Council of Bishops sent this letter today to the people of The United Methodist Church following the 2016 General Conference, held in Portland, Oregon, May 10-20. The letter reads as follows:

"To the people of The United Methodist Church:

The Council of Bishops brings you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has called us to be servant leaders of the church. In 1812, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bishop William McKendree and General Conference Secretary Daniel Hitt sent the first letter to churches following General Conference. This letter seeks to revive that tradition. Many bishops will also be communicating individually with their own areas.

Hundreds of lay and clergy delegates from around the world gathered in Portland, Oregon, along with bishops and pastors, church members and staff, volunteers and visitors, to engage in Christian conferencing, to make decisions for our church's future, to affirm our global connection, to worship and to celebrate God's faithfulness.

We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria initiative, which seeks to raise \$75 million in the fight against malaria, a disease that takes the life of a child in Africa every two minutes. We celebrated our ecumenical partnerships as we move in to full Communion with the Uniting Church in Sweden and toward full Communion with the Moravian church. We celebrat-

ed our heritage: the 250th anniversary of our oldest church, John Street United Methodist Church, the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women, the 25th anniversary of Africa University and others.

We continued in our acts of repentance with a presentation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about the Methodist involvement in the 1864 Sand Creek massacre. We shared in the consecration of deaconesses and home missionaries and the commissioning of missionaries. We moved toward a global Book of Discipline and global Social Principles. We voted to add five new bishops in Africa after 2020, and approved a church wide study on our ecclesiology.

The Episcopal address set the tone for the event, focusing on humility and lifting up our accomplishments. We heard from our laity an invitation to members to be more involved in making disciples and getting involved in ministries to bring the love of Christ to others. We heard our young people say they "are engaged in Christ's journey with energy and love." We also heard them say clearly that they do not want a divided church and urged us to "be in unity even if we do not have unanimity." They give us hope for our future.

The body had difficult and challenging work before it as we acknowledged our differences over human sexuality. Amidst those differences, the delegates affirmed they want their bishops to lead and we found ourselves with an opportunity for a holy moment. We spoke candidly about what divides us and what our church might look like in the future if we dared to consider new possibilities. We offered a way forward, postponing decisions about sexuality matters and committing to having a different kind of global conversation that allows all voices to be heard.

Our differences do not keep us from being the body of Christ. They do not keep us from doing good in the world. They do not keep us from making a difference – and so we set forth bold new goals: to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

Most importantly, we affirmed our commitment to stay united. We proved that we are more than debates and divisions, more than rules and resolutions. We stood together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on our time in Portland, our prayer is for unity in the church for the advancement of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As John Wesley reminded us, "Best of all, God is with us."

Signed on behalf of the Council of Bishops,
Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the Council

Bishop of the Minnesota & Dakota Annual Conferences"

About the Council of Bishops

The Council of Bishops provides leadership and helps set the direction of the 12.3 million-member church and its mission throughout the world. The bishops are the top clergy leaders of The United Methodist Church, the second largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. The Council of Bishops is made up of all active and retired bishops of The United Methodist Church, and comprises 45 active bishops in the United States; 20 active bishops in Europe, Asia and Africa; plus 87 retired bishops worldwide.

2016 Love Offering

Monies given this year will be presented at Annual Conference by Lay Delegate Peggy Crooms. **We will receive this offering on the first 3 Sundays in June. The 5th, 12th & 19th.**

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for Missions. The offering is brought to annual conference session—a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state.

Donations to the 2015 Love Offering exceeded \$102,000. Grace Children's Center in Vietnam received 60 percent of the total, grants to help Minnesota churches partner with local schools received 30 percent, and Volunteers in Mission scholarships received 10 percent.

The theme of the 2016 Annual Conference session—taking place June 21-23 in St. Cloud—is “Living Generously: Unleashing God's Gifts,” and funds from this year's Love Offering will go to four projects:

Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services 40%

Our global community, and particularly Europe, is confronted with the largest mass migration of people since World War II. Millions of displaced persons have left Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and various parts of Africa across the Mediterranean Sea. The Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC)—of which the United Methodist Church is a part—was founded in 1948 as the statewide ecumenical agency representing mainline Protestant

denominations in Minnesota. Since 1985, the MCC's Refugee Services program has welcomed thousands of refugees from around the world to lives of freedom, hope,

and opportunity in Minnesota. The program offers support to newcomers through case management, immigration, employment, and education.

International Child Care, Dominican Republic 40%

Poverty is a major issue in the Dominican Republic, and many people there lack access to basic health care for their families. Additionally, six out of every 100 Dominicans have some form of physical or mental disability, many of them children. Health agency International Child Care has developed grassroots, community-based health and rehabilitation programs in the Santiago province. The rehabilitation program teaches parents and other residents how to become physical therapists themselves. This bottom-up, community-driven approach to caring for children with disabilities aims to restore their dignity, hope, and self-respect within their families and communities.

continued...

United Methodist Committee on Relief 10%

Minnesota United Methodists are encouraged to collectively prepare and donate at least 10,000 health kits, which the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will then distribute to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Kits should be brought to annual conference in St. Cloud. Ten percent of the Love Offering will go toward shipping these kits to areas where they are needed most.

Volunteers in Mission Scholarships 10%

Mission trips change the lives of participants by giving them an opportunity to grow in faith and gain a new perspective of the world. Through the United Methodist Church's Volunteers in Mission program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects domestically or abroad. Most teams from Minnesota are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Team members pay their own way, and the Love Offering helps offset the cost for first-time participants.



Men's Group



On a cool, windy Tuesday late afternoon and early evening, the Men's Group gathered five available souls to diligently, and scrupulously clean the carpets in the sanctuary and secretary's office. They rented a Rug Doctor from Koch's Hardware and purchased cleaning detergent and stain remover and Brasso. Five hours later after teamwork, teasing, laughing at each other and sharing fellowship the task was completed with plenty of time to let it dry before in needed to be needed for any activities. Thank you should go out to Dale Gilbert (chief mixer), Jim Fladmoe (dirty water specialist), Jere Day (chief overseer), Arne Pearson (vacuum specialist and brass master) Joel Bryson (the spot remover) for the talents shared in this endeavor. Fish fry proceeds were used for the rental and other costs and Arne did a great job polishing the brass cross and candle stick

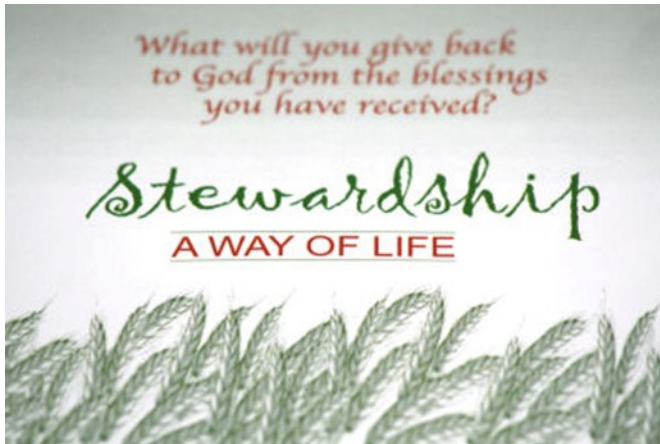
YOUTH HOT DOG STAND AT MILACA PARADE JUNE 16



Be sure to visit the Youth's food stand (in Teals parking lot) at the parade and partake of a delicious old fashioned grilled hot dog, chips & drink. This is one of the only fundraisers the Youth Group does – so come support them and your church!

SAVE YOUR RECIEPTS & UPC CODES

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 thousands of dollars through this program!



SUMMER GIVING

Summer is upon us. The days will be longer, the week-ends will seem shorter and the attendance on Sunday mornings will be lighter. Summer is a time of change from our usual routine, a time for getting away from home, a time for vacations and recreation. We need the rest and relaxation of summer as much as we need the routines and activities of the rest of the year. Attendance gets lighter as does the giving, but the needs of God's ministry remain the same, please be sure your giving is current especially over the summer months. If you're not able to be in church because of vacations or time at the lake or cabin, please mail in or drop off your tithes and offerings at the church office.



Another month has flown by and June is almost here.

We have had a very busy month starting with the High Tea on Wednesday, May 4th. It was a little smaller group this year, but they were very generous. We took in \$517.50 and will divide at our June meeting, what local charities we will give to this year.

Sunday, May 8th was Confirmation Sunday and we honored two confirmands, Elizabeth Slostad and Garrett Hall with a reception in the Fellowship Hall. We served cake, fruit from High Tea, punch, mixed nuts and coffee. Congratulations!

Thursday, May 10th was our monthly Christian Women Brunch with 60 ladies attending. We served a new egg bake, apple scones and watermelon wedges. It is a joy to serve them as they are so happy to be able to meet at our church.

The Circles met this month and the Mary Martha Circle met on Thursday at 1:00pm. There were 9 ladies that attended. We had rhubarb cake, nuts and coffee and discussed the High Tea for some new ideas for next year.

Sunday, May 22nd we honored our graduates with cake, crackers & cheese, nuts, punch and coffee. There were 5 graduates this year: Junia Hillcrest, Matt Slostad, Lydia Larson, Kimmie Seppala and Trevor Nyberg. Congratulations to you and best wishes for the future.

Monday morning Jeanette, Joyce Stobb and myself cleaned the freezer and refrigerator. We threw a lot of old stuff away from both. The refrigerator was in very bad shape and it was full of mold. Everything that was out dated we threw, condensed some things and one container was growing mold. I would like to remind everyone that what they don't use to please take home. If it has been purchased at Teal's and has not been opened, they will take it back. If you leave it in the fridge or freezer, please date it and put your name on it. Thank you! Jeanette will call Paul and he will replenish the ground beef.

Our next UMW meeting is at Sue Olson's on Thursday, June 16th at noon with a Pot Luck lunch. It is the same day as the parade.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day.

**Audrey Bowe
President UMW**

June Calendar Items:

June 6th-10th - Vacation Bible School 1:00-4:00pm

9th – No Council Meeting

11th – Pastor Joyce on Vacation 11th-20th

12th – VBS Celebration for Worship

Java & Jesus 6:00pm

14th – Christian Women 9:30am

16th – UMW Picnic at Sue Olson's

21st – Pastor Joyce & Peggy at Annual Conf. in St Cloud

23rd – High Rise Meal, seating 11:15am, serving 11:30am.

26th – Change Shaker Sunday

Newsletter items due



Men's Group Cleaned Carpets

High Rise Meal, Thursday, May 19th at 11:30am

(be there by 11:15) \$4.00.

240 2nd Ave SW, Milaca



**Menu: Roast beef w/horseradish,
whipped potatoes w/gravy, green bean
casserole, dinner roll and cookie.**



1- Matt Slostad

1- Sam Walbridge

2- Stacy Coughlin

2- Lynne Olson

3- Yosiea Cooper

5—Pastor Joyce Slostad

8—William Barnes

10—Neva Hoffman

14—Mike Hoffman

16—Terry Wade

18—Dorothy Moe

20—Sarah Johnson

21—John Day

21—Junia Hillcrest

23—Myla Tolmie

28—Delores Quam

29—Annie Bunger

Anniversaries:

7—Chet & Tilly Bergstrom

14—Ron & Audrey Bowe

24—Ron & Corky Webb

