

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

January 2017 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



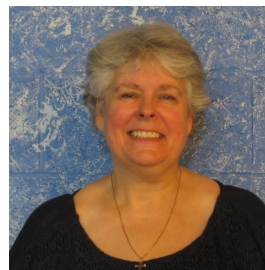
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Java & Jesus served over 50 people at December's event. Thank you for your support.



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



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- Sunday Service 10:00 am
- Coffee & Fellowship Following Service
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- Sunday School



January 2017

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?"* Matthew 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 <><



A Night of All Church Coaching & Brainstorming For Our Future

Thursday January 19th at 6:30 pm at Milaca United Methodist Church

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this important workshop. With the Church Council as the core group we will gather to work with our Missional Journey coach, the Rev. Pat Hinker. She will lead us in brainstorming about the future of our church with a focus on developing a signature ministry that

will help us serve the community more effectively and also make us more visible and draw new people to our church.

Join Us in Church For the Following Messages About Living Our Live In Christ and For Christ:

(Bring a friend – they'll be glad you did!)

January 1st – Communion, A Festival of Lessons & Carols

January 8th – “All” Acts 10:34-43

January 15th – “Called to Fail” Isaiah 49:1-7 (with reference to John 1:29-42)

January 22nd – “The Mission is Fishin'” Matthew 4:12-23

January 29th – UMW Sunday, the Ladies will lead us in worship





The Minnesota Conference's vision is for all congregations to live out God's call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.

The Minnesota Conference has a seven-year plan for congregational development. Its two components: starting new churches and growing existing churches by equipping them to increase vitality.

The conference launched a capital campaign in 2014 to raise funds for these efforts, and as of June 2016, pledges had surpassed the \$3.7 million goal. Thanks be to God!

A brief recap of progress to date:

New churches: The Minnesota Conference is currently offering support to 12 new faith communities. Those include two started in 2014 (The Beloved in St. Paul and The Well, a second site for Rosemount UMC), two started in 2015 (New City Church in Minneapolis and Embrace Church in Lakeland), and three started in 2016 (Northwest Minneapolis United Methodist Ministry, a Hmong faith community in Robbinsdale; a second site for Centennial UMC in Roseville; and North Summit Church in Blaine).

Revitalized churches: In 2014 and 2015, 40 churches started one of the conference's revitalization processes—the Healthy Church Initiative, the Missional Church Consultation Initiative, or Choosing the Faithful Path.

Our church: Milaca UMC participated in a program called "Missional Journey." We learned a lot, but have the opportunity for more learning and growth. We are engaging our own personal "coach" Rev. Pat Hinker who will work with us on developing a signature ministry to help us serve our community more effectively. This will also make us more visible and draw new people to our church. **There will be an all church meeting on Thursday January 19th beginning at 6:30 pm.** You'll have the opportunity to share your thoughts and help the group brainstorm for our future.



Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at FMSC

On **Saturday February 25th** from **2-4 pm**

at the Coon Rapids location

We have agreed to send 10 volunteers to work to pack meals for starving children around the world.

What makes Feed My Starving Children different

Five important elements contribute to FMSC's missional heart and call to feed God's kids:

Our Christian Mission - *We believe Jesus Christ has called us to feed the hungry and serve those in need. Jesus is the reason that Feed My Starving Children exists. We strive to follow his calling every day in all that we do.*

Food is the Foundation - *"Hunger is the world's biggest solvable problem." – World Food Programme. We believe that food is the foundation for all other progress. To a starving child, hope can only truly begin once a reliable source of nutritious food has been established. FMSC produces three special MannaPack™ meal formulas developed by food scientists to specifically stop malnutrition.*

Food Distribution Partners - *FMSC does not have its own staff distributing food around the world. We donate meals to an exceptional network of missions and humanitarian organizations.*

Developing Sustainability - *Food assistance is a vital component in the process of transitioning individuals, families and communities out of chronic hunger and poverty and into self-sufficiency.*

Volunteerism - *Volunteers enable us to do what we do, every day. We couldn't do this work without YOU. Volunteers pack all of our meals, and their donations pay for them. We don't receive free ingredients or government aid. It takes both packing and donating to feed kids!*

January Calendar Items:

1st – New Year's Day

4th – Ministerial Meeting 8:30am

Text Study @Trinity 10:30am

Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

8th – Java & Jesus 6:00pm

11th – Text Study @Trinity 10:30am

Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

12th – Milaca Food Pantry Volunteers Christmas Party

5-9:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Church Council 6:30pm

17th – Elim Home Worship Service 6:15pm

18th – Text Study @Trinity 10:30am

Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

19th – All Church Coaching & Brainstorming Workshop
6:30pm

21st – Girls of '73 Tea 9-5:00

22nd – Newsletter Items Due

29th – UMW Sunday & Change Shaker Sunday



Java & Jesus



Birthdays:

1- Tammy Stobb

12- Mitch Niesen

13- Jane Creecy

18- Jeff Stobb

19- Joshua Slostad

19—Mary Smith

24—Bob Green

25- Joyce Anderson Sr

31- Issy Copeland

Anniversary:



High Rise Meal

High Rise Meal for Thursday, Jan 19th
Seating at 11:15am, Dinner served
at 11:30am. Cost \$4.00.

Menu:

Aloha chicken, rice pilaf,

grand green beans,

mandarin oranges,

delectable éclair dessert.

