

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

February 2017 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Church Conference & Potluck

February 26th



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



Milaca United Methodist

310 3rd Ave NW

Milaca, MN 56353

320-982-6325

milacaumc@gmail.com

In this issue:

Cover	1,2
Pastor Joyce	
Schedule	3,4
Bible Study	
Ministry	5,6
UMW	
Calendar	7

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



Love, Faith, Hope





February 2017 From the Pastor:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

We celebrate Valentine's Day this month, a day when we're told that to show our love for our significant others means flowers and a mushy, romantic card. When Christian love and compassion for others takes root in us, it is expressed not on one day, but throughout the year and in actions, not just in words or feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward Christian love. Love is action. Grace is God's unconditional love for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

Jesus' new commandment to his disciples was simply this: Show your love. Love one another. By your loving actions, people will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action--packed love. The love Jesus wants his disciples to enter into -- not just to "feel" but to do -- is action-packed. And love in action is sometimes embodied by the simplest of compassionate responses.

Jesus urged his disciples to have love for one another so that "everyone will know that you are my disciples." The ability to love everyone -- even the most unlovable of sorts, has always been the test of the discipleship of love. After the crowds had stoned him, mocked him, spit upon him, screamed "crucify him," Jesus could still cry out in love, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us shining forth through the actions of our lives.

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><



Schedule for Worship in February

February 5th – Lay Leader Jere Day preaching

February 12th – Communion, "Setting Stretch Goals"

February 12th – Java and Jesus meal & service 6:00 pm

February 19th – "A Worship Workout"

February 26th – "Christian Minimum Daily Requirements" Church Conference
with a Potluck follows our morning worship

Pastor Joyce Out of the Office

She will be gone for 2 weeks visiting her Mom & Sister from Jan 25 – Feb 8.

You may reach her at 763-742-4241, but she will be out of the state.

Pastoral care is being handled by the following pastors:

Jan 25 – 27 Rev. Stephen Blenkush of Zion

Cell 320-309-5995 Church 320-983-3368

Jan 28 – Feb 3 Rev. Kevin Dunn of MUMC

Cell 320-492-3425 Home 320-983-5863

Feb 4 – 8 Pastor Debra Schaffran of Mora UMC

Cell 320-515-2054 Church 320-679-2713



Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at FMSC



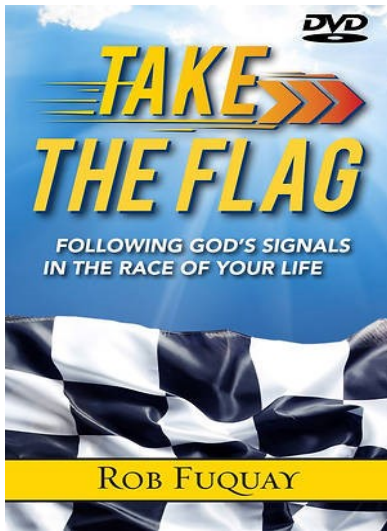
Mark your calendar for **Saturday February 25th from 2-4 pm** at the Coon Rapids location. We have agreed to send 10 volunteers to work to pack meals for starving children around the world. Sign up sheet on the table in the Gathering Space.

Church Conference & Potluck

On Sunday February 26 following worship. Bring your favorite main dish, side dish or dessert and join in the fellowship and hear about the ministries of our church.



Church
Conference



New 7 week Bible Study All Are Welcome

Tuesdays 7 pm – beginning February 28th

Or

Wednesdays 10:30 am – beginning March 2nd

The spiritual life is often compared to a race. Pastor Rob Fuquay sees a parallel between the flags used in A1:AG5 racing and the signals God sends us in our fast-paced lives.

The purpose of Take the Flag is not to turn readers into race fans but to help them become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ by paying attention to the signals God gives us each day.

This Bible-based, 7-week churchwide series, uses the flags from auto racing as a way to discuss different aspects of our life of faith:

-Green flag (start): How do we start our journey of faith?

-Yellow flag (caution): The decisions we make can sometimes put us in danger.

How do we learn to heed God's caution?

-Red flag (delay): Finishing well involves pit stops. How does God help us get the most out of these breaks?

-Blue flag (yield): Each of us may run our own race, but we also need to respect others. How does God help us focus on others' needs?

-Black flag (disqualification): What happens when our own violations take us out of the race, and how does God help us get back in?

-White flag (final lap): As we head toward the finish line, how do we steer according to God's will?

-Checkered flag (victory): If we persevere—navigating the hazards, managing the pit stops—then victory is ours. But how does God want us to experience victory?

Sanctuary Heating & Cooling System

Please don't touch any buttons, switches, or slides on the thermostats in the sanctuary. The system has been pre-programmed to come on in advance of worship to warm the room, but sometimes well intentioned folks push buttons or slide the heat/cool lever to off and then the system can't come on to heat or cool the room. **If you need heating/cooling other than Sunday morning, please push the 3 hour occupied button only.**





Prayer Chain Ministry Needs Members

This ministry has a long and important history with our church. The Pastor or church members contacts the leader of the Prayer Chain and makes a specific request for prayers. That request is written down (for accuracy) and passed to the next person on the chain. These prayer requests are kept private and confidential.

Why should you join this ministry?

- It's rewarding
- You bless others with prayer and peace of mind
- It's a ministry that anyone can be a part of regardless of physical capabilities
- It benefits our church family, the community and beyond
- It's an important thing you can help with

Full instructions and a list of your fellow Prayer Chain members will be made available to those who join in this ministry. Talk to Pastor Joyce or Sue Olson 983-3497 if you would like to be a part of the prayer team.

February Youth Group Schedule

Feb. 1 – No meeting

Feb. 8 – No meeting

Feb. 15 – supper @ 5:30 meeting @ 6 pm

Feb. 22 – supper @ 5:30 meeting @ 6pm



Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers

If you'd like to provide the flowers for Sunday worship – please sign up on the date you'd like to bring flowers using the whole year chart on the table in the Gathering Space. Then be sure to mark your personal calendar so you won't forget.



Happy New Year!!

It started out pretty cold but now it is almost like spring. I'm sure we will get snow again.

On December 13th we served the Christian Women a luncheon instead brunch, which is our Christmas treat to them. They had chicken breasts, rice pilaf, Christmas bread and apple dumplings for dessert. January 10th we served them a wild rice quiche, sausage links, peaches and rolls. They really like our choices and hope we are able to keep serving them. It is also a joy for us and great fellowship. We will keep on as long as we are able!

There were 6 of us that went to the Dining Site on the 8th of December, a week early as Jeanette had us for her Christmas lunch on the 15th. We had a delicious lunch and first had a fellowship time and not meeting. In January we were 8 ladies that went to the Dining Site for lunch. There were quite a few there, which was good to see, so it keeps going.

The UMW met on Monday, January 16th for our Prayer and Self Denial program at 9:30am. The Mary Martha Circle served the brunch and there were ladies there. The program was on Abundant Health for Women and Children and the offering all goes to put faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth around the world. Dues for the year were collected and dates scheduled for the year, which are on the calendar on office door.

It was brought up about having a day or so a month to visit our elderly shut ins. More discussion on that in our March meeting. Several asked those delivering poinsettias to stay for coffee and visit.

We planned our UMW Sunday Service and everyone picked a service they would do that day. We will also be serving coffee after in the Fellowship Hall.

After our meeting several stayed and prepared lunch for Lorraine Wade's funeral that afternoon at 2:00pm. Our sympathy and prayers to the family.

The Circle of Hope will be organizing again, so we will be serving the meal on Thursday, February 2nd at Zion Lutheran Church. It is once a year meal and one of our mission works. That will start out the month of February.

Christian Women will be Tuesday, February 14th and they are inviting their spouses for that. We will be serving some sort of an egg bake.

February the Circles meet and our next UMW meeting will be on March 14th. We should know by then when we will be serving Lenten Soup Luncheon. The date will be in the bulleting when we know when it is.

Keep saving your Teal's receipts and UPC codes, as we are well over \$1000 so far and that money goes back to church needs. That's your money at work.

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Audrey Bowe,
UMW President

February Calendar Items:

25th-8th – Pastor Joyce Out of Office

1st – Milaca Ministerial Meeting 8:30am

No Youth

2nd – Circle of Hope

5th – Jere Day Preaching

6th – Grace Sarah Circle 1:00pm

8th – No Youth

9th – Church Council 6:30pm

12th – Java & Jesus 6:00pm

14th – Christian Women

15th – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

16th – High Rise Meal 11:30am

Mary Martha Circle 1:00pm

19th – Pastor Joyce Performing Church Conference @Onamia

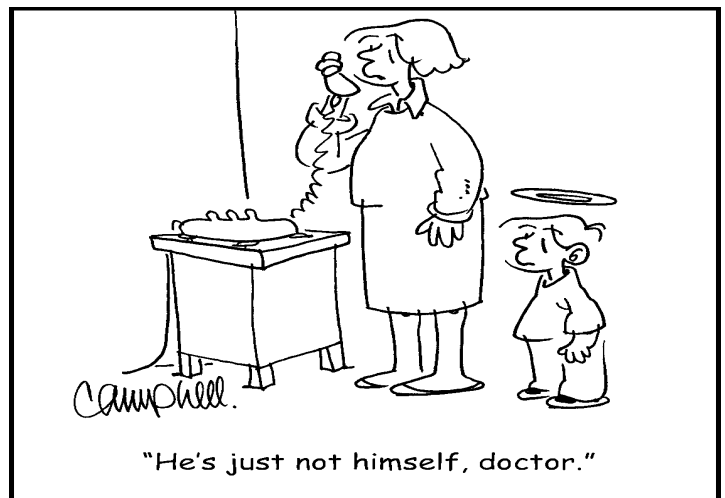
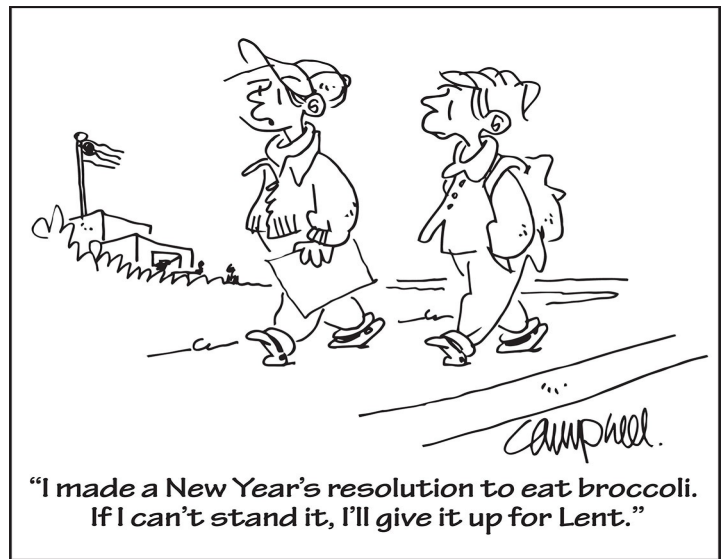
Newsletter Items Due

22nd – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

25th – Feed My Starving Children

26th – Church Conference & Potluck

Change Shaker Sunday



Birthdays:

1- Donna Johnson

1- Bill Nelsen

8- Randy Walbridge

10- Judy Stewart

13- Pearl Jacobson

17-AJ Coughlin

20-Joyce Stobb

26- Deb Cochran

26- Vern Quam



Anniversaries:

6- Jere & Linda Day

11-Bill & Penny Nelsen

19-Brad & Christi Barnes

28-Phil & Joyce Anderson



High Rise Meal

Thursday, Feb 16th

Seating at 11:15am

Dinner served at 11:30am

Cost \$4.00

Menu:

Roast turkey,
whipped potatoes & gravy,
country trio vegetables,
wheat bread and pistachio cake.