

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

March 2017 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Invitation Sunday

Sunday—March 26th

Invite a friend, neighbor or a family member



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



Invite a Neighbor to Church

March 2017 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 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 <><



Worship in March @ 10:00 am

March 1st – Ash Wednesday service

March 5th – Communion, 1st Sunday in Lent

March 12th – 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 12th – Java and Jesus 6 pm meal, 6:30 service

March 19th – 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 26th – Invitation Sunday, Lunch follows church

We will worship at 10:00 throughout March and change back to 9:30 on April 2nd.

Don't be late for church on March 12!

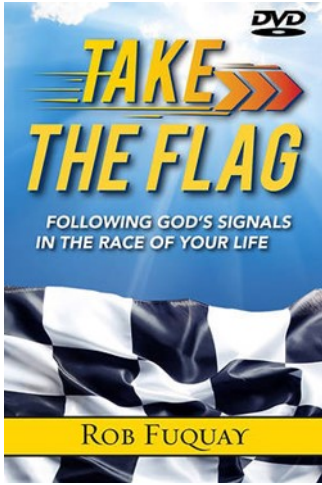
Set your clocks ahead one hour on
Saturday night.



Community Lenten Soup Luncheons

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. A freewill donation is appreciated to cover the cost of lunch.

March 8	Trinity	Betrayal	Judas
March 15	St. Mary's	Judgement	Pontius Pilate
March 22	Zion	Compassion	Malchus
March 29	Milaca UMC	Declaration	Peter
April 5	St. Louis	Obedience	John



New 7 week Bible Study

3 spots left!!!!

Books cost \$10.00

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 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?

Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers

If you'd like to provide the flowers for a 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.



Milaca Food Pantry – March Drive = \$\$

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.



March Youth Group Schedule

March 1 – Ash Wednesday Stew Supper & worship service

March 8 – supper @ 5:30, meeting @ 6 pm

March 15 – supper @ 5:30, meeting @ 6 pm

4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner

Sunday March 19th 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.



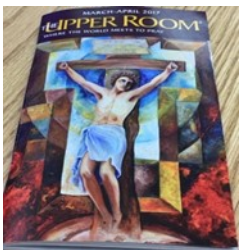
Invitation Sunday – March 26th 10:00 am

Ask God using the prayer below to show you who you might invite to attend with you on March 26th. Tell them you will pick them up and that there is a delicious Irish stew lunch 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 March 26th. 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:



Upper Room Devotional Is Available for March & April

It can be found on the counter in the Gathering Space – a donation of \$1 is appreciated, but not required to help with the cost. This devotional is provided to our church by a financial gift of the United Methodist Women.



I want to thank the Christmas Elf that gave the UMW two new small coffee pots for the kitchen. Thank you very much!!! They work great!

We served the Circle of Hope on Thursday, February 2nd at Zion Lutheran Church. It was their first meeting under a new group of people. They had 55 people and luckily we had barely enough food. We will keep serving each year in February.

February 14th we served Christian Women a Valentines brunch. They had a man speaker so the husbands were invited also. There were 54 there for brunch. Always have lots of compliments and hope we keep having them each month. This is our 14th year serving Christian Women.

The Circles met this month and our next UMW meeting is March 16th at 1:00pm. Grace Sarah served lunch.

March is our month to serve Sunday afternoon coffee from 1:45-3:00pm at Elim Home. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the Narthex. All members are welcome to serve (men too). Thank you ahead of time.

Does anyone know what happened to the red and green tablecloth? They are UMW's and were in the closet. Let one of us know where they are. Thank you!

The Lenten Soup Luncheon will be at our church Wednesday, March 29th 11:30-12:30. Keep date in mind and if you can help serve.

Keep saving the UPC codes and Teal's receipts. We are really doing well with them. The money received goes to church needs and our Emma Norton contribution each year for church.

God's Blessings

Audrey Bowe,
UMW President

March Calendar Items:

1st – Ash Wednesday Supper 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm

2nd – Bible Study 10:30am

5th – Worship & Communion 10:00am

Serve Coffee at Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm

8th – Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth 6:00pm

9th – Bible Study 10:30am

Church Council 6:45pm

11th – Clocks Move Forward

12th – Worship 10:00am

Serve Coffee at Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm

Java & Jesus 6:00pm

14th – Christian Women 10:00pm

15th – Youth 5:30 Supper Youth 6:00am

Men's Club 6:30pm

16th – Bible Study 10:30am

UMW 1:00pm

19th – Worship 10:00am

Serve Coffee at Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm

4-H Mystery Dinner 5:00pm Contact Jeff Stobb

Newsletter Items Due

23rd – Bible Study 10:30am

26th – Invitation Sunday - Worship 10:00am

Lunch After Worship

Serve Coffee at Elim Home 1:45-3:00pm

Change Shaker Sunday

29th – Lenten Soup Luncheon Here at 11:30am

30th – Bible Study 10:30am



28-Jere Day

29- Lisa Bates



Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

13th—Vern & Delores Quam

17th—Bob & Marilyn Anderson



High Rise Meal

Thursday, March 16th

Seating at 11:15am

Dinner served at 11:30am

Cost \$4.00

Menu:

Corned beef and cabbage,

Irish potatoes,

rice bread

and Leprechaun poke cake.

Birthdays:

1- Ed Bekius

1- Jim Fladmoe

2- Raymond Hoffman

8- Jim Coughlin

12- Laura Stobb

18- Garrett Hall

24- Marilyn Anderson

27-Jane Johnson