

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

December 2017 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



*“Glory
to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom
he is pleased!”
Luke 2:14, ESV*



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



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

December 2017 From the Pastor

What a joy it is to celebrate Advent and Christmas in the church each year!

Advent is to be a time of waiting, a spiritual discipline of slowing down to notice God's presence in the still small voice within a violent and hurried world. **"Be still, and know that I am God!"** the Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 46:10.

We can get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas that we forget the reason we are celebrating. Waiting for something that has already happened is a curious practice. The Advent season plays with our notion of time. **The church gathers in the present, to ponder the past, for a future hope.**



In order for you to share the spiritual gift of Christmas this year, there are two different resources available to you to invite people to come to church with you on Christmas Eve morning or afternoon. We have door hangers that you can place throughout your neighborhood and business sized cards that you can hand to people with a personal invitation to attend church with you. Both resources give folks all the information they need to know about worshipping at Milaca UMC on Christmas Eve and any Sunday. You will find these resources on a table in the Gathering Space.

Make attending church part of your family's Christmas plans – there is no greater gift you can give yourself or them. Let us all be like Joseph and model for our children, grandchildren and any child whose life we influence a life of faithful obedience to a loving God.

Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><

December Worship Schedule



3rd – Communion; Sermon - "Whose Child Is This?"

10th – Sermon – "Raising a Child Not Your Own."

6:00 pm Java and Jesus

17th – Sermon – "The Journey to Bethlehem." Pastor Joyce's last Sunday with us before her medical leave – see article for details.

1:00 pm God's Free Gift Outreach Event

Christmas Eve Worship – 2 Choices

Sunday December 24th at 10 am & 4 pm

10 am – The children will present their Christmas Pageant "God's Promise Came True." All children present including guests will be able to be a part of the finale of the program. Includes familiar hymns and a short message from Pastor Shirley Nelson. Children will receive a gift from the church that ties back into the message of the program.



4 pm – Traditional service with many Christmas hymns, the choir will provide special music and concludes with a candlelight singing of "Silent Night." Pastor Kevin Dunn will share a meaningful message.

Use the inviting resources found on the table in the gathering space to invite your friends and neighbors to attend these services with you.



DON'T FORGET THE COOKIE WALK

Saturday December 2nd

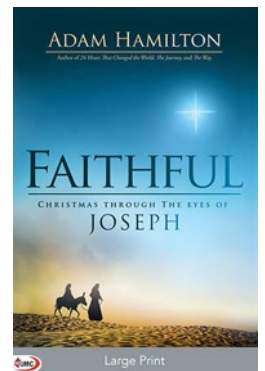
We need helpers on Friday to decorate, make cookie rounds, and prepare soup.

Then on Saturday lots of hands make the work easier – many jobs you can do, talk to Stacy Coughlin or Pastor Joyce on how and where you can help.

Start baking those yummy recipes of cookies, candies, breads and other goodies. Set aside some jars of jelly, jam, preserves, salsa, and pickles to share. Check your closets, attics & basements for new or gently used items for our treasures room. Also, if you are a crafter we will gladly accept any of your projects. Reminder there is an absolutely beautiful quilt that will be raffled – it is on display in the Gathering Space. Be sure to invite your friends to meet you at the Milaca United Methodist Church for a day of Christmas cheer and shopping. Coffee & cinnamon rolls are available in the morning and a soup luncheon will also be served.

4 Week Sermon Series for Advent Nov. 26 – Dec. 17

We're not that different from Joseph. True, we may not be part of a story that will be remembered for all time, but like Joseph, we encounter circumstances that we'd never choose for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away, but Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.



JAVA AND JESUS – Casual worship experience & free meal

Sunday December 10th

6:00 meal – Ham Dinner with cheesy potatoes.

6:30 worship time – lots of Christmas music

This service is open to all people: members and those in our neighborhood. This service is designed for those who don't have a church home and have a need for spiritual and physical nourishment, but is open to any and all who want to attend. The service is led by Dayna, Jere, Vicki, RC, and Pastor Joyce. Meals are provided by the Outreach Committee and members of the congregation.



We are ringing at **Teals** on Saturday **Dec. 9**. Shifts are one hour and begin at 9:00 am and go until 4:00. Invite someone to ring with you and sign-up on the sheet on the table in the Gathering Space.

Poinsettias to Decorate our Worship Space

Purchase your own Poinsettia's in red or white and bring them to church by Thursday Dec. 7th so they can be placed in the worship space before the service on Dec. 10th.



God's Free Gift – Sunday Dec. 17th 1 pm

Invitations will be available for you to share with families you know who might need help with gift giving this Christmas. This is not a gifts for children program, but one where we will help them give gifts to their families. We'll begin the event in the sanctuary where the families will watch a simple video or play of the Christmas story, we'll sing a few hymns and they will be given a religious ornament and an invitation to come to a Christmas Eve service. Then families will go to the Fellowship Hall where parents can enjoy cookies and the children will be assisted by a helper to "shop" for their family (up to 4 gifts). When they have picked their gifts they will go to another room and the gifts will be wrapped. Then they will join their parents for treats. **How you can help:** volunteer to help at the event, provide wrapping paper, tape, bows or tags, and share an invitation with a family who needs this outreach ministry. Families must let us know by phone by Dec. 11th they are coming. The Care, Share & Concerns Committee is donating money to cover the cost of the gifts.



A SUGGESTION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

OR CHRISTMAS MORNING

Gather around the tree before you open gifts and have someone read the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-7: *In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

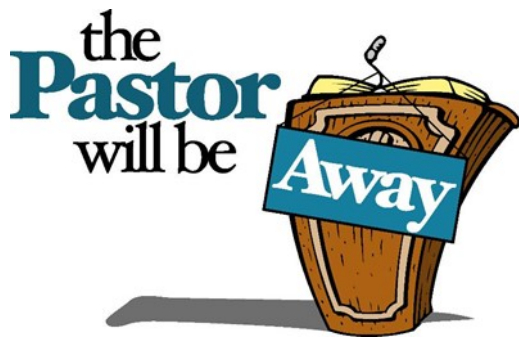


Have someone read this message about sharing: *This is a season of sharing: we share our time, our most beloved traditions, our favorite recipes. We share stories and memories, music and moments of worship. And we share Christmas presents, which we will open in a few minutes. These gifts are not love in themselves, but they are simple reflections of the love we have for one another and they are given in honor of a greater love – God's love for us in giving us Jesus. So we open these presents with thankfulness for Jesus and to celebrate his birthday.*

Have someone pray this prayer: *God of Heaven, it is You, we know, who has gathered us around this tree to share with one another the treasures that are hidden in these brightly*

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His*
presence

colored wrappings...to share with one another your good gift of time together. We know you are with us too, dear Lord, sharing this time even as you shared your own dear Son that we might all be your children. For all of these gifts, we thank you and praise you. Amen.



Pastor Joyce Will Be On a Medical Leave

December 18 – sometime in March

If all goes according to plan I will be having total hip replacement on Dec. 19th and will be on a medical leave for 3 months.

Retired ministers Rev. Shirley Nelson, and Rev. Kevin Dunn will be handling pastoral care needs and preaching most Sundays.

Our Lay Leader, Jere Day will share a message with you some Sundays and the UMW will host a service at the end of February.

The surgeon has told me to plan to take 3 months off due to healing time and the fact that the surgery is on my right hip which is also the leg you need to drive. He wants to be sure things are healed enough to ensure I can comfortably move my foot from the gas to the brake and back without discomfort or problems. I could come back earlier than 3 months, but that will be determined as I heal.

Pastoral Care Needs:

Dec. 19 th – Jan. 14 th	Pastor Kevin	320-492-3425 cell phone
Jan 15 th – March 11 th	Pastor Shirley	218-750-0663 cell phone

Preaching Schedule:

Dec. 24 th	10 am Pastor Shirley	4 pm Pastor Kevin
Dec. 31 st	Pastor Kevin	
Jan. 7 th	Pastor Kevin	Communion Sunday
Jan. 14 th	Pastor Kevin	
Jan. 21 st	Pastor Shirley	
Jan. 28 th	Jere Day	
Feb. 4 th	Pastor Shirley	Communion Sunday
Feb. 11 th	Jere Day	
Feb. 18 th	Pastor Shirley	
Feb. 25 th	UMW Sunday	
Mar. 4 th	Jere Day	No Communion
Mar. 11	Pastor Shirley	Communion Sunday

I ask you to pray for my family, a successful surgery, a quick healing process, and for me to have patience with myself, and the challenge of not doing ministry while I heal and being away from all of you who mean so much to me.

Blessings, Pastor Joyce <><



Here it is December already and it seems that November just started.

On Tuesday, November 7th we served the Women's Connection a breakfast casserole, cinnamon bread and sliced apples in caramel topping. There were 55 ladies present and they enjoyed it very much.

There were 8 of us that had lunch at the Dining Site. They had chicken chow mein, rice, vegetable, mandarin oranges and fortune cookie. After lunch we had our November UMW meeting at church. There were only 13 ladies and Pastor Joyce present. Mary Martha served lunch.

The new hymnals are here and will be putting In Memory or Honor Of the first week of December. They will be dedicated on Sunday, December 10th during the service. The mugs have arrived that we ordered. Anyone could purchase one, talk to Pastor Joyce. The UMW ordered 2 different mugs so we could purchase for gifts for ourselves.

For new business we will be giving poinsettias to the elderly and shut ins for Christmas. Betty will order them and several of us will help her deliver them.

We will also be giving to Holiday Helping Hands from the UMW. Pastor Joyce will get a family to sponsor and the church family will be getting gifts for them.

Our UMW Sunday will be February 25th instead of the end of January so we can help out the Sunday's Pastor Joyce is recuperating from surgery.

Election of officers was held and the same people were voted in for another year. It would be nice if some of the younger ladies could join us and work into being officers. You are very welcome!!

Our Christmas lunch will be a week early this year. It will be Thursday, December 7th at Jeanette's at noon. Pastor Joyce will have a Christmas story or pageant.

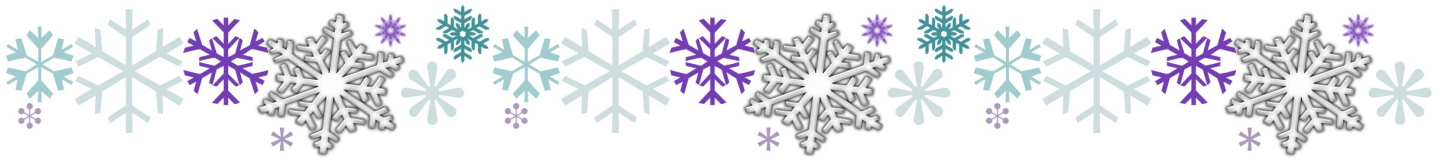
I hope everyone had a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving with family.

Until next month—see you in church.

UMW President

Audrey Bowe





December Calendar Items:

1st – Cookie Walk Preparation
 2nd – Cookie Walk 8:30am-1:00pm
 3rd – 2nd Sunday in Advent
 SPRC 11:15am
 6th – Ministerial meeting 8:30am
 Red Brick Learning 3:00pm
 7th – Faithful Bible Study 11:00am
 9th – Bell Ringing at Teals 9am-3pm
 10th – 3rd Sunday in Advent
 Java & Jesus 6:00pm
 11th – Finance meeting Set Budget 6:30pm
 12th – Christian Women
 13th – Red Brick Learning 3:00pm
 14th – Faithful Bible Study 11:00am
 Church Council 6:45pm

17th – 4th Sunday of Advent

God's Gift - Outreach Event 1:00pm

21st – Faithful Bible Study 10:00am

UMW Christmas Lunch @ Church 12:00 noon

24th – Family Christmas Eve 10:00

Candlelight Christmas Eve 4:00pm

25th - Christmas



emma norton
services

Dear Milaca UMC, Thank you for another donation this year and for giving us a small increase over previous years. Your support has allowed us to grow and expand this year to serve even more.

A warm place to sleep, a reliable meal, and hope for the future, that is your generous gift of \$325.30 on Sept 19th.

Sincerely, Tonya Brownlow, Executive Director



21- Lance Gubrud

28- Cyndee Green

28- Judy Schwieger



Anniversaries:

27—Larry & Dorothy Moe



High Rise Meal

High Rise Meal, December 21st

Seating 11:15-Served at 11:30, \$4.00.

Menu:

Ham w/pineapple mustard,
 cheesy potatoes, green beans,
 dinner roll and Christmas cake.

Birthdays:

3- Frank Crooms

4- Levi Anderson

4- Ryan Gilbert

9- John Hillcrest

16- Tilly Bergstrom

17—Christie Barnes

20—Dave Johnson