

# MILACA UNITED METHODIST

January 2018 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



**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
- Much, much, more!

**January 2018**

**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 <><*



### **Pastor Joyce is NOT currently on a medical leave**

My surgery was delayed by the insurance company until after the first of the year and the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is changing insurance providers as of Jan 1, 2018, so I will need to begin the process all over again. I am not sure when things can be rescheduled that will work for the surgeon's schedule, my schedule and the church's schedule. I will keep the congregation informed of the process and progress.

Of course I was disappointed that the surgery was not going to happen as scheduled, but I have been trying to look at the positives of the situation:

I was able to celebrate Christmas Eve services with you.

I was able to have a "normal" Christmas with my family.

I will be able to enjoy the cold and snowy winter without worrying about falling on a new hip.

I will have more time to strengthen the muscles needed to assist me after the surgery.

Perhaps when things do get scheduled it will be an even better set-up for me, the church and the surgeon.

I'm sure there are more and I'll discover them as they develop.

*Pastor Joyce*



## Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at FMSC

Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30 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!*



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone had a very merry and blessed Christmas with family. Ours was so fun and blessed to have all of our family at our daughter Karen's in St Michael. The two new great granddaughters were so special and growing so much. It was truly a blessed day.

On Tuesday, December 12th we served the Women's Connection their Christmas lunch at 11:00, instead of before their meeting. It was very well received and many compliments on it. We served chicken supreme hot dish, cranberry salad, Red Lobster biscuits and cream puffs for dessert. We received a thank you and each one that was working received a special gift for all our service and fellowship. The thank you card will follow.

Jeanette had our Christmas Luncheon at church and as always we had a very good lunch. Pastor Joyce gave us a little quiz on the story of the birth of Jesus. We had no meeting in the month of December.

Monday, January 15th Martin Luther King Day will be our next meeting at 9:30am with Grace Sarah Circle serving brunch. We will be planning the 2018 calendar for events coming up. Also, it is our Prayer & Self Denial offering and the 2018 dues are due.

Keep warm!!!

Yours in Christ,

Audrey Bowe, UMW President



**Wishing you the blessings of Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas**

We are so thankful for all of you. God bless you, Debbie Krawl

Always make good brunches! Mary Kyle

Thank you for your dedication. Sharon Hess

Thankful for all the good food you serve us. Rosalie

Thank you for your faithfulness and delicious lunches, God Bless! Norma

Thank you for all you do! Merry Christmas! Melissa

Thanks for all your work and great food, you are a blessing to us. Bonnie Anderson

Thank you for your ministry to us in the good food you serve and wonderful smiles that greet us each month.  
Love, Kathy

Thanks for all the wonderful brunches and all you have given. Love, Janet Larson

God bless you lovely ladies. We praise and thank you for your loyal service. Sandy Whitehead







# january

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ministerial Meeting 8:30am

Scripture Study at Trinity 10:30am

Red Brick Learning 3:00pm

7<sup>th</sup> – Undecorate from Christmas 11:00am

10<sup>th</sup> – Scripture Study at Trinity 10:30am

Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm

11<sup>th</sup> – Church Council 6:45pm

14<sup>th</sup> – Java & Jesus 6:00pm

15<sup>th</sup> – United Methodist Women 9:30am

17<sup>th</sup> – Scripture Study at Trinity 10:30am

Red Brick Learning 3:00pm

Youth Supper 5:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm

21<sup>st</sup> – Newsletter Items Due

24<sup>th</sup> – Scripture Study at Trinity 10:30am

Red Brick Learning 3:00pm

28<sup>th</sup> – Change Shaker Sunday

31<sup>st</sup> – Scripture Study at Trinity 10:30am

Red Brick Learning 3:00pm



## *Birthdays:*

13- Jane Creecy

18- Jeff Stobb

19- Mary Smith

24- Bob Green

25- Joyce Anderson Sr

31—Izzy Copeland

## *Anniversaries:*

*No Anniversaries for January*



## **High Rise Meal**

**January 18th**

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

## **Menu:**

**Chicken fried steak,  
oven roasted potatoes,  
creamed corn, wheat bread  
and vanilla pudding.**