

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

April 2018 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



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- Sunday Service 9:30am
- Coffee & Fellowship Following Service
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- UMW
- Much, much, more!



April 2018 From the Pastor

**It's Easter...
no foolin'!**

God is the creator of comedy, according to the Rev. Jerry Herships, pastor of After Hours Church in Denver, Colorado, and former stand-up comedian. "God has to have a sense of humor when you think about it. Just look at the hippos, the giraffes, or the Kardashians!"

"Add to that the fact that Easter is on April Fool's Day this year. It almost makes it twice as funny; like the resurrection wasn't already hard enough to accept. But seriously, I think Jesus came back saying, 'No, guys. I'm not kidding. It's me. I'm back. I have overcome death.'"

Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon of the spring equinox, so while the day of the week, Sunday, stays the same, the date can vary by almost six weeks. This year Easter falls on April 1. Yes, April Fool's Day, a combination that hasn't happened since 1956.

Within the United Methodist Church, the focus is always to be on the Christian observance rather than the secular holiday when the two coincide. But that doesn't mean there can't be some humor. Just look at the irony.

The origin of April Fool's Day is unclear. One theory is that it came into being when the Julian calendar, which placed the new year around the March equinox, was replaced with the Gregorian calendar, which placed the new year January 1. People who didn't know about the change or refused to accept it and continued to celebrate the new year in the spring were called April fools.

The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, a specialist in United Methodist worship, said the resurrection really was a joke on those in power at the time of the crucifixion. "They thought once Jesus was dead, he would be out of their way, things would go back to normal and they would continue to reign forever. The joke was on them. They may have been used as the instrument of death for Jesus, but they couldn't make him stay dead!"

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 address the paradox of the cross as the symbol of God's power: *"Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."* (CEB).

Imagine the disbelief and astonishment the disciples surely felt when confronted by the absurdity of the resurrection. The women, who have encountered the risen Jesus, rush into the room where the disciples are in grief and mourning and shout out the good news, "He's alive!" The disciples, in disbelief, say, "Yeah, yeah, April Fool!" but are soon convinced.

Rev. Herships reminds us that with Jesus' resurrection, God has the last laugh over death and suffering: "Every Easter really is April Fool's Day. For three days, the whole world, all of humanity, thought that hope and love were dead. But God came back to say, 'Surprise!'"

And our lives have never been the same. Because of Jesus' sacrificial action – our sins are forgiven and we are promised eternal life. That's no joke!

Easter Blessings and see you in church (soon!)

Pastor Joyce Slostad



The Rolling River Rampage has everything you need to help your kids experience the ride of a lifetime with God!

The theme Bible verse is "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." —Isaiah 43:2, CEB

Sessions include:

Session 1 - Jesus Calls the Disciples (Matthew 4:18-25)

Session 2 - Jesus Accepts Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Session 3 - Jesus Walks with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Session 4 - Jesus Shares a Special Meal (Luke 22:14-20)

Session 5 - Jesus Makes a Promise (Matthew 28:16-20)

Be a part of a week that is filled with fun, Bible learning, recreation, crafts, science, snacks and so much more. Please let Pastor Joyce know if you'd like to join this short-term, ministry outreach team!



Winner, winner, walleye dinner.

Walleye Dinner Saturday April 21 seating times 5:00 & 6:30 pm

Meal includes: walleye, baked potato or rice pilaf, side salad or Korean seafood salad, beverage, and dessert. A \$12.00 donation benefits the church and community groups.

The Men's Group is asking for donations of crafts and baked goods to be sold at the event – let Jere Day know if you are planning on donating some items. Church members are encouraged to buy tickets for the 6:30 seating session.



United Methodist Camping Brochures

They are on the table in the gathering space. Find out about the many opportunities of camping for various interests for all ages and even families! Employment for those 18+ is also available through our camping program visit the web site www.campminnesota.org and click on summer employment if you're interested.

High Tea - Wednesday May 2nd, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Milaca UMC is the place to be for a delicious afternoon tea. A tempting and tasty variety of sweet and savory treats will be served. A freewill offering will be received to benefit local charitable groups. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women.





Guardian Angels Elim Hospice is looking for volunteers to bring the power of presence and community to hospice patients in your area. If you have some time and are able to pray with, read to, or sit with a hospice patient, please call Rachel at [763-200-4652](tel:763-200-4652), or email at rtemplin@gaehc.org.

We also are looking for volunteers who are veterans, musical, or have a well-trained small dog for pet therapy. Feel free to email or call for more information.

Thank you, Rachel



Cascade United Methodist Church is pleased to offer a scholarship again, for the fifth year. The Cascade Christian Ministry Scholarships are given to persons who are admitted to a seminary or other religious education program with the intention of entering Christian service in the United Methodist Church. Members of any United Methodist Church within the Big Waters district of Minnesota are eligible to apply.

The scholarship application is on the table in the Narthex

Scholarship Fund

Catch the Spirit!

Saturday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m.
Gaylord United Church of Christ

Spirit 5

presents:

Free will donation accepted. Light refreshments to follow.

A Christian Vocal Quintet



Shannon Hruska, Rev. Dr. Woojae Im, Kyeong Mee Oh Im, Jere Day, Myla Tolmie

Gaylord United Church of Christ
318 Fourth Street, Gaylord

All are welcome here!



Spring is almost here, at least the calendar says it is. There is light snow in the air as I'm writing this.

March was the Methodist Church's month to serve coffee at the Elim Home on Sunday afternoons. I would like to thank the ladies that signed up to serve. Thank You!!

On Tuesday, March 13th we served the Women's Connection a brunch consisting of has brown pizza with sausage & eggs, topped with cheese, cinnamon bread and preaches with blueberries. They all enjoyed it very much and had lots of compliments. We served 59 ladies.

Wednesday, March 14th was our church's turn to serve Lenten Soup Luncheon. We served chicken wild rice soup, open face ham spread and cheese sandwiches and a vanilla /chocolate dessert. There were about 60 people served, including the workers. We made \$179.25 at Soup Luncheon and took money from our fund to make \$200.00 for the Food Shelf. Pastor Shirley led the service.

Thursday, the 15th we had lunch at the Dining Site with 8 ladies attending. After lunch we went to church for our UMW meeting at 1:00pm, we had 10 ladies attend.

We discussed the High Tea that is on May 2nd, a Wednesday. The committee will be meeting on April 9th to make plans.

Big Water Spring Gathering is April 21st in Brainerd at the Brainerd UMC. Reservations will be in the next newsletter from the District. Anyone interested contact Peggy or myself.

Graduation Sunday is early this year so we are having it on Sunday, May 13th. They graduate on May 18th.

The Circles meet in April and May and our June UMC meeting is a noon picnic lunch at Sue Olson's on June 21st.

Hope everyone has a Blessed Easter with family.

Audrey,
UMC President





Sunday, April 1st Easter Sunday

2nd – Grace Sarah Circle 1:00pm

4th – Milaca Ministerial Mtg 8:30am

Red Brick Learning 3-5:00pm

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

8th – Java & Jesus 6:00pm

10th – Women's Connection 1:00pm

11th – Red Brick Learning 3-5:00pm

12th – Church Council 6:30pm

18th – Red Brick Learning 3-5:00pm

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

19th – Mary Martha 1:00pm

21st – Big Waters Spring Gathering @ Brainerd

Fish Fry Prep starts 12 noon

Fish Fry 5-7:00pm

22nd – Newsletter Items Due

25th – Red Brick Learning 3-5:00pm

29th – Change Shaker Sunday

Mary Fuller has a new address:

C/O Ridgeview Place

1009 10th Ave NE, #224,

Sauk Rapids, 56379.

Phone # 320-217-2885.



Birthdays:

12- Lori Hoffman

14- Troy Gilbert

14- Hailey Stobb

28- Joyce Anderson Jr

29- Mary Fuller

Anniversaries:

19th—Lance & Melissa Gubrud



High Rise Meal

April 9th

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

Menu:

Lasagna, Italian vegetables, lettuce salad, garlic breadstick, raspberry parfait.