

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

December, 2018 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



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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!





December 2018 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.**

There are many events happening this season that will help you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – beautiful music & meaningful messages in worship, helping out at the "God's Free Gift" outreach event on Dec. 8th, contributing food/financial donations or personally helping at this month's Java & Jesus Christmas carol sing-along on Dec. 9th where we expect to serve many more folks than usual.

Make attending church part of your family's Christmas plans – there is no greater gift you can give yourself or them.

If you will be in Milaca on Christmas Eve let your family know how much it would mean to you for them to attend worship with you.

Plan your family Christmas Eve celebration to begin with, be filled in the middle with or end with, 4 pm worship here at Milaca United Methodist – make welcoming the Christ child more important than Santa.



Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><

December Worship Schedule



Special Music every Sunday During Advent

2nd – Communion; Sermon - “A Lasting Peace”

Special Music: 3 flutes - Dayna, Daniel,
Diane and Myla & Olivia

9th – Sermon – “Glories Stream - Joy.” Special Music: Myla

6:00 pm Java and Jesus – Carol sing-along

16th – Sermon – “Redeeming Grace - Love.”

Special Music: Youth Ensemble

23rd – Sermon – “Let Us Sing – Hope”

Special Music: Trilogy

24th – **4:00 pm** – Sermon “Calm & Bright”

Special Music: Dayna, Myla & Our Choir

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday December 24th at 4 pm

4 pm – Traditional service with many Christmas hymns, the choir will provide special music and concludes with a candlelight singing of “Silent Night.”



JAVA AND JESUS – Casual worship experience & free meal

Sunday December 9th

6:00 meal – Baked Chicken 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, Olivia and Pastor Joyce. Meals are provided by the Outreach Committee and members of the congregation.

Poinsettias to Decorate our Worship Space

Purchase your own Poinsettia's in red or white and bring them to church so they can be placed in the worship space before the service on Dec. 9th.



God's Free Gift – Saturday Dec. 8th 3 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, provide funds to purchase gifts, and share an invitation with a family who needs this outreach ministry. Families must let us know by phone by Dec. 2nd they are coming.



MACV in conjunction with Operation Homefront, Midwest Dairy, Walmart and local Veteran Service Organizations will be distributing Holiday Stockings plum full of toys to children of military families. The distribution will be held **Dec 15th from 10 AM to 3 PM** at Trinity Crossing in Princeton. Bring military verification, distribution is on a first come first serve basis and open to veterans in Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Isanti, Kanabec and surrounding areas!

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 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.*

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

From the United Methodist Women

Another month has gone by and it has been a cold one. I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving with family. Ours was very nice but different. All my children were together at granddaughter Mindy's. That was very special to me.

We served our monthly brunch for the Women's Connection on Tuesday, November 13. We served 53 ladies a wild rice chicken quiche, orange slices and cinnamon bread. It was very tasty. On December 11, we serve them a lunch after this meeting.

Wednesday, November 14th, Joyce S., Peggy and myself went to Britz in Buchman and checked on a stand for a convection oven and a new freezer. The salesman said our oven was too good to trade in so he would have a stand custom made. It will be 40 inches deep and 38 inches wide and 32 inches high. It will be \$1,313.00 plus \$3 a mile for delivery fee and it is 35 miles. The freezer is a stainless steel commercial freezer and is taller than the old one so the cabinet above will need to be cut in half. The cost of that is \$1,690.00 plus \$25.00 to switch door to the left hand hinges. We will be using memorial money for them and the balance out of the Salad Bar Luncheon money. It is ordered but we don't have a delivery date yet. The freezer will be defrosted next week and put in the hallway (plugged in). If anyone is interested in it, as it still works (the lock is broken), we will sell it for \$100.00. please let Joyce S. or myself know if you are interested.

Our UMW meeting was Thursday, November 15, at 1:00 p.m. We will be giving Poinsettias to the elderly again this year. Betty A. is ordering them and maybe also delivering them. Also, we are giving \$200.00 to Holiday Helping Hands this year. It was voted on and accepted that we keep the Salad Bar Luncheon at \$7.00 again next year. The same slate of officers was reinstated again for next year, 2019. We set the dates of events for next year and I will put them on the calendar for next year. Monday, January 21st is Prayer and Self-Denial Day at 9:30 with a brunch. We have tentatively set the UMW Sunday for Sunday, January 29, 2019.

Our next meeting will be on December 20th at church for our Christmas. Jeanette will furnish the meat and the rest will be pot luck at noon.

We served Vernon Quam's funeral on Friday, November 23rd. Our sympathy to the family of Vernon Quam.

On Sunday, November 25th, we served the food for Ralph's 72nd birthday. Happy Birthday to Ralph.

Have a blessed month of December.

Audrey



December Calendar Items:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| 1 st | 8:30 – 1:00 | Cookie Walk |
| 2 nd | 9:30 | Worship – Communion, Special Music: 3 flutes |
| 5 th | 3-5 | Red Brick Learning & Youth Group |
| 8 th | 3-5 | God's Free Gift |
| 9 th | 9:30 | Worship – Special Music: Myla |
| | 6:00 | Java & Jesus – Christmas Sing-Along Menu: Roast Chicken & Potatoes |
| 11 th | 11:00 | Women's Connection |
| 12 th | 3-5 | Red Brick Learning & Youth Group |
| 13 th | | No Church Council Meeting |
| 16 th | 9:30 | Worship – Special Music: Youth Ensemble |
| 18 th | 6:15 | Worship at Elim Home |
| 19 th | 3-5 | Red Brick Learning & Youth Group |
| 20 th | Noon | UMW Christmas Gathering at Church |
| 23 rd | 9:30 | Worship – Special Music: Trilogy |
| 24 th | 4:00 | Christmas Eve Worship – Special Music: Choir |
| 30 th | 9:30 | Worship |



Birthdays:

3- *Frank Crooms*

4- *Ryan Gilbert*

9- *John Hillcrest*

17—*Christie Barnes*

21- *Lance Gubrud*

28- *Cyndee Green*



Anniversaries:

27—*Larry & Dorothy Moe*