



# MILACA UNITED METHODIST



January, 2019 Newsletter

## Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



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Reverend  
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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!

**January 2019**

**From the Pastor:**

**When is the Epiphany and Twelfth Night?**

The Epiphany is on 6 January 2019, meaning that the Twelfth Night is on 5 January 2019.

**What is the Epiphany?** The Epiphany signals the official end of Christmas and marks the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. The name 'epiphany' is Greek and means

'manifestation' with the date itself being a celebration of God coming to Earth as a human in the form of his son. The date is also when the Three Kings (aka the Three Wise Men) arrived to meet the baby Jesus after following a bright star to Bethlehem and handed over their gifts of gold (to symbolize his royal standing), frankincense (to symbolize his divine birth) and myrrh (to symbolize his mortality). And in case you didn't know – frankincense and myrrh are both fragrances. Frankincense is a milk-white resin extracted from Boswellia trees and myrrh is a reddish resin from the Commiphora myrrh tree. The Three Kings, known as the 'Magi', are sometimes named as Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar. Some people suggest they are meant to represent Europe, Arabia and Africa.



**Why is it called the Twelfth Night?** In the olden days Christmas wasn't just a one-day event – it was actually celebrated for 12 days. This began on Christmas Eve, December 24, and was celebrated every day up until the Epiphany. January 5th was celebrated just as much as Christmas Day itself. This was the tradition from the medieval period up until the 19th century. While the Catholic Church marks the Epiphany for one day, many protestants mark 'the season of the Epiphany' from January 6 up until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. When marking the Epiphany season, the last day of the Epiphany is called 'Transfiguration Sunday'. The name of the celebration also depends on where you are. If you live in the Spanish speaking world, the Epiphany is known as Three Kings' Day – or – 'Dia de los Reyes.

**Epiphany traditions:** In some countries, like Mexico, a baby Jesus figurine is hidden in bread and whoever finds it must throw a big party. New Yorkers hold an annual parade with camels, puppets and floats at El Musea del Barrio. Meanwhile in Europe, children have been known to leave their shoes outside to be filled with gifts and leave straw out for the Kings' camels. Eastern Orthodox priests throw a cross into the sea in Bulgaria with men competing to dive in and fetch it.

## Join Us in Church For the Following Messages About Living Faithful Lives With Christ:

(Bring a friend – they'll be glad you did!)

January 6th – Communion, “Janus & Jesus”

based on Philippians 3:4b-14

January 13th – “God Didn't Say That!” based on Isaiah 43:1-7

6:00 Java & Jesus

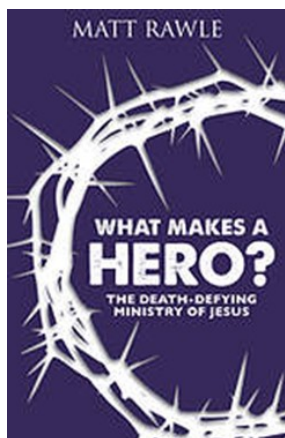
January 20th – “Steadfastlove” based on Psalm 36:5-10

January 27th – UMW Sunday, the Ladies will lead us in worship



## Upcoming 5 Session Lenten Study

### Begins 1<sup>st</sup> week of March



What Makes a Hero? offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Matt Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. In keeping with his theme, “Pop in Culture,” the book examines how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, exe-

cute justice, spark revolution, and save lives. Rawle enters the Gospel story to tell quite a different victory story—one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

Weekly Chapter/Session Titles:

1. Good, Evil, and God
2. Right, Wrong, and Holy
3. Us, Them, and the Body of Christ
4. Have, Have-Not, and the Kingdom of God
5. Old, New, and Covenant
6. Life, Death, and Resurrection

**Tuesdays during Lent at 10:30 am or 6:30 pm – beginning March 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign up on the sheets outside Pastor Joyce's office.**



## Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at FMSC

**Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:30-1:30 pm**

at the Coon Rapids location

We have agreed to send **15 volunteers** to work to pack meals for starving children around the world. Sign up on the sheet on the table in the Gathering Space.

### **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!*





## Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

**CONFERENCE CONNECTIONS** All United Methodist churches are connected through shared mission and ministry and united in their efforts to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. Check out these news tidbits from the Minnesota Annual Conference, which serves all 350 United Methodist churches in the state.

- North Dakota mission trip: July 7-13, 2019: The Spirit Lake Reservation, located in east-central North Dakota, is home to more than 6,000 people in several Dakota tribes. Those who call the reservation home live in extreme poverty and struggle with incessant flooding and an unemployment rate of over 43 percent. This summer, make it your family's mission to live life through service with them and join a conference-wide, intergenerational mission trip. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center offers comfortable accommodations and a variety of meaningful service work for volunteers of all ages as well as opportunities to engage with the Spirit Lake community and culture. Cost is \$200 per person, and registrations and deposits are due April 30. Learn more and register: <https://tinyurl.com/NDmissiontrip>
- Grants available for new ministries: "Micro grants" of up to \$2,500, available through the Minnesota Conference, provide one-time funds to congregations for programs and initiatives that help them grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world in new and creative ways. What dream could your congregation make into a reality with some funding? Which new thing is God calling you to try? Applications are due Jan. 31. Learn more and apply: <https://tinyurl.com/microgrant2019>

- Lydia Zion UMC starts bilingual service, reaches new people: The small church in the 50-person Lydia community started a weekly bilingual (English and Spanish) worship service in May 2018 that typically welcomes 20 to 30 people not previously connected to a faith community. And for the past year and a half, it's offered Wednesday night programming that includes dinner, faith formation, and worship. On an average week, 40 to 50 attend—many of whom weren't previously connected to a church. In the past few months, the congregation has had three new professions of faith. The success of the bilingual service and Wednesday programming has spurred lots of other new ideas: The congregation expanded its Vacation Bible School to offer special versions during Advent and Lent. Members started a new outreach called "Shepherd's Freezer" that provides meals to the elderly, working moms, and others who have a hard time cooking. And this summer, the church hopes to offer worship around campfires and in other places outside of the building to connect with new people who might be uncomfortable with a traditional church setting. "Everybody has the ability to be reached," said Rev. Larry Kasten. "I hope we're an encouragement to other congregations to see where God's leading."

#### STAY CONNECTED!

"Like" the Minnesota Annual Conference on Facebook, follow the conference on Twitter and Instagram (@MinnesotaUMC), and sign up (at [www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org)) for e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit [www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org).



## **From the United Methodist Women**

This year is about over and I hope 2019 is a better year. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas with all of your families. Mine was very nice with all the family together.

We had our Christmas lunch at 12 noon at church without our host Janette. She had surgery and is doing good. She is in the Elim Home for rehab and will be for 6 weeks or more.

A short meeting took place, also, and the convection oven stand and the freezer are here. The old stand and the freezer are both for sale for \$100 each. It was decided and voted on to purchase a new stove, which we will do after the first of the year.

January starts with our Women's Connection on Tuesday, January 15. We will be serving them something along the lines of an egg bake.

Monday, January 21st we are having our yearly Prayer and Self Denial meeting at 9:30 a.m. with a brunch followed by our meeting.

Sunday, January 27th is UMW Sunday and we will be planning that at our next meeting. It is time to pay our yearly dues and the beginning of the year when the officers are starting another year in their elected offices.

We are to serve Circle of Hope the first Thursday in February which is the 7th at 6:00 at Zion Lutheran Church.

Our circles have joined together so we are the UMW and we will be meeting every month on the 3rd Thursday at 1p.m. at the church.

Happy New Year to everyone and see you next year.

Audrey



### *January Calendar Items:*

January 2	10:30 am	Area Pastor's Scripture Study at MUMC
January 2	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 6	10:30 am	Un-decorate the church
January 9	10:30 am	Area Pastor's Scripture Study at MUMC
January 9	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 10	6:30 pm	Church Council
January 13	6:00 pm	Java and Jesus
January 16	10:30 am	Area Pastor's Scripture Study at MUMC
January 16	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 21	9:00 am	UMW Day of Prayer & Self-Denial
January 23	10:30 am	Area Pastor's Scripture Study at MUMC
January 23	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 27		UMW Sunday
January 30	10:30 am	Area Pastor's Scripture Study at MUMC
January 30	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group





*Birthdays:*

*1- Tammy Stobb*

*12- Mitch Niesen*

*13- Jane Creecy*

*18- Jeff Stobb*

*19- Joshua Slostad*

*19- Mary Smith*

*24-Bob Green*



*Anniversaries:*

*No anniversaries for January*

