



MILACA UNITED METHODIST



February, 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!



February 2019 From the Pastor:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

We celebrate Valentine's Day this month, a day when we're told that to show our love for our significant others means flowers and a mushy, romantic card. When Christian love and compassion for others takes root in us, it is expressed not on one day, but throughout the year and in actions, not just in words or feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward Christian love. Love is action. Grace is God's unconditional love for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

Jesus' new commandment to his disciples was simply this: Show your love. Love one another. By your loving actions, people will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action--packed love. The love Jesus wants his disciples to enter into -- not just to "feel" but to do -- is action-packed. And love in action is sometimes embodied by the simplest of compassionate responses.

Jesus urged his disciples to have love for one another so that "everyone will know that you are my disciples." The ability to love everyone -- even the most unlovable of sorts, has always been the test of the discipleship of love. After the crowds had stoned him, mocked him, spit upon him, screamed "crucify him," Jesus could still cry out in love, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us shining forth through the actions of our lives.

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><



Schedule for Worship in February

February 3rd – Communion, Praise Music Sunday

["Fake News - Fake in the Pews" Luke 4:21-30](#)

February 10th – "Side Hustle" Luke 5:1-11

Java and Jesus meal & service 6:00 pm

February 17th – "Your Cheatin' Heart" Jeremiah 17:5-10

February 24th – "Incidental Discovery" Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – March 6th – Service at 6:30 pm

Every Wednesday from 3-5 pm

Red Brick Learning & Youth Group



Children, youth and adults gather at the church each Wednesday afternoon for a healthy, filling snack; worship: which includes singing, scripture memorization & a Bible story; a time of learning; and recreation or games. We currently have about 5 children attending RBL, about 9 attending Youth Group and about 9 adult volunteers. Stop by some Wednesday to help out and see all the excitement!



Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at

Mark your calendar for **Saturday March 2nd from 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 sheet on the table in the Gathering Space.



There will be carpooling from the church and we usually get a bite of lunch following our packing session. Mexican food at La Casita is a favorite (right near by), but a new place would be great as well. Come join us and make a suggestion!



Prayer Chain Ministry Needs Members

This ministry has a long and important history with our church. The Pastor or church members contacts the leader of the Prayer Chain and makes a specific request for prayers. That request is written down (for accuracy) and passed to the next person on the chain. These prayer requests are kept private and confidential.

Why should you join this ministry?

- It's rewarding
- You bless others with prayer and peace of mind
- It's a ministry that anyone can be a part of regardless of physical capabilities
- It benefits our church family, the community and beyond
- It's an important thing you can help with
- It's open to men and women

Full instructions and a list of your fellow Prayer Chain members will be made available to those who join in this ministry. Talk to Pastor Joyce or Sue Olson 983-3497 if you would like to be a part of the prayer team.

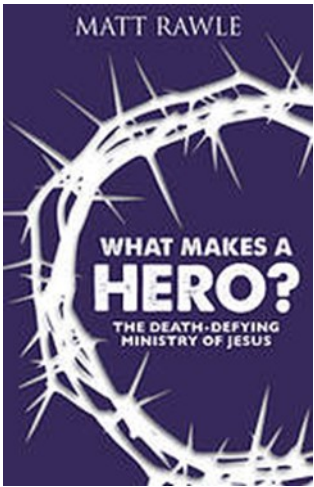


Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers

If you'd like to provide the flowers for Sunday worship – please sign up on the date you'd like to bring flowers using the whole year chart on the table in the Gathering Space. Then be sure to mark your personal calendar so you won't forget.

Upper Room Devotionals are available on the counter in the Gathering Space

Please feel free to take one to use at home for a daily time of devotional practice. There is a suggested scripture to read, a highlighted verse, a story from someone around the world, a prayer, a thought for the day, and a prayer focus.



Upcoming 6 Session Lenten Study

Begins 1st week of March – All are welcome!

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, execute 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 5th. Sign up on the sheets outside Pastor Joyce's office.

Sanctuary Heating & Cooling System

Please don't touch any buttons, switches, or slides on the thermostats in the sanctuary. The system has been pre-programmed to come on in advance of worship to warm the room, but sometimes well intentioned folks push buttons or slide the heat/cool lever to off and then the system can't come on to heat or cool the room. **If you need heating/cooling other than Sunday morning, please push the 3 hour occupied button only.**



Creating a welcoming atmosphere is everyone's mission!



Pastor Joyce and Jere Day attended a training event for hospitality and welcoming for new people at Elk River UMC a few years ago – what they learned is still very relevant.

Key points that were emphasized included the difficulty of inviting people to church and then making them feel welcome each time they come to church and not just the first time! It is stressed that this is not just a lay leader's job, Pastor's job or ushers and greeter's jobs, it is everyone's in the congregation to create a welcoming atmosphere every Sunday to every person present!

Once the church targets an age group of visitors we want to attract (un-churched young adults, young couples with children, youth, etc.) we need to find out what their needs are for worship, social connections, etc. and provide opportunities for them to grow into them. If it is classrooms or a room to themselves, or for their children we should try to provide this for inclusion into the congregation.

We should be willing to greet our guests in the parking lot as well as at the doors as just getting to the church may be stressful. If you see someone in the parking lot that you don't recognize – say "hello" to them and then walk with them into the building.

We can smooth the entrance into the doorway with a little help with the kids, the weather, or finding them a cup of coffee. You can make a difference by offering directions to the sanctuary, nursery, rest room or fellowship hall. Go one step further and invite them to sit with you for the service.

It is extremely important if you have a guest who sits near you or is sitting in your regular spot – to not say, "you're in my spot", but to warmly greet them and introduce yourself. At the end of the service take a minute and invite them to come to fellowship time with you. It's much less intimidating to walk into a room full of people with someone at your side from the group you're walking into. At fellowship is also the time to ask about them and their interests – perhaps they have an interest that is a ministry or something the church is engaged in already that they could become a part of.

Also remember to welcome people on their second or third visits – let them know you are glad they are here again and invite them into groups and activities.

We are working on a better follow up system because once we get visitors here 1.) we need to recognize they are here (talk to them, sit by them in the pews or at fellowship), 2. ask for an email address, or phone number to contact them later.

So, two things to remember: first - hospitality & welcoming others needs to be on-going, a part of our church DNA everyday! And second - all of us need to greet and keep doing it everyday, Sundays and at each event happening at church. Seek to make welcoming others your personal mission at MUMC.





Another month is over and we are getting our Minnesota winter. Hope everyone is keeping warm and not falling on the icy spots.

Our month started out by serving the Women's Connection on Tuesday, January 15th. We served them a new recipe of tater tot breakfast casserole, sliced peaches and blueberry muffins. It was a good recipe and everyone liked it. Lots of compliments. It was a smaller group of 49 ladies.

Monday, January 21st on Martin Luther King Jr. Day we had our yearly Prayer & Self Denial meeting with a brunch served by Joyce Stobb. Very good! There were 9 members and 18 guests attending. Our dues for the year were due and the offering went to help children, youth and women in need through the mission.

The new stove is here and installed and was paid for by cre, Sharing & Concern. Thank you. We used it for Christian Women and it works great.

It was decided to give less to the conference for dues as our membership is down from other years. We will be looking for new members in the coming months and anyone who is interested should contact any of the officers.

We planned our UMW Sunday service for Sunday, January 29th. Hopefully everything goes well and will also be giving two service pins to eligible people.

Coming up in February we will be serving the Circle of Hope on February 7th, the 1st Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church. We will prepare at our church that afternoon and serve at 6:00 at Zion. They have been getting up to 80 people.

Women's Connection is February 12 at 9:30 a.m.

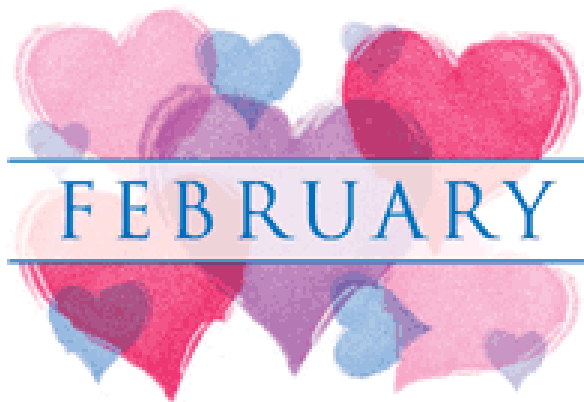
UMW Meeting is February 21st at 1:00 p.m.

Conference executive Meeting is February 23rd.

Myla bought the freezer. Jeff and Joyce took the stove.

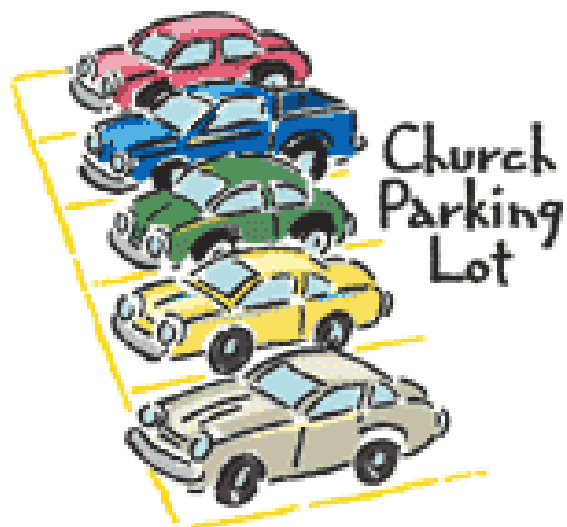
Until next month have a good month and Happy Valentines Day.

Audrey



February Calendar Items:

Feb 3	9:30 am	Worship – Praise Music Sunday, Communion
Feb 6	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
Feb 7	5:00 pm	We provide meal for Circles of Hope Group
Feb 10	9:30 am	Worship
	6:00 p.m	Java & Jesus
Feb 13	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
Feb 14	6:30 pm	Church Council
Feb 17	9:30 am	Worship
Feb 20	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
Feb 21	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting
Feb 24	9:30 am	Worship
Feb 27	1:30 pm	MUMC Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge & Swap
	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
March 2	11:30 am	Pack meals at Feed My Starving Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carpool from MUMC at 10:15





Birthdays:

- 1- Bill Nelsen***
- 8- Randy Walbridge***
- 10- Judy Stewart***
- 13- Pearl Jacobson***
- 17—AJ Coughlin***
- 20—Joyce Stobb***
- 26- Deb Cochran***



Anniversaries:

- 6- Jere & Linda Day**
- 11—Bill & Penny Nelsen**
- 19—Brad & Christi Barnes**
- 28—Phil & Joyce Anderson**

Senior Dining, February 21st

Cranberry glazed pork loin, parslied Irish potatoes, mixed vegetables, wheat bread and cookie.

