

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

March, 2019 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!



March 2019 from Pastor Joyce:

In the sense that Advent is about "anticipation," Lent is about "realization." Grasping the reality of Jesus' suffering and passion, and knowing that his compassionate acts of sacrifice were done personally for us, can be life changing for Christians. Lent is not about the future, as is the case in Advent. It is not about the past, either. Lent is about the personal impact Jesus is having on our life and behavior, right here, right now. It is acknowledging that there is a time of judgment for each one of us. This understanding calls us to our own "reality check," illuminating our selfish, materialistic, insensitive character. Over the drone of busyness, we can barely hear the call of God to "return" or to "draw near the throne of grace." This is a season to "get real and honest" in our relationship with God.



Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the transition from death to life, and from the darkness and despair of the Day of the Lord (Joel 2) to the light and hope of the Day of Salvation at Easter. We confront our own frailties and imperfections as we examine ourselves in the mirror of God's word. We see the reflection of arrogant hypocrites and hopeless sinners against the light of the Lord, who is justified in passing judgment. Even as we are on the verge of certain destruction, even then, God reaches out to us with both hands, calling us to return and to be reconciled. We meet the Lord in that secret place deep within each of us—our ashen, gray-black hearts—and in this encounter, our spirits become whiter than snow. We forgive and are forgiven, and begin to understand the extent of God's relentless affection for all.

Lent may begin with ashes, but it does not leave us on the ash heap. We move through a season of examining our spiritual lives, turning away from our sins and turning back towards God – this is repentance. We seek to grow deeper in our spiritual life. We move steadily onward with Jesus toward the celebration of Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Jesus Christ, God resurrects us from the dust and ashes, brings life out of death and makes us new creatures. The end of the Lenten journey is not death, but rather resurrection. With resurrection hope, this season remind us of a love that reconciles us inseparably with God. Ash Wednesday and Lent call us to turn back to the One who offers us all the living hope we will ever need. I encourage you to plan to join us for Sundays in Lent and during Holy Week for a time of deep worship and contemplation.

Blessings and See You in Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



Worship in March @ 9:30 am

- March 3rd – Communion, 1st Sunday in Lent
- March 6th – Ash Wednesday service @ 6:30
- March 10th – 1st Sunday in Lent -Praise Hymn Service
- March 10th – Java and Jesus 6 pm meal, 6:30 service
- March 17th – 2nd Sunday in Lent
- March 24th – 3rd Sunday in Lent
- March 31st – 4th Sunday in Lent

Don't be late for church on March 10!

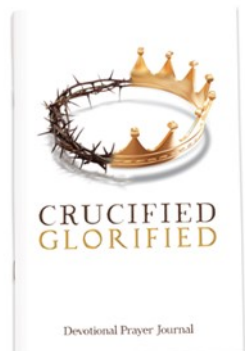
Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.



There will be NO Community Lenten Soup Luncheons this year.

Lenten Devotional Prayer Journal – found in Gathering Space

Please pick up your personal copy of the Lenten Devotional Prayer Journal that Pastor Joyce got for everyone at church. It has a short scripture for you to read from your Bible, a devotion, a prayer, and space to write your reflections.



Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers

If you'd like to provide the flowers for a 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.



Pastor's Fund

Pastor Joyce asked for some direction from the Church Council about use of the Pastor Fund – she and other ministers in town received a flood of similar requests in January & February and felt all those requests might not have been legitimate. We will use our funds to help persons in Milaca & Pease only. We are not able to help with car gas, or motel room requests. We will help with an overdue utility bill up to \$50.00 and the bill must be provided to be copied for our records. Recipients must provide proper ID which will be copied for our records. We will help persons/family one time per calendar year.

Milaca Food Pantry – March Drive = \$1500 from MUMC

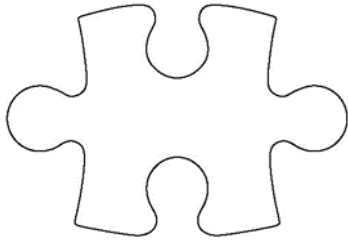
The Pantry always appreciates our food donations, but did you know they can buy three times as much food with your dollar donation than you can? Each \$1 raised will purchase enough food from Second Harvest Food Bank to provide 2-3 meals! The Pantry has set a goal of raising \$44,000 in March. The Church Council set a goal for our congregation of \$1500. The Youth will be making a poster to help us track our progress. Mark your check memo or envelope "Food Pantry" so the counters know where to credit your gift.



March & April issue is now available

Feel free to pick up a regular or large print version of this daily devotional. They are on the counter in the Gathering Space. This devotional is provided to our church by a financial gift of the United Methodist Women.

THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



Puzzle Challenge & Swap – March 10th at 1:30

Pick up a flyer from the table in the Gathering Space for all the details and to register your team or join a team at the event. You can also come and just puzzle recreationally and not compete. Bring any old puzzles that you'd be willing to swap for new ones. This event benefits the Milaca Food Pantry.

4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner

Sunday March 24th at 5pm

Come for an evening of fun and good food. See if you can figure out the mystery menu and if you'll receive what you think the menu clue indicates. This is an evening of great laughs for a good cause.



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.



March Calendar Items:

3 rd	9:30 am	Worship – Transfiguration Sunday, Communion
5 th	10:30 & 6:30	What Makes a Hero? Bible Study
6 th	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
9 th	9-3	4H Clothing Workshop
10 th	9:30 am	Praise Music Sunday
	1:30 pm	Puzzle Challenge to benefit Milaca Food Pantry
	6:00 pm	Java & Jesus meal & worship
11 th	9-4	Clergy Gathering with Bishop Ough in Brooklyn Park
12 th	10:30 & 6:30	What Makes a Hero? Bible Study
13 th	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
14 th	6:30 pm	Church Council
17 th	9:30 am	Worship
19 th	10:30 & 6:30	What Makes a Hero? Bible Study
20 th	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
21 st	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting
24 th	9:30 am	Worship
	5:00 pm	4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner
26 th	6:15 pm	Pastor Joyce leading worship at Elim Home
	10:30 & 7:00	What Makes a Hero? Bible Study
27 th	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
31 st	9:30 am	Worship – Children & Family focused



Birthdays:

1- Ed Bekius

1- Jim Fladmoe

2- Raymond Hoffman

8- Jim Coughlin

12- Laura Stobb

18- Garrett Hall

27-Jane Johnson



Anniversaries:

13- Vern & Delores Quam

