

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

April, 2019 Newsletter

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



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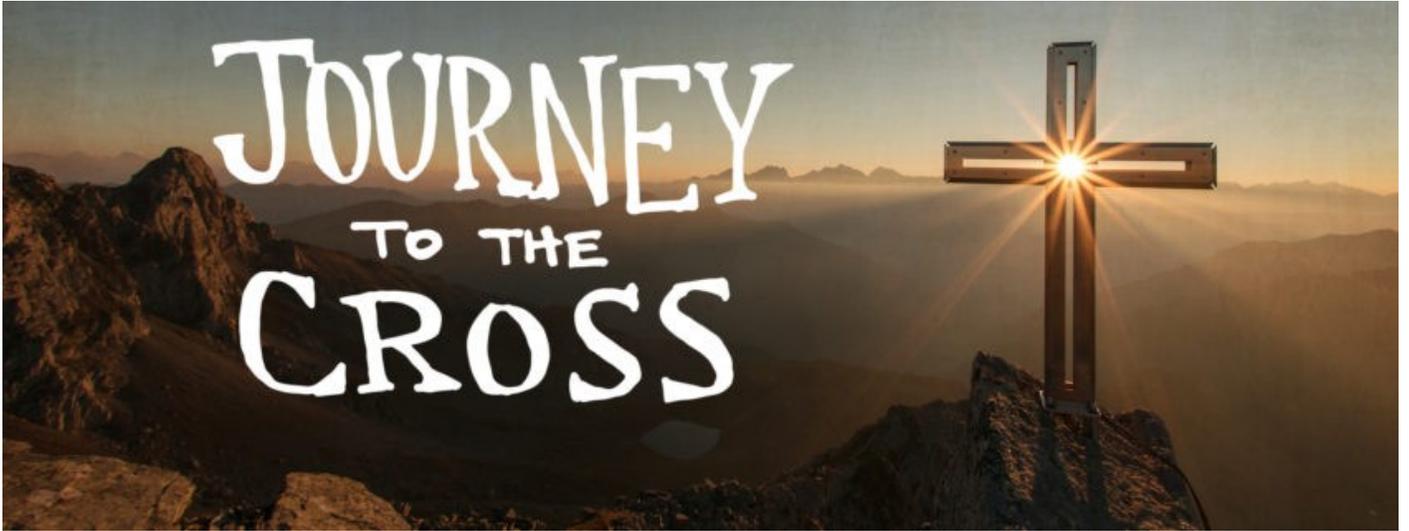
Reverend
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- Sunday Service
9:30am
- Coffee & Fellowship
Following Service
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- UMW
- Much, much, more!



Holy Week is, as suggested, the holiest week of the Christian year. It's also the busiest. The week starts on Palm Sunday with the commemoration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It continues on Maundy Thursday with a retelling of the story of the Last Supper, and Jesus' betrayal by a disciple. On Good Friday the church gathers to remember Jesus' death on the cross. And on Easter we proclaim the Resurrection, and celebrate the assurance that not even death could separate us from God's grace.

It's a long week with added church services that leave even those who gain renewed energy from worship tired at times. Clergy often take one of their vacation weeks the following week in order to recover. And we pastors, regardless if we admit it or not, know that when we announce the additional Holy Week services some people are groaning a little inside.

I get it. We're all busy. Sunday morning feels hard enough for many good Christians. Thursday night, after a long day at work, is even tougher. You just want to go home, have dinner, and either tackle the pile of laundry or have a few precious hours to yourself. You probably don't want to take the car out one more time, drive to church, and sit through another service.

To me, the most comforting part of Holy Week is not the waving of triumphal palms on one Sunday morning, or the flowers and joyous hymns on the next. It's what happens in between.

It's Jesus on Maundy Thursday sharing a table with the people he loved the most. It's him washing their feet, and showing that the mark of a true leader is whether they can serve others. It's Jesus still loving those disciples even though he knew that, at best, they would abandon him, and at worst, they would betray him. And it's Jesus in the garden, alone, heart-broken, and struggling between what he wanted to do and what he knew he had to do.

And on Good Friday, it continues. The world turns against him, and the ones who cheered his entry in Jerusalem instead cheer his death. He suffers. He calls out to a God who does not seem to answer. He doubts. He feels pain, and loss, and grief. And in the end he loses the life he knew.

I'm sometimes asked by those who are going through a difficult time whether God is angry when they have doubts, or when they wonder why God doesn't seem to be answering prayers. They ask if God understands when we suffer, or when we feel alone.

When they do, I point first not to the Christ of Palm Sunday or Easter, but to the Christ of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The one who lived as one of us. Who loved as one of us. Who doubted as one of us. Who suffered as one of us. And who died as one of us.

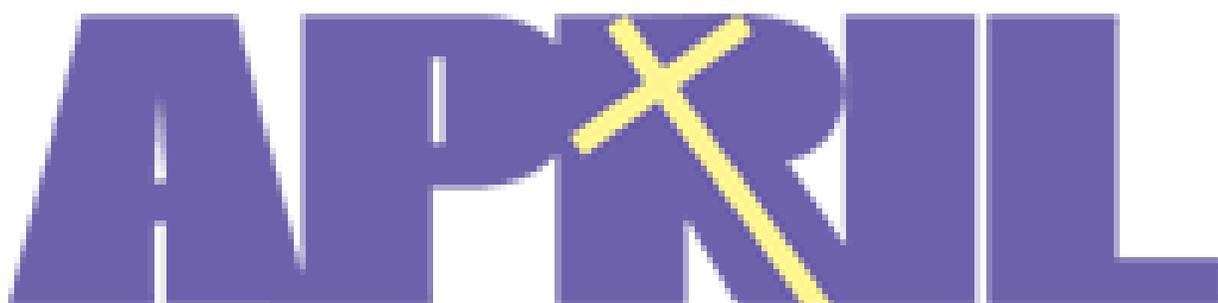
And only then do I point to the Christ who rose again, and overcame the worst that the world could throw at him.

I worry that we are forgetting the lessons of Holy Week. I wonder if we are losing that time we once had to sit with Christ in his own human struggles? And I wonder if when we lose that time, do we then lose our ability to learn to sit with others in their struggle, and with ourselves in our own?

But what would Christian life look like if we took that time? What if we became known not just as the people who knew what to do on Sundays, but the ones who knew how to stay with you when your life was falling apart, just as Christ asks us to do on Maundy Thursday? Or the ones who could stand by and still love and respect you even when you call out your doubts, as Jesus did on the cross? What would happen if we weren't just know for our Easter Sunday celebrations, but for our Thursday night solidarity? Our Friday afternoon compassion?

We have the capacity to be those people. We have it because Christ has called us to be those people. All we have to do is be willing to make the journey with him. Not just on Sundays, but on the days between. I hope you will join together as Christ's family as we Journey to the Cross through all the services of Holy Week – they are important to our spiritual growth.

Blessings & See You In Church!
Pastor Joyce





APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 7th – Communion Sunday, the story of Jesus' anointing, UMCOR offering

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS - HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 14th – Palm/Passion Sunday – 9:30 am special reader's theater worship

April 14th - Java & Jesus Worship – 6:00 meal, 6:30 service – bring a friend!

April 18th – Maundy Thursday 7pm – we'll share the story and actions of the Last Supper

April 19th – Good Friday – 7pm ecumenical service with Trinity & Zion **at Trinity Lutheran**

April 21st – Easter Sunday – special music and a resurrection message

April 28 – Holy Humor Sunday

Read Matthew Leading Up to Holy Week – Begin on 4/1

Day 1 – Matthew 1 & 2

Day 2 – Matthew 3 & 4

Day 3 - Matthew 5 & 6

Day 4 – Matthew 7 & 8

Day 5 – Matthew 9 & 10

Day 6 - Matthew 11 & 12

Day 7 - Matthew 13 & 14



Day 8 - Matthew 15 & 16

Day 9 - Matthew 17 & 18

Day 10 - Matthew 19 & 20

Day 11 - Matthew 21 & 22

Day 12 - Matthew 23 & 24

Day 13 - Matthew 25 & 26

Day 14 - Matthew 27 & 28

Easter Flower Garden

Orders must be in to Pastor Joyce by Thursday April 11th

Fill out the signup sheet on the table in the Gathering Space with your choice(s) and mark your check memo or envelope: Easter flowers, & place in the offering plate.



Lilies \$17 Begonias \$17 Cyclamen \$17 Mums \$19 Bulb Garden \$26

Be sure to write on the signup sheet if the flowers are in memory or honor of (names).

High Tea - Thursday 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. Please make note that we have changed the day from Wednesday to Thursday. This is to accommodate our Wednesday after school tutoring and youth group events.



Winner, winner, walleye dinner.

Walleye Dinner - Saturday May 4th - seating times 5:00 & 6:30 pm

Meal includes: walleye, baked potato or wild rice, side salad or Korean seafood salad, beverage, and dessert. A \$13.00 donation benefits the church and community groups.

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.



UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief

When disaster strikes around the globe UMCOR is there – because of you.

Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act. Don't be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name

That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded

When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded

When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded

And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes. Not "they." We.

Ensure the United Methodist Church Can Keep Helping

Will you continue to give to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)? Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster? **UMCOR Sunday – April 7, 2019.**

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said:
"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

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UMW March and April

Snow and more snow - freezing cold - makes a person wonder if spring will ever come!

The month of February started with the cancelation of both of the activities we were to serve; February 7th, the Circle of Hope and February 12th, the Women's Connection. It can quit snowing anytime -we have enough!

We met Thursday, February 21st for our monthly UMW meeting. There were 9 members and 2 guests. We made up the calendar month's meetings as to who was serving coffee and doing the program. We meet every month (except July and August) now that the circles have combined to one UMW.

The Methodist Church is serving coffee at the Elim Home during the month of March from 1:45 to 3:00 p.m. The home furnishes the treat and coffee and we help serve. We still need a few people to fill in on Sunday's. The sheet is on the table in the narthex. It can be youth, men and women to serve.

Arne Pearson and Jim Coughlin received the Service Appreciation pins from UMW on UMW Sunday. Congratulations on all that you do for the church.

March 23rd, 2019 is the day for prayer and giving to the Legacy Fund as the UMW is 150 years old this year. We sent in money for it out of our Mission's and UPC code account. Jeanette sent it in in January for us.

Peggy said that Minnesota has met their goal for making purple scarfs for the Conference in 2020 that will be held in Minnesota. Linda Jacobson (Bonnie's daughter) has made 50 scarfs for us. We made a motion to give her a gift card from JoAnne Fabrics for all her donations for the church.

March 12th we will be serving Women's Connection if the weather is better. We plan that next Sunday during fellowship time.

Saturday, February 23rd, Peggy, Joyce S. and myself went to Ogilvie for an executive meeting in preparation for the Big Waters Spring Gathering here at our church on April 26th and 27th. At our March meeting we will be making the plans for that gathering. It will take a lot of people so we maybe asking church members for help. This Spring Gathering is for all units in the Big Waters District. There is usually about 80 ladies that attend.

On March 12th we served the Women's Connection a hash brown pizza with sausage, sliced pears and cinnamon bread. There were 43 ladies that attended. A smaller group due to the weather.

Thursday, March 21st, was our meeting at church with 9 ladies attending. We are getting smaller and would welcome new faces to our group.

It was voted on to send \$100 to the Heifer Inc. quarterly as part of our mission work.

We changed the High Tea date from Wednesday, May 1st to Thursday, May 2nd. It is a busy time for us with the Big Waters district gathering on the 26th and 27th of April. Also the Fish Dinner on Saturday, May 4th which involves most of us for all events. We will be needing help from all of the church to help us. I will have information later as to who we will need to help. Keep the date in mind if you can help.

Have a good spring.

A big thank you to all who served coffee at the Elim Home this month. Thanks!

See you all in church.

Audrey Bowe





April Calendar Items:

- April 2 10:30 Hero Bible Study
- April 3 6:30 Hero Bible Study
10:30 Clergy Scripture Study at Trinity
3:00 Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
5 p.m. Children's Band Practice
- April 4 2:00 High Tea Meeting
- April 5 7:00 Youth Group Lock-In begins
- April 6 10:00 Youth Group Lock-In ends
- April 7 9:30 Worship – Communion, UMCOR offering
11:00 Choir Rehearsal
- April 9 10:00 Women's Connection
10:30 Hero Bible Study
6:30 Hero Bible Study
- April 10 8:30 Ministerial Meeting
10:30 Clergy Scripture Study at Trinity
3:00 Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
5:00 Junior Band Rehearsal
- April 11 6:30 Church Council
- April 13 10:30 Palm Sunday Rehearsal
- April 14 9:30 Palm Sunday Worship – Beginning of Journey to the Cross
11:00 Women's Chorale Rehearsal
5:00 Java & Jesus Rehearsal
6:00 Java & Jesus Meal & Worship
- April 17 10:30 Clergy Scripture Study at Trinity
5 p.m. Children's Band Practice
6:00 Women's Chorale Rehearsal
6:45 Choir Rehearsal

- 18 1:00 United Methodist Women Meeting
- 6:15 Women's Chorale Rehearsal
- 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship – Journey to the Cross
- 19 7:00 Good Friday Worship at Trinity Lutheran – Journey to the Cross
- 21 9:30 Easter Worship – Journey to the Cross
- 24 10:30 Clergy Scripture Study at Trinity
- 3:00 Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
- 26 6:00 Supper for UMW Executive Team
- 27 9:00 UMW Spring Big Waters District Meeting
- 28 9:30 Worship – Holy Humor Sunday



Birthdays:

12- Lori Hoffman

14- Troy Gilbert

14- Hailey Stobb

28- Joyce Anderson Jr



Anniversaries:

19th—Lance & Melissa Gubrud