

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

December 2019 Newsletter

Open Minds, Open Doors



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Reverend
Joyce Slostad



Milaca United Methodist
310 3rd Ave NW
Milaca, MN 56353
320-982-6325
milacaumc@gmail.com



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



December 2019 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. 14th – we hope to have some of those folks attend worship on the 15th – please be sure to be extra welcoming that day and Christmas Eve when we might have guests. You can also contribute food/financial donations or personally helping at this month's Java & Jesus Christmas carol sing-along on Dec. 8th 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 or a meal.

Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><



December Worship Schedule



Special Music every Sunday During Advent

1st – Communion, special music: Hailey Stobb

8th – Special Music: Barb Dunn

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

15th – Children & Youth Christmas Program

22rd – Special Music: Choir

24th – **4:00 pm** – Special Music: Choir

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday 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 8th

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

Cookie Walk

THIS WEEK

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7th from 8:30 am – 1 pm

Schedule for the week:

Thursday – all day - drop off your items: crafts, cookies, goodies & treasures. Men will move tables in the am.

Friday – 9:00 til finished – decorating up rooms, making up cookie containers, pricing items, displaying items – basically getting everything ready for Saturday.

Saturday – arrive by 8:00 am or the time you signed up to help, if later in the day.

Finish making your 12 dozen cookies, and we appreciate any candies, breads and other goodies. We need cookies and goodies from everyone at church this year to make up for those folks we've lost.

Set aside some jars of jelly, jam, preserves, salsa, sauce and pickles.

Check your closets, attics & basements for new or gently used items for our treasures room.

Also, if you are a crafter we will gladly accept any of your projects.

Reminder there is an absolutely beautiful, pastel multi - colored queen size quilt with a light blue backing, that will be raffled. Look for it on display.

Be sure to invite your friends to meet you at the Milaca United Methodist Church for a day of Christmas cheer and shopping. Coffee and cinnamon rolls are available in the morning and a luncheon will also be served.



God's Free Gift – Saturday Dec. 14th 1 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, have a family picture taken in front of the tree, and they will be given a religious ornament and an invitation to come to the 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 per child – family maximum of 16 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 is our biggest need – helping children shop or wrapping their gifts, provide Christmas gift bags, 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 Tuesday Dec. 10th that they are coming.



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. 15th.



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

UMW

We finally got some much needed sunshine!!

November started with our monthly serving brunch to the Women's connection on Tuesday, November 12th. We served 52 ladies a Denver breakfast casserole, garlic toast and apple with caramel sauce. Their attendance has increased this fall.

We were to have election of officers but didn't have enough ladies to vote so it stays the same for another year. There was only 6 ladies present so we're getting smaller all the time. Any Methodist women are welcome to come to our meetings and you don't have to join. All are welcome. Our December meeting is a Christmas pot luck at church at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 19.

We set up our calendar of events for 2020. We gave \$200.00 to Holiday Helping Hands again this year. Our January meeting is on Martin Luther King Day Monday, January 20th at 9:30 a.m. It is our Prayer & Self-Denial day, also.

Keep saving your Teal's receipts & UPC codes from Our Family products. Also we are saving the stamps for the glass storage containers from Teal's. Jeanette is collecting the full sheets of stamps. Thanks!

Sunday, January 26th will be our yearly UMW Sunday. Any ladies that would like to be of help that day contact Joyce Stobb or myself (Audrey). All volunteers are welcome.

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving with family.

God's blessings,

Audrey



December Calendar Items:

1 st	9:45	Worship – Communion, Special Music: Hailey Stobb
3 rd	10:00	Bible Characters Study with Pastor Shirley
4 th	10:30	Visitation for Ralph Koecher
	11:30	Service for Ralph
	3:00	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
5 th		Prep for Cookie Walk
6 th	9:30	Set up for Cookie Walk
7 th	8:30 – 1:00	Cookie Walk
8 th	9:45	Worship, guest musician: Barb Dunn
	6:00	Java & Jesus Christmas Program (Ham dinner)
10 th	10:00	Women's Connection Christmas Gathering
11 th	3-5	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
12 th	6:30	Church Council Meeting
14 th	11:00	Set up for God's Free Gift
	1:00	God's Free Gift Outreach Event
15 th	9:45	Worship – Children & Youth Christmas Program
18 th	3-5	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
19 th	Noon	UMW Christmas Potluck Gathering – all ladies welcome
22 nd	9:45	Worship – Special Music: Choir
24 th	4:00	Christmas Eve Worship – Special Music: Choir
29 th	9:45	Worship – Pastor Shirley preaching. Barb Dunn musician



December 2019



Birthdays:

3- Frank Crooms

4- Ryan Gilbert

9- John Hillcrest

17—Christie Barnes

28- Cyndee Green



Anniversaries:

27—Larry & Dorothy Moe