

MILACA UNITED METHODIST

January 2020 Newsletter

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!

January 2020

From the Pastor:

When is the Epiphany and Twelfth Night? The Epiphany is on 5 January 2020, meaning that the Twelfth Night is on January 4 2020.



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.

Now you know more about Epiphany!

Blessings and See You In Church!

Pastor Joyce <><

Pastor Joyce and Peter will be in New Orleans visiting their son Matthew from January 21-29. The United Methodist Women will lead worship when she is gone on the 26th. Pastor Shirley will provide for any pastoral care needs – Shirley can be reached on her cell phone at 218-750-0663.

Join Us in Church for the Following Messages About Living Faithful Lives



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

January 5th – Communion, “The Fault in Our Stars” based on Matt 2:1-12

January 12th – “What’s Your Why” based on Isaiah 42:1-9
6:00 Java & Jesus

January 19th – “Jesus and Airbnb” based on John 1:29-42

January 26th – UMW Sunday, the Ladies will lead us in worship

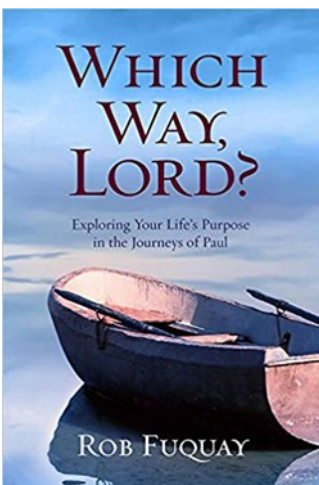
Updates About Recent Church Events:

The Cookie Walk grossed just under \$3900 – we'll keep you posted about net profit. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of this event.

God’s Free Gift Outreach Event – 20+ volunteers, 17 families represented & 43 children were able to give gifts to their families. Thank you to Care, Share & Concerns who out of the Cookie Walk proceeds funded this mission for a second year.

Bible Study Opportunities:

Pastor Shirley's **Bible study – People in the Bible** – resumes on Monday January 13th at 10am. Monday is a new day of the week for this study and new members are always welcome to attend anytime they can! Each week focuses on a different Bible character and we read the material in class.



A new study led by Pastor Joyce – **Which Way Lord?** The life and travels of the apostle Paul can help us find God's purpose for our lives. As Christians, we hunger to know and live out God's purposes for our lives. But how do we know for certain that our choices are moving us in the right direction? A 6-session study that will help you understand God's desire for your life by unpacking your experiences alongside those of the apostle Paul. Written by Rev. Rob Fuquay. Participant book \$10. I have enough books for 10 people to join.



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) for e-newsletters. For more information about any of the items listed above, visit www.minnesotaumc.org.

Hands On Mission Opportunity: Pack Meals at FMSC

Saturday February 8th 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!*

UMW

Happy New Year

I hope everyone had a blessed holiday with family. Ours was a very joyful day. There were 25 of us at my daughter Karri's in St. Michael, MN. Thankful and blessed to have most of them there.

December was very busy with the Cookie walk the first Saturday followed by Women's Connection on Tuesday December 10th. We always serve them a lunch for Christmas and there were 48 ladies served pork loin, applesauce, cheesy potatoes, garlic bread and pumpkin desert. We received a beautiful thank you card from them. They said they are looking forward to another year with us.

December 4th we served Ralph's funeral, so the first of the month was really busy.

We met on December 17th for our Christmas Pot Luck lunch with 13 ladies attending. We didn't have a regular meeting. Joyce Stobb handed each of us a monthly schedule of our meetings. We will be putting the dates on the calendar soon.

The dates for January are:

Women's Connection - January 14th at 9:30 a.m.

January 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Brunch Martin Luther King Day—Prayer and Self Denial day and pay our dues.

UMW Sunday - January 26th

We will be planning that on Monday, January 20th. Anyone willing to help with the service, please let Joyce Stobb or myself know.

I have a request; please do not bring unwanted kitchen items to the church when cleaning your cupboards. We will be cleaning the kitchen sometime in January and we will be throwing away items we do not use. Thank you.

Also, all committees that serve meals etc. please take your leftovers home or divide them up with the workers. The refrigerator and freezer hold things that need to be thrown. Thanks for your cooperation in advance.

Blessings for the New Year.

Audrey

January Calendar Items:

January 5	10:00 am	Worship with Communion
January 8	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 9	6:30 pm	Church Council
January 12	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Un-decorate the church
	6:00 pm	Java & Jesus
January 14	6:15 pm	Pastor Joyce leading worship at Elim Home
January 15	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 19	10:00 am	Worship – Youth Praise Sunday
	6:00 pm	Ministerial Holiday Dinner at Pease parsonage
January 20	9:00 am	UMW Day of Prayer & Self-Denial
Jan 21-28		Pastor Joyce out of town
January 22	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
January 26	10:00 am	Worship – United Methodist Women Sunday
January 29	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group



Birthdays:

12- Mitch Nelsen

13- Jane Creecy

18- Jeff Stobb

19- Joshua Slostad

19- Mary Smith

24-Bob Green



Anniversaries:

No anniversaries for January