

# MILACA UNITED METHODIST

February 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





### **February 2020 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 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion "[Christianity 101](#)"

February 9<sup>th</sup> – "Rap Sheet"

Final Java and Jesus meal & service 6:00 pm

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Praise Music Sunday "Smartphones and the Smartcross"

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Traditional Music Sunday "Sharenting the Transfiguration"

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – 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 10 children attending RBL, about 12 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 Feb 8th from 11:30 – 1:30 pm** at the Coon Rapids location. We have agreed to **send 10 volunteers** to work to pack meals for starving children around the world. A sign-up sheet on the table in the Gathering Space.



There will be **carpooling from the church at 10:30** and we usually get a bite of lunch following our packing session. Mexican food at La Casita is a favorite (right nearby), 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 if you would like to be a part of the prayer team.



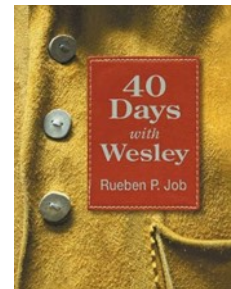
## **Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers**

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 Lenten Study – A Daily Devotional “40 Days with Wesley” by Bishop Reuben Job Begins in March (see days & dates below)



### All are welcome!

This engaging daily devotional weaves quotes and excerpts from John Wesley, the father of Methodism, with inspirational readings on faith and prayer from Rueben P. Job, well-known leader in spiritual formation. Each selection offers a simple daily pattern of reflection with a prayer, Scripture, and short readings that make this daily devotional an easy read. You'll also find that this book is wonderful for anyone who needs reassurance and inspiration.

These are daily readings that participants will do at home. When we meet once during the week we will review the previous 7 readings and participants will choose anything from those readings to bring to the discussion. Your readings will take you to Easter and our weekly meetings will conclude the week before Easter.

Even if you can't attend the weekly sessions – Pastor Joyce recommends this devotional for your personal use during lent and/or anytime. Please let her know if you would like a copy for yourself outside of the weekly group meetings.

**Tuesdays days during Lent at 7 pm – beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup> or  
Thursdays at 10 am beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 on the thermostat by the computer room (westside). Push the up arrow to 70 degrees on the thermostat by the furnace room (eastside).**







## 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 was 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, Sunday school rooms, 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.





## **Puzzle Challenge & Swap – February 23rd at 1:30**

**This event will benefit the Milaca Food Pantry**

**Calling all competitive folks and those that like to puzzle just for fun!**

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.

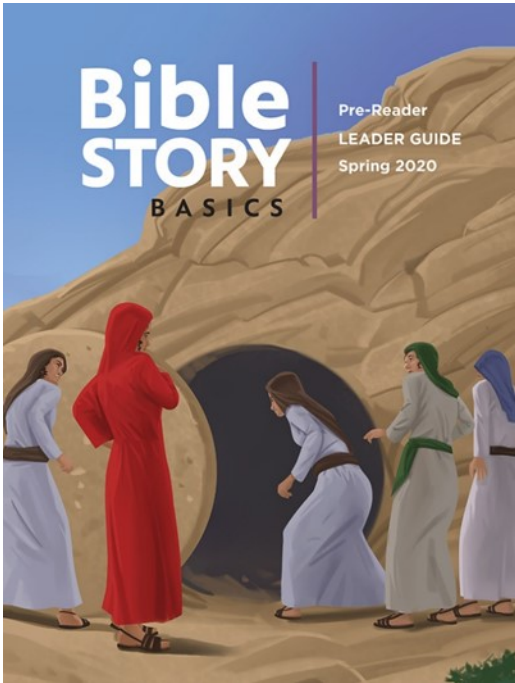
You can also come and just puzzle recreationally and not compete.

A team fee of \$15 will be collected from any team wanting to compete, this contribution will go to the Milaca Food Pantry.

Also, feel free to bring any old puzzles that you'd be willing to swap for new ones.

We'll have snacks, beverages, and fun for all ages.





## New Sunday School Curriculum Launch

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:15**

Introducing a new program for our Red Brick Learning kids, and children & families in the community - for children 3 yrs old through 5th grade.

Perfect for churches of any size, this three-year curriculum is easy to teach, Bible driven, and provides kids the basic tools for reading and learning the bible.

Please pray that God will show you someone you could invite to attend and personally invite them (this personal invitation is crucial) and take a flyer from the table in the gathering space to share the relevant information with them.

### BASIC PLAN FOR EACH CLASS SESSION:

#### **B**ible Beginnings

Welcome

Picture the Bible Story

Bible Puzzle

Bible Play

#### **I**nto the Bible

Time for the Bible Story

Open the Bible

Experience the Bible Story

Say the Bible Verse

#### **B**ible Connections

Animal Dance and Freeze

Abstract Creation Art

#### **L**ive the Bible

I Can Take Care of God's

Creation

Feed the Birds

#### **E**xpress Praise

Praise and Pray

Blessing





## UMW

I can't believe that January is over already. Seems like it just started.

We started January with serving our monthly Women's Connection on Tuesday, January 14th. We served 48 ladies brunch which consisted of Denver Breakfast Casserole, corn-bread muffins and cantaloupe with blueberries. They presented us with a card; "Joy to the World, Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a prosperous, healthy New Year."

Our January meeting was held on Monday, January 20th. Martin Luther King Jr. day at 9 a.m. It is our Prayer and Self Denial service. We pay our yearly dues and our donation for Prayer and Self Denial missions. The money goes to three groups; two in the USA and one in Africa.

We were unable to give Poinsettias at Christmas so we will be doing something for Easter for the shut ins and elderly.

It was a short business meeting and ended by planning our UMW Sunday January 26th. This will be our last year doing the complete service. Next year we will do everything but the sermon; greeters, ushers, reader and lunch.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 20th at 1 p.m. at church. Everyone is invited to go to the Dining Site for lunch at 11:30. It is our week to go to dining site as a church group. Mary Alley will be putting the information and sign up sheet on the table in the narthex in advance to sign up. They have new rules now that they need to know the exact number of people before the day so they have food. No walk ins anymore. Be sure to sign up to go for lunch. If the program stops the Meals on Wheels is also done!

Women's Connection, February 11th at 9:30.

UMW, February 20th at 1 p.m.

Until next month, see you in church. Happy Valentine's Day.

God's Blessings,

Audrey

## ALMOND CHEDDAR APPETIZERS

Takes: 25 minutes    Makes: about 4 dozen

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3/4 cup slivered almonds, chopped
- 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
- 1 loaf (1 lb.) French bread

1. In a large bowl, combine the mayonnaise and Worcestershire sauce; stir in cheese, onion, almonds and bacon.
2. Cut bread into 1/2 inch slices; spread with cheese mixture. Cut into slices; spread with cheese mixture. Cut slices in half; place on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Freeze option: Place unbaked appetizers in a single layer on a baking sheet; freeze for 1 hour. Remove from pan and store in an airtight container for up to 2 months. To use, place thawed appetizers on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes or until bubbly.

## February Calendar Items:

2	10:00 am	Worship – Communion
3	<u>10:00 am</u>	<u>Pastor Shirley's Bible Study</u>
5	8:30 am	Ministerial Meeting at King's Sparrow
	10:30 am	Pastor Joyce Hosting Text Study Group
	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
6	10:00 am	<u>"Which Way Lord?" Pastor Joyce's Bible Study</u>
	5:00 pm	We provide meal for Circles of Hope Group
8	10:30 am	Leave parking lot for Feed My Starving Children
9	10:00 am	Worship – New Sunday School Launch
	6:00 pm	Final Java & Jesus meal & worship
	10:15 am	New Sunday School begins
10	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
12	<u>10:30 am</u>	<u>Pastor Joyce Hosting Text Study Group</u>
	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
13	10:00 am	<u>"Which Way Lord?" Pastor Joyce's Bible Study</u>
	6:10-6:30 pm	Healing prayer Service
	6:30 pm	Church Council
16	10:00 am	Worship – Youth Praise Sunday
	11:30 am	Youth leave for overnight at Northern Pines Camp
17	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
18	10:30 am	Pastor Joyce Hosting Text Study Group
	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
20	10:00 am	"Which Way Lord?" Pastor Joyce's Bible Study
	1:00 pm	United Methodist Women Meeting
23	10:00 am	Worship – Traditional Sunday & Gideons will be here
	1:30 pm	Puzzle Challenge and Swap
24	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
26	10:30 am	Pastor Joyce Hosting Text Study Group
	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
	5-5:30 pm	Family Worship
27	10:00 am	"Which Way Lord?" Pastor Joyce's Bible Study



***1- Bill Nelsen***

***8- Randy Walbridge***

***10- Judy Stewart***

***13- Pearl Jacobson***

***17—AJ Coughlin***

***20—Joyce Stobb***

***26- Deb Cochran***



**6- Jere & Linda Day**

**11—Bill & Penny Nelsen**

**19—Brad & Christi Barnes**

**28—Phil & Joyce Anderson**