



# MILACA UNITED METHODIST



March 2020 Newsletter

## 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!

March 2020 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 – NOTE TIME CHANGE**

The congregation ballot voted on February 23<sup>rd</sup> that we would go back to a 9:30 worship time until we take another vote in the Fall as to whether we want to change back to a later time. The vote was 27 in favor of 9:30 and 17 in favor of 10:00.

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent “God’s Fasting Plan” Isaiah 58:1-9

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent “A Psalm for Slippery Slopes” Psalm 121

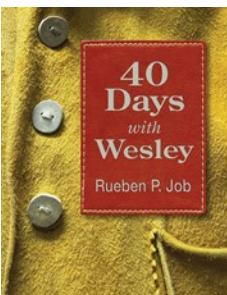
March 15<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent “Reflecting Redemption” Psalm 95

March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent “Profiles in Courage” 1 Samuel 16:1-13

March 29<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent “Lazarus Meet Winnie” John 11:1-45

## **Don’t be late for church on March 8<sup>th</sup>!**

Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night  
the 7<sup>th</sup>.



### **Lenten Study – A Daily Devotional**

#### **“40 Days with Wesley” by Bishop Reuben Job**

Begins in March - All are welcome to participate in study and/or just reading the daily devotional in the book!

Tuesdays days during Lent at 6:30 – 7:30 pm – beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup>

or Thursdays at 10 - 11 am beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Books are available on the table in the Gathering Space – cost is \$10

## 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.



## Change Shaker Collection = Pastor's Fund

Pastor Joyce gets direction from the Church Council about use of the Pastor Fund, which comes from your donations on Change Shaker Sunday – the last Sunday of the month. She uses those 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.



## 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.

## 4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner

**Sunday March 15th at 4:30pm**

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. Bring sure to bring your dollar bills to purchase silverware – just in case you don't figure out the mystery code to order one with your food choices.





## Prayer Chain Ministry Needs Members

This ministry has a long and important history with our church, but has been inactive recently due to deaths and folks moving. 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.



## Kitchen Cleaning & High Tea Planning

Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am

Anyone is welcome to help with a deep cleaning of our communal kitchen – this is not just for the women to do, but anyone can help.

About 10:30 - High Tea Planning

What will the menu be? What sweet or savory treats can you provide? This meeting is a lot of fun and it's exciting to hear what new recipes and ideas come up for us to try this year.



**The High Tea will be held on Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 5 pm**

## The End of We Fed Them

by Jere L. Day

We fed them music,  
We fed them food,  
Tried to change the mood,  
Give the homeless hope, peace  
Love and a safe haven.

For just a short time  
They stayed in our care,  
It never cost them a dime  
As we sang to their  
Troubles we never knew.

Java for lifting their body,  
Jesus for lifting their source,  
For a neighborhood embodied  
To make a lasting force,  
We fed them essence for life.

Some said it was good,  
Some said it's a matter of time,  
All wanted people in the hood,  
But soon the vision went blind,  
Then we fed them no more.

On vacation for awhile  
Java and Jesus may die  
Or arise in phoenix style,  
To fly high and show shy  
God's love conquers all.

Some lives were enriched,  
Some times of much joy  
In the noise of people reached  
A high decibel in the fray,  
God blessed all on those days.

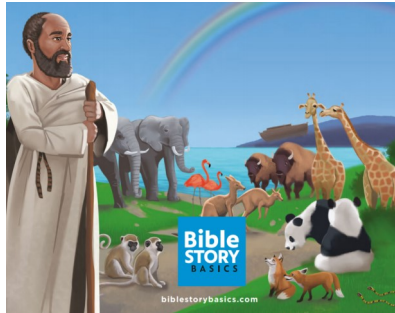


## MUMC Children and Youth News

February 29th, 2020

February 9th, 2020, we celebrated our **Sunday school launch**. The launch featured a new Nursery and two Sunday school rooms with brand-new rugs, cleaned, prepared and ready to go to receive our Young, blooming Christians. We also welcome our new Sunday school teacher helper Karen Wade. Sunday School attendance has more than quadrupled since our launch. Praise the LORD! With the new Sunday School curriculum, "Bible Stories", students learn the Bible stories, Bible songs, and what it means to be a part of church family, love the Lord your God, and follow Jesus Christ.

Please continue to invite children and young families to our church. Sunday school is every week at 9:30 a.m. with a wonderful Fellowship which follows.



MUMC Sunday School curriculum

**Red Brick Learning (RBL)** and **Youth Group** continue to be a success with about 20 students attending every Wednesday. This is also a quadruple in attendance from last year. Pastor Joyce started a **confirmation class** this month with six students.

This month we also welcome new teachers Olivia McGathey and Sandy Johnson, and two new helpers in the kitchen Arne Pearson and Bob Greene. Without ALL of our amazing volunteers, Red Brick Learning could not happen.

Last week we had our **RBL Family Worship** which is a special worship time for volunteers, students, AND parents. This occurs the last Wednesday of every month (March 25th, April 29th at 5:00pm are the last two of the year). January and February had an attendance of over 30 people! This worship allows us to bring the amazing good news of Our Risen Lord to not only students but also their parents! We encourage congregation members to also attend this special worship in order to help reach out to brand new Christians and make them feel welcomed. Come meet parents and show them your Christ-like, warm heart.

Thank you for all you do to serve God's children.

### Matthew 19:14 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



RBL Family Worship, February 26th, 20/20

## *March Calendar Items:*

1 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 am	Worship – Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<a href="#">10:00 am</a>	<a href="#">Pastor Shirley's Bible Study</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#">6:30 pm</a>	<a href="#">40 Days with Wesley Bible Study</a>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Which Way Lord? Bible Study
8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Worship
9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
10 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">6:30 pm</a>	<a href="#">40 Days with Wesley Bible Study</a>
11 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	40 Days with Wesley Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Church Council
13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Youth Lock-In begins
14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Youth Lock-In ends
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Worship – Youth Praise Sunday
	4:30 pm	4H Fundraiser Mystery Dinner
16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
17 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">6:30 pm</a>	<a href="#">40 Days with Wesley Bible Study</a>
18 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
19 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="#">10:00 am</a>	<a href="#">40 Days with Wesley Bible Study</a>
	1:00 pm	UMW Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 am	Worship
23 <sup>rd</sup>	<a href="#">10:00 am</a>	<a href="#">Pastor Shirley's Bible Study</a>
24 <sup>th</sup>	6:15 pm	Pastor Joyce leading Elim Home worship
	7:00 pm	40 Days with Wesley Bible Study <b>note time change</b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 pm	Red Brick Learning & Youth Group
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	40 Days with Wesley Bible Study
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Kitchen Cleanup & High Tea Planning
29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Worship
30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Pastor Shirley's Bible Study
31 <sup>st</sup>	6:30 pm	40 Days with Wesley Bible Study
April 5	9:30 am	Palm Sunday worship
April 12	9:30 am	Easter Sunday worship



## Men's Group News

On Tuesday February 2, 2020 the Men's Group met, with Jere day, Bruce Cochran, Dale Gilbert, Jim Fladmoe, Jeff Stobb, John Day and Frank Crooms attending. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss some tile issues, cleaning floors, storage and arrangement of rooms concerns, roof leaks and the fish fry for 2020. We agreed to keep the fish fry menu the same and the two serving times of 5:00 to 6:00 and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will use Teal's to purchase fish supplies and supplies as much as possible. We discussed raising price for dinner to \$15 and under 5 kids free. Next meeting will be March 4th, 2020 at 6:30 pm to discuss and plan food purchases, fish order, ads placement and purchase, and also signage, help and workers.



### *Birthdays:*

- 1- Ed Bekius**
- 1- Jim Fladmoe**
- 2- Raymond Hoffman**
- 8- Jim Coughlin**
- 12- Laura Stobb**
- 18- Garrett Hall**
- 27-Jane Johnson**



### *Anniversaries:*

*No anniversaries*