

One Voice: Generous God, in thankfulness we give back to you the first fruits of what you have given us. We offer these commitments to you and confirm our resolve to use our money as an important way we follow You.

Many Voices: We make these commitments so that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope, will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of Your love, of Your justice, of Your character, of Your mission, and of Your Kin-dom on earth. Bless these commitments so they may do even more than we can imagine! Amen.

Commitments of Treasure for 2024
47 commitments for \$172,712
That's \$35,000 more than 2023, a 25% increase!
Thank you for your generosity!

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer Accompanist
& Lay Reader

[Offering collected]

Many Voices: Life-giving God, every good gift comes from you. Accept and bless these offerings to further your way in the world. Amen.

Reading Scripture Lay Reader
Matthew 25:34-40 (The Message)
Reader: May God add blessing to the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

Many Voices: Amen.

Singing "Open Our Eyes" TFWS #2086

Proclaiming "Phenomenal Cosmic Power...lty-Bitty Actions"
Pastor Dave

***Singing** "Kings of Kings" (x3) TFWS #2075

Sending Forth Pastor Dave

Exiting Music Accompanist

**Stand if you are able.*

Leaders in Today's Worship Service

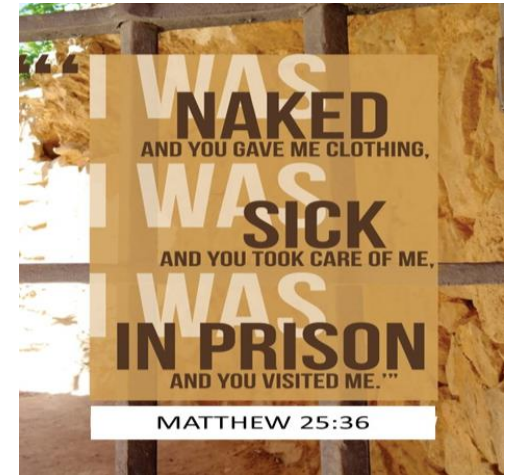
ACCOMPANIST: JILL KOHLER
LAY READER: GAIL GIRARD
SONG LEADERS: GAIL GIRARD & RUTH SATORIUS

**Minooka
United Methodist
Church**

**Rev. Dave Buerstetta,
Pastor**

**P.O. Box 819
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Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 26th, 2023

11:30AM

Matthew 25:34-40 (The Message)

34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'

37-40 "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Entering Music Accompanist
Welcoming Pastor Dave
Preparing Accompanist
***Gathering** Lay Reader

Reader: Together, let us give thanks to God!

Many Voices: We give thanks for the gift of nourishing food and the joy of gathering around a table together.

Reader: Together, let us give thanks to God!

Many Voices: We give thanks for all the times God has made a way out of no way, providing for us in body and spirit.

Reader: Together, let us give thanks to God!

Many Voices: We give thanks for the ways God weaves us together as a community of love and care, supporting one another in the ebbs and flows of daily life. We enter into God's presence with grateful praise!

***Singing** "We Gather Together" UMH #131

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Blessing Children Katrina Nolan

Singing "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" (x2) TFWS #2195

Praying Lay Reader

[silent prayer: In this time of silence may we move from busy-ness to quietness.]

Reader: It's a tough thing for us to learn, Jesus, how you hide in the most unlikely places. How you beckon us into life and compassion by disguising yourself in broken humanity. But, when our eyes are opened, we discover that we are never far from your heart, from your reign. So we ask you to show yourself to us again and lead us into prayerful action.

[quiet reflection]

Reader: Help us to share your grief when lives are needlessly lost simply because they have no money for food or shelter, because they have no access to medicine and care, because they have no choice but to live where war and violence constantly threaten. Help us to feel your anger when the least are exploited by the lust of those who are physically stronger, by the greed of those who are

financially richer, by the disregard of those who are politically more powerful.
[quiet reflection]

Reader: Help us to know your pain when what you have created is destroyed by the carelessness of expediency, by the short-sightedness of progress at all costs, by the sense of entitlement of privileged humanity.

[quiet reflection]

Reader: Teach us to welcome you, Jesus, by welcoming those in whom your image is hidden, and by working to make visible the world you imagine for us where all are welcomed.

[quiet reflection]

Our prayer continues as Jesus taught us, saying... [Lord's Prayer, UMH #894]

***Singing** "Give Thanks" TFWS #2036

Giving

Dedicating Memorials

[Memorials read]

One Voice: Gracious and Loving God, we dedicate these memorial gifts to you and ask you to bless them. May these memorials become tangible symbols of your presence among us, and symbols of the faith and love that inspire all acts of generosity and kindness.

Many Voices: We gratefully accept these gifts as a sacred trust. We will use them for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thank you to all who offer these gifts to our church in memory of their loved ones. Amen.

Memorials Received 2023 — \$9750

In Memory of **Linda Akerberg, Joann Malic, Tom & Phyllis McCoy, Gerry Pubentz, Aaron Satorius, Darlene Thornton, Arthur Webb**

In Honor of **Annetta Ackerman, Robert Ackerman, Diane Bobbitt**

Those Memorials provided:

Appalachian Service Project Youth Mission Trip

Ceiling fan for Ridge Road sanctuary

Plants, trees, and shrubs for Ridge Road landscaping.

Celebrating Commitments

[Commitment cards presented]

Open Our Eyes

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him,
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.

Bob Cull
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King Of Kings

King of kings and Lord of lords,
glory, hallelujah!
King of kings and Lord of lords,
Glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace,
Glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace,
Glory, hallelujah!
(Repeat x3)

Naomi Batya, Sophie Conty
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HYMNS

We Gather Together

Verse 1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Verse 2

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, was at our side, the glory be Thine!

Verse 3

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

CCLI Song # 5533732
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In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.
(Repeat x2)

Give Thanks

Chorus
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ his son. (Repeat)

Verse
And now let the weak say
"I am strong"; let the poor say
"I am rich because of what
the Lord has done for us." (Repeat)

Chorus
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ his son. (Repeat)

Verse
And now let the weak say
"I am strong"; let the poor say
"I am rich because of what
the Lord has done for us." (Repeat)

Ending
Give thanks, give thanks.