

When do Groups meet next?

Book Group -	Will not meet in December
Bible Study Advent Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 6:30PM
Faithtalk - Advent Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
Prayer Team Praying for your joys and concerns Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
Skeptic's Circle Meets at Starbucks in Channahon	Tuesday 01/14 @ 6:30PM
Youth Group 6th through 12th Grades Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 7:00PM
UWF Afternoon Circle Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday 01/13 @ 1:30PM
Grief Support Group Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 01/09 @ 12 noon

For more information about our groups please contact the church office.

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER	JENNIFER FERGUSON
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS	GAIL FLATNESS AND FAMILY
SONG LEADERS	GAIL GIRARD, RUTH SATORIUS & DALE LOCKWOOD

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS	ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS
LEAD PASTOR	REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA
OFFICE MANAGER	MELISSA CANDLER
MUSIC DIRECTOR	JILL KOHLER
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	KATRINA NOLAN

CHURCH CONTACT

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“Do the Good that is Yours to Do”



“Full Life in the Emptiest of Places” from A Sanctified Art

Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 15th, 2024 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 15th, 2024 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

Entering Music

Welcoming Pastor Dave

Preparing

*Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Gail Flatness and Family

Family: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?
Where do we start?
Many Voices: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!
Family: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

[Light 2 blue candles and the pink candle]

Family: May these lights remind us of what could be.
Many Voices: May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy. May it be so! Amen.

*Singing "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH #203 v1-3

Verse 1

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 15TH

8:00AM ADVENT STUDY
9:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP

MONDAY 16TH

TUESDAY 17TH

12PM ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY 18TH

12:00PM SENIOR LUNCHEON
4:00PM OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
5:00PM PRAYER GROUP
7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY 19TH

6:30PM ADVENT STUDY

FRIDAY 20TH

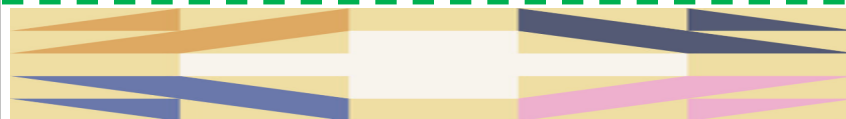
SATURDAY 21ST

6:00PM LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

~Tuesday, December 24th @ 4PM & 9PM—Christmas Eve Service

~Monday, January 6th @ 6:30pm—Special Church Conference



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

15 Wayne Dailey
16 Bob Pesack
16 Leslie Wzorek
19 Jay Hinds
19 Karina McGrath

16 Matthew & Christine Yenser
19 Levi & Kerrienne Nischke

Weekly Bible Studies

It is always a great time to join our Tuesday or Thursday Bible Study. For the month of December, both groups will be part of our Advent Study as we explore the texts and themes of the season through scripture, poetry, music, and art. Cindy White leads Tuesdays at 12noon. Jennifer Ferguson leads Thursdays at 6:30pm. All are welcome!

For all our studies: no prior bible reading or knowledge or expertise is needed. No question is dumb and no one is forced to read the bible in one particular way. We all learn as we go by exploring what the text says, what it leaves unsaid, what history and tradition tell us about the text, and how our own experience influences our reading. Hope to see you there!

Weekly Youth Group

Youth Group meets every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8 pm. We provide dinner and fun, meaningful activities for 6th-12th grade students. We are working on getting to know each other and building relationships. All our leaders are background checked and Safe Sanctuary trained.

We are in need of volunteers to provide dinner and a beverage for 10 to 15 people. You can sign up to bring a meal or to help with our Youth Group on the bulletin board located behind the sound booth. If you have any questions about our Youth Ministries, please contact Jennifer Ferguson or Pastor Dave.

Youth Group will meet Dec. 18th (Christmas Party). We will not meet on Dec. 25th or January 1st.

Thank You's

The Angel Tree is empty! Thank you for your incredible generosity in providing 78 presents and 49 gift cards for all 46 Helping Hands Food Pantry client families. **You truly are living our discipleship commitment to giving.**

Thank you for all the Shop with Scrip orders. Whether you bought them as gifts for friends or family, or bought them as Angel Tree gifts, or just bought them for your own everyday shopping—doing so with Scrip means you are also helping fund our summer Youth Mission Trip with ASP. Thank you!

Verse 2

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

Verse 3

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Conversing With Children

Praying

Lay Reader

Call to Confession

Reader: Friends—found family of faith, there are times when the weight of the world can feel so heavy on us. Fortunately, when we confess before God, God removes that weight. God sees our shame, our guilt, our sin, and offers us grace. So join me in the prayer of confession. Allow yourself to be freed; to begin again. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Many Voices: Liberating God, There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

[Quiet prayer]

Prayers adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Friends—found family of faith, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

Many Voices: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning.

[Quiet prayer]

Prayers for the World

Reader: Loving Creator, There are days when the world feels like it's on fire. There are days when we are inundated with bad news, days when we are up to our eyes in grief, days when we have reached the end of our rope. On those days, loving God, we reach for you. On those days, we return to this sanctuary. On those days, we light candles. On those days, we sing. On those days, we fight tooth and nail to hold onto hope.

God, hear our prayers: For wars that cannot find an end; for children who cannot find food; for teenagers who cannot find peace; for people who are lonely; for people spending their holidays in the hospital; for the tender challenge of every new beginning—draw near.

[Quiet prayer]

Reader: As you draw near, Womb of Life, remind us that we too can make a difference. Infuse us with hope. Swat away our insecurities. Drown out our doubts. Silence the fears that cage us and remind us that change always come from small acts of great love. So with hope in our hearts, we roll up our sleeves. With hope in our hearts, we strive to do the good that is ours to do. With hope in our hearts, we unite our voices in prayer, saying the words your son taught us to pray...[Lord's Prayer #894]

SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — JANUARY 6, 2025 at 6:30PM

Earlier this year our church Treasurer and the Finance Committee recommended the Board of Trustees consider selling our current parsonage. After many months of careful consideration and thorough investigation, our Board of Trustees believes that selling our current parsonage is the best course of action for the continued and continuing success of our mission and ministry, now and into the future.

The plan is to sell our current parsonage and purchase a newer home that is smaller, updated, more energy-efficient, and more cost effective, thus providing a good home for future pastors and their families. This proposal was unanimously approved by our Church Council. Further, this proposal has been evaluated and approved by both the Prairie South District Building and Location Committee and the Cabinet of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Meaning, Minooka United Methodist Church has received permission to sell the property located at 310 Massasoit Street in Minooka, IL. **The final step is to hold a church-wide vote at a Special Church Conference on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:30pm.** Please note: Per United Methodist polity, only Minooka UMC members are able to vote.



Grief Support Group

Our Grief Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 12pm in the Sanctuary. It is open to anyone grieving a death. Our next gathering is January 9th. Contact group leaders Karen Pubentz or Chris Vause with any questions.

Advent Advances

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, is the season of anticipation and longing as we await the incarnation of God in Jesus. Advent begins the three-fold season of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany that lasts until January 6.

Our overarching theme for these season, “Words for the Beginning,” connects our Advent experiences in worship, Sunday School, Youth Group, and adult small group Advent Studies. “Words for the Beginning” is inspired by the art of quilting—meant to feel like a blanket wrapped around you, providing warmth, comfort, and, when necessary, warning. Each week features a different quilt square on the lectern parament (the churchy word for the cloth that covers a lectern or altar). As the new quilt square goes up each week, the previous square is added to the art on our sanctuary wall, creating a Christmas tree of the squares.

This week’s quilt square features the cross in the center, symbolizing Christ’s impact. Surrounding the cross are individuals reaching out and shining their particular light in the world because we are each uniquely gifted, called, and equipped for the good that is ours to do in the world.

Advent Studies are short-term opportunities that are one of the best ways to grow our faith. This year the Advent Study explores the texts and themes of the season through scripture, poetry, music, and art. There is **no cost** to participate, all materials for the study are provided. There is **no homework** required. There is **no sign up** required (except for the class via Zoom). You can just show up at any class any week:

Sundays, Dec. 15 & 22 at 8:00am in MUMC’s classroom
Mondays, Dec. 16, & 23 at 7:30pm via Zoom (Contact Pastor Dave to sign up)
Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 12:00noon in MUMC’s classroom
Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6:30pm in MUMC’s classroom

Big THANKS to our Advent Study leaders **Kim Nave, Cindy White,** and **Jennifer Ferguson!**

*Singing

“Do the Good That’s Yours To Do”
(To the tune of “Good King Wenceslas”)

Verse 1

People came from all around Just to see the teacher
Living in the wilderness, speaking to the seekers
He had no pretentiousness; he would tell you bluntly
So they sought out his advice On how to live justly

Verse 2

“Tell me, John, what should I do As a tax collector?”
“Take only what’s yours to take; Don’t abuse your debtors.”
Soldiers, shepherds, fishermen asked him the same question
John responded all the same, “Share all your possessions.”

Verse 3

Some are called to offer care Some to exhortation
Some to hospitality, Some to education
All our gifts collectively work to bring salvation
Do the good that’s yours to do With determination

Reading Scripture

Luke 3:7-16 (The Voice)

Lay Reader

⁷ In fulfillment of those words, crowds streamed out *from the villages and towns* to be baptized by John *at the Jordan*.

John the Baptist: You bunch of venomous snakes! Who told you that you could escape God’s coming wrath? ⁸ Don’t just talk of turning to God; you’d better bear the authentic fruit of a changed life. Don’t take pride in your religious heritage, saying, “We have Abraham for our father!” Listen—God could turn these rocks into children of Abraham!

⁹ *God wants you to bear fruit! If you don't produce good fruit, then you'll be chopped down like a fruitless tree and made into firewood. God's ax is taking aim and ready to swing!*

People: ¹⁰ What shall we do *to perform works from changed lives?*

John the Baptist: ¹¹ The person who has two shirts must share with the person who has none. And the person with food must share with the one in need.

¹² Some tax collectors were among those in the crowd seeking baptism.

Tax Collectors: Teacher, what kind of fruit is God looking for from us?

John the Baptist: ¹³ Stop overcharging people. Only collect what you must turn over to the Romans.

Soldiers: ¹⁴ What about us? What should we do *to show true change?*

John the Baptist: Don't extort money from people by throwing around your power or making false accusations, and be content with your pay.

¹⁵ John's bold message seized public attention, and many began wondering if John might himself be the Anointed One *promised by God.*

John the Baptist: ¹⁶ I baptize you with water, but One is coming—One far more powerful than I, One whose sandals I am not worthy to untie—who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Verses 2

In all of Galilee, In city or village,
he goes among his people curing their illness.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Sing then of David's son, our savior and brother; In all of Galilee was
never another.
(Refrain)

***Sending Forth**

Pastor Dave

Exiting Music



Verse 4

Spared child, spoiled child, having wanting more,
Wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
(Refrain)

Verse 5

Hope for peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
Down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
(Refrain)

Giving Pastor Dave

Blessing our Offerings with Music and Prayer Lay Reader

Many Voices: God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. May our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously, and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that draw us closer to your kin-dom. Amen.

***Singing** "The King of Glory Comes" TFWS #2091

Refrain

The king of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates be-fore him, lift up your voices

Verse 1

Who is the king of glory; How shall we call Him?
He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.
(Refrain)

Reader: Listening God, We know that you are constantly speaking to us. Through music, scripture, nature, and relationships, you make yourself known to us again and again.

Many Voices: So in this moment, we are quieting the noise in our heads. We are leaning in. We are listening. We are doing the good that is ours to do. Speak to us through the chaos. Speak to us as only you can. With hope in our hearts we listen. Amen.

Proclaiming "Doing the Good that is Ours to Do" Pastor Dave

***Singing** "Star Child" TFWS #2095

Verse 1

Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain

This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone,
Everyone alive!

Verse 2

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
Hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
Sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
(Refrain)