

When do Groups meet next?

Book Group - "The Women" By Kristin Hannah	Monday 01/27 @ 7pm
Bible Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 6:30PM Meets next 01/09
Faithtalk - Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon Meets next 01/07
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 Meets next 01/08
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	THE FRANCISCO FAMILY
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS & SUSAN SPENCER
	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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ADMIN@MINOOKAUMC.COM	PASTORDAVEMUMC@GMAIL.COM

"Love Knows Your Name"



"Abolition Baby" by Nicolette Peñaranda

Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 4:00pm

**Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
Tuesday, December 24th, 2024 4:00pm**

* Stand if you are able

Entering Music

Welcoming

Pastor Dave

***Singing**

“O Come All Ye Faithful” UMH #234, v1&6

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Verse 6

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all the glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Lighting the Advent and Christ Candles

The Francisco Family

Family: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Many Voices: Let us begin with hope.

[Light a blue candle.]

~This Week at MUMC~

TUESDAY 24TH

4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
9:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY 26TH

OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY 27TH

OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY 28TH

SUNDAY 29TH

9:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY 30TH

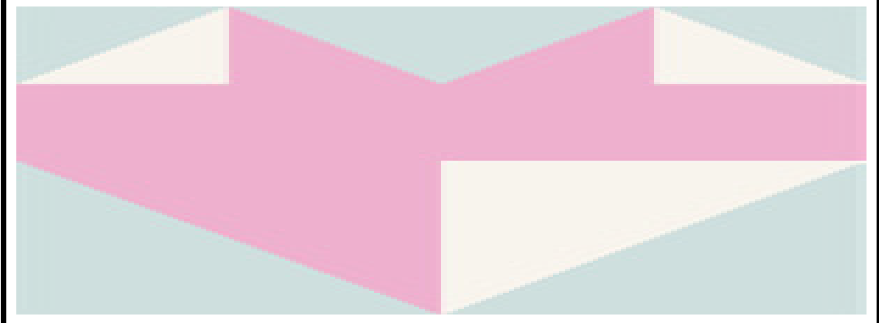
OFFICE CLOSED

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Church Office will be closed from

Tuesday, Dec. 24th through Wednesday, Jan. 1st



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. If you have any questions about our Youth Ministries, please contact Jennifer Ferguson or Pastor Dave. Youth Group will not meet on Dec. 25th or January 1st. See you January 8th!

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.

Chair Yoga

Join us for a relaxing way to start the year with gentle movement and mindfulness. We will gather for the first time January 6th at 11:15am and January 9th at 5:15pm.

What's Cookin'

A casual group of all ages and skill levels to share recipes, tips, and techniques, with January's meetings focusing on the art of making sauces. We will meet January 19th at 2pm and January 20th at 6pm.

Crafting Fellowship Circle

NEW! This monthly gathering welcomes crafters of all skill levels to socialize, share snacks, and create together from 9 to noon on the fourth Thursday of each month. Our first meeting will be January 23rd at 9am.

Skeptic's Circle

A discussion group that offers a safe space to explore questions and doubts about faith. It's a welcoming, judgment-free place to discuss topics that challenge traditional beliefs. We will meet January 14th at 6:30pm.

Many Voices: Let us begin with peace.

[Light a blue candle.]

Many Voices: Let us begin with joy.

[Light the pink candle.]

Many Voices: Let us begin with love.

[Light a blue candle.]

Family: Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name. Tonight, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle.

[Light the Christ candle.]

Family: For God is in this place; the Spirit is near; Love knows our names.

Many Voices: May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born. A light shines in the bleakness and the bleakness cannot overcome it. Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.

***Singing** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" UMH #240, v1

Verse 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on Earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

***Singing** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH #238, v1&3

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Verse 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Storytelling “The Colors of Christmas” by Matthew Paul Turner

***Singing** “Away in a Manger” UMH #217, v1&3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Praying Lay Reader

Call to Confession

Reader: Christmas Eve is one of the most joyful and hopeful days of the year. The candles are lit! The children are antsy with anticipation. The music is joyful.

It is a good night! But even here, on this good night, we know that we are works in progress. Even here, on this good night, we know that we could love more deeply. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because we have to, but because naming that truth out loud allows us to receive God’s grace. And God’s grace only makes a good night better. So let us pray:



Helping Hands Food Pantry: A Collaboration of Minooka UMC and St. Mary’s Catholic Church

We are currently serving 45+ families, more than ever before. After providing our Christmas Food Baskets and a little extra food to help out while the kids are on winter break from school, we need help restocking our shelves.

Some favorites we need are:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Pancake Mix and Pancake Syrup
- Pasta Sauce and Spaghetti
- Chicken Noodle Soup and Saltines
- Sugar
- ANY Nonperishable Foods

Items can be placed in the donation box in the south hallway. We appreciate your generosity! If you have questions, see Chris Vause or Jeannette Harris.

Church Office will be closed from Tuesday, Dec. 24th through Wednesday, Jan. 1st.

Pastor Dave will be on vacation from December 25th through December 31st. For a pastoral care emergency please contact Chris Vause.

Sending Forth

Exiting Music



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY

Tuesday, December 24 at 9:00pm: Christmas Eve service, “Love Knows Your Name”, with carols, candlelight, and Communion.

Sunday, December 29 at 9:30am: “Don’t Forget to Laugh”, with Certified Lay Speaker, Chris Vause and Jennifer Ferguson leading and proclaiming.

Sunday, January 5 at 9:30am: Epiphany Sunday, “The Road Isn’t Straight”, Communion.

In this most harried of seasons, we invite you to give yourself the gift of time and space for encountering the wonder of God’s love through the songs, prayers, proclamation, and silence offered in these worship experiences.

Prayer of Confession

Many Voices: Loving Christ, When the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels’ invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that. Instead, somewhere between the angels’ song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt the invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run.

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Family of faith, the angels are singing: unto you a child is born. It is a love that is personal. It is a love that knows your name. So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: You are a blessing. You are seen. You are claimed. You are forgiven. You are loved.

Many Voices: Glory to God in the highest heaven! Glory to God here and now! Alleluia!

Reader: All this we pray in the name of the Christ Child who would teach us to pray, saying...[Lord’s Prayer #894]

*Singing

“The First Noel”

UMH #245, v1-2

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

Giving Pastor Dave

Blessing our Gifts with Music and Prayer Lay Reader

Many Voices: Loving God, this night our hearts are full. May our response be generous. May our gifts be welcome. May our time and work bear fruit. Take who we are, what we can offer, and use us to share your love, born this night. Amen.

Sharing Musical Gifts Jaideen Agbayani & John Auclair

Reading Scripture Luke 2:1-20 (The Voice) Lay Reader

2 Around the time of *Elizabeth’s amazing pregnancy and John’s birth, the emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, required everyone in the Roman Empire to participate in a massive census—*² the first census since Quirinius had become governor of Syria.³ Each person had to go to his or her ancestral city to be counted.

⁴⁻⁵ Mary’s fiancé Joseph, from Nazareth in Galilee, had to participate in the census in the same way *everyone else did*. Because he was a descendant of *King David*, his ancestral city was Bethlehem, David’s birthplace. Mary, who was now late in her pregnancy that the messenger Gabriel had predicted,⁶ accompanied Joseph. While in Bethlehem, she went into labor⁷ and gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the baby in a blanket and laid Him in a feeding trough because the inn had no room for them.

⁸ Nearby, in the fields outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were guarding their flocks *from predators* in the darkness of night.⁹ Suddenly a messenger of the Lord stood in front of them, and the darkness was replaced by a glorious light—the shining light of God’s glory. They were terrified!

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

***Singing**

“Joy to the World”

UMH #246

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Reader: Prince of Peace, bless the reading, hearing, and living of these words. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath.

Many Voices: Amen.

Proclaiming “Love Knows Your Name” Pastor Dave

***Singing and Candle Lighting** “Silent Night” UMH #239

[As “Silent Night” is sung and lights are dimmed, Pastor Dave will light a candle from the Christ candle and then light the candle of the first person at the end of each aisle. As the light is passed down your row, keep the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle. Battery candles are available for children.]

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 2

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Messenger: ¹⁰ Don't be afraid! Listen! I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere. ¹¹ Today, in the city of David, a Liberator has been born for you! He is the promised Anointed One, the Supreme Authority! ¹² You will know you have found Him when you see a baby, wrapped in a blanket, lying in a feeding trough.

¹³ At that moment, the first heavenly messenger was joined by thousands of other messengers—a vast heavenly choir. They praised God.

¹⁴ Heavenly Choir: To the highest heights of the universe, glory to God! And on earth, peace among all people who bring pleasure to God!

¹⁵ As soon as the heavenly messengers disappeared into heaven, the shepherds were buzzing with conversation.

Shepherds: Let's rush down to Bethlehem right now! Let's see what's happening! Let's experience what the Lord has told us about!

¹⁶ So they ran into town, and *eventually* they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the feeding trough. After they saw the baby, ¹⁷ they spread the story of *what they had experienced* and what had been said to them about this child. ¹⁸ Everyone who heard their story couldn't stop thinking about its meaning. ¹⁹ Mary, too, pondered all of these events, treasuring each memory in her heart.

²⁰ The shepherds returned to *their flocks*, praising God for all they had seen and heard, and they glorified God for the way the experience had unfolded just as the heavenly messenger had predicted