

When do Small Groups meet next?

Book Group - "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans	Monday 04/28 @ 7pm
Lent Bible Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 6:30PM
Chair Yoga Meets at Minooka UMC	Mon. @ 11:15am
Faithtalk - Lent Bible Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
Additional Lent Bible Studies Meets at Minooka UMC Online via zoom—Contact Pastor Dave for Zoom details.	Sunday @ 8AM at MUMC Monday @ 6:30 & 7:30PM via zoom
Grief Support Group Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 04/10 @ 12 noon
Prayer Team Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
Skeptic's Circle Meets at Starbucks in Channahon	Tuesday 04/08 @ 6:30PM
United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday 04/14 @ 1:30PM
Youth Group 6th through 12th Grades Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 7:00PM

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

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER	KERRIANNE NISCHKE
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS, SUSAN SPENCER, KAREN GABA

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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"Everything [in] Between: Lost & Found"



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 30, 2025 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

March 30, 2025 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

PREPARING

*GATHERING

Reader: Our God is a shepherding God.

Many Voices: Our God knows us by name.

Reader: Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost,

Many Voices: then know that God is seeking you.

Reader: If you feel found,

Many Voices: then know that God will never leave.

Reader: This is the promise of scripture.

Many Voices: This is the promise of God's love.

Reader: Let us worship our with-us God.

*SINGING

"He Has Made Me Glad"

The Faith We Sing #2270

Verse

I will enter His gates
With thanksgiving in my
heart,
I will enter His courts with
praise.
I will say, "this is the day
That the Lord has made"
I will rejoice,
For He has made me glad.

Refrain

He has made me glad,
He has made me glad.
I will rejoice, for
He has made me glad.
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad.
I will rejoice, for
He has made me glad.

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 30TH

8:00AM LENT STUDY

9:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:50AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY 31ST

11:15AM CHAIR YOGA

6:30 & 7:30PM LENT BIBLE STUDY (VIA ZOOM, SEE PASTOR DAVE)

TUESDAY APRIL 1ST

12:00PM LENT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY 2ND

5:00PM PRAYER TEAM

7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY 3RD

6:30PM LENT BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 4TH

SATURDAY 5TH

****FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, THE SENIOR LUNCHEON WILL MOVE TO
APRIL 23RD (4TH WEDNESDAY) IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLY WEEK.****

****PASTOR DAVE IS ON VACATION APRIL 1ST THROUGH APRIL 5TH.**

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS VAUSE FOR PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES**

Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance March 23rd at MUMC

In person: 70; online: 18

General Fund Giving for 3/23: \$2,332.07

Total giving in all for 3/23: \$4,695.25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

30	Sean McCammon
2	Ruth Casagrande
2	Don Casagrande
3	Hailey Allgaeuer
3	Valerie Gunderson

26	Maurice & Shirley Davenport
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Come join us Sunday, April 13th at 12:30 to meet the Easter Bunny and participate in our Easter Egg Hunt and enjoy crafts and games at MUMC! This event is for the entire community and is sure to be a great time!

Help Make Our Easter Egg Hunt a Joyful Celebration!

As we journey through Lent, we have the opportunity to serve our community and share God's love in simple yet meaningful ways. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is not just a fun event—it's a chance to welcome our neighbors and invite them into the joy of Easter and Holy Week. We need plastic eggs, candy, and small prizes to make this event special for the kids. We also need volunteers to help with setup, egg hiding, and welcoming families. If you can donate or lend a hand, please sign up on the sheet in the lobby or talk to Katrina or Karen Gaba. Thank you for being part of this ministry of hospitality and celebration!

Update from the Helping Hands Food Pantry

The volunteer team and clients of Helping Hands Food Pantry are thankful for the donation of birthday kits for our clients which were sponsored by MUMC's United Women of Faith and assembled by our MUMC Youth Group. You should see the joyful faces when we provide one of these kits containing a foil cake pan, cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, festive paper plates and napkins to one of our clients! This is a wonderful way to share love and to celebrate the individuality of all who are served by the pantry. Helping Hands Food pantry is solely dependent on individual donations. A list of needed items is posted over the donation box in our lobby. Thank you, Church Family, for your generosity.

5th SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP THIS WEEK, MARCH 31st!

Our "1000 experiments for the gospel" continue this week as we try something new. Namely, extra baked goodies to encourage extra togetherness! On months with a fifth Sunday, stick around after the worship experience to enjoy talking over treats. Outreach Committee supplies snacks; you supply the conversation. This is a great opportunity to strengthen our found family by talking with someone new to you!

CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYING

Pastor Dave

[Quiet reflection]

Call to Confession

Reader: Found Family, in the Christian tradition many have used "lost" and "found" labels to describe people "out there" versus people "in here." Many have used "lost" and "found" language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Reader: If God is a painter,

Many Voices: let us be the brush.

Reader: If God is a musician,

Many Voices: let us be the song.

Reader: If God is an architect,

Many Voices: let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

Reader: But if God is a shepherd who never stops seeking,

Many Voices: let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

Reader: Our God is never far away.

Many Voices: Forgive us for forgetting this good news.

[Quiet reflection]

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Found Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found. We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves. We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Many Voices: No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

[Quiet reflection]

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

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

***SINGING** "Amazing Grace" UM Hymnal #378, v 1, 3-5

Verse 1

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

Verse 3

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Verse 5

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

INVITING friends or family to a worship service, small group, volunteer opportunity. Who in your circle of influence needs the good news of Jesus and the love and care of our wonderful found family of faith?

GIVING to MUMC's Good Samaritan Fund via Easter Offering
As is our tradition, we will collect a special Easter Offering. We will tithe (i.e. give the first 10% of that offering) to our Good Samaritan Fund that offers assistance to church members and community members alike who need help making ends meet. The remainder goes to the General Fund that makes all our ministry and mission possible.

GATHERING for HOLY WEEK Worship Experiences

Sunday, April 13 — Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:30am

Thursday, April 17 — Maundy Thursday,
Soup Supper Service 6:30pm

Friday, April 18 — Community Good Friday Prayer Walk,
10:00am, Channahon UMC

Friday, April 18 — Good Friday, 7:00pm

Saturday, April 19 — Holy Saturday, 7:00pm

Sunday, April 20 — Easter Sunday, 9:30am

The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99?
Who among you wouldn't look for the one?"
Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes.
Someone squirmed and looked at their palms.
Someone sighed and thought to themselves,
"This man doesn't understand the business.
What fool would leave 99 to look for one?"
But maybe God was not talking about us.
Maybe God was talking about
her own reckless love.
Maybe God was talking about
her own willingness
to turn the world upside down
for me.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

OBSERVING A HOLY LENT

We know *when* the season of Lent is: the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, not counting Sundays. We know *what we do* during Lent: prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week and Easter. But do we know *why* Lent is called ‘Lent’?

Frankly, the answer might disappoint you as it is not theological or ecclesiological. Rather, the English word ‘Lent’ comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means ‘lengthen’ and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

Interestingly, however, in many other languages, the word used for this season refers to the 40-day length of the season: *cuaresma* in Spanish and Tagalog; *carême* in French; *quaresima* in Italian. In still other languages, the word used for this season refers to the fasting that characterizes it: *Fastenzeit* in German; *fastan* in Swedish; *paasto* in Finnish; *posta* in Russian.

Whatever the name, we know the discipleship practices that help us observe a holy Lent, practices that embody our understanding of God as steadfast lovingkindness: **Opening, praying, gathering, serving, inviting, and giving.**

OPENING ourselves up to try something different this Lent

PRAYING through the Lent Devotionals

The devotionals are free and include prayers, poems, scripture, artwork, commentary, and questions to consider.

GATHERING for learning, growing, and caring in Lent Study SMALL GROUPS

Sundays, 8:00am at MUMC

Mondays, 6:30pm and 7:30pm on Zoom

Tuesdays, 12noon at MUMC

Thursdays, 6:30pm at MUMC

SERVING neighbors in need

Donating food, time, or funds to Helping Hands Food Pantry. Serving meals at Daybreak Shelter.

READING SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-7 (The Message) Lay Reader

¹⁻³ By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, “He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.” Their grumbling triggered this story.

⁴⁻⁷ “Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it—there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

Reader: Shepherding God, You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment.

Many Voices: Look for us. Then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we listen and we pray, amen.

PROCLAIMING “Everything [in] Between: Lost & Found”
Pastor Dave

***SINGING** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
UM Hymnal #381, v1-3

Verse 1

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Verse2

We are thine, thou dost befriend us,
 Be the guardian of our way;
 Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
 Seek us when we go astray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
 Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
 Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Verse 3

Thou hast promised to receive us,
 Poor and sinful though we be;
 Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
 Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
 We will early turn to thee.
 Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
 We will early turn to thee.

GIVING

Pastor Dave

BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER

Lay Reader

Many Voices: Gracious and Seeking God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Bless these offerings and bless our lives so that we may share your steadfast loving-kindness with our neighbors near and far. Amen.

***SINGING**

“Song of Hope (Canto de Esperanza)”

The Faith We Sing #2186

Verse

May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
 Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
 May the God of justice speed us on our way,
 Bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.

Refrain

Praying, let us work for peace,
 Singing, share our joy with all,
 Working for a world that's new,
 Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Verso

¡Dios de la esperanza, danos gozo y paz!
 Al mundo en crisis, habla tu verdad.
 Dios de la justicia, mándanos tu luz,
 Luz y esperanza en la oscuridad.

Estrillo

Oremos por la paz,
 cantemos de tu amor,
 luchemos por la paz,
 fieles a ti, Señor.

Verse

May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
 Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
 May the God of justice speed us on our way,
 Bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.

Refrain

Praying, let us work for peace,
 Singing, share our joy with all,
 Working for a world that's new,
 Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

SENDING FORTH

Pastor Dave

EXITING MUSIC