

When do Small Groups meet next?

Book Group - "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans	Monday 04/28 @ 7pm
Bible Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 6:30PM
Chair Yoga Meets at Minooka UMC	Mon. @ 11:15am
Faithtalk - Bible Study Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
Grief Support Group Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 05/08 @ 12 noon
Prayer Team Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
Skeptic's Circle Meets at Minooka Library	Tuesday 05/13 @ 6:30PM
United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday 05/12 @ 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	KAREN GABA
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS, SUSAN SPENCER, GAIL GIRARD
VOCAL ENSEMBLE	RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD, SUSAN SPENCER, DALE LOCKWOOD, GUS GEGUZMAN, & JENNIFER FERGUSON

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: Grief & Hope"
Easter Sunday**



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 20, 2025 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
Easter Sunday April 20, 2025 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

PREPARING "Every Morning Is Easter Morning From Now On"
Vocal Ensemble

*GATHERING

Reader: My dear found family, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today—

Many Voices: today we know hope.

Reader: Today we know life.

Many Voices: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Reader: Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Many Voices: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Reader: It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

Many Voices: Alleluia! Amen.

*SINGING

"Welcome"

Worship & Song #3152

Verse 1

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in,
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 20TH

9:30AM EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

MONDAY 21ST

11:15AM CHAIR YOGA

EASTER MONDAY—OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY 22ND

12:00PM FAITH TALK BIBLE STUDY

OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 23RD

12:00PM SENIOR LUNCHEON— *WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO TAKE RESERVATIONS FOR APRIL.*

5:00PM PRAYER TEAM

7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY 24TH

6:30PM BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 25TH

SATURDAY 26TH

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM THURSDAY 4/17 TO WEDNESDAY 4/23

Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance April 13th at MUMC

In person: 86; online: 11

General Fund Giving for 4/13: \$2,971.00

Total giving in all for 4/13: \$4,231.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

21 Kiera Wences
22 Lauren Bivens
23 Julie Geyer
25 Piper Gunderson
25 Eli Bivens
25 Brendon McGrath

23 Brad & Val Gunderson
24 Dick & Teri Parrish
24 Laverne & Johanna Spencer

Upcoming Events

- ◇ Senior Luncheon is this Wednesday. Thanks to your overwhelming response, we are full to capacity and no longer taking reservations.
- ◇ Don't miss "little Jesus" Sunday, next week, April 27th!
- ◇ There will be no Chair Yoga Monday April 28th
- ◇ Kids Book Swap, Saturday, May 3rd From 11am to 2pm. Bring a book and get a book.
- ◇ FatBoyz Pizza & Stuff Fundraiser (408 W Mondamin St.) Stop by FatBoyz May 6 –10 for dine-in or carryout and a portion of each pizza sale will benefit MUMC!
- ◇ **WE RAISE OUR VOICES TO END HUNGER**
1 in 10 people around the world go to bed hungry each night. Here in the USA, 1 in 5 children are at risk of hunger. We must be both pastoral and prophetic to end hunger. Plan now to raise your voice in an Offering of Letters during our worship experience on Sunday, May 11th.
- ◇ Plan now to participate in our Prayer Walk for Peace, Sunday, May 18th, at 11:30 am.



Verse 2

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,

Refrain

Singing welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

Verse 3

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its
voice,

Refrain

Crying welcome, welcome to this place
You're invited to come and know God's grace
All are welcome the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here; All are welcome in this place.

CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYING

Pastor Dave

Call to Confession

Reader: Faithful found family, today is a joyful day! If I were to ask you what parts of today's service feel joyful, you'd probably say the music and the flowers in the sanctuary. You might say the children's conversation or the crowded room. But it's unlikely that any of you would name the prayer of confession, because the prayer of confession has a reputation for being somber and serious. But perhaps the prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page. Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again. When we move closer to God, we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love. And my friends, that is joyful. That feels like Easter, doesn't it?

So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day. That joy doesn't stop here. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Reader: The Gospel of Luke writes: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles of the resurrection. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

Many Voices: Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

Reader: In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

Many Voices: Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you.

[Quiet Reflection]

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Faithful found family, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

Many Voices: God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia!

Reader: Our prayer concludes as Jesus taught us, saying...

[Lord's Prayer, UM Hymnal #894]

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

Verse 5

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

Verse 6

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

***SENDING FORTH**

Pastor Dave

EXITING MUSIC

In the Direction of Hope

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—
I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.

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

Pastor Dave: At their final meal together, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying:

Many voices: This bread is broken as my body will be broken. Remember me whenever you eat it.

Pastor Dave: When supper was finished, Jesus took the cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to his friends, saying:

Many Voices: This cup is poured out as my blood will be poured out. Remember me whenever you drink it.

Pastor Dave: May this bread and cup nourish our capacity for compassion and strengthen our commitment to community.

Many Voices: Amen!

[The United Methodist Church offers open Communion. That means all are welcome at this table. Today we serve by intinction: lightly dip the piece of bread into the cup then eat. Self-contained packets of bread and juice are also available. All the bread is gluten free. Walk down the center aisle to receive; return via side aisles. If you have mobility issues, we will bring the elements to you.]

***SINGING**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

UM Hymnal #302 v1,2,5,6

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

***SINGING**

“He Lives”

UM Hymnal #310

Verse 1

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, he's always near.

Refrain

He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

Verse 2

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that He is leading through all the stormy blast;
The day of His appearing will come at last.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find;
None other is so loving, so good and kind.
(Refrain)

READING SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:1-12

(Common English Bible)

24 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared.

²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. ⁵The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" ⁶He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words. ⁹When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. ¹²But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

Reader: God of Alleluias and empty tombs, in a world full of violence and oppression, of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song. Easter sings a song of hope; a song of new life. In a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope; help us hear this story of good news.

Many Voices: In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run barefoot to the tomb. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, amen.

PROCLAIMING "Everything [in] Between: Grief & Hope"
Pastor Dave

GIVING Pastor Dave

BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER

Lay Reader

Many Voices: Generous and Loving God, we gather in resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. Transform our offerings into acts of lovingkindness that bring hope in the midst of the world's grief. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Pastor Dave: On that first Easter morning when the women discovered the empty tomb, they told the disciples what they'd found. When Peter heard the news, he ran to the garden. He left the grief of the upper room, looking for a reason to hope. Found family, maybe you are like Peter, running to this table, hungry and longing for a taste of good news. Maybe you are like the other disciples, hanging back, arms crossed, tentative and unsure. Or maybe you are somewhere in between it all. This table is for all of you. Jesus, who walked this earth, healed the sick, welcomed children, and loved the outcast, welcomes you to this table. Bring your grief. Bring your questions. Bring your hope. Bring the messy middle of your life. Bring your faith and your dreams. Bring it all. For God meets us exactly where we are, smack-dab in the middle, with nothing but love. This Table is for all.

Pastor Dave: This Easter morning, we heard how the stone was rolled away and dare to believe that life is stronger than death and love is stronger than evil. Today we are full of hope. However, we know that not every day feels like today. Just two days ago, we walked the path to the cross; we remembered the cruelty and violence humanity is capable of. So on this hopeful day, and on those grief-filled days, Loving God, Womb of Creation, we ask that you would meet us here; in this room; in this community; and at this table. Roll back the stone as many times as it takes for us to see you. Call us by name as many times as it takes for us to hear you name us as beloved.