

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

CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER	CHRIS VAUSE
LAY READER	KIM NAVE
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS, SUSAN SPENCER, GAIL GIRARD

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: Righteousness & Mercy



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 6, 2025 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church

April 6, 2025 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Chris Vause

PREPARING

*GATHERING

Reader: We come to worship because we are in between:

Many Voices: hope and grief

Reader: faith and doubt

Many Voices: joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

Reader: So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Many Voices: Surely we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen

*SINGING

"Welcome"

W&S #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.

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,

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 6TH

8:00AM LENT STUDY

9:30AM SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:50AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY 7TH

11:15AM CHAIR YOGA

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

TUESDAY 8TH

12:00PM LENT BIBLE STUDY

6:30PM SKEPTIC'S CIRCLE (MEETS AT STARBUCKS)

WEDNESDAY 9TH

10:30AM PARK POINTE REHAB WORSHIP SERVICE

4:00PM OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00PM PRAYER TEAM

7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY 10TH

12:00PM GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

6:30PM LENT BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 11

SATURDAY 12TH

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

Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance March 30th at MUMC

In person: 65; online: 22

General Fund Giving for 3/23: \$2,241.75

Total giving in all for 3/23: \$3,376.75

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

6	Abigail Hong
8	Jack McGrath
8	LaVerne Spencer
10	Seth Satorius
11	Owen Ratulowski



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!

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Our Helping Hands Food Pantry is now serving 48 area families! We have a high need for protein-rich foods and monetary donations. Monies received will be used for milk and eggs. Any of these canned high protein foods are wonderful donations: tuna, chicken, salmon, Spam, peanut butter, baked beans, pork and beans, and pinto beans. We also need boxed spaghetti pasta and rice. Thank you so much for your continuing support of this ministry feeding our neighbors in need!

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. Contact group leaders Karen Pubentz or Chris Vause with any questions. Join us April 10th, at 12 Noon.

Skeptic's Circle

Questions about faith and the meaning of life can sometimes feel overwhelming. The Skeptic's Circle offers a welcoming space for open, honest conversation about the emotions, doubts, and ideas you might have been taught not to question. Our aim is to explore the big questions of life and faith, providing an environment where deconstruction and doubts are not only accepted but encouraged. We meet at the Starbucks located at Route 6 and Yellow Pine Drive in Channahon the second Tuesday of each month. Join us April 8th at 6:30PM.

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

Katrina Nolan

PRAYING

Chris Vause

[Quiet reflection]

Call to Confession

Reader: Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Reader: Merciful God, When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy.

Many Voices: When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right.

Reader: Again and again, bring us closer to you.

Many Voices: Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

[Quiet reflection]

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

When we fail to be righteous,

Many Voices: God is merciful.

Reader: When we fail to be merciful.

Many Voices: God invites us to try again.

Reader: Again and again,

Many Voices: God moves closer to us.

Reader: Again and again,

Many Voices: God shows us the way.

Reader: Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Many Voices: Amen.

[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** "Sanctuary" TFWS #2164 (x2)

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy,
Tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.
(Repeat)

OBSERVING A HOLY LENT

The early followers of Jesus observed with great devotion the final days of his life, his death, and his resurrection. So the season of Lent is the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter (not counting Sundays). We use that time to prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week and Easter.

As we seek to embody our understanding of God as steadfast lovingkindness, what practices help us pay attention to our relationships with God and with neighbor? 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.

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

Verse 1

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!

Verse 2

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!
(Refrain)

Verse 3

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God!
(Refrain)

Verse 4

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!
(Refrain)

SENDING FORTH

Chris Vause

EXITING MUSIC

READING SCRIPTURE Luke 19:1-10 (The Message) Lay Reader

19¹⁻⁴ Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn’t see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

⁵⁻⁷ When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home.” Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, “What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?”

⁸ Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, “Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I’m caught cheating, I pay four times the damages.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus said, “Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost.”

Reader: Week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you. Like Zacchaeus who climbed the tree to get a peek at you as you walked by, we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek of your goodness, of your joy, of your light.

Many Voices: So speak to us through these ancient words. Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here. Gratefully we pray, amen.

PROCLAIMING

“Everything [in] Between: Righteousness & Mercy
Certified Lay Speaker Chris Vause

***SINGING**

"Spirit Song"

UMH #347

Verse 1

O let the Son of God enfold you
With his Spirit and his love.
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
O let him have the things that hold you,
And his Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you
whole.

Refrain

Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus,
Come and fill your lambs.

Verse 2

O come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
O give him all your tears and sadness;
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.
(Refrain)

GIVING

Pastor Dave

BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER

Lay Reader

Many Voices: Generous God of love and grace, bless these gifts with your abundant love and your life giving grace. Bless us as we bear witness to your righteousness and mercy in all that we say and all that we do. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Pastor Dave: Loving God, we come to this table today longing for a new beginning. In a world that so often feels like it's ending, we crave the hope of a new beginning. We long to heal from the injustice and hidden prejudice of our hurting world and start again, rooted in your good news. So week by week, bit by bit, we return to your Word. Week by week, bit by bit, we return to each other. Week by week, bit by bit, we repeat the truths that we so often need to hear, trusting that by your mercy, it is never too late to start again.

So in the spirit of beginnings, we come to your table. Once more we ask that you would meet us here. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary meal, that in this bread and cup we may glimpse a new day. May the sight of everyone being welcomed at this table remind us that all are loved by you. May the evidence that there is food for all remind us that no one is meant to go hungry. May the fact that our own sin, shame, and doubt do not keep us from this table remind us that you welcome and love us as we are. May all of these communion truths serve as building blocks for a new day, for a new beginning. With hope in our hearts, we pray. With hope in hearts, we gather. With hope in our hearts, we begin again. Meet us here. Allow this joyful feast to be the start of something new.

Pastor Dave: On the night before he dies, Jesus took the loaf of 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: With thanksgiving we eat and drink; With joy we remember, and with Christ's inclusive love we gather together around this table.

Many Voices: Amen!