

## When do Small Groups meet next?

<b>Advent Study with Kim</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Sunday @ 8am
<b>Advent Study with Cindy</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
<b>Advent Study with Pastor Dave</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 7pm
<b>Book Group</b> - Book Group will not meet in December	Monday 1/26 @ 7pm
<b>Chair Yoga</b> Meets at Minooka UMC No Chair Yoga in January—Resumes February	Monday @ 11:45am
<b>Grief Support Group</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 01/08 @ 12 noon
<b>Line Dancing</b> Meets at Minooka UMC in the Fellowship Room	Resumes in February
<b>Prayer Team</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
<b>Skeptic's Circle</b> Meets at Brick & Ivy Coffee Co. 27754 Bluegrass Dr, Channahon, IL 60410	Tuesday 01/13 @ 6:30PM
<b>United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle</b> Meets at Minooka UMC	Not meeting in Jan. & Feb.
<b>Youth Group</b> 6th through 12th Grades Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 7:00PM

### LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER  
SONG LEADERS

CHRIS VAUSE  
RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD,  
SUSAN SPENCER

### CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS  
LEAD PASTOR  
OFFICE MANAGER  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

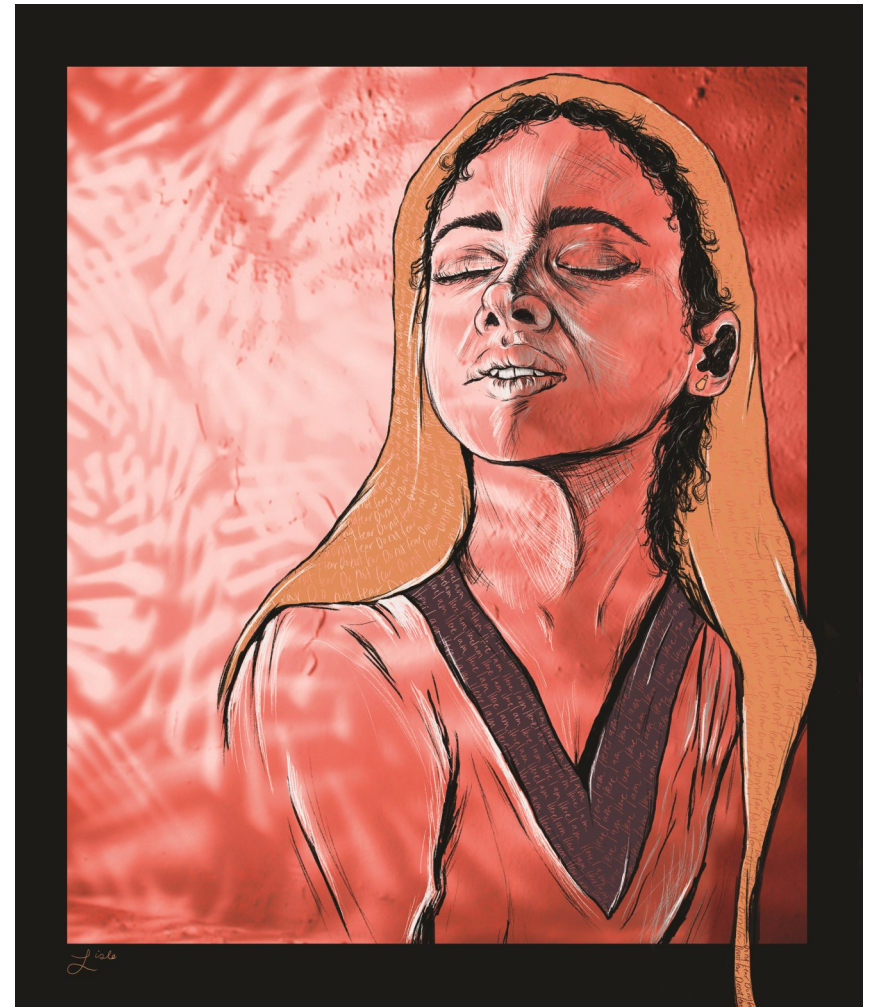
ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS  
REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA  
MELISSA CANDLER  
JILL KOHLER  
KATRINA NOLAN

### CHURCH CONTACT

PHONE 815-467-2322  
WWW.MINOOKAUMC.COM  
ADMIN@MINOOKAUMC.COM

PASTORDAVEMUMC@GMAIL.COM  
MUMCFINANCIALSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

## Called to...Fear?



"Mary's Yes" from Sanctified Art

## Welcome!

**Minooka United Methodist Church**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2025 9:30am**

**Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church  
December 14, 2025 9:30am**

\* Stand if you are able

**ENTERING MUSIC**

**WELCOMING**

Pastor Dave

**PREPARING**

**GATHERING & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Reader

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**Many Voices: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.**

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

*[Light 2 blue candles and the pink candle]*

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.**

**\*SINGING**

UM Hymnal #218, v1&3

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

**~This Week at MUMC~**

**SUNDAY 14TH**

8:00AM ADVENT STUDY WITH KIM  
9:30AM WORSHIP EXPERIENCE  
10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45AM CONFIRMATION COHORT

**MONDAY 15TH**

11:45AM CHAIR YOGA  
1:00PM LINE DANCING  
6:00PM CUB SCOUTS MEET

**TUESDAY 16TH**

12:00PM ADVENT STUDY WITH CINDY

**WEDNESDAY 17TH**

12:00PM "FOREVER YOUNG" SENIOR LUNCHEON  
5:00PM PRAYER TEAM  
7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**THURSDAY 18TH**

7:00PM ADVENT STUDY WITH PASTOR DAVE

**FRIDAY 19TH**

**SATURDAY 20TH**

6:00PM LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



**Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!**

**Attendance December 7th at MUMC**

In person total: 65 online: 19

**General Fund Giving for 12/7: \$9,798.04**

**Total giving in all for 12/7: \$10,218.63**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

15	Wayne Dailey
19	Jay Hinds
19	Karina McGrath

16	Matthew & Christine Yenser
19	Levi & Kerrienne Nischke

## ADVENT—CHRISTMAS—EPIPHANY 2025 at MINOOKA UMC

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, service, learning, and silence offered in these experiences. Weekly gatherings for **Chair Yoga**, **Prayer Team**, and **Youth Group** also meet this month. We hope to see you often.

**This Sunday, December 14 at 8:00am:** Advent Study with Kim

**This Sunday, December 14 at 9:30am:** Final day to turn in Poinsettia orders

**This Sunday, December 14 at 9:30am:** 3rd week of Advent worship experience

**Tuesday, December 16 at 12noon:** Advent Study with Cindy

**Wednesday, December 17 at 11:30am:** Senior Luncheon

**Thursday, December 18 at 7:00pm:** Advent Study with Pastor Dave

**Saturday, December 20 at 6:00pm:** Longest Night worship experience. For some of us this holiday season contains more sorrow or loneliness than it does joy or festive cheer. Tonight we honestly entreat God bringing our questions and even our despair. (Hence, this is sometimes called 'Blue Christmas' service.) We pray and sing together as we put our hope in Jesus' promise to always be with us.

**Sunday, December 21 at 8:00am:** Advent Study with Kim

**Sunday, December 21 at 9:30am:** 4th week of Advent worship experience

**Sunday, December 21 at 11:00am:** All Church Christmas Brunch

**Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm:** Christmas Eve worship experience designed especially for children and families with enacted stories, candlelight, and lots of carols.

**Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00pm:** Christmas Eve worship experience with carols, candlelight, and Communion.

**Sunday, December 28 at 9:30am:** Christmas season worship experience

**Sunday, January 4 at 9:30am:** Epiphany Sunday worship experience, celebrating Communion



## Verse 3

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

## CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

### PRAYING

Lay Reader

[Quiet prayer for centering and reflection]

### *Call to Confession*

Reader: Found family, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us confess together:

### *Prayer of Confession*

**Many Voices: Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope and we pray.**

[Quiet prayer for reflection]

*Words of Forgiveness*

Reader: No matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

**Many Voices: We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God’s call.**

[Quiet prayer for reflection]

*Prayers for the World*

Reader: Ever-Faithful God, you called Mary and Moses, Jeremiah and Peter. You have called ordinary people throughout all of time. You have called artists and activists, poets and prophets, teachers and healers—young and old alike. So as we move through this world, open our ears to hear your voice. As we move through this world, open our hearts to the invitations, the inspiration, and the nudges you place in our lives. As we move through this world, allow us to hear whatever call you have in store for us in this season. For no matter how big or how small, we trust that you are a calling, inviting, nudging, inspiring God who sees us in the best light. With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word, and, even if our voices shake, we pray together as Jesus taught us saying...[Lord’s Prayer UM Hymnal #894]

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

**\*SINGING**                    “Star-Child”                    The Faith We Sing #2095

Verse 1

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

## *The First Step*

Watch any parent. It starts with the first step.  
They kneel down. They smile with anticipation.  
They reach for their baby, calling and cooing them forward.  
And then before they know it, they’re running behind a bike. They’re yelling, “Keep pedaling! You got it! I’m right here!”  
And they’re jumping up and down, because that little red helmet passed the mailbox.  
And then, just like that, they’re driving circles in the church parking lot. They’re giving instructions about easing on and off the pedal. They’re having conversations about curfew and heartbreak.  
And then, before they know it, they’re standing in a hospital room. Their heart is bursting. And they say, “Put her head right here. Rock her gently. Do you remember the nursery rhymes? You were born for this.”

The first step is always the hardest,  
but you, beloved, were born for this.

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



### **HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS**

We have set another record and we are now serving 54 families. We are so grateful for your generosity making that possible. We are thankful that we are able to respond to increased hunger in our community due to the delay in SNAP benefits; however we are still in need of your help . Some items we are in need of are: complete pancake mix, pancake syrup, boxed potatoes, canned pasta (Spaghetti O’s, ravioli, etc), pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, and cereal. All food and toiletry donations are appreciated. Thank you!

**BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER**      Lay Reader

**Many Voices: Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these offerings to create good news for all people in need. We bring our offerings as expressions of joy. Amen.**

**\*SINGING**      The Faith We Sing #2091  
"The King of Glory Comes"

Refrain

The king of glory comes, the nation rejoices.  
Open the gates before 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)

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**

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)

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)

**READING SCRIPTURE**      Luke 1:26-39 (The Voice)      Lay Reader

<sup>26</sup> Six months later in Nazareth, a city in *the rural province of Galilee*, the heavenly messenger Gabriel made another appearance. This time the messenger was sent by God <sup>27</sup> to meet with a virgin named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David himself. <sup>28</sup> The messenger entered her home.

**Messenger:** Greetings! You are favored, and the Lord is with you!  
[Among all women on the earth, you have been blessed.]

<sup>29</sup> The heavenly messenger's words baffled Mary, and she wondered what type of greeting this was.

**Messenger:** <sup>30</sup> Mary, don't be afraid. You have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Listen, you are going to become pregnant. You will have a son, and you must name Him "Savior," or Jesus. <sup>32</sup> Jesus will become the greatest among men. He will be known as the Son of the Highest God. God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David, <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the covenant family of Jacob forever.

**Mary:** <sup>34</sup> But I have never been with a man. How can this be possible?

**Messenger:** <sup>35</sup> The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The Most High will overshadow you. That's why this holy child will be known, *as not just your son, but also* as the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> *It sounds impossible*, but listen—you know your relative Elizabeth has been unable to bear children and is now far too old to be a mother. Yet she has become pregnant, *as God willed it*. Yes, in three months, she will have a son. <sup>37</sup> So the impossible is possible with God.

**Mary (deciding in her heart):** <sup>38</sup> Here I am, the Lord's humble servant. As you have said, let it be done to me. And the heavenly messenger was gone. <sup>39</sup> Mary immediately got up and hurried to the hill country, in the province of Judah,

Reader: Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is.

**Many Voices: So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, Amen**

## PROCLAIMING

Pastor Dave

Called to...Fear?

## \*SINGING

UM Hymnal #213, v1-3

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

### Verse 1

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
Behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

### Verse 2

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

### Verse 3

Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
Our hearts to thee we open wide;  
Let us thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in us reveal.

## GIVING

Pastor Dave

