

When do Small Groups meet next?

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Book Group - Book Group will not meet in December | Monday 1/26 @ 7pm |
| Chair Yoga | Resumes in February |
| FaithTalk Bible Study | Resumes Tues., Jan. 6th |
| Grief Support Group | Thursday 01/08 @ 12 noon |
| Line Dancing | Resumes in February |
| Prayer Team | Resumes Wed., Jan. 7th |
| Skeptic's Circle Meets at Brick & Ivy Coffee Co. 27754 Bluegrass Dr, Channahon, IL 60410 | Tuesday 01/13 @ 6:30PM |
| United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle | Not meeting in Jan. & Feb. |
| Youth Group 6th through 12th Grades | Resumes Wed., Jan. 7th |

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| LAY READER | GAIL GIRARD |
| SONG LEADERS | RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD, SUSAN SPENCER |

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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Hold My Hand



"stay with me" from Sanctified Art

Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 21, 2025 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
December 21, 2025 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

PREPARING

GATHERING & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Lay Reader

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

Many Voices: We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

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

[Light all four candles]

Many Voices: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

***SINGING**

UMH #206, v1-2

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Verse 1

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 21ST

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

MONDAY 22ND

11:45AM CHAIR YOGA

TUESDAY 23RD

WEDNESDAY 24TH—OFFICE CLOSED

4:00PM FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00PM COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE



THURSDAY 25TH—OFFICE CLOSED

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

FRIDAY 26TH—OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY 27TH

DECEMBER 24TH THRU THE 26TH, AND DECEMBER 30TH THRU JANUARY 2ND, THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED TO OBSERVE THE HOLIDAYS.

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH.

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME MON. JANUARY 5TH.

Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance December 14th at MUMC

In person total: 50 online: 24

General Fund Giving for 12/14: \$7,135.94

Total giving in all for 12/14: \$8,560.94

When you're afraid,



Give me your hand

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

23 Annette McCammon
25 Gabriella Randich





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. We hope to see you.

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

THIS Sunday, December 21 at 9:30am: 4th week of Advent worship experience, “Hold My Hand”

Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00pm: Christmas Eve worship experience designed with children and families in mind, featuring a Pop-up Pageant: a fun, embodied telling of the Christmas story with a role for everyone present

Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00pm: Christmas Eve worship experience with plenty of familiar carols, candlelight, and celebrating communion

Sunday, December 28 at 9:30am: Christmas season worship experience, “Time to Send Them Packing” lead by Lay Speaker Kim Nave

Sunday, January 4 at 9:30am: Epiphany Sunday worship experience, celebrating Communion, “Fear Doesn’t Stop Us”

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS

We have set another record and we are now serving 60 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!

Verse 2

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteous, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYING

Lay Reader

[Quiet prayer for centering and reflection]

Call to Confession

Reader: Friends, every day we are given choices—the choice to be a friend, to be an ally, to extend a welcoming hand. Some days we choose wisely, but from time to time, we inevitably get it wrong. That is one of the many reasons we need the Prayer of Confession. In this moment of prayer, we are able to practice the art of forgiveness. So join me in this transformative moment. Join me receiving grace. Let us confess together:

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

Reader: When you were afraid, did I stay by your side? Did I offer my hand, or did I leave you alone? When you were afraid, did I choose solidarity? Did I see your fear, or did I only see mine?

Many Voices: Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too. So take a deep breath, and let’s start again.

Reader: Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Many Voices: Now we must ask— when you were afraid, did we stay by your side? Did we offer our hands, or did we leave you alone? When you were afraid, did we choose solidarity? Did we see your fear? Or did we only see ours?

Reader: Found Family, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too. So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Many Voices: Thank you. Your mercy is a gift. We accept your grace and would love to start again.

Reader: May it be so, with God's help.

[Quiet prayer for reflection]

Prayers for the World

Reader: Ever-reaching, with-us God, while we count our blessings today, we also pray for those who face their fears alone. We pray for those who do not have a Joseph in their life. In particular, we remember those in isolation jail cells, and for those in medical quarantine. We pray for single parents, and for widowers. We pray for immigrants and foreign exchange students, who so often feel alone in a new country. We pray for those who feel isolated by their grief, their addiction, or their mental health. Show us how to reach across dividing lines. Show us how to walk with each other, on the good days and the bad. Show us how to see each other. Show us how to reach for each other. We will do our best to walk each other home. With hope for a better tomorrow, 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** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH #211, v1,4,6-7

Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

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

Tethered

When we were children, we fell asleep
with walkie talkies tucked under our pillows.
All that separated us was a bathroom,
a hallway, a few feet of empty space,
but as children, even small distances can feel like miles.
So after the parents whispered prayers over our skinned knees
and spelling tests, after they kissed our sweaty foreheads
and tucked us into bed,
we'd pull the walkie talkies out from under our pillows.
We'd roll the dial on the top of the transceiver.
We'd sputter that invisible tether to life.
And with a few crackles in the quiet of the night,
you'd whisper my name.
I'd press down the button.
I'd promise I was close.
As an adult, I don't know what ever happened
to those blue-grey walkie talkies.
But I know,
that even today,
if the monsters in the closet feel too real,
and you whisper my name,
I promise I'll be close.

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

GIVING

Pastor Dave



BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER

Lay Reader

Many Voices: Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Like Joseph, we trust that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. May these gifts help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. 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)

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Verse 4

O come, thou Root of Jesse’s tree, an ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on Thy mercy call.

(Refrain)

Verse 6

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy justice here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

(Refrain)

Verse 7

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
Deliver us from earthly strife.

(Refrain)

READING SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25 (The Voice) Lay Reader

¹⁸ So here, *finally*, is the story of the birth of Jesus the Anointed (*it is quite a remarkable story*):

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, *son of David*. They hadn’t married. And yet, some time well before their wedding date, Mary learned that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, because he was kind and upstanding and honorable, wanted to spare Mary shame. He did not wish to cause her more embarrassment than necessary.

²⁰ Now when Joseph had decided to act on his instincts, a messenger of the Lord came to him in a dream.

Messenger of the Lord: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to wed Mary *and bring her into your home and family as your wife. She did not sneak off and sleep with someone else*—rather, she conceived the baby she now carries through the miraculous wonderworking of the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus, *which means “the Lord saves,”* because this Jesus is the person who will save *all of His people* from sin.

²⁴ Joseph woke up from his dream and did exactly what the messenger had told him to do: he married Mary and brought her into his home as his wife²⁵ (though he did not consummate their marriage until after her son was born). *And when the baby was born, Joseph named Him Jesus, Savior.*

²² Years and years ago, *Isaiah*, a prophet of Israel, foretold the story of *Mary, Joseph, and Jesus*:

²³ A virgin will conceive and bear a Son,
and His name will be Immanuel

Reader: Immanuel, we turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet and combed back fly-away hairs. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you.

Many Voices: Help us to feel your presence in our midst through the words we just heard. We are reaching out our hands; we are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray, amen.

PROCLAIMING

Hold My Hand

Pastor Dave

***SINGING**

“Like a Child”

TFWS #2092

Verse 1

Like a child love would send
To reveal and to mend,
Like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find
Claiming heart, soul, and mind
Like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes.

Verse 2

Like a child we will meet,
Ragged clothes, dirty feet,
Like a child on the street,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we once knew
Coming back into view,
Like a child born anew,
Jesus comes.

Verse 3

Like a child born to pray
And to show us the way,
Like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes.
Like a child we receive
All that love can conceive,
Like a child we believe,
Jesus comes.