



Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church  
December 28, 2025 9:30am

\* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Kim Nave

PREPARING

\*GATHERING

Lay Reader

Reader: Father, we arrive at the end of our Advent journey. We see the world still brims with violence, uncertainty, and fear.

**Many Voices: We know the birth of Christ has not silenced the Herods of the world. Father, it seems like every day, we see and hear another act of hatred.**

Reader: Father, we know that we never walk alone. You are ever leading us, staying by our side, and never straying behind us.

**Many Voices: Calm our anxious hearts. Clear our troubled minds. Bring peace, when we can only experience chaos.**

Reader: The question, then, is not whether fear exists-but what we do with it. Do we freeze? Do we flee?

**Many Voices: Give us the courage to move forward as Mary, Elizabeth and the magi did, refusing to let fear be the end of the story.**

Reader: Guide us to know when and how to take those steps.

**Many Voices: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus. To bring us one step closer to a world of love and peace. Amen.**

\*SINGING "Shout" (What Child is This- Revised words)  
Words by Anna Strickland , 2025

Verse 1

When fear lies like a blanket thick, and mutes the joy of living  
When Herod reigns with terror great, the angels break in, singing

Refrain

Shout! Shout your glorias, in all the earth and heaven above  
Shout! Shout the angel' news that hope is born in Jesus

~This Week at MUMC~

**SUNDAY 28TH**

9:30AM WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

**MONDAY 29TH—OFFICE OPEN 9AM-2PM**

**TUESDAY 30TH—OFFICE CLOSED**

**WEDNESDAY 31ST—OFFICE CLOSED**

**THURSDAY JAN 1ST—OFFICE CLOSED**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**FRIDAY 2ND—OFFICE CLOSED**

**SATURDAY 3RD**

**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.**

**Pastor Dave is on vacation December 25-January 1.  
For a pastoral care emergency during this time please contact  
Chris Vause or Karen Pubentz.**



Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance December 21st at MUMC

In person total: 88 online: 30

General Fund Giving for 12/21 \$14,712.54

Total giving in all for 12/21: \$28,092.09



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Dec 31 Andrew & Nancy Anderson

Jan 3 Dale & Carol Lockwood

# What's Happening at Minooka UMC!

## MONTHLY 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 about faith, God, and life you might have been taught not to question. Meets at Brick & Ivy Coffee Company (27754 Bluegrass Dr, Channahon, IL 60410) on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. See you January 13th.

## MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Our Grief Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 12:00Noon. It is open to anyone grieving a death. There is no cost and a light lunch is provided. Join us January 8th.

## WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group for students in 6th-12th grades meets Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:00PM. Youth Group is a place to belong where students can show up just as they are, build friendships, and grow in their faith. All our Youth Group leaders complete Safe Gathering training and a background check. Join us when we resume after the holidays, January 7th.

## WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children in PreK-5th grade meets at 10:45AM following our worship service. All our Sunday School teachers complete Safe Gathering training and a background check.

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**NEXT Sunday, January 4 at 9:30am:** Epiphany Sunday worship experience, celebrating Communion, "Fear Doesn't Stop Us"

We invite you to return January 11th for the start of our next sermon series, **The Gospel According to Pop Culture Icons**. It will be a fun look at the messages we constantly receive from folks like Taylor, Kendrick, Bruce, and more. What makes music so powerful? How do these folks use their influence? What might we learn from them about how to be faithful disciples of Jesus?

## Verse 2

The piercing song the angels bring, to unsuspecting shepherds  
Is hard to hear with frightened ears, so used to news of terror

## Refrain

Shout! Shout your glorias, in all the earth and heaven above  
Shout! Shout the angel' news that hope is born in Jesus

## Verse 3

Surrender to the joy this night, of God incarnate born for us  
Shout in the streets, wake those who sleep, to join the angel chorus

## Refrain

Shout! Shout your glorias, in all the earth and heaven above  
Shout! Shout the angel' news that hope is born in Jesus

## CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

### PRAYING

Lay Reader

[Quiet reflection; Relaxing into quietness creates the space for deep listening and draws you into yourself.]

Reader: Lord, we surrender my anxious heart to You. You know our fears and worries. Remind us You are with us, stronger than our fear. Trade our panic for Your peace and our worry for Your presence. Help us trust You and fix our eyes on You, not our circumstances.

[Quiet reflection]

Reader: Heavenly Father, we ask You to remove this heaviness and fear of the violence and hatred that floods the news. Place guard of Your peace around us. Remind us that Your love is more powerful than our fear and You are our protector to help ease our worries.

[Quiet reflection].

Reader: God, fill us with Your power and boldness. Help us to fight our fears with faith, not anxiety. Thank You for the freedom to bring You everything on our hearts. Give us courage and guide us into the joy of following You, replacing worries with Your truth.

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

**\*SINGING**

“O Come, Take Heart”  
(O Come, O Come Emmanuel Revised Words)

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Verse 1

O come, O come though timid and unsure  
And trust that God declares your worth  
Remember when you're feeling small  
That every child of God is called

Refrain

Take heart, take heart! The One who calls to you  
Will give you strength and see you through.

Verse 2

O come, O come though you feel unprepared  
When courage fails you, do it scared  
Don't let the fear of making mistakes  
Impede you from the path you're called to take  
(Refrain)

Verse 3

O come and join God's kingdom work  
And be God's hands and feet on earth  
You're called exactly as you are  
To love the world with every broken part  
(Refrain)



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

We are now serving 61 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!

## Until We Reach the Sun

Buffaloes are the only animals that run into a storm.  
They can smell the snow coming. They can feel the temperature change—  
deep in their bones. So they gather together, a pack on the plains.  
And with their large lumbering bodies, they run.  
They run through snow and ice, wind and rain. They do not stop until they reach the sun.  
When you are afraid, because this world is cruel and harsh, or because humans are deported and shot without reason, or because we cannot remember how to talk to each other civilly,  
I will be your pack. I will stay by your side. I will run with you until we reach the sun.

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

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**May everyone have a Happy and Safe New Year!**



## READING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 41:10-20 (The Message)

Lay Reader

- <sup>10</sup>- Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.
- <sup>11</sup>- "Count on it: Everyone who had it in for you will end up out in the cold - real losers. Those who worked against you will end up empty-handed - nothing to show for their lives.
- <sup>12</sup>- When you go out looking for your old adversaries you won't find them - Not a trace of your old enemies, not even a memory.
- <sup>13</sup>- That's right. Because I, your God, have a firm grip on you and I'm not letting go. I'm telling you, 'Don't panic. I'm right here to help you.'
- <sup>14</sup>- "Do you feel like a lowly worm, Jacob? Don't be afraid. Feel like a fragile insect, Israel? I'll help you. I, God, want to reassure you. The God who buys you back, The Holy of Israel.
- <sup>15</sup>- I'm transforming you from worm to harrow, from insect to iron. As a sharp-toothed harrow you'll smooth out the mountains, turn those tough old hills into loamy soil.
- <sup>16</sup>- You'll open the rough ground to the weather, to the blasts of sun and wind and rain. But you'll be confident and exuberant, expansive in The Holy of Israel!
- <sup>17</sup>- "The poor and homeless are desperate for water, their tongues parched and no water to be found. But I'm there to be found, I'm there for them, and I, God of Israel, will not leave them thirsty.
- <sup>18</sup>- I'll open up rivers for them on the barren hills, spout fountains in the valleys. I'll turn the baked-clay badlands into a cool pond, the waterless waste into splashing creeks.
- <sup>19</sup>- I'll plant the red cedar in that treeless wasteland, also acacia, myrtle, and olive. I'll place the cypress in the desert, with plenty of oaks and pines.
- <sup>20</sup>- Everyone will see this. No one can miss it - unavoidable, indisputable evidence That I, God, personally did this. It's created and signed by The Holy of Israel.

**PROCLAIMING**

“Time to Send Them Packing”

Kim Nave

**\*SINGING**

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

#251 UMH

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

(Refrain)

Verse 2

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! Above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the savior’s birth.

(Refrain)

Verse 3

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

(Refrain)

**GIVING**

Kim Nave



**BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER**

Lay Reader

**Many Voices: Lord Jesus, we offer our gifts to You today, trusting in Your promise that You are indeed the One who heals, who proclaims good news to the poor, and who brings hope to those in despair. May our offerings reflect the joy we find in the assurance that, all things are made new through Your love for us. In Jesus’ giving name we pray, Amen.**

**\*SENDING FORTH**

Kim Nave

**EXITING MUSIC**