

When do Small Groups meet next?

Advent Study with Kim Meets at Minooka UMC	Sunday @ 8am
Advent Study with Cindy Meets at Minooka UMC	Tuesday @ Noon
Advent Study with Pastor Dave Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday @ 7pm
Book Group - Book Group will not meet in December	Monday 1/26 @ 7pm
Chair Yoga Meets at Minooka UMC No Yoga in January—Resumes February	Mon. @ 11:45am Thurs. 12/11 @ 5:30pm
Grief Support Group Meets at Minooka UMC	Thursday 12/11 @ 12 noon
Line Dancing Meets at Minooka UMC in the Fellowship Room	Resumes in February
Prayer Team Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 5:00PM
Skeptic's Circle Meets at Brick & Ivy Coffee Co. 27754 Bluegrass Dr, Channahon, IL 60410	Tuesday 12/9 @ 6:30PM
United Women in Faith Afternoon Circle Meets at Minooka UMC	Monday 12/8 @ 1:30pm
Youth Group 6th through 12th Grades Meets at Minooka UMC	Wednesday @ 7:00PM

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER	JENNIFER FERGUSON
SONG LEADERS	RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD, SUSAN SPENCER
COMMUNION SERVERS	LES AND SHARI MILLARD

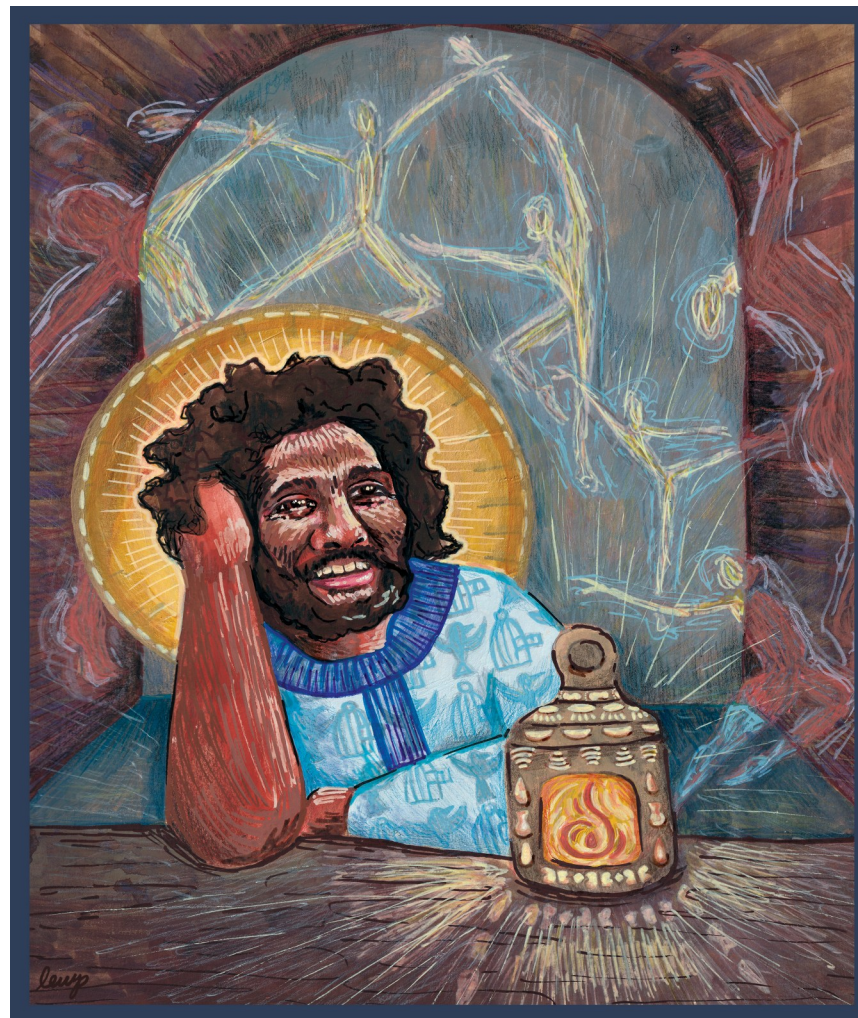
CHURCH STAFF

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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Get Used to Disappointment



"Hope Like a Dancer" from Sanctified Art

Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025 9:30am

Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
December 7, 2025 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

PREPARING

GATHERING & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Millard Family

Family: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

Many Voices: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

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

[Light 2 blue candles]

Many Voices: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SINGING** "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UM Hymnal #203, v1-3

Verse 1

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

Verse 2

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 7TH

8:00AM ADVENT STUDY WITH KIM
9:30AM WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45AM CONFIRMATION COHORT
11:00AM GOOD FUTURES ACCELERATOR MEETING

MONDAY 8TH

11:45AM CHAIR YOGA
1:30PM UMF AFTERNOON CIRCLE

TUESDAY 9TH

12:00PM ADVENT STUDY WITH CINDY
6:00PM SKEPTIC'S CIRCLE AT BRICK & IVY



WEDNESDAY 10TH

10:30AM PARK POINTE WORSHIP SERVICE
4:15PM OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
5:00PM PRAYER TEAM
7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

THURSDAY 11TH

12:00PM GRIEF SUPPORT
7:00PM ADVENT STUDY WITH PASTOR DAVE

FRIDAY 12TH

SATURDAY 13TH

Thank you for your commitments of gathering and giving!

Attendance November 30th at MUMC

In person total: 46 online: 24

General Fund Giving for 11/30: \$3,979.53

Total giving in all for 11/30: \$4,257.53

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 7 Hannah Beitler
- 7 Colleen Cvitanovich
- 9 Dutch Nave
- 9 Maverick Nave
- 9 Joe Sramek



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 7 at 8:00am: Advent Study with Kim

THIS Sunday, December 7 at 9:30am: Final day to turn in Angel Tree gifts

THIS Sunday, December 7 at 9:30am: Final day to turn in Shop with Scrip orders

THIS Sunday, December 7 at 9:30am: 2nd week of Advent worship experience, "Get Used to Disappointment"

Tuesday, December 9 at 12noon: Advent Study with Cindy

Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30pm: Skeptic's Circle

Thursday, December 11 at 12noon: Grief Support Group

Thursday, December 11 at 7:00pm: Advent Study with Pastor Dave

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

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

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

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

PRAYING

Lay Reader

[Quiet prayer for centering and reflection]

Call to Confession

Reader: Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus "Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?" Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy. So found family, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be honest, just like John the Baptist. Let us confess together:

Prayer of Confession

Many Voices: On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?"
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move.

[Quiet prayer for reflection]

Words of Forgiveness

Reader: Found family of faith, in our honesty,

Many Voices: we are heard.

Reader; In our worries, we are held.

Many Voices: In our failings, we are forgiven.

Reader: In our fear,

Many Voices: we are not alone.

Reader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

Many Voices: When we're running out of hope, God is still at work. Thanks be to God!

Prayers for the World

Reader: God of starlight, when the weight of the world presses in on us, when injustice and suffering feel like the dominant narrative, when hope begins to slip through our hands, run toward us. Remind us of the birds that sing in the morning. Remind us of the flowers that push through thawing ground. Remind us of the groups of people that have always made a difference. Remind us of the work this church has done. Remind us of the work our hands are capable of, and the love our heart already knows.

Reader: And as you do, we will continue to remind each other of your presence in our world. As you do, we will continue to tell each other the stories of the hungry being fed, the sick being healed, the captives being released, and the lion lying with the lamb. Until that promised day, we will continue to pray as Jesus taught us, saying... [Lord's Prayer UM Hymnal #894]

***SINGING** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UM Hymnal #204 (x3)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, Revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

God in the Kitchen

I called home my first semester of college. I told my mom I was fine,

but I was homesick. She must have heard the truth in my voice.

The ache ate at me. It was a long, slow song, a million tiny ants slurping the juice from a peach. I was tender and bruised,

in the doldrums of it all. But she could hear all of that. So three states away,

she preheated the oven. Three states away,

she tossed blueberries in a thin layer of flour. Three states away, she dusted a layer of streusel over the soft peaks

of a dozen warm muffins. And three days later,

I unboxed a package from home—

a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it, a reminder that I was not alone.

If you're running out of hope, count to three.

God is in the kitchen. She's just waiting for yeast to rise.

—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!

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!

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

*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

READING SCRIPTURE Matthew 11:1-11 (The Voice) Lay Reader

11 With that, Jesus finished instructing His disciples, and He went on to preach and teach in the towns of *Galilee*.² John, meanwhile, was still in prison. But stories about the Anointed One’s teachings and healing reached him.

So John sent his followers³ to question Jesus.

John’s Followers: Are You the One we have been expecting as Savior for so long? *Are You the One Scripture promised would come?* Or should we expect someone else?

Jesus:⁴ Go back and tell John the things you have heard and the things you have seen.⁵ *Tell him you have seen* the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers cured, the deaf hear, the dead raised, and the good news preached to the poor.⁶ Blessed are those who *understand what is afoot* and stay on My narrow path.

⁷ John’s disciples left, and Jesus began to speak to a crowd about John.

Jesus: What did you go into the desert to see? Did you expect to see a reed blowing around in the wind?⁸ No? Were you expecting to see a man dressed in the finest silks? No, of course not—you find silk in the sitting rooms of palaces and mansions, not in the middle of the wilderness.⁹ So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes. Yes, a prophet and more than a prophet.¹⁰ When you saw John, you saw the one whom the prophet *Malachi envisioned when he said*

I will send My messenger ahead of You,
and he will prepare the way for You

¹¹ This is the truth: no one who has ever been born to a woman is greater than John the Baptist. And yet the most insignificant person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reader: Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we need your Word and a reason to hope.

Many Voices: So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Use these words we've read to speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. Amen.

PROCLAIMING

Get Used to Disappointment

Pastor Dave

GIVING



Pastor Dave

BLESSING OUR GIFTS with MUSIC and PRAYER

Lay Reader

Many Voices: Loving, Partnering God, in this Advent season, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your call. Use these offerings to bring hope, justice, and transformation. Help us to look beyond the surface, to see your work in surprising places and people. Bless our giving, that it may shine with the presence of Emmanuel. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Pastor Dave: Found family, have you ever walked into a room and wondered if you were going to have a place to sit? Did you ever have a moment when fear nibbled at the back of your mind because you weren't sure where you belonged? I know I have and I imagine, at some point or another, most of us have experienced that kind of fear. But here at this Table, you never have to wonder. Here at this Table, there is enough room, enough food, enough love for everyone. Here at this Table, Jesus is standing up on his chair, waving his hands over his head, saying to each of you, "I saved you a seat!" Here at this Table, you are wanted and welcomed. You are safe and loved. Here at this Table, you belong. So my friends, there is no need for fear here, for this is a joyful feast. You are invited. All are welcome.

Pastor Dave: Loving God, pour out your Spirit on this Table. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary bread. Pour out your Spirit on this ordinary juice. For the thing we fear the most is distance from you, so draw near to us here. Saturate this room with your Spirit and this Table with your love. What a gift you give us so that fear is not the loudest voice today. Now with hope for a better tomorrow, we remember that on the night before he died, 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.