

When do Small Groups meet next?

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



CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS
 LEAD PASTOR
 OFFICE MANAGER
 MUSIC DIRECTOR
 SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS
 REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA
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Christmas Eve



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 4:00pm

**Welcome to Minooka United Methodist Church
December 24, 2025 4:00pm Christmas Eve**

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

Family: In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

Many Voices: We see God’s fingerprints all around us. We see God in the beauty of the stars. We see God in the love of this community. We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

Family: You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around us. On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God’s love is all around us.

[Light all the candles]

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

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

***SINGING** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” UMH #230, v1&4

Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.



Upcoming Worship Experiences

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”

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?

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.

Verse 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

TELLING A CHRISTMAS STORY

Here are the responses for *all of us* every time you hear the following words:

When we all hear:

We all respond:

Nazareth— "Where's that??"

Bethlehem— (sing) "O little town of"

Good news— "Yes!" (with fist pump)

Great joy— [Shout]

Baby— "Awww"

Night— (sing) "Silent night, holy night"

If you have been chosen for a specific part or to be in a specific group; below are the words and responses.

Response:

When **Shepherds** hear the word "*Shepherd*" "Yo Sheep"

When **Sheep** hear the word "*sheep*" "Baa!"

When a **Donkey** hears the word "*donkey*" "Hee Haw!"

When an **Angel** hears the word "*Angel*" "Hallelujah!"

When **Mary** hears her name "*Mary*" "Here I am"

A Christmas Story Music

O Come All Ye Faithful

UM Hymnal #234

Verse

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.



Away in a Manger

UM Hymnal #217

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.



Christmas Eve | What do you fear?
Good news is louder than fear

Honeysuckle

*There is an abandoned house on my block.
Maybe someone owns it and is just waiting to fix it
up,
or maybe it belongs to a family that simply cannot let it
go.
Either way, the yard is an overgrown tangle of weeds—
crabgrass and yellow nutsedge, horsetail and clover—
unforgiving and entrenched.
Over the summer, a honeysuckle bush crept
from that forgotten house over the fence and through
the yard.
It spilled out in broad patches on the sidewalk. As a
result,
you could not pass that mess of a house without the
taste of honey in your mouth.
You could not pass that mess of a house without being
engulfed in the sweet scent
of something good. It was almost as if the earth was
saying, sure, things are chaotic here,
but pause for a moment. Pull a flower bud off in your
fingers. Break the stem.
Slurp the tiny bead of honey at the base. Remember
that even when bad news is unforgiving
and entrenched, good news grows out of its cage,
across the sidewalk, just to get to you.*

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

The First Noel

UM Hymnal #245

Verse 1

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.



Angels We Have Heard on High

UM Hymnal #238

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

UM Hymnal #240

Verse

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on Earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

What Child Is This

UM Hymnal #219

Verse

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.



Silent Night

UM Hymnal #239, v1, 3-4

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

***SINGING**

"Joy to the World"

UM Hymnal #246

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***SENDING FORTH**

EXITING MUSIC