

## When Do Small Groups Meet Next?

- Book Group** - Monday, April 27th @ 7pm  
"Somewhere Beyond the Sea" by TJ Klune
- Chair Yoga** - Mondays @ 11:45am
- FaithTalk Bible Study** - Tuesdays @ 12:00pm
- Grief Support Group** - Thursday May 14th @ 12:00pm
- Prayer Team** - Wednesdays @ 5:00pm
- Skeptic's Circle** - Tuesday, May 12th @ 6:30pm  
Meets at: Brick & Ivy Coffee Co. 27754 Bluegrass Dr. Channahon, IL
- Youth Group** - Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

WiFi is available—"MUMC-Guest" (No password required)

### **LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

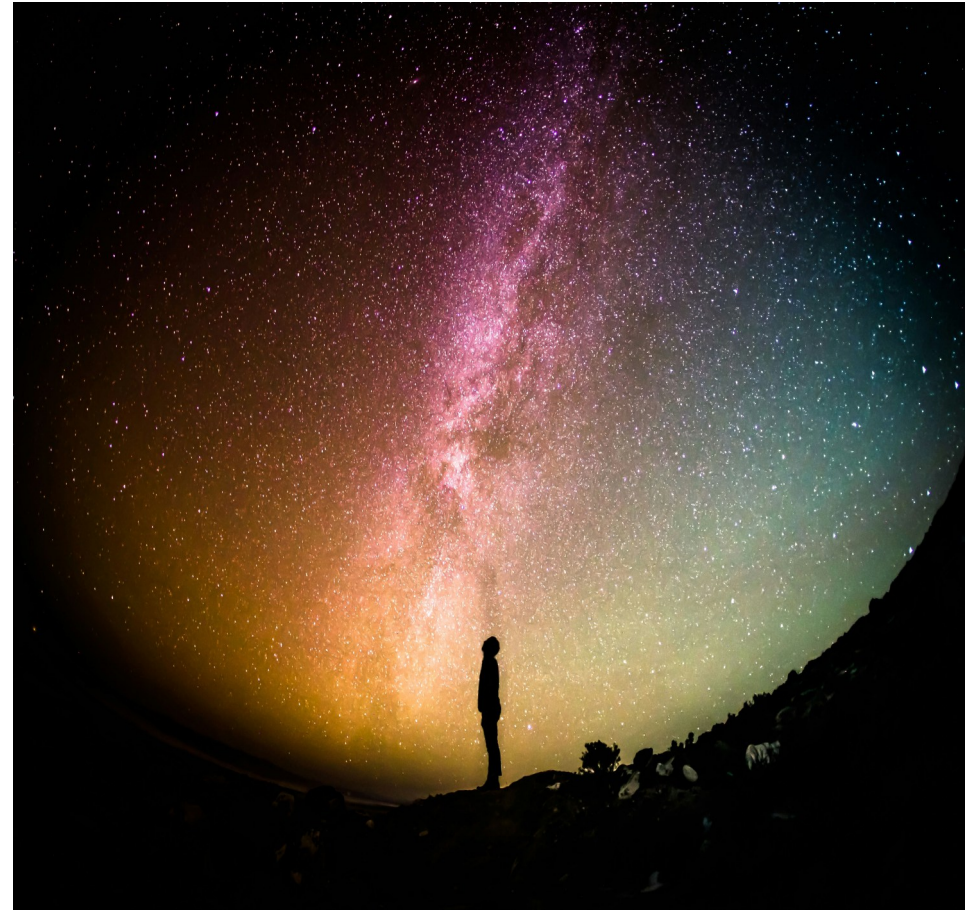
MINISTERS ALL DISCIPLES OF JESUS  
LEAD PASTOR REV. DAVE BUERSTETTA  
OFFICE MANAGER MELISSA CANDLER  
MUSIC DIRECTOR JILL KOHLER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR KATRINA NOLAN  
YOUTH DIRECTOR JENNIFER FERGUSON

### **CHURCH CONTACT**

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1210 RIDGE RD. MINOOKA, IL. 60447

## Stories that Matter: Back to the Beginning!



## Welcome!

## Minooka United Methodist Church

## Sunday, April 26, 2026 9:30am

**Minooka United Methodist Church Worship Experience**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2026 9:30am**

\* Stand if you are able

**ENTERING MUSIC**

**WELCOMING**

Pastor Dave

**PREPARING**

**\*GATHERING**

Lay Reader

Reader: Divine Voice, You sing and the universe comes into being.  
**Many Voices: Divine Breath, You breathe and all things spring to life.**

Reader: Divine Word, You call and creation is sustained.  
**Many Voices: Divine Flesh, You are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation.**

Reader: Divine Spirit, You contain all that has been formed.  
**Many Voices: Divine Life, You are the pulse of all that is.**

Reader: In faith and expectation, in wonder and celebration, we gather to remember this mystery: In the Divine all things live and move and have being.  
**Many Voices: In all things, You live and move and express Your Divine artistry. Today and every day, we join with creation in the eternal song of thanksgiving for all life! Amen.**

**\*SINGING**      “For the Beauty of Earth”      UM Hymnal #92, v1-4

Verse 1

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
 for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;  
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Verse 2

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light;  
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**~This Week at MUMC~**

**SUNDAY 26TH**

9:30AM WORSHIP EXPERIENCE  
 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 10:45AM CONFIRMATION COHORT  
 11:00AM SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

**MONDAY 27TH**

11:45AM CHAIR YOGA WITH LU  
 7:00PM BOOK GROUP

**TUESDAY 28TH**

12:00PM FAITH TALK BIBLE STUDY  
 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 29TH**

5:00PM PRAYER TEAM  
 7:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**THURSDAY 30TH**

**FRIDAY MAY 1ST**

**SATURDAY 2ND**

Thank you for living our discipleship commitments of gathering and giving!  
**Attendance April 19th at MUMC**  
 In person: 67 online: 20  
**General Fund Giving for 4/19: \$3,422.52**  
**Total giving in all for 4/19: \$4,997.52**

**Happy Birthday!**

**Happy Anniversary!**

28 Westin Dailey  
 28 Mary Auclair  
 30 Olivia Ferguson  
 May 1 John McGrath

29 Wayne & Shelley Dailey  
 29 Alex & Katrina Nolan

## Vacation Bible School – Volunteers Needed!

We're getting ready for VBS (July 19–23, 5:30–8:15 PM) and are looking for Station Leaders to help make the week a meaningful and fun experience for our kids!

What does a Station Leader do?

You'll oversee your station's materials, setup, and cleanup—and don't worry, you'll have extra helpers assigned to support you!

Bible Stories – Bring the stories to life with energy and creativity

Imagination Station (Science/Crafts) – Lead hands-on activities tied to the daily theme

Games – Organize outdoor games that connect to the lesson

Music/Sticky Scripture – Co-lead songs and memory verses

Camera/Slideshow – Capture the week and create a closing slideshow

Additional Ways to Help:

On-Site Nurse – Assist with minor medical needs

Prep Team – Help with decorations, supplies, and donations

Logistics – Support setup and cleanup before and during VBS

Interested? Contact Katrina Nolan at (815) 715-7640 or [katrinanolan17@outlook.com](mailto:katrinanolan17@outlook.com) to sign up!

For VBS this year, we are excited to collaborate with our neighbors from Channahon UMC and Resurrection Lutheran. Our combined VBS will be at Channahon UMC.

## Garage Sales to Support MUMC

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 7th, 8th, and 9th, all garage sale proceeds at 104 N. Wabena, Minooka, IL and 314 Wabasso St. Minooka, IL, will go to support MUMC and it's mission. If you would like to help, support, or donate to the garage sales, please reach out to Gail Flatness @ 815.342.5535 or Jill Lesko @ 630.263.7529.

### Verse 3

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

### Verse 4

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

## CONVERSING WITH CHILDREN

### PRAYING

Lay Reader

#### *Introduction*

Breath prayer is a form of contemplative prayer that reminds us that praying is as natural as breathing. Breath prayer is a bodily expression of worship that assists us in engaging our whole selves.

Think of it as if you're breathing in God's Spirit with the oxygen in the air. Then as you hold your breath you hold your sense of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Then you're breathing out your anxieties with the carbon dioxide so that you can live freely in God's loving presence and power. Or you can use your breathing out as an expression of sharing God's loving presence with others.

Breath prayer can be used at almost any time. You might find it can be really helpful when you become anxious, frustrated, or scared. As with any contemplative prayer practice, distractions will happen. Be patient with them and with yourself. When distractions happen, acknowledge them then gently return your attention toward God.

#### *Practice*

Find a posture that allows you to be relaxed and alert. Place your feet flat on the floor and your hands comfortably in your lap. Close your eyes and take a few slow, deep breaths. Today's phrase comes from author Brennan Manning: "Abba, I belong to you."

First round try whispering the phrase in time with your breathing. Repeat the prayer allowing the words to settle into a regular rhythm:

Breathe in: Abba  
Breath out: I belong to you  
[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

Second round try saying the phrase silently to yourself:

Breathe in: Abba  
Breath out: I belong to you  
[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

Third round continue saying the prayer silently; try resting in God's presence without the phrase:

Breathe in: Abba  
Breath out: I belong to you  
[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

Reader: Our prayer concludes as Jesus taught us, saying... [Lord's Prayer, UM Hymnal #894]

**\*SINGING** "Peace of Our Praying" Worship & Song #3022

Verse 1

Peace of our praying, Song of our singing,  
Truth of our telling, Love of all loves,  
Health of our healing, Gift of our giving,  
Life of our living, Light of all lights.

Verse 2

Peace of our praying, Christ of our crying,  
Strength of our striving, Heart of our heart,  
Bread of our breaking, Wine of our waiting,  
Blood of our boasting, Death of all death.

**Many Voices: As we follow your invitation to use our voices to witness to your vision of a world without hunger, we ask that you bless these letters. Use them to open the hearts and minds of our members of Congress. May they be a clear and bold call for justice and peace in our world. Amen.**

**\*SINGING**

The Faith We Sing #2008

"Let All Things Now Living"

Verse 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who guides us and leads to the end of our days.  
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light.

Verse 2

The Law God enforces, the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise,  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

**\*SENDING FORTH**

Pastor Dave

**EXITING MUSIC**

Reader: May God bless the reading, hearing, and living of these words.

**Many Voices: Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING

Pastor Dave

Stories that Matter: Back to the Beginning!

## GIVING

Pastor Dave



## BLESSING OUR GIFTS and LETTERS with PRAYER

Lay Reader

Reader: Gracious and Generous God of all creation, we give thanks for leaders long past who put in place strong safety net programs to support families experiencing food insecurity. We are grateful those programs benefit not only the families who receive the support, but also whole communities through nutrition education, better outcomes for children in schools, and investments in local economies.

We pray for families who struggle to make ends meet. We pray that they would feel support from advocates like us across the country who have raised our voices in support of strong food assistance programs. We pray for our elected leaders, that they would heed the words of Jesus to his disciples—to go and feed hungry people. That they might work to strengthen programs like SNAP so that more hardworking families can worry about one less thing.

## Verse 3

Peace of our praying, Faith of forgiving,  
Way of our walking, King of all kings,  
Breath of our breathing, Courage of caring,  
Hope of our hoping, Life of all life.

## READING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (The Message)

Lay Reader  
Pastor Dave

**1** <sup>1-2</sup> First this: God created the Heavens and Earth—all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the watery abyss.

**3-5** God spoke: "Light!"  
And light appeared.  
God saw that light was good  
and separated light from dark.  
God named the light Day,  
he named the dark Night.  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day One.

**6-8** God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters;  
separate water from water!"  
God made sky.  
He separated the water under sky  
from the water above sky.  
And there it was:  
he named sky the Heavens;  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Two.

**9-10** God spoke: "Separate!  
Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;  
Land, appear!"  
And there it was.  
God named the land Earth.  
He named the pooled water Ocean.  
God saw that it was good.

**11-13** God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties  
of seed-bearing plants,  
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."  
And there it was.  
Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,  
all varieties,  
And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.  
God saw that it was good.  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Three.

<sup>14-15</sup> God spoke: "Lights! Come out!  
Shine in Heaven's sky!  
Separate Day from Night.  
Mark seasons and days and years,  
Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth."  
And there it was.

<sup>16-19</sup> God made two big lights, the larger  
to take charge of Day,  
The smaller to be in charge of Night;  
and he made the stars.  
God placed them in the heavenly sky  
to light up Earth  
And oversee Day and Night,  
to separate light and dark.  
God saw that it was good.  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Four.

<sup>20-23</sup> God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!  
Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!"  
God created the huge whales,  
all the swarm of life in the waters,  
And every kind and species of flying birds.  
God saw that it was good.  
God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!  
Birds, reproduce on Earth!"  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Five.

<sup>24-25</sup> God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:  
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."  
And there it was:  
wild animals of every kind,  
Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.  
God saw that it was good.

<sup>26-28</sup> God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them  
reflecting our nature  
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,

the birds in the air, the cattle,  
And, yes, Earth itself,  
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."  
God created human beings;  
he created them godlike,  
Reflecting God's nature.  
He created them male and female.  
God blessed them:  
"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!  
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,  
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

<sup>29-30</sup> Then God said, "I've given you  
every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth  
And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,  
given them to you for food.  
To all animals and all birds,  
everything that moves and breathes,  
I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."  
And there it was.

<sup>31</sup> God looked over everything he had made;  
it was so good, so very good!  
It was evening, it was morning—  
Day Six.

**2** Heaven and Earth were finished,  
down to the last detail.

<sup>2-4</sup> By the seventh day  
God had finished his work.  
On the seventh day  
he rested from all his work.  
God blessed the seventh day.  
He made it a Holy Day  
Because on that day he rested from his work,  
all the creating God had done.