

When Do Small Groups Meet Next?

- Book Group** - Monday, May 4th @ 7pm (4/27 rescheduled)
"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 JENNIFER FERGUSON
SONG LEADERS RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD,
SUSAN SPENCER
COMMUNION SERVERS KAREN GABA & VAL GUNDERSON

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

Back to the Beginning! The Preface



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Sunday, May 3, 2026 9:30am

Minooka United Methodist Church Worship Experience
Sunday, May 3, 2026 9:30am

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

PREPARING

***GATHERING**

Lay Reader

Reader: As we gather today, we give thanks for the building blocks of life: hydrogen and helium, gravity and supernovas, gases and space dust from which life first fired into existence.

Many Voices: As we gather today, we give thanks for our connection to all life: minerals, plants, animals, each other, and the Source of Life we name God.

Reader: As we gather today, we celebrate the inherent worth and dignity of every person—for all are made in the image of God.

Many Voices: As we gather today, we remember our calling to share the love that is God with all our neighbors—especially those who are most vulnerable. Amen!

***SINGING**

“How Firm a Foundation” UM Hymnal #529 v1, 3-5

Verse 1

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
 Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
 What more can He say than to you He hath said,
 To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Verse 3

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
 For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
 And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

Verse 4

“When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
 My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
 The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
 Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

~This Week at MUMC~

SUNDAY 3RD

9:30AM WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10:45AM CONFIRMATION COHORT
 11:00AM SOCCER COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 4TH

11:45AM CHAIR YOGA WITH LU
 7:00PM BOOK GROUP MAKE-UP DAY FROM 4/27

TUESDAY 5TH

12:00PM FAITH TALK BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY 6TH

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

THURSDAY 7TH

9AM-3PM GARAGE SALES TO SUPPORT MUMC

FRIDAY 8TH

9AM-3PM GARAGE SALES TO SUPPORT MUMC

SATURDAY 9TH

9am-3pm Garage Sales to support MUMC

Thank you for living our discipleship commitments of gathering and giving!
Attendance April 26th at MUMC
 In person: 62 online: 13
General Fund Giving for 4/26: \$2,605.55
Total giving in all for 4/26: \$5,845.55

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

5 Thomas McGrath
 6 Noah Hinds
 8 Mia McCammon
 9 Christine Yenser

4 Jay & Karen Hinds

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 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 from 104 N. Wabena, Minooka, IL and 314 Wabasso St. Minooka, IL, will go to support MUMC and its 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.

Plant a Vegetable for the Food Pantry

As you plan your home garden this season, please consider planting one extra vegetable plant to help support our Helping Hands Food Pantry. When it's time to harvest, you can donate the extra produce so neighbors in need can enjoy fresh, healthy food.

· Great options to plant: peppers, cucumbers, zucchini/summer squash, green beans, carrots, onions (veggies that can be stored in the refrigerator until pantry day)

· Harvest a little at a time: even small donations add up

How to donate: Please bring your extra produce to Church on Sundays. If you'd like to coordinate a pick-up or have questions about what's most needed, contact Chris Vause at 815-409-5599. Thank you for helping us grow a stronger community—one plant at a time.

Verse 5

The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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: "Bread of Life, fill us."

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: Bread of Life
Breathe out: fill us

[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

Second round try saying the phrase silently to yourself:
Breathe in: Bread of Life
Breathe out: fill us

[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

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

Breathe in: Bread of Life

Breathe out: fill us

[Quiet prayer for contemplation]

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

***SINGING**

"Eat This Bread"

UM Hymnal #628

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.
(Repeat 3X)

READING SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (The Voice) Lay Reader
Pastor Dave

1 In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the earth *below*. *Here's what happened:* ² *At first* the earth lacked shape and was totally empty, and a dark *fog* draped over the deep while God's spirit-wind hovered over the surface of the *empty* waters. *Then there was the voice of God.*

God: ³ Let there be light.

And light flashed into being. ⁴ God saw that the light was *beautiful and good*, and He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening gave way to morning. That was day one.

God: ⁶ Let there be a *vast* expanse in the middle of the waters. Let the waters *above* part from the waters *below*.

⁷ So God parted the waters and formed this expanse, separating the waters above from the waters below. It happened *just as God said*. ⁸ And God called the *vast* expanse "sky." Evening gave way to morning. That was day two.

***SINGING** A Place at the Table" Worship & Song #3149, v1-3,5

Verse 1

For everyone born, a place at the table,
For everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star over head.

Refrain

And God will delight
When we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
When we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

Verse 2

For woman and man, a place at the table,
Revising the roles, deciding the share,
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
For woman and man, a system that's fair.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

For young and for old, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.
(Refrain)

Verse 5

For everyone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.
(Refrain)

***SENDING FORTH**

Pastor Dave

EXITING MUSIC

Many Voices: We remember his commitment to living fully and loving totally. We remember his faith in a God to be trusted whatever twists life takes in this imperfect world.

Pastor Dave: On that last night, Jesus again shared a meal with his friends. Through grain and grape, bread and wine, and in fellowship together, he spoke of his enduring love for each of them. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and shared it with them, saying:

Many Voices: This bread is broken as my body will be broken. Eat it and remember me.

Pastor Dave: Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with them, saying:

Many Voices: This wine is poured out as my blood will be poured out. Drink it and remember me.

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. We will hand you a piece of bread and offer you a cup to take. 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.]

Serving the Online Community

Pastor Dave: The body of Christ broken for you; and the cup of blessing poured out for you. Amen.

Praying after Receiving

Many Voices: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Amen.

God:⁹ Let the waters below the heavens be collected into one place *and congregate into one vast sea*, so that dry land may appear.

It happened *just as God said*.¹⁰ God called the dry land “earth” and the waters congregated below “seas.” And God saw that His *new* creation was *beautiful and good*.

God:¹¹ Earth, sprout *green* vegetation! *Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants and all sorts of fruit-bearing trees*.

It happened *just as God said*.¹² The earth produced vegetation—seed-bearing plants of all varieties and fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. And God saw that His *new* creation was *beautiful and good*.¹³ Evening gave way to morning. That was day three.

God:¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Lights, come out! Shine in the *vast* expanse of heavens’ *sky* dividing day from night to mark the seasons, days, and years. Lights, warm the earth with your light.

It happened *just as God said*.¹⁶ God fashioned the two great lights—the brighter to mark the course of day, the dimmer to mark the course of night—and *the Divine needled night with the stars*.¹⁷ God set them in heavens’ *sky* to cast *warm* light on the earth,¹⁸ to rule over the day and night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that His *new* creation was *beautiful and good*.¹⁹ Evening gave way to morning. That was day four.

God:²⁰ Waters, swarm with fish and sea creatures. Let birds soar high above the earth in the broad expanse of sky.

²¹ So God created huge sea creatures, all the swarm of life in the waters, and every kind *and species* of flying birds—each able to reproduce its own kind. And God saw that His new creation was *beautiful and good*.²² And God spoke this blessing over them:

God: Be fruitful and multiply. *Let creatures* fill the seas. Let birds reproduce and cover the earth.

²³ Evening gave way to morning. That was day five.

God:²⁴ Earth, generate life! Produce a vast variety of living creatures—domesticated animals, *small* creeping creatures, and wild animals that roam the earth.

It happened *just as God said*.²⁵ God made earth-creatures *in a vast variety of species*: wild animals, domesticated animals *of all sizes*, and *small* creeping creatures, each able to reproduce its own kind. God saw that His new creation was *beautiful and good*. *And God paused*.

God: ²⁶ Now let Us conceive *a new creation*—humanity—*made* in Our image, *fashioned* according to Our likeness. And let *Us grant* them authority over all the earth—the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated animals and the *small* creeping creatures on the earth.

²⁷ So God did *just that*. He created humanity in His image, created them male and female. ²⁸ Then God blessed them and gave them *this directive*: “Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. *I make you trustees of My estate*, so care for My creation and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.”

God (to humanity): ²⁹ Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant that grows on the earth and every fruit-bearing tree. They will be your food *and nourishment*. ³⁰ As for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and every *small* creeping creature—everything that breathes the breath of life—I have given them every green plant for food.

And it happened *just as God said*. ³¹ Then God surveyed everything He had made, *savoring its beauty and appreciating* its goodness. Evening gave way to morning. That was day six.

2 So now you see how the Creator swept into being the *spangled* heavens, the earth, and all their hosts *in six days*. ² On the seventh day—with the *canvas of the cosmos* completed—God paused from His labor and rested. ³ Thus God blessed day seven and made it special—*an open time for pause and restoration, a sacred zone of Sabbath-keeping*, because God rested from all the work He had done in creation that day.

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

Many Voices: Amen

PROCLAIMING

Pastor Dave

Back to the Beginning! The Preface

GIVING

Pastor Dave



BLESSING OUR GIFTS and MUSIC with PRAYER Lay Reader

Many Voices: God of all creation, we offer our gifts in gratitude. You offer abundant life, beauty, and goodness we cannot find on our own. May our gifts be tools that make the transformation of the world a reality. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Pastor Dave: We give thanks for the gift of the Spirit of Life at work in the depths of our being. We gather around this table knowing our lives give the Spirit a way of breaking into word and song.

Many Voices: For the words and songs within each of us, we give thanks!

Pastor Dave: We are mindful of the women and men throughout human history who allowed the Spirit of Life to work in them for the betterment of our world and humanity.

Many Voices: For their lives and their inspiration, we give thanks!

Pastor Dave: We offer our thanks and praise for Jesus. He urged people to work together to establish the reign of God by whole-hearted generosity, by eliminating boundaries between people, and by working for peace and justice in all human endeavors.