

When Do Small Groups Meet Next?

- Book Group** - Monday, February 23rd @ 7pm
"The House in the Cerulean Sea" By T.J. Klune
- Chair Yoga** - Mondays @ 11:45am
Thursdays @ 5:30pm
- FaithTalk Bible Study** - Tuesdays @ 12:00pm (Lent Study with Cindy)
- Grief Support Group** - Thursday March 12th @ 12:00pm
- Prayer Team** - Wednesdays @ 5:00pm
- Skeptic's Circle** - Tuesday, March 10th @ 6:30pm
*Meets at: Brick & Ivy Coffee Co.
27754 Bluegrass Dr. Channahon, IL*
- Youth Group** - Wednesdays @ 7:00pm
- Lent Bible Studies** - Sundays @ 8:00am (With Kim Nave)
Thursdays @ 7:00pm (With Pastor)

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER YOUTH
SONG LEADERS RUTH SATORIUS, GAIL GIRARD,
SUSAN SPENCER
ACCOMPANIST SUE MALMBERG

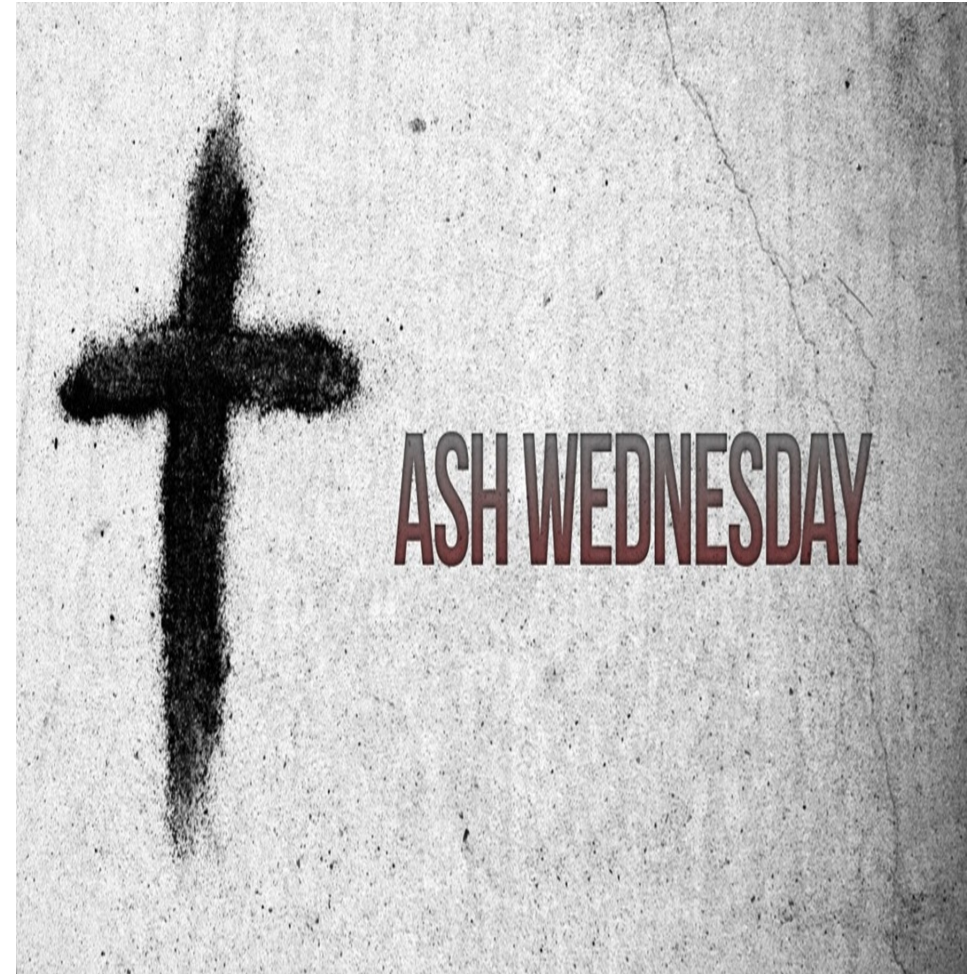
CHURCH STAFF

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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1210 RIDGE RD. MINOOKA, IL. 60447



Welcome!

Minooka United Methodist Church

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:00pm

Minooka United Methodist Church
Ash Wednesday Worship Experience
February 18, 2026 7:00pm

* Stand if you are able

ENTERING MUSIC

WELCOMING

Pastor Dave

***GATHERING**

Lay Reader

Reader: Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,

Many Voices: from stardust we are made, and to stardust we will return.

Reader: With questions and queries, hopes and expectations,

Many Voices: we gather as God's people, created in God's image.

Reader: Yearning and seeking, seldom satisfied,

Many Voices: we share with our ancestors a desire for more.

Reader: Compassionate God, calm us for worship, still our restless hearts,

Many Voices: and hold us in our errors and successes, as humbly we approach you this night.

OBSERVING A HOLY LENT

Pator Dave

***SINGING**

"Sanctuary"

The Faith We Sing #2164(x2)

Lord, prepare me
To be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy,
Tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.
(Repeat)

Commentary by Rev. Dr. Brian Blount on Luke 14:15-24

Let Go of the Ordinary

"Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the reign of God" (Luke 14:15). For the man who makes this proclamation, "anyone" is more expansive than he knows. He is thinking about people like himself—the well-positioned and well-to-do who invite peers to their parties. Persons self-important enough that when they enter they seek the highest seat so that they can be appropriately recognized. This is ordinary social behavior. This is why the householder in Jesus' parable starts out by inviting people like himself. He, too, does the ordinary. And all is well. Until his people decline his fabulous invitation in order to tend to their mundane affairs.

Humiliated, the householder repents of his ordinariness and leans into the extraordinary. He does not invite another lateral group of socialites, or those the next level down on the social ladder. Instead, he extends his welcome to those who have nothing. He declares his intent to share his feast and his company with those whom life has broken: "the poor, the maimed, the blind, and the lame." The paupers who have been banished from proper community will inherit the bounty that the high and mighty reject.

The reign of God is like that! It redefines the meaning of communal belonging. Ordinarily, the host of a banquet invites and serves the very people who have no need of the banquet's bounty. The extraordinary people who hope to emulate God's transcendent love invite into their company not just those who have, but those who need. They make the broken ones socially whole and physically welcome.

The season of Lent reminds us that God has extended such an extraordinary welcome. To us. In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God, holy beyond all human standing, invited us, in all of our brokenness, into the community of divine presence. Not because we earned a place, but because God created space. Lent offers us the opportunity to remove all the distractions and focus on the invitation. We are the broken. God is the householder. Jesus is the invitation. All we have to do is say "yes."

Reflect

How are you responding to God's invitation this Lent?



GATHERING for learning, growing, and caring in SMALL GROUPS

Sundays, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

led by Kim Nave at 8:00am

Tuesdays, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

led by Cindy White at 12noon

Thursdays, February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26

led by Pastor Dave at 7:00pm

GATHERING for HOLY WEEK Worship Experiences

Sunday, March 29— Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:30am

Thursday, April 2 — Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm

Friday, April 3 — Ecumenical Prayer Walk at CUMC, 10:00am

Friday, April 3 — Good Friday, 7:00pm

Saturday, April 4 — Holy Saturday, 5:00pm

Sunday, April 5 — Easter Sunday, 9:30am

PRAYING

Lay Reader

Reader: There is a wisdom in ash, that we need so much, but seldom hear.

Many Voices: It is the wisdom of grief, that reminds us of our mortality, and that life is more than this dust can contain.

Reader: It is the wisdom of confession, that brings our bleakness out of hiding, and opens the windows to let in the light. It is the wisdom of repentance, that stops us in our tracks, and turns us toward the way of love.

Many Voices: There's a wisdom in ash, and we welcome it, Jesus, thankful for the renewing gifts it brings.

READING SCRIPTURE — REFLECTING — SINGING

Genesis 2:4-9 (The Voice)

⁴This is the *detailed* story of the Eternal God's *singular work* in creating all that exists. On the day the heavens and earth were created, ⁵there were no plants or vegetation to cover the earth. The fields were barren and empty, because the Eternal God had not sent the rains to *nourish* the soil or anyone to tend it. ⁶In those days, a mist rose up from the ground to *blanket the earth, and its vapors* irrigated the land. ⁷One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into *the shape we call human*, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.

⁸The Eternal God planted a garden in the east in Eden—*a place of utter delight*—and placed the man whom He had sculpted there. ⁹*In this garden*, He made the ground pregnant *with life—bursting forth* with nourishing food and *luxuriant beauty*. He created trees, and in the center of this garden of *delights* stood the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Jonah 3:5-9 (NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION)

⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸ Humans and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

Psalms 32:1-5 (The Voice)

¹ How happy is the one whose wrongs are forgiven,
whose sin is hidden *from sight*.

² How happy is the person whose sin the Eternal will not take into account.

How happy are those who no longer lie, to themselves or others.

³ When I refused to admit my wrongs, *I was miserable*,
moaning and complaining all day long
so that even my bones felt brittle.

⁴ Day and night, Your hand kept pressing on me.
My strength dried up *like water* in the summer heat;
You wore me down.

⁵ *When I finally saw my own lies*,
I owned up to my sins before You,
and I did not try to hide my evil deeds *from You*.
I said *to myself*, “I’ll admit *all* my sins to the Eternal,”
and You *lifted and* carried away the guilt of my sin.



The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell’s Pre-K Class

In Pre-K the whole class gets an invite to Tommy’s birthday. He places the paper invites in our cubbies. There’s a helter-skelter sticker sealing each one, proof that tiny hands did the work. So we, the members of Mrs. Farnell’s Pre-K class, arrive at the park on Saturday. We arrive whether or not we’ve ever built a sandcastle with Tommy. We arrive whether or not we’ve ever shared half of our PB&J at lunch. We arrive at the park on Saturday, with pigtails and balloons, because we were invited. And together we play tag, and we eat birthday cake, and we run barefoot in the grass. Together, we sing Happy birthday to youuuuuu, so excited we can barely stand still. Together, we momentarily forget that Chloe never gets picked for Red Rover and that Quinn cried in class last week, because the park is not the playground and everyone was invited. And when we load into our cars at the end of the day, with grass-stained knees, chocolate frosting on our faces, and the awareness of inclusion, we say to our parents, This was the best day of my life.

Poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

***SINGING**

The Faith We Sing #2176(x2)
"Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

***SENDING FORTH**

Reader: On this Ash Wednesday we have made our choice.

Many Voices: We choose to travel the Lenten way and we carry in our lives the stardust of human and divine reality.

Reader: The path is uncertain, some days may feel unfamiliar.

Many Voices: Still we choose to follow Jesus, for nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Dave: Go now in peace, knowing the love of the Creating Parent, the peace of the Redeeming Christ, and the presence of the Sustaining Spirit. Amen!

EXITING MUSIC

Thank you to our Confirmation Cohort and Youth Group for helping lead the service.

"Change My Heart O God"

The Faith We Sing #2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 (The Message)

6 "Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding.

²⁻⁴ "When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure—'playactors' I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get. When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.

⁵ "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for fifteen minutes of fame! Do you think God sits in a box seat?

⁶ "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ “When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don’t make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won’t make you a saint. If you ‘go into training’ inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn’t require attention-getting devices. He won’t overlook what you are doing; he’ll reward you well.

¹⁹⁻²¹ “Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

Refrain
More like You,
Jesus more like You.
Fill my heart with Your desire
to make me more like You.
More like You,
Jesus more like You.
Touch my lips with holy fire
and make me more like You.

Extended Silent Prayer

“More Like You” The Faith We Sing #2167

Refrain
More like You,
Jesus more like You.
Fill my heart with Your desire
to make me more like You.
More like You,
Jesus more like You.
Touch my lips with holy fire
and make me more like You.

Verse
Lord, You are my mercy.
Lord, You are my grace.
All my deepest sins
have forever been erased.
Draw me in Your presence.
Lead me in Your ways.
I long to bring You glory
in righteousness and praise.

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” The Faith We Sing #2157

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia.

May this time of silence be whatever you need it to be: thanking God for stardust; sitting in ash like the Ninevites; seeing how to be more like Jesus; or simply being in the presence of the Triune God.