



# GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

We seek, we serve, we celebrate

DEC 2020



Are you on  
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Join our private  
Minnehaha  
Community Page!

#### About Us:

Minnehaha United Methodist Church is a thriving multi-generational, multicultural Christian community devoted to social justice and personal spiritual growth. The congregation is both mission- and worship-focused. In addition to its worship, education, and social activities, the church supports local mission activities, including a food shelf and a monthly food distribution program. The church also supports a variety of national and international relief, education, and development projects.

#### A Reconciling Congregation:

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church opens our doors to all God's people. We will strive to offer unconditional love and acceptance** to all persons, regardless of race, sexual orientation or faith history. We work to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory practices within ourselves and within our community. -adopted 2006

#### Our Mission:

We seek, we serve, we celebrate, we carry our Christian faith into our community and the world. We provide a caring gathering place to worship God and to grow spiritually. -reconfirmed 2011

## *Toy Drive Donations Needed*

During the 4 Tuesdays before Christmas, Food Shelf Parents are able to select toys for their children, ranging from babies to teenagers. Parents may choose a toy (ranging from baby toys to dolls to hot wheels to table foosball to hair dryers and clock radios), a stocking stuffer, and a hat or gloves for each of their children. We also provide gift bags and wrapping paper. All this is made possible by the generosity of members of Minnehaha. *Every year, parents respond with "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" and "Oh my gosh, these present are so nice!" and "Can I really get a hat and gloves for each of my children?"* There are three ways you can help with this mission:

Buy toys, hats, and gloves- as our office hours are limited a great time to drop off toys is during MinneHarvest. To arrange another drop off time contact Renee Beymer

Write a check to the church (put Toys in the memo line) or give through our Donate button on the website and designate it for Christmas Toys

With your help Good Things will, indeed, continue to Happen Here

## *United Methodist Women*

Happy Holidays to You all and thank you for coming out for our Covid Friendly Holiday Bazaar on November 14! Ordering lunches ahead of time worked out very well and our estimates about how much we would sell was close though we apologize if you missed out on the desserts! We made a nice profit of \$1369.98 which will go to the missions your UMW supports. We have already donated \$600 to Emma Norton Services which provides housing for women and children in need. The Bazaar was a great time to connect even briefly with you and a great thanks goes to Kim Kanuit, Annette Meier, Sarah Hicks, Margaret Rawson, Karen Anderson, Kitty Campbell, Becky Nyseth, Peter and Sue Johnson, and Deanna Wichmann for the food prep, serving, making gift items and manning our sales.

We still have some of your favorite gift items that could still be purchased before Christmas: Wild Rice, 1# for \$15, 2# for \$30, scrubbies at \$2, Bean Soup Mix at \$5, Minnehaha Church Cookbook at \$5, kitchen towels with crocheted handles at \$7.50, assorted fruit jams at \$4. If you're interested, in buying, please contact Maureen Trepp at 612-387-2520 (message can be left) or [maurentrepp@yahoo.com](mailto:maurentrepp@yahoo.com) to order and find a pick up time.

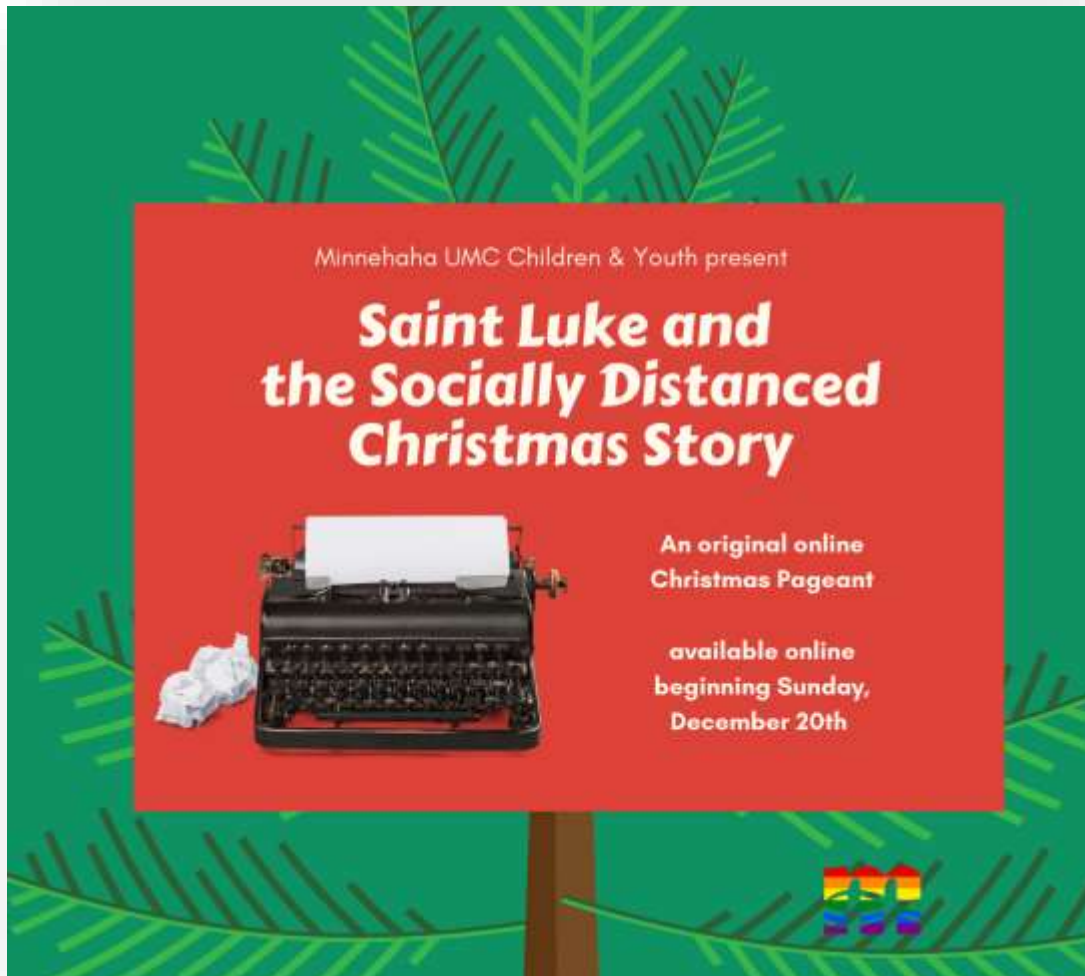


## Worship in December

Online only worship continues in December. Our theme for Advent is Do Not Be Afraid. Even though we are online, we'll still light the candles of the Advent wreath, candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We'll still have a Christmas Eve service, with lots of Christmas carols, but you get to sing them in your pjs while drinking cocoa, if you like. If you like the early service, you can tune in early in the afternoon on Christmas Eve and participate in the service. If you love being at a late service, concluding just as the clock strikes midnight, you can tune in at 11. The bonus is that you don't have to put on your coat or boots, and you don't have to drive home at midnight!

Hopefully you have your Advent bags by now, and can participate with the devotional and the coloring pages. The bulletins are largely correct, but there will be updates to some of the musical pieces as we get closer to each service. We will continue to post the bulletins each week with the service if you want the most current information. If you didn't get an Advent bag, please let us know right away (email or call Becky), and we'll get one to you.

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|-------------|--|
| December 6  | "To Bring Peace" - 2nd Sunday of Advent<br><i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>       |
| December 13 | "To Practice Joy" - 3rd Sunday of Advent<br><i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i> |
| December 20 | "To Practice Love" - 4th Sunday of Advent<br><i>Christmas Pageant!</i> |
| December 24 | "Be Not Afraid" - Christmas Eve!                                       |
| December 27 | Special Service from the Conference                                    |





## *This past month with Minnehaha Children, Youth, & Families*



### **Halloween Morning Parade**

On Saturday, Oct. 31st, Minnehaha Youth and Adults spread out from Minnehaha to Nokomis Square - with candy and tubes - for our Halloween Parade. Kids and their families had a costume parade and circled Nokomis Square - waving, getting candy, and plenty of smiles from onlookers.



### **CHILDREN**

We've been gathering each Sunday morning, working our way through the Beatitudes, and in the last couple of weeks, working on various aspects of the Minnehaha Christmas Pageant. First through fifth graders have also been meeting Wednesday evenings with Eric, Jenn, and Jenia to connect and work on the Christmas Pageant.



### **YOUTH**

We had Middle School Grade Level gatherings (outside & masked) on Halloween Afternoon, and wrapped up our summer/fall season of bike rides. We continue weekly online opportunities, including Sunday Morning Check-In's (much of which has been spent with puppets), Monday Crafts, and Wednesday Night Confirmation and Cooking. Soon, we'll be able to share with you all our very own production of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, which we've been putting together via zoom the last few months.



**This thanksgiving - we're full of gratitude for all the families of Minnehaha who give us hope for the future of our community & world.**

*To be added to our email list/get links for online gatherings, contact*

*Jenia Stomat [education@minnehaha.org](mailto:education@minnehaha.org)*

## *Feeling a Little Blue for Christmas*

The Christmas cheer is greatly tempered this year. If you are looking for something a little more contemplative with an acknowledgement to the loss that often hits a little harder this time of year, our Taizé service for December will be our annual Blue Christmas service. The music of Taizé, some Christmas hymns, and three reflections on where we find God in the midst of grief and depression. The service will be available on our website December 11.

## *Pledges*

If you haven't gotten in your pledge for the 2021 Operating Budget, please do so right away. We will be passing our annual budget mid-January and we'd like as accurate a number as we can for our income so that we don't unnecessarily make cuts in vital programming for the church. If you didn't get a pledge card, or need another one, please contact the office to get a new one. Thank you!

## MINNEHAHA NATIVITY SCENE CHALLENGE



DON'T FORGET TO EMAIL A PHOTO OF YOUR  
NATIVITY SCENE TO  
[EDUCATION@MINNEHAHA.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@MINNEHAHA.ORG)



# Saint Luke and the Socially Distanced Christmas Story

Note  
from the  
pastor



## Do Not Be Afraid

Our theme for Advent is “Do Not Be Afraid.” It’s a little ironic, given that the predictions of epidemiologists and other scientists for a bad fall into winter is coming true. With the rising rates of infections (and resulting hospitalizations and deaths), it is pretty hard to not be afraid. We’ll be facing our fears this December, facing them as we hold on to Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love. We’ll be wearing our masks, limiting our movements, and limiting the number of people we actually see in person. To help us do this, here is a prayer for putting on our masks. It was written by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church of Canada. He wrote it in August of 2020.

### *Prayer for Putting on a Mask*

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth – let it be “an outward sign of an inward grace” – a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice will be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully – and full of care – to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray. May it be so. May it be so.

In Joy,

Becky





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12/20



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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WITH MINNEHAHA UMC

Join us online this season for worship.

Sunday, November 29th: To Hold Hope  
Sunday, December 6th: To Bring Peace  
Friday, December 11th: Blue Christmas/Taizé Service  
Sunday, December 13th: To Practice Joy  
Sunday, December 20th: Saint Luke & the Socially  
Distant Christmas Story  
Thursday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

Services are available on our Youtube channel and our website. They are made available starting on their respective dates, and are then accessible whenever you would like to watch and share with your friends and family.



[www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)