



# GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

We seek, we serve, we celebrate

APR 2021

# April

Are you on  
Facebook?  
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



Mark your calendars for

# 2021 SUMMER CAMPS THROUGH CAMP MINNESOTA

HEAD TO [WWW.CAMPMINNESOTA.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPMINNESOTA.ORG) TO FIND INFORMATION (INCLUDING COVID PROVISIONS) AND TO REGISTER NOW FOR THESE SLEEP AWAY CAMPS.

*We're encouraging Minnehaha Families who feel comfortable with Camp to consider the sessions below so Minnehaha Kids can attend together - but all sessions at Camp Minnesota are open to us!*

## CAMPS THROUGH CAMP MINNESOTA

### **Teddy Bear Camp**

July 15th-17th at Camp Koronis  
*A great first sleep away camp!*

### **Trailblazers Camp**

Minnehaha kids are already registered at two different sessions - pick which works best for you:  
July 11th-14th at Camp Koronis  
August 1st-4th at Camp Koronis

### **Pathways Camp**

July 12-17 at Camp Koronis

### **Northern Pines Teen Camp**

August 1-6 at Northern Pines

## REGISTER TODAY!

**For 6-9 year olds**

**For 8-12 year olds**

**For 9-13 year olds**

**For 13-16 year olds**

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR **SUMMER PROGRAMMING AT MIMNEHAHA** ARE IN THE WORK - KEEP TUNED FOR INFO ON MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP, VBS, AND MORE!



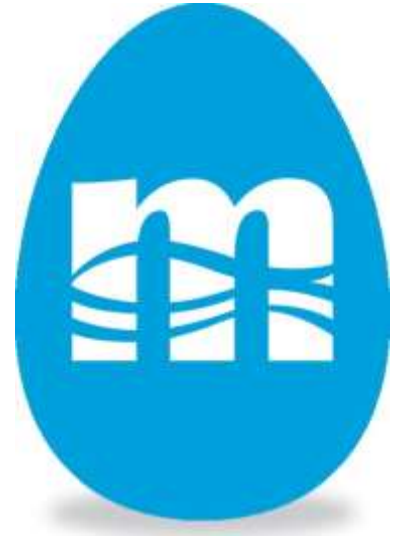
[WWW.MINNEHAHA.ORG](http://WWW.MINNEHAHA.ORG)

## Worship in April

Easter comes on April 4 this year, and we will offer an online service. Not the sunrise service of last year, but a service filled with a variety of voices and faces and a bit more music than we've had in our regular online services. Holy Week, leading up to Easter, will also be online. Look for a Facebook Live Maundy Thursday (and a pre-recorded one on our YouTube channel for those of you not on Facebook), and our Good Friday Tenebrae service of 14 readings with the extinguishing of candles will be available online as well. If you like doing the Stations of the Cross, we will offer some online options for you that week in the enews.

We hope that the month of April will be the last of our pre-recorded, exclusively online services. For May, we will still be online with livestream for the first few weeks, and then moving to outside, in-person when the weather allows. Look for more details in your May newsletter.

April 1	Maundy Thursday – Facebook Live event
April 2	Good Friday - Tenebrae service online
April 4	“Light in the Darkness” Easter Sunday Mark 16:1-8
April 11	“Prayer in Praise of Unity” Psalm 133
April 18	“A Prayer for Help” Psalm 4
April 25	“A Prayer of Confidence” Psalm 23



## Giving Made Easier with AmazonSmile!

We have a new, fun way that you can give back to Minnehaha UMC – through AmazonSmile. We are registered with Amazon's program where 0.5% of your Amazon purchase (on eligible AmazonSmile items) can be designated to a charity of your choice. Now Minnehaha can be one of your choices – and so far, nearly 70 of you have chosen Minnehaha. *Thank you!!*

Look for this logo:



Use this link when shopping: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0789393> - it is that easy!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Minnehaha and its ministries. We are grateful.

Annette Meier  
Fundraising Coordinator  
[salmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:salmeier@hotmail.com)  
(612) 597-1778



MINNEHAHA UMC INVITES  
YOU TO:

# LET'S TALK: ENCOURAGING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SEX & SEXUALITY

For Parents of Toddlers to Teens



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH**  
**7:30-8:30PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**RSVP TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK**

Conversations about sexuality and healthy relationships are necessary and rewarding, especially within families. Join us for this fun and interactive gathering led by Jill Farris, the Director of Adolescent Sexual Health Training & Education at the University of Minnesota's Healthy Youth Development - Prevention Research Center. Jill is also a Nokomis East resident and parent of two elementary school age children. She will help parents explore their own experiences with sexual health education, identify values and messages they would like to pass on to their children, and leave with strategies for opening up the lines of communication about this important, but sometimes uncomfortable topic. This gathering will help parents gain information, tools, and support to raise well-informed children who make healthy sexual decisions throughout their lives.



# Minnehaha Music & Drama Camp

**When:** Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30th  
from 9am - 3pm

**Who:** Kids who've completed first through eighth grade

**Where:** Rehearsals outside at Minnehaha UMC  
& Performance at Minnehaha Falls Park on Friday evening

**Cost:** \$100/participant - Includes lunch

We'll work together on all aspects of putting together a musical:  
from costumes, and props to acting, singing, and dancing.

This year's show is *Minnehaha Falls: The Musical*  
written by our very own Maureen Trepp.

The show explores the history of our little corner of the world. Our  
performance will be outdoors at various historic locations nearby  
(easy walking throughout Minnehaha Fall Park).

We will be outside as much as possible during this week,  
following Covid precautions, and adapting as necessary.

Scholarships are available if necessary.  
Register at [www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)



MINNEHAHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Graduating this Year?

Will someone in your family graduate from high school, college,  
trade school, or grad school in 2021?

**IN JUNE, WE WILL BE RECOGNIZING GRADUATES IN  
OUR COMMUNITY.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR GRADUATE(S)  
BY THURSDAY, MAY 6TH TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS  
RECOGNITION.**

Find the information form at  
[www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)  
or email  
[education@minnehaha.org](mailto:education@minnehaha.org) and  
let us know names, schools, and  
other pertinent information so  
we can celebrate you/your  
graduate.

We're planning on this  
recognition taking place in  
worship on June 6th - but are  
holding off making that call 'til  
June is a bit closer.



## General Conference

The every-four-year world-wide gathering of our denomination is not something we normally track so closely, but as you already know, the next time our denomination meets we will be voting on how, exactly, we will be splitting. General Conference was already delayed once, from May of 2020 to August/September of this year. The Commission on General Conference announced in March that it will be delayed again, until late August and early September of 2022. It will still be held in Minneapolis.

## Taizé Online

It's easy to get caught up in the daily demands of life. In our busyness, we can lose track of ourselves, and of what God is calling us to be and to do. Take an opportunity to slow down, to rest in silence and music, and to feed your soul. Our Taizé team created distantly-recorded services that are available on our website and our YouTube channel, and they are creating a new one each month. Our next service should be available on April 23.

## MinneHarvest

Our free food give-away once a month (on the fourth Saturday of the month) is a source of food relied upon by many, and it happens through volunteers who come each month. Please join us on April 24 You can volunteer anytime between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. We start setting up at 6:30, unload the trucks starting at 7, serve the food at 9:00, and are usually done cleaning up by 10:30. Join us for all or any portion of that time, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a friend (and a mask)!



## Who in the church do I talk to about the...

If you have a question about anything going on at the church—Sunday School or the church budget or the building or music or whatever—here’s a handy list of people you can talk to.

### CHURCH BUSINESS



**SCOTT GRUENHAGEN** is chair of the Church Council, which manages and oversees all the committees of the church.

### BUILDING



**CHRIS KRAMER** is chair of the Trustees committee, which is responsible for taking care of the church building and property.

### FINANCES



**KEVIN BRUNS** is chair of the Finance committee, which deals with the budget, bills, mortgage, apportionments, and more.

### KIDS, YOUTH & FAMILIES



**JENIA STROM** is the director of children and family ministries. Talk to her about child/youth/family programs and Sunday School.

### STAFF



**AMY RETHERFORD** is chair of Staff-Parish Relations (SPR), which is the Human Resources department of the church.

### MUSIC MINISTRIES



**ERIC STROM** is chair of Music Ministries. He helps get children, youth and adults involved in the music of the church.

### WORSHIP



**PETER JOHNSON** is chair of the Worship committee, which works with the minister to coordinate our Sunday worship services.

### WELCOMING



**JENNY AMMERMAN** is chair of the Welcoming committee, which includes greeting, ushering, and new member classes.

### CONGREGATION



**DEAN AMMERMAN** is the church’s Lay Leader. He tries to connect all the people and groups together.

### FOOD SHELF



**MONICA PIEKARSKI** is the church’s representative on the neighborhood Food Shelf, which is based out of Minnehaha UMC.

### MINISTRY



**BECKY SECHRIST** is pastor of the church. Talk to her about worship, counseling, prayer, bible study, Methodism, and more.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



**MAUREEN TREPP** is president of the United Methodist Women, which supports local, national and international missions.

## Electric Vehicle Showcase

The Sustainability and Climate Action committee is making plans to host a EV showcase on Sunday, April 25th at 1 PM. If interested in more information people could email [climateaction@augsb.org](mailto:climateaction@augsb.org).



## Help with Sound, Projection, and Camera

We are looking for a few adults and youth who are willing to help out with our sound system, our projection, and our livestreaming cameras. As we move to in-person, outside worship, it is a great time to learn how to use our portable camera and our outside sound system. When we return to in-person, indoor worship, we’ll need volunteers for all 3 positions in both services. Coordinators of each of those areas will provide training and help us work out a schedule. And, cross-training is encouraged! You are welcome to volunteer for more than one of these area. For now, let Becky know if you are interested, and she’ll get you in touch with the coordinators.

## Holy Week

Holy Week is observed during the last week of Lent, between Palm Sunday (March 28) and Easter Sunday (April 4). It is traditionally a time to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with the disciples, and his arrest, trial and death.

- ◆ This year, we'll be offering a Maundy Thursday Facebook Live service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Have something bread-like and something like grape juice ready and we'll join together in a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. If you aren't on Facebook, we will also have a pre-recorded service available on our YouTube channel (you can find a link on the church website). You'll still want to have your bread and grape juice for that as well.
- ◆ We will also have a Good Friday service of Tenebrae on April 2. It will be available all day, but you might want to worship in the evening since the service focus is on moving from light to darkness. The service includes 14 readings from the Gospel of Mark about the events leading up to Jesus' death. It also includes music, and the extinguishing of candles.
- ◆ If you would like to participate in a Stations of the Cross (usually a walk around 14 stations featuring the last hours of Jesus' life), here are some online options:

- ⇒ <https://bustedhalo.com/video/virtual-stations-of-the-cross> Offers a self-guided Stations of the Cross. Each station features a work of art by Pittsburgh artist Virgil Cantini and a series of statements and provocative questions are typed over the images; you are invited into reflection or conversation at each station, moving yourself to the next station when you are ready. A different piece of music plays at each station.
- ⇒ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA> Offers a Stations of the Cross for children. It features artwork, some music, and a voice-over offering explanation. It is about 10 minutes long.
- ⇒ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ9om4YEIns> is a Stations of the Cross written by St. Francis of Assisi. Two voices read, pray, and sing and a variety of artwork is used. It is about 35 minutes long.



MINNEHAHA UMC INVITES YOU TO

## Celebrate Creation: an Intergenerational VBS

Come together as families for activities, music, stories and more that help us celebrate and consider how we care for creation

**Sunday, July 18 from 3-4:30PM &  
Monday, July 19, Tuesday, July 20, &  
Wednesday July 21 from 6-7:30pm**

Dinner options will be available at 5:30pm on the 19th-21st

**COST PER FAMILY \$10**

All materials will also be available online. Come in person for what you can! We will be outside and following Covid-precautions.

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





United  
Methodist  
Women

## United Methodist Women

United Methodist women support women and children in our community and around the world through financial gifts and services. Our Annual UMW Sunday highlights Minnehaha UMC community members who have given service to our congregation through awarding service pins. This year UMW Sunday was on Feb. 21 and normally I'd have everyone stand who's received a pin but ...well, not 2021 but there are many in our community who have received an UMW Service award. You are people who glow...shine with giving goodness. It was my honor to present the first service award for 2020.

Six and a half years ago Minnehaha UMC received a gift: a new pastor.

A pastor who

- relates warmly to everyone, showing genuine concern and interest when counseling grieving families, teaching confirmation classes, organizing online worship and social distance Advent and Lenten programs and whenever you meet her
- gives sermons that blend scripture with relevant stories relaying diverse messages we can reflect on and use in our daily lives.
- has established learning through Bible studies, discussions and using the talents of church members
- recognizes and leads us in prayer for not only the needs of our congregation but the woes of the world, naturally and politically
- supervises, works with, and uses the talents well of both paid staff and church member volunteers to give our Minnehaha UMC community vibrancy, direction, and a spirit of hospitality that has allowed us to flourish and grow
- seeks out members of all ages, creating welcoming spaces and dialogues and supporting families and individuals when in need
- professionally links us, through her participation and sharing, to other churches and the greater United Methodist Church
- is joyful, friendly, outgoing, musical (haven't heard her sing much but she is allowed to be in a community band), caring, authentic, hopeful, creative: a glowing gift!

This award went to our Pastor, Becky Sechrist. I was able to present it to her as you can see in the photo.



Two others received service awards on Feb. 21. Julia Cook and Jefferson Slinkard

When this family moved to Minnesota in 2014 and started coming to Minnehaha, we were introduced to a dynamic duo who have selflessly and joyfully shared their talents with us. The list of contributions these two people have made is long. I won't be able to list everything here, but a sample of the highlights includes the following:

- Doing dramatic readings for worship
- "Riding herd" for our Cowboy Sunday services
- Singing at both services - one of them





# Minnehaha Plant Sale

Sponsored by the Youth of Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
Order Link Available at [www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)

## Hanging Pots - \$27 each

Geraniums, Impatients, Compact Rose, Fuscias,  
Begonia, Thunbergias, Petunias. & more



## Patio Pot

12" Geranium - \$28



## Patio Pot

Geranium Mix- \$30 each



Proceeds go to benefit the Minnehaha Youth Ministries  
Questions? Please contact Jason Emrick @651.621.0231  
*Pictures are examples of the plants, not the plants you will receive.  
Please note we're using a new supplier.*

(Continued from page 8)

- Playing guitar and piano
- Leading our youngest singers, the Cherub Choir, and even writing songs for them
- Being one of the faces of the Stewardship Campaign
- Volunteering to help start up the church's new live-streaming capabilities in the middle of the pandemic
- Playing the lead role in our annual Christmas pageant, as Saint Luke (most recently), a fly, a grumpy old magi, God, and even a donkey.
- I could go on, but in case you don't yet know, I am talking about Julia Cook and Jefferson Slinkard. Minnehaha is blessed to have their gifts of talent, grace, humor and humility, and I am delighted to honor Julia and Jefferson with the UMW Service Award.

UMW sponsored our first meal served to Clare Housing, their Midtown Residence on Feb. 23 to 25 people. Margaret Rawson cooked up meat sauce, baked cookies and I and Mary Heltsley made salad, pasta and bread. John and Julie Darlington showed up at church to help package our dinners which they took over and delivered to the 25 residents. A lot easier than our meals for 120 at Simpson, which is still not using any volunteers for meal service. We will be sending over dinners to Clare Housing the 4th Tuesday of the month and would welcome anyone who would like to help out, though a crew of 5 seems enough! Clare Housing provides housing for those who are HIV positive and has several sites around the city. You can contact Maureen Trepp to help.



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The academic year is coming to an end and, hopefully, we have members who will be starting life at a post secondary placement next fall. Minnehaha UMW offers scholarships to those who request them to help with tuition. You can send a letter to church discussing your plans and needs or email me at maureentrepp@yahoo.com for questions.

Thank you: "Please accept this heartfelt thank you from all of us at Meals on Wheels. Your generous donation of \$204 will help Meals on Wheels remain dedicated to the health and safety of all the individuals and volunteers."

"...new possibilities...new opportunities...new beginnings. ...you have given families around the world with your contribution to Heifer International. Your recent gift of \$240 is providing families with life-changing animals, seeds and education...to (have) new, successful futures."

"Thank you so much for your support in the amount of \$250 to Joyce Nursery. Your contribution will build a strong foundation for our bilingual preschool program."



## Have a Blessed Ramadan

Once again this year, the Minnesota Council of Churches is providing signs for Christian and Jewish congregations to put in their lawns wishing our Muslim brothers and sister a blessed Ramadan. Once again this year, we will be putting the sign in our lawn. It's a neighborly thing to do, and given our partnership with the Daud & Omar families, we have some extra connections to the practice.

Ramadan is one of the largest Islamic observances. It is a 30-day period which moves around the calendar (this year, it starts at sundown on April 12). It celebrates the first revelation of the Quran to the prophet Mohammad. Ramadan is observed as a time of fasting from all food and drink from sunrise to sunset. Observing Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. Many Muslims time a pilgrimage to Mecca (another of the five pillars) during Ramadan. The observance of Ramadan ends with the celebratory holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

We'll have our sign up for all of Ramadan this year – when you see it, or others like it in your neighborhood – remember to hold our Muslim brothers and sisters, especially our partner families, in prayer.



Note  
from the  
pastor



### Be the Light



In our pandemic world, there is a lot of conversation about the light at the end of the tunnel. There are also warnings about how there is still a tunnel, **and we don't know how long it will be until we get to the light, but we can see it!** As Christians, we know something about this. We know about hope in the midst of a world that it not all light. We know about looking at the world with the lenses of Easter, even as we live out a series of Good Fridays. Hope, though, is what holds us. We know that our systems are still rooted in racism and sexism and lots of other isms. We know that the end of the pandemic will come unevenly, and that those who are most often at the edges will be at risk longer than those at the center. We know that refugees

continue to come to our borders, and continue to leave their homes in other countries in an effort to find safety. We know that our city is sitting, and protesting, uneasily as the trial of Derek Chauvin takes place. We know that while adults are getting their vaccines, trials for vaccines for children are just starting.

In the face of this, be the light. Be the hope of Easter for yourself and for our communities. Be the hope of Easter **not by digging deep and finding it within you, but by reaching for God's Spirit within you, letting that be a beacon of light for you and others.**

In Joy,

Becky



**Minnehaha 2021 Palm Processional**  
**Saturday, 27th March at 10am**

Join us at Minnehaha - weather and public health permitting -  
 for an outside, masked Palm Processional.

We'll meet at Minnehaha and parade over to Nokomis Square.  
 Nokomis Square residents are invited to watch from the community  
 room, or join us as we pass on the east side of the building.





3701 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Address Service Requested

Phone: 612/721-6231  
Fax: 612/721-7289  
E-Mail: [becky@minnehaha.org](mailto:becky@minnehaha.org)  
[office@minnehaha.org](mailto:office@minnehaha.org)

4/21



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## *Holy Week at Minnehaha 2021*

As with all our worship services,  
Holy Week services will be accessible via our website and social media outlets

**Saturday, March 27th at 10am - Palm Sunday Processional at Minnehaha.**  
Join us to pick up your Palms and we'll parade together (socially distanced and masked) to Nokomis Square and back. Nokomis Square residents are invited to meet the processional outside (on east side of building) or watch from the community room.

**Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday**  
Live Streamed Worship Service at 9am (following live stream, available to watch at your leisure)  
Zoom Coffee Hour at 10am  
Zoom Faith Formation for All Ages at 10:30 am- Adult Faith Formation will focus on the topic of Free Will.

**Thursday, April 1st - Maundy Thursday**  
Facebook Live brief Communion Service will be at 6:30pm. Have your bread and juice ready to join in. The service will be available on Facebook after 6:30, and we'll get it loaded to our YouTube page as soon as we can after that.

**Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday**  
Online Tenebrae Service, available starting mid morning.  
We'll also have a link to some online Stations of the Cross options.

**Sunday, April 4th - Easter**  
Online Worship Service available beginning at 8am  
Zoom Coffee hour at 10:00am