



GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

We seek, we serve, we celebrate

FEB 2021

February

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

Minnehaha Winter Celebration

on Saturday, Jan 30th

10am-noon: Head to Lake Nokomis - Take a walk, go skating, snowshoeing - and keep your eye out for fellow Minnehaha members to greet! *Stop by the Little Beach to pick up a Warm Fuzzy to help others find you (under your mask & winter gear) around the lake*

1-2pm: Zoom Afternoon Coffee - pour yourself a warm beverage, and sit down to catch-up with your Minnehaha friends

6pm: The Annual (and first virtual) Minnehaha Talent Show, featuring the world premiere of Minnehaha Youth's own version of *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

We'd love for you to share your talents, too. Send your name and act description to Val Mayer at vjmayer14@msn.com

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME - COME TO ONE OR ALL EVENTS
WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU ALL**

Worship in February

As we anticipate our eventual return to in-person worship (possibly outside again this summer), we are wanting to both give our editing crew (Dean Ammerman, Anders Nelson, Tim Siefkes) a break and develop a good livestreaming process. So, we will be livestreaming worship about once a month. Still no folks in the pews, but our volunteer sound, camera, and projection crew along with worship leaders and musicians doing worship in real time. Our plan right now is for that to happen on Feb. 7, March 7, March 28, and May 2. You will tune in to worship the same way on those **Sundays, the only difference is that the service won't be available before 9:00 a.m., and it will look a little different** since we are using our sanctuary cameras to capture everything.

February is a divided month, with the first two Sundays still in the season of Epiphany and the last two Sundays in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on February 17 this year – look for articles elsewhere about our plans for Lent and for Ash Wednesday in particular – and we will follow the theme in Lent of covenants. All the scripture texts remind us of covenants that God has made with humanity throughout time.

Just a reminder that if you want to light a candle or read scripture for one of our services, just let Becky know.

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|-------------|--|
| February 7 | <p>“Finding Healing” - LIVESTREAM
 <i>Mark 1:29-39</i></p> |
| February 14 | <p>“Radiance”
 <i>Mark 9:2-9</i></p> |
| February 17 | <p>Ash Wednesday
 A brief online service followed by in-person, outside imposition of Ashes from 12-1 and 5-6.</p> |
| February 21 | <p>“Returning to God”
 <i>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</i></p> |
| February 28 | <p>“Abraham & Sarah and a Promise”
 <i>Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16</i></p> |



MINNEHAHA CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

Looking back at January together...apart...



CHILDREN

We continue to gather weekly, following the lectionary in our Sunday School gathering, checking in on how we're doing. We've imagined traveling 18 hours to visit where Jesus was baptised, talked about how we do baptisms at Minnehaha, and how we know and feel love in our lives.

YOUTH

Lasagna, scones, cinnacream: we continue to cook together weekly. Coke or Pepsi? Wash or warsh? We cover all sorts of topics in our weekly Sunday morning check-ins. Dream catchers, flectangles, and peg people: we are sharing our skills and discovering new ways to be creative together..



Welcome Archer, Madeline, Amelia, Violet, Otto, & Genevieve!



FAMILIES

On January 10th, we recognized the babies that were born into our community this past year! Each child was given a onesie and book, we had an online Young Families Coffee Hour, and recognized & blessed these wonderful people as part of our online worship service.

Lent 2021

The season of Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 17, and concludes with the celebration of Easter on April 4. In between those two dates are 40 days, plus the 6 “free” Sundays. Sundays are “free” because every Sunday is a mini-Easter and thus they are not counted in the 40 days.

Normally, we do lots of things as a community during this time, and this year is no exception. It’s just that those things are going to look a little different.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service (see separate article about that), and we are also mailing a Lenten packet to each of you. It is getting mailed via bulk mail, so we are sending it out at the beginning of February in hopes that you get it before Ash Wednesday. In that packet you’ll find a couple of things – an ashen cross (more toner cartridge than burned palm leaves, but that seemed better for mailing things) and the makings for a paper chain. The ashen cross is for you to put up somewhere you will see it each day during Lent. You could put it in your pajama drawer, in your cereal bowl, coffee cup (pull it out before you pour the coffee in, please), your car, your bathroom mirror, your coat pocket, whatever works. The makings for a paper chain you’ll have to assemble yourself. Find some scissors and glue or stapler now so that you are ready when the packet arrives. You’ll cut the various paper sections out and then assemble a paper chain in date order. Each day, you break one of the “links” on the chain and follow the spiritual practice suggested. There are breath prayers, suggestions for thank you notes, a practice of giving thanks, challenges to use fewer plastics, etc.

We are also going to have a Lenten Book Study (see separate article) on Monday nights. Watch for your packet, tune in to worship, and go get “Love Is The Way” by Bishop Michael Curry for the book study.



Visions of Winter Retreats Past...



Visions of Winter Retreats Past...

A Note from SPR

The SPR committee would like to inform you that we are giving Jenia Strom, our Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, some much needed time off. Jenia has worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic and, with the support of church council, we feel that a break for her is much needed and well deserved. Jenia will be off on leave from January 20th- February 17th. If you need anything related to Children, Youth and Family Ministries during this time, please contact the church office (office@minnehaha.org) or Becky (becky@minnehaha.org), and they will be sure to connect you to the correct person covering that part of Jenia's duties.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17 this year, and we will be starting our Lenten observance with an Ash Wednesday. But, it's going to look a little different this year. We'll have a pre-recorded service available that day, and we will also offer an outdoors, masked, imposition of ashes. We know that this is not a possibility for many of you, and so read the article elsewhere about the Lenten packets we are mailing out to you that will have an ashy cross in them. But if you would like to come and receive the traditional ash mark (made from burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday), Becky will be available on the front steps of the church on Wednesday, February 17 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. and from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Please wear your mask; the encounter will be very brief, and Becky will clean her hands between each person.

Newcomer Class

We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Saturday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m. via zoom. If you have been attending our worship services and want to know a little bit more about us, this is the opportunity to do that! We'll send you the zoom link directly, so if you are interested, please contact Becky Sechrist at becky@minnehaha.org. Our next class (also on zoom) will be held on Thursday, March 4.

“Love Is The Way” Book Study

During Lent, we will be studying Bishop Michael Curry's book, “Love Is The Way.” If Bishop Curry's name sounds vaguely familiar, you might remember him from Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding. He was the one who officiated and gave that phenomenal sermon on the redemptive power of love. As the descendant of enslaved people, the son of a civil rights activist and a bishop in the Episcopal Church, Bishop Curry knows a thing or two about the current realities of our world as well as the importance of hope and the value of love in building a better future. We'll be reading two chapters a week and meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 on zoom. You'll find the link in your enews each week. Get your book and read chapters 1 and 2 for our first class on Monday, February 22.

SAVE THE DATE FOR:

**Minnehaha
Parents' Night In**

**Thursday, 4th February
8pm via Zoom**

**Put your kids to bed, pour yourself a
drink, and join Minnehaha parents via
zoom to decompress, to connect, to laugh,
to restore sanity.**

Evite with Zoom Link Coming Soon!



United Methodist Women

Happy Winter to the Women of Minnehaha UMC! Your UMW (United Methodist Women) are still here and doing things!

You are probably looking for the opening date of the All Church Musical that is sponsored by the UMW and OOPS! Maybe next February! We really miss doing it and, if all goes well, watch for one in 2022. We were very pleased to actually pull off our Holiday Bazaar in November and appreciate those of you who attended or picked up your lunch. We received \$1933.39 in income for the meals and items sold from UMW donations. After expenses (food, to-go containers, etc.) our income was \$1,694.87. We were also happy with sales after the Bazaar of Wild Rice, Bean Soup and Jams which totaled \$292.00. Those items are still available with Bean Soup mix at \$5, 1 lb. Wild Rice at \$15 and 2 lb. Wild Rice at \$30. Please contact Maureen if interested at 612-387-2520 and I'll arrange pick up.

UMW has consistently supported a food serving mission at Simpson Housing. That agency is not using volunteers at this time so we are looking at new food serving mission: serving smaller meals (once we can do it) to members of Clare Housing, a housing support agency with offices in Northeast Mpls. and homes around Mpls. Please let Maureen know if you are interested in this serving.

On Feb. 21, we will be celebrating the UMW by awarding service awards to individuals who have made a mark this year within the Minnehaha UMC community. Please be at that service to find out our newest members. If you ever want to read the list of recipients, it is posted in the church library and is very, very, long.

We will also be giving notice of events planned by the District and National UMW's which have all gone virtual now. Patti Wetterling was a speaker on Sat. Jan. 23 for the State UMW. Perhaps the Spring? Summer? will bring some date when we can all meet in person again. Thank you for your continued support.

Peace and Good Health to you, Maureen Trepp, President of Minnehaha UMW

WHERE DID YOUR UMW MISSION MONEY GO IN 2020?

Your generosity was shared with these following missions:

Twin Cities District – Minnesota Conference: For District meetings, Newsletters, Mission U, Emma Norton, Reading Program, and the National Division of UMW for Global Mission Projects including UMCOR. \$1401

Emma Norton: Welcome Basket, Move-In Tote, and non-designated gift. \$500

Haiti Solar Oven Project: Providing solar ovens for cooking and water pasteurization. \$200

Heifer Project: Providing healthy animals and training to help families overcome hunger. \$240

Joyce Pre-School: Providing quality preschool education for children of diverse backgrounds. \$250

Walker Care Fund: Providing funds for the special needs of Walker residents. \$250

Meals via Wheels: Providing home-delivered meals to people in our community. \$204

Simpson Shelter Meals: Feeding those who are experiencing homelessness. \$770

Your generosity also supported these Minnehaha programs:

Minnehaha UMC Youth: Educational scholarships. \$500

Minnehaha UMC Hospitality: Kitchen expenses and supportive community. \$250

Minnehaha Snapshot: Fourth Quarter 2020

In the fourth quarter we returned to online-only worship but were still able to celebrate Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas together – wearing masks, at a distance, and/or on Zoom or YouTube. Minnehaha UMC continues to thrive and do good things like those below. Peace and good health.

359 TOYS & MORE
FOR CHILDREN



In December, we collected toys, hats and gloves for 359 children and grandchildren of our Food Shelf clients for Christmas gifts. Thanks, Renee!

40 ATTENDED THE
COSTUME PARADE



On October 31, 40 Minnehaha kids and their families walked from church to Nokomis Square on a candy-fueled costume parade.

9 ORGAN PIECES FOR
THANKSGIVING EVE



On Thanksgiving Eve, Anders played a live organ concert for folks dropping off Food Shelf donations. He also filmed the concert. So far it has 395 views.

100 PERCENT
PAID IN FULL



All bills, mortgage and apportionment payments, and staff salaries were paid through December 31. Thank you!

80 PERCENT OF BLDG.
LOAN PAID OFF



As of the end of December, we've paid off 80.4% of our 2010 building and remodeling project.

120+ MEALS SERVED
AT UMW BAZAAR



On November 14, the United Methodist Women (UMW) held a socially-distanced Holiday Bazaar. They served more than 120 meals of Chicken Noodle Hot Dish, Sloppy Joes and more!

1 1/2 DAYS TO DEMOLISH
THE GYM WALL



Work has begun on fixing the gym. Hooray! It started in December with the demolition of the gym wall, which took a day and a half.

\$1,200 RAISED FOR
CONFERENCE YOUTH CAMPS



On October 10, Minnehaha children and youth took part in a Family Fun Day and Campout to raise money for Minnesota Conference Camps. They raised \$1,200!

692 VIEWS OF XMAS
PAGEANT



The 2020 all-church Christmas Pageant went online on December 20. It's already been viewed almost 700 times on our YouTube channel.

The Auction is Coming . . . Just Not Right Now

We know you all have considerable talents. And, we also know that many of you are still waiting to be able to use the items you bought at the auction last year. So, we are still going to do an auction this year, but we are going to wait a bit. Aim for late summer or fall when we can gather in person again. You may start assessing your talents, though, and see what you might be willing to offer at that time. Do you make awesome cookies? Want to offer a dozen a month to some lucky bidder? How about breakfast for 6? Or maybe you have a camping trailer you'd be willing to lend out for a week. Or a cabin. Are you a bird expert? Know your mushrooms? You could offer a guided tour. The possibilities abound! And, you can let Sue Claude know if you have something you are willing to offer, she'll be keeping a list as we plan on a later date.

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 Feb. 27 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)!



Visions of Winter Retreats Past...

Note
from the
pastor



Vaccines



Vaccines have arrived, hallelujah! I know, the roll out is clunky and slow. Many of us had hopes that this part of the process would go more quickly than it is, and we are being asked to practice the art of patience. We are a people of faith – we know what it is like to wait for something. We also know that acting in just and loving ways are part of faith as well, so I encourage us to practice patience as well as justice and love.

Speaking of faith communities, our society relies on faith communities a lot. We are relied on to care for those at the margins, to care for those in the midst of our communities, so speak up when we see something wrong, and to also speak to the truth. As I write this, there was an article in the paper today about a pastor encouraging his congregation to arm themselves for the coming of martial law. Thankfully, the rest of the people in his community are stating that they disagree with his assessment of the community, the country, and our world. The only way I want you all to “arm” yourselves is by **rolling up your sleeve and getting your vaccine** when it is your turn. You all have been so incredibly faithful during this

last year. You have erred on the side of caution time and again. Not because you are risk-averse, but because none of you wanted to be the cause of illness of someone else in our church or community. You have constantly **thought about what it means to live out “love your neighbor as yourself.”** And, **I am incredibly proud of the ways you have cared for one another and for our community.** Not everyone can get vaccinated, I realize. But if the rest of us do it (when it is our turn), then we are creating a web of protection for those who cannot. With an effectiveness of 90% or 95%, the chances that the 5-10% of us that the vaccine doesn’t work on actually getting exposed is so much lower if everyone who can get vaccinated does. Consider this your public service announcement. Actually, consider this a call to faithfulness. We are called upon to care for one another however we can, whether it is providing food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, or getting vaccinated for the well-being of everyone around us.

In Joy,

Becky



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2/21



Lent begins February 17
see inside for details!