



GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

→ WE SEEK WE SERVE WE CELEBRATE



Winter 2024

Worship in January and February

After Christmas, then what? Well, we enter into the season of Epiphany. You can be forgiven for not noticing this liturgical season, it is considered part of “ordinary time.” Epiphany, the season for ideas and learnings, is biding time between the coming of the Magi and the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 14 this year). Some Epiphany seasons are long, and some are short (since the beginning of Lent moves around on the calendar), and this year is one of the shorter ones. We’ll start off the year by recognizing and celebrating all the infants born in the last year, then we’ll highlight the poetry of Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes while doing some good singing on MLK Jr. Sunday, and then explore some well-known Old Testament passages before concluding the season with Camping Sunday. We look forward to worshipping with you in the season of Epiphany!

Jan. 7 Infant Recognition (Traditional)

Luke 3:21-22

“Beloved”

Communion

Jan. 14 MLK Sunday (Blended)

The poetry of Lanston Hughes and Maya Angelou interspersed with hymns.

Jan. 21 (Traditional)

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

“God of Mercy”

Jan. 28 (Methodicals)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“God of Accountability”

Feb. 4 (Traditional)

Isaiah 40:21-31

“Everlasting God”

Communion

Feb. 11 Camping Sunday (Methodicals)

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm

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The Annual Christmas Pageant on Dec. 17



United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

We're almost into January and the events around Christmas are fading in memory including our annual Holiday Bazaar which was on Nov. 11. Imagine the crowd coming through our doors to delight in the many varied goods available from our vendors along with feasting on a yummy lunch or dessert! If you were there, it was fun, right? And proved to be profitable for you, United Women In Faith: After expenses, we were able to add \$2,416.91 to our treasury for missions, about \$14 less than in 2022. Much thanks to go the many volunteers who made this happen: Maureen Trepp, Margaret Rawson, Jenny Ammerman, Kitty Campbell, Char Johnson, Kim Kanuit, Angie Eichten, Kim Beck, Gail Minehart, Rene Cronquist, Diane Strobel, Char Johnson, Sue Johnson, Gene Thompson, Chuck Kanuit, Becky Sechrist, Sarah Hicks, Annette Meier, Shirley Arms, Pam, Brad Pederson, Jane Morin, Mary Vrabel, Paula Barton, Angie Morales, Pat Roth, Susan Delattre, Scott Gruenhagen, and Linda Duncan. I apologize if I missed anyone and we really welcome your help each year.



We were able to make monetary gifts to the following missions: Emma Norton Services, Joyce Preschool, Simpson Shelter, Walker Care Fund, Meals on Wheels, Minnehaha Food Shelf, the Heifer Project and Haiti Solar Ovens.

We continue to serve at Simpson Shelter the last week of each month. Servers in November were Josh Espinosa, Char Johnson, Kevin Korell, Sarah and Calvin Emrich, and Paula Barton. We will be serving again on Jan. 31 and welcome new volunteers on this mission; we meet at church at 5:30 to carpool.

We also were able to serve the folks attending Ellie Kleinschrodt's funeral on Dec. 8. We really appreciate the loyal bar bakers who contribute to this effort and again welcome new volunteers!

Your UWF supports and benefits from the annual all church musical which, this year, is "Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank" which will be performed the first two weekends in February. Please plan on coming and check out the announcement of it in this newsletter!

Stay well, be kind to the women and children of our world. Do all you can whenever you can for whomever needs your help.

Peace, Maureen Trepp 612-387-2520

The Minnehaha Players Present

Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank

A swashbuckling musical for all ages

Friday, February 2 at 7pm

Saturday, February 3 at 3pm

Sunday, February 4 at 3pm

Saturday, February 10 at 3pm & 7pm

Sunday, February 11 at 3pm



Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th Ave South
Minneapolis 55417

TICKETS

\$10 adults & seniors

\$6 Children 4-12 years olds

Free to children under 4

Family Rate for 4: \$25

*Proceeds go to United Women in Faith
to support missions for women and children
in our local and global communities*

Books and Lyrics by Pat Lydersen, Music by Wendy Woolf, presented through arrangements with Pioneer Drama Services

SAMANTHA MOE



Essential Parenting Skills: Calm Big Emotions & Create a Peaceful Home

Samantha Moe, MA, SLP

Wondering if parenting could feel easier? You're not alone. When you have a child with big emotions and big reactions, there are times when creating a peaceful home seems like a puzzle. In this workshop, you'll discover practical, brain-based strategies to calm and prevent challenging behaviors, based on the Mad to Glad Blueprint. Join us to learn essential tools that improve listening, self-control, and positive connections. Together, let's bring more peace and happiness to your home! (Focused on children ages 3-13)



DETAILS

When? Wednesday, Feb 7
6:30 - 8:00pm

Where? Minnehaha United
Methodist Church
3701 E 50th St, Minneapolis

CAN I BRING MY KIDS?

Yes! Free on-site child care will be provided during the workshop. Scan this code to register for free child care



minnehaha
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Parenting Skills Speaker: Samantha Moe

Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall In this workshop,

you'll discover practical, brain-based strategies to calm and prevent challenging behaviors, based on the Mad to Glad Blueprint. Join us to learn essential tools that improve listening, self-control, and positive connections. Free child care provided during the event!



Young Families Playgroup

Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9:30-11:30 am
The nursery and preschool rooms will be open for playtime for kiddos 5 and under. Coffee will be provided for parents.

Christmas Pageant



Wednesdays at Minnehaha!

Camping Sunday is Feb. 11

During worship we'll sing camp songs and hear stories from kids about their summer camp experiences. The service will conclude with our Mardi Gras Parade and then we'll all enjoy a Pancake Breakfast downstairs in Fellowship Hall!



Anticipation!



CAMPING SUNDAY

FEB. 11

9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE



- We'll sing camp songs & hear stories from kids about their summer camp experiences.
- Donations collected during the Offertory for Camp Scholarships
- We'll end worship with our Mardi Gras "When the Saints Go Marching In" Parade. Don't have your instrument ready? That's okay, we have a kazoo for you!
- Following the service, enjoy a Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall!



Taizé- Time for Renewal

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. On the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. from October through May, we offer a Taizé service, a time of sanctuary, a time for prayer, a time for community, and a time for silence. As we sing and pray, our hearts are opened so that we may hear God speaking to us, and our souls are fed so that we may be about God's work in the world. Please join us on Jan. 19 for a time of renewal. The service is also livestreamed, so you can worship through your screen, wherever you are, either in real time or anytime after.

Infant Recognition Sunday, Jan. 7

This is a special Sunday when we celebrate all the babies born this past year! Each family is invited to come forward to be recognized and receive gifts from our church community.

Don't Look Back Book Study

The United Methodist Church is in a season of separation and reorganization. In the midst of these times, retired bishop Rev. Will Willimon has some advice for us – don't look back! We'll be studying his book, of that same title, on Tuesday mornings from 10-11 beginning January 9 and going through February 13. We'll read a different chapter each week and talk about his advice to congregations about how to look ahead and listen for the leadings of the Spirit as we connect with the communities we are in.

Please get the book on your own and read chapter 1 prior to our first class. If you would like Becky to order the book for you, please let her know.



Survey Tour of the Old Testament Study

The Old Testament. It's a big part of our Bible, taking up about 2/3 of the pages. In it, there are fantastical stories of family intrigue. There are murders and affairs. There are military maneuvers. Poetry. Two-line wisdom sayings. Rules for how to live as community. And, of course, the begats. Most people who make a decision to read the Bible start at the beginning, but get bogged down quickly. You might make it into Exodus, but hardly anyone survives Leviticus, and the Bible goes back on the shelf, to be used sparingly. If this sounds familiar, come join us at the church on Monday nights, 6:30-8:00, beginning on January 8 and continuing through March 11. Led by Pastor Becky, we'll take a survey tour of the Old Testament, learning some of the history and context, reading some of the stories, and staying away from the begats. Each week you'll be invited to read some portion of the Old Testament in preparation (about 2 chapters a day), and then during class we'll discuss what we read and hear some words of wisdom from a scholar. Since you will need those readings in advance of the first week, please indicate your interest and get a workbook from me by January 1. If you need to join via zoom, let me know. The study materials include a video piece each week, and the sound/image delay over zoom can be a little challenging.

Youth Groups -

Animal Humane Society Visit

Sunday, Jan. 7 from 3:30-5:30 pm
Both youth groups will visit the Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley. They will bring the church's donation of snuffle mats and snuffle balls that were made earlier this fall. Parents, if you can help with carpooling, please contact Jean Elliott.



WALKER | WEST

Recipient of our 2023 Spirituals Royalties Fund Donations

Whenever we sing a spiritual in church Becky reminds us that unlike other songs we sing, we do not pay a royalty for the spirituals we sing. The writers and composers never had their names tied to their music, and the communities originally fed by spirituals were denied a humane existence in our society. Becky then reminds us about our church's Spirituals Royalties Fund that you can donate to because while we cannot change or make up for the past, we can be part of a future that forges a more equitable place for everyone. The recipient of the funds we collected in 2023 (\$600!) went to Walker|West. Walker|West is especially well-known for teaching jazz, gospel and other styles of improvisational music. It is also noted for developing a caring community of music students and educators. The organization provides affordable, quality music instruction inspired by the African American cultural experience to young people and adults. To learn more about Walker|West, please visit their website at www.walkerwest.org. If you know of any local organizations that lift up BIPOC voices like Walker|West, please let Kip Kirkpatrick or any member of our Racial Justice Team know so that we can consider them as a future recipient.

MinneHarvest

Our free food give-away once a month is a source of food relied upon by many, and it happens through volunteers who come each month. We gather outside on the 4th Saturday of each month, which is January 27 this month. You can volunteer anytime between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. We start setting up around 6:30, serve the food starting around 7:00/7:30, 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!

All-Church Service Project

on Sunday, Jan. 14 at 10:45 am Everyone is invited to help make sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall for the Dignity Center





Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting (otherwise known as a Church Conference) will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2023 at 12:00. There will be a pizza lunch available beginning at 11:30, and we'll have our 2023 Financial Report, our 2023 Membership Report and our 2024 Budget. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all members of the congregation can vote. Following the meeting, there will be a training for chairs of committees (and any other interested members).

Minnehaha Winter Retreat

Minnehaha's annual Winter Retreat is from Friday, Jan. 26 - Sunday, Jan. 28 at Koronis Assembly Grounds, Paynesville MN. All ages are invited for a memorable weekend filled with community, learning, laughing, broom ball, sledding, a bonfire, worship, and meals without dish-duty!

Carpooling is available and Koronis now has an EV charging station.

If you are new to Minnehaha,, this is a great way to meet others!

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/hqLmxwKSh143hyv29>

Minnehaha Winter Retreat



Enjoy good company & conversation, delicious food (with no dish duty), and a relaxed, refreshing pace of life.

January 26-28

**Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds,
Paynesville, MN**

Register online at minnehaha.org

Newcomer Class

We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Sunday, January 7 at 10:45 a.m. in the Library (during Sunday School). If you are interested in coming, please let Becky Sechrist know so we can plan appropriately.



New member Kate Vessel with daughters Maya and Avery.
Kate joined the church on Dec.10

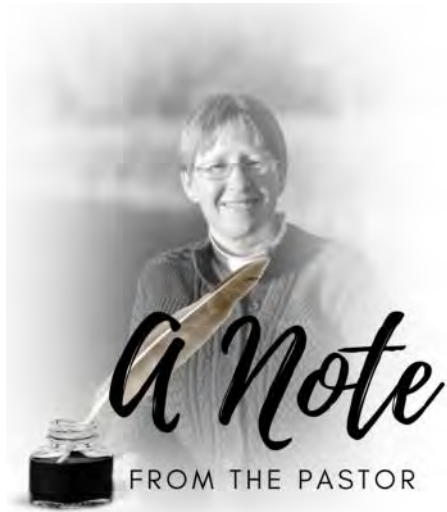
Adult Faith Forum News

Beginning January 7, we will be starting a new series of study in our adult classes: a Great Courses video look at The Historical Jesus. This is a video lecture series by Professor Bart D. Ehrman. Professor Ehrman is a well-published but controversial Professor of Religious Studies from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Ehrman teaches from a strictly historical perspective and does not affirm or deny any specific theological beliefs in his remarks.

During the 24 class sessions, we will ask and attempt to answer the following questions: What ancient sources of knowledge do we have about Jesus (both literary and archaeological); How historically reliable are these sources; Can the gospels of the New Testament be trusted to provide historically accurate pictures of Jesus's words and deeds; What methods have scholars devised for examining such ancient sources; And once these methods are applied, what can we say with relative certainty about the things that Jesus actually said and did?

Come join us for these intellectually stimulating discussions, slanted by the currently popular Historical-Criticism method of biblical interpretation. Classes are at 10:45 am each Sunday in Room 310.

Marshall Cook, Class Leader.



Entering the New Year

What are you looking forward to this year? The new year is traditionally a time to make New Year's Resolutions, to start new habits, have dreams for how things might be different. In recent years, however, I am hearing the question, "are you dreading this coming year?" a little more often. It's understandable. We've had some nasty surprises that seemed to come out of nowhere.

Plus, the predictable news doesn't seem to get much better. Add to that that negative news sells, and we are often inundated with information that builds a sense of dread in our souls. This new year, I want to encourage a practice of soul-building. What brings joy to your soul? What gives you a sense of peace? What things do you dream of? What are you eagerly anticipating? Let's do those things, build on those things, practice those things. Let's engage in the practices that give our souls depth and resilience. Let's engage in the practices that help us see God's Spirit in every person, every place, including ourselves.

This new year, I want to encourage a practice of soul-building.

In Joy,

Becky





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