



# Good THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
— WE SEEK WE SERVE WE CELEBRATE



Lent 2025

Winter Retreat Dance Party!



## Time Change

It's time to spring ahead and gain some sunlight in our evenings. Set your clocks forward one hour before coming to worship on Sunday, March 9. Or, as Yoda would say, "Set your clocks forward you must, or late to church you will be."

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## Worship at Minnehaha

◆ **March 2** (Methodicals)  
Transfiguration Sunday/Mardi Gras Sunday

◆ **March 5**  
**Ash Wednesday service 6:30**  
Joel 2;1-2, 12-17  
"With All That You Are"

◆ **March 9** (traditional)  
Communion  
Joel 2;1-2, 12-17  
"With All That You Are"

◆ **March 16** (Methodicals)  
Luke 13:31-35  
"Under God's Wing"

◆ **March 23** (traditional)  
Luke 13:1-9  
"You Are Worthy"

◆ **March 30** (Methodicals)  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
"Prodigal Grace"

◆ **April 6** (Methodicals)  
Communion  
John 12:1-8  
"Brazen Acts of Beauty"

**Holy Week begins April 13 with Palm Sunday!**

# March is Minnesota Food Shelf Month

One in ten Minnesotans is impacted by food insecurity.



### Help us help the hungry!

Donations made in March will be doubled with a \$5000 Challenge Gift!

Your financial contribution allows Minnehaha Food Shelf (MFS) to better plan and make bulk purchases of basic, critical items from local food banks.

Take the 33c/day challenge and make a \$10 monthly donation.  
A monthly gift of any amount increases your impact.

### Give the Gift of Time -- Volunteer!

There are numerous way to support our ever-evolving food distribution system, many on-site and some behind the scenes. Contact us at [foodshelfvolunteers@minnehaha.org](mailto:foodshelfvolunteers@minnehaha.org) to find out more!

### Give the Gift of Goods!

We welcome gifts of food and personal care products such as toothpaste and brushes, bar soap, diapers. Drop them in the big blue barrel outside MUMC or drop them off during our open hours.



Open every Tuesday from 10:00am - 3:00pm at 3701 E. 50th St., Minneapolis.

Every Tuesday our doors open to 250+ households that need assistance to stock their home pantries, including 550 children, 540 adults, and 65 seniors. They choose from a wide variety of items which generally include meats, cheeses, milk, eggs, fresh and seasonal produce, pasta and rice, much of it purchased from local food banks. A team of volunteers supports the effort -- greeters, registrars, food handlers, packers -- lots of hands are needed to help the guests feel welcomed and keep the food moving efficiently.



FOOD SHELF DONATE

Contact us at [foodshelf@minnehaha.org](mailto:foodshelf@minnehaha.org).  
Visit our website at [minnehaha.org/foodshelf](http://minnehaha.org/foodshelf).  
Find us on Facebook at [MinnehahaFoodShelf](https://www.facebook.com/MinnehahaFoodShelf).

Minnehaha Food Shelf is a combined ministry of Minnehaha United Methodist Church (MUMC), Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Living Table UCC, and Grace Episcopal Church.



FOOD SHELF HOME



James and the Giant Peach performed for two weekends in February!





*Minne Mission*

## Minneapolis Mission Trip July 7-9, 2025

Explore your call to service, soak in youth worship, and explore Mpls.

Serve locally, grow responsibly, and have fun! Middle school youth are invited to explore the call to love God and neighbor with various service opportunities in the Twin Cities and Metro area. This 3-day, 2-night opportunity is a way to experience a service learning trip—only right here in Minnesota. Minne Mission is partnering with local non-profits to explore a variety of justice issues such as food insecurity, poverty, and earth care.

Who: Finishing 5th-8th Grade  
Where: Overnight lodging at Lake Harriet UMC  
Cost: \$85

**REGISTER ONLINE [CAMPMINNESOTA.ORG](http://CAMPMINNESOTA.ORG)**




## MINNEHAHA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

### July 20-24, 2025

Minnehaha high school youth are invited to serve our neighbors with various outreach opportunities around the Twin Cities. This is a 5-day, 4-night service learning trip that partners with local non-profits to explore a variety of justice issues such as food insecurity, poverty, housing, and creation care. There will also be evening activities, worship, and a fun all-day outing on Thursday.

Who: Finishing 8th-12th Grade  
Where: Overnight lodging at Minnehaha UMC  
Cost: \$100

**REGISTER ONLINE [MINNEHAHA.ORG](http://MINNEHAHA.ORG)**



## Compassion Camp Day with the Summer Fairy

Sunday, June 1st  
2-5 pm with Picnic  
For All Ages  
Cost: \$25/Family  
Minnehaha UMC, Side Lawn

**REGISTER ONLINE [MINNEHAHA.ORG](http://MINNEHAHA.ORG)**



## MINNEHAHA THEATER CAMP

AUGUST 4-8  
9AM-3PM  
EVENING PERFORMANCE  
FRIDAY, AUG. 8

LET'S CREATE A SHOW TOGETHER  
AS WE EXPLORE SKILLS IN IMPROV,  
MIME, SKETCH COMEDY, AND  
ACTING, ACTING, ACTING!

YOUTH FINISHING 5TH-12TH GRADE  
COST \$100

**REGISTER ONLINE [MINNEHAHA.ORG](http://MINNEHAHA.ORG)**

Broomball at Winter Retreat!



MINNEHAHA UMC  
**CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**  
 2nd Floor

1. Check out books by writing your name and date on the card in the back of the book.
2. Put this card in the wooden box on the shelf.
3. Return when you're done in the wooden bin with the bee handles.

**DID YOU KNOW....**

The library has around 600 books!

Each book has a colored sticker to indicate the category. List of categories is on one of the shelves.



*Minnehaha Playgroup*

Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am

All babies toddlers and their parents/caregivers are invited to stop by each Thursday morning at church for a time of play and community.

Playgroup meets upstairs in the nursery and preschool rooms. Follow the "Minnehaha Playgroup" on Facebook for more information.



## *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 March 21 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. Please also note that the April service, on April 18, coincides with Good Friday, so April's Taizé service will also be our Tenebrae service.

## *Ash Wednesday*

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5 this year, and we will be starting our Lenten observance with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. If you've never been to an Ash Wednesday service before, this is a more solemn service that includes ashes made from the burning of palms from last year's Palm Sunday. We "impose" the ashes on our foreheads or back of your hand as a reminder of how sometimes even our best intentions can go awry, and as a reminder of our own mortality. All ages are invited to participate in the service.

Ash Wednesday

6:30 pm

March 5

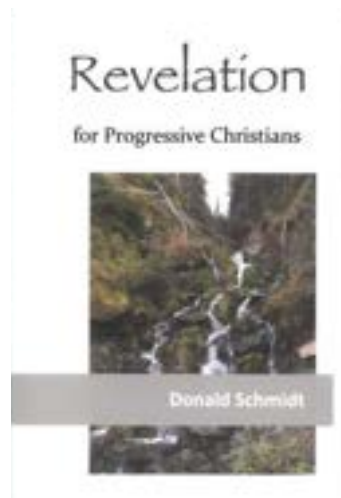


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## Revelation for Progressive Christians

The Biblical book of Revelation is a powerful book that was written a long time ago to express a powerful message. Unfortunately, so many people have played with it and interpreted it and have found in it only the things they wanted to find, it's difficult to "hear" the original intent through all the interpretation.

Yet, when we set aside the nonsense and speculation, we find a story of God's presence with a fractured and frightened community, with a church that had no idea what the future might hold, and with a people who wondered if it was time to give up and abandon what they believed – all of which makes Revelation a *perfect* book to study in our own time and place, because so many church communities today and so many of the people who inhabit them are all of those things: fractured and frightened, uncertain of what the future might hold, wondering if we should just give up. So join us for study and conversation for this 7-week series on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00. For a book and a meeting schedule, please see Becky Sechrist prior to the beginning of class. Books are \$15.

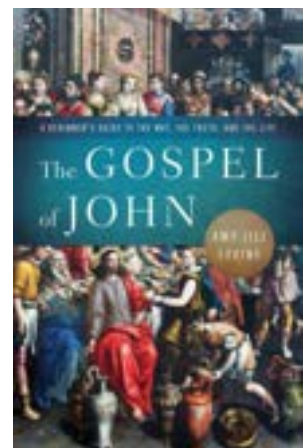


## Introduction to Confirmation

The confirmation program at Minnehaha takes place for youth in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. All parents and students of next year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders (or any older youth who want to participate) are invited to an introductory meeting on Sunday, March 16, at 11:30 a.m. following Sunday School. We'll gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like information about our confirmation program, please contact Becky Sechrist.

## Gospel of John Bible Study

Beginning on Monday, Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m., we will be studying the Gospel of John with curriculum created by highly revered New Testament scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. The study will be offered both in person and on zoom. For a zoom link, check your enews. And, to get a book, please see Becky Sechrist for a copy. Books are \$15.



## The Auction is Coming!

Our services Auction is coming again on April 13. It's time to start assessing your talents and see what you might be willing to offer. 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! You can let Jed Retherford or Jeff Sandager know if you have something you are willing to offer.



**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. You can volunteer anytime between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. We start setting up around 7:00, serve the food starting around 8:00, and are usually done cleaning up by 10:30. Join us on March 22 and April 26 for all or any portion of that time, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a friend!

**MINNEHARVEST**  
a food mission of minnehaha united methodist church

### Food Shelf Monthly Donations

 JAN: Canned Soup	 FEB: Canned Fruit	 MARCH: Tooth- paste and brushes	 APRIL: Shampoo & Conditioner
 MAY: Toilet paper	 JUNE: Diapers, sizes 3,4,5 Open box OK	 JULY Bar Soap	 AUGUST: Feminine Hygiene
 SEPT: Cooking Oil	 OCT: Laundry Detergent	 NOV: Sugar	



## *Wednesday Nights at Minnehaha*

### **Wednesday Night Dinner**

5:30-6:15 pm

Except April 2 (Spring Break)

All are invited to a mid-week meal. Cost: \$5/person; \$20/family

### **Wednesday Night Childcare**

6:00-7:15 pm

Except April 2 (Spring Break)

Supervised childcare is available in the gym and in the nursery (2nd floor)

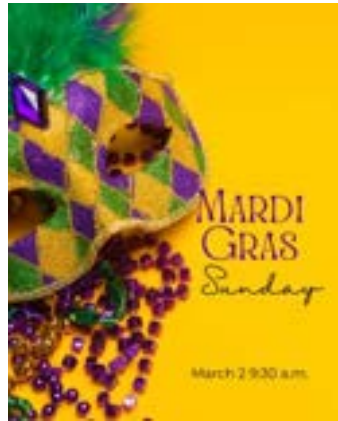


## *Youth Plant Sale*

Our youth are selling beautiful plants from Gertens.

Online ordering begins Sunday, March 2





## Mardi Gras Sunday

Join us for a special Mardi Gras worship service on Sunday, March 2.

- Special activities for each of the themes of Mardi Gras (Faith, Power, Justice)
- Closing pick-up parade with instruments playing “When the Saints Go Marching In”
  - ⇒ Please bring your instrument!
  - ⇒ You can pick up music in advance if you want to practice
  - ⇒ Rehearsal on Sunday, March 2 at 9:00 in the narthex
- Pancake breakfast afterwards!
  - ⇒ Scouts Pancake Breakfast is from 8:00-11:30
- Feel free to come in costume, or in the Mardi Gras colors of green, purple, and gold



Winter Retreat

The logo for Troop 1 features a stylized fleur-de-lis with a blue and red design, and the text "TROOP 1" below it.

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 2  
8 - 11:30 am

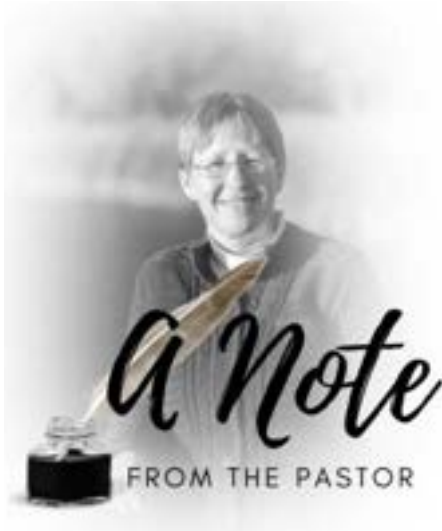
Breakfast Includes: Pancakes, Sausages,  
Real Maple Syrup, Coffee & Juice

An illustration of a breakfast meal featuring a stack of pancakes on a white plate with a sausage link, a glass of orange juice, and a white mug of coffee. A bottle of maple syrup is also shown.

(Suggested Donation)  
**\$8 Individual, \$30 Family**

Minnehaha United Methodist Church  
3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis

Thank you for supporting Troop 1 and Scouts BSA!



## Full to the Brim

Lent begins on March 5. Prior to Lent, we'll have a fun-filled Mardi Gras Sunday (see article elsewhere), followed by pancakes!

The Lenten period is 6 weeks, plus a little extra, before Easter. We begin with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 5, where we burn the palms from last year's Palm Sunday and make the mark of the cross of our foreheads. Lent is normally a somber time of reflection and of giving up of things for the season. That's why Mardi Gras precedes Lent, it's sort of the last hurrah before we move into a somber time.

But the scripture texts for this year's Lenten season are not somber at all. They are parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil pour out lovingly and freely, stones

shouting out with praise. We've done nothing to earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. These texts invite us to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, and to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. The texts disrupt the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over.

*When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over.*

We are utilizing A Sanctified Art for the theme this year, and their words are woven into this article. Traditionally, Lent was a time when people were invited to leave their old life behind, to fast and prepare themselves to be baptized and welcomed into membership of the church. A practice of restraint, confession, and piety grew out of that into our practices today. Consider what you need for new life. What do you need to let go of, to fast from, to make room for new life to grow, to hear a new word from God, to experience your life more fully? Consider fasting from a single meal and donating that money to someplace like the Food Shelf. Consider fasting from social media for a portion of your day and instead spend that time calling a friend or writing a note to someone (even if they live in the same house or next door). Consider taking the pledge to buy nothing new so that our landfills are not filled with more things. Consider fasting from companies that don't support your values. You get the idea.

And, consider actually fasting from food in a way that is still fulfilling for you. Our Muslim siblings will be fasting as well, since Ramadan is the evening of February 28-March 29 at sundown. They fast as a way to hone their attention on God and to align themselves with those who do not have enough to eat. The Christian call to fasting has a similar goal, and we could experience some unity as both Christians and Muslims fast together on this rare occasion where Lent and Ramadan happen at the same time.

This Lent, let us trust fully that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and to give grace. Let us discover what an expansive life lived in God's dreams looks like for all of us.

*Becky*



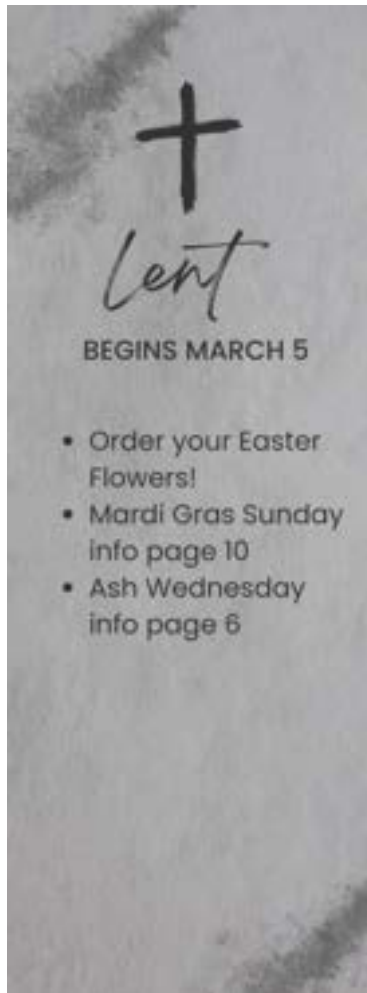
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3/25

Visit us online!  
[www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)



## Our Easter Garden

The Sanctuary will be decorated with flowering spring plants Easter morning. To contribute, please complete this form and bring/mail it to the church office or place it in an offering, with your payment, by March 9.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Suggested donation \$20. You may give more if you wish.*

Given in:

Memory of  Celebration of  Honor of  \_\_\_\_\_  
*other*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print)*



(Plants may be taken home after the **11:00** Easter service or during the following week. )