



Good THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

WE SEEK WE SERVE WE CELEBRATE



SPRING 2024

Worship in April and May

We enter into the post-Easter season early this year. Actually, we remain in the season of Easter for seven weeks – the Sundays of Easter and following are considered the larger Easter season, with Pentecost Sunday coming at the conclusion. In this Easter season, our sermon series is informally called, “Wait, What?!” We’ll explore various New Testament passages that might have you asking questions like: Do we really have the power to forgive sin? Does God really throw people away? Did Jesus really come back? In the midst of this, United Women in Faith will lead worship on Mother’s Day (May 12), and Celebration Sunday (May 19) will feature the children’s musical Daniel as the sermon, and we’ll recognize all the various ways you all contribute to the life of the church. Graduates will be celebrated on June 2, and we begin worshipping outside on June 9.

See you in worship!

April 7 Traditional

John 20:19-31

“Are We In Charge of Forgiveness?”

Communion

April 14 Methodicals

Luke 24:36b-48

“Did Jesus Really Come Back?”

April 21 Traditional

John 10:11-18

“Is There Really Only Supposed to be One Religion?”

April 28 Methodicals

John 15:1-8

“Do People Really Get Thrown Away by God?”

May 5 Traditional

John 15:9-17

“Next”

Communion

Bibles to 2nd graders

May 12 Methodicals

UWF Sunday

May 19 Traditional

Pentecost

Celebration Sunday

May 26 Methodicals

Trinity Sunday

John 3:1-17

“Born Again”

No snow? No problem! Our family sledding day in February became a nature walk! Checking out the sap buckets at Wood Lake Nature Center.

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United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Your UWF (United Women in Faith) is still around and recovering from the All Church Musical we sponsored in February. Thank you to all who came to see “Fearless Frank” and especially to the families responsible for the production. This was our most successful show to date (yes, we’ve been doing annual productions since 2010) with a profit of \$4,454 which is now in our treasury to be used for missions for children and women.

One of those missions, which you may have already heard of, is Emma Norton Services, which provides housing and services for women. Their new facility, Restoring Waters, will be opening in April at the Highland Bridge site. We have made donations toward a Welcome Basket for families and will be giving more information about Restoring Waters on Mother’s Day, our annual UWF Sunday.



Emma Norton
The Journey Home Begins Here

And how can there be an UWF event without a sale of Dept. 56 Collectibles? Yes, they will once more be on sale on May 12 as we whittle down the large collection of items donated to us in 2022. Come and get a collectible for yourself! Your mother! Your daughter! Anyone who wants one or more. Bargain priced and really cute.



Those funds we have earned pay for the monthly meals we serve at Simpson Shelter. On Mon. Feb. 26 Maureen Trepp, Char Johnson, Josh Esposito, Kevin Korell and Dave Noren served 50 people a really good lasagna hotdish that Margaret Rawson planned and purchased the ingredients for. Margaret is now planning an Irish dinner for the meal we are serving on March 28 and using some of those carrots, onions and potatoes from MinneHarvest. Serving that date will be Mary Vrabel, Dave Noren, Kevin Korell, Kitty Campbell, Ric Chantry and Maureen Trepp. You, too, could serve in the future: Dates include Sun. April 28, Mon., May 27, Mon. June 24, Tues., July 30 and Mon. Aug. 26. Please let Maureen (maurentrepp@yahoo.com) know you’d like to help.

Thank you for all the ways you serve our community. Stay well and happy, Maureen Trepp

“Pirate Frank” performance in February



Wednesday Night Dinners

5:30-6:15 pm

Join us each week for good food and good conversations! Check the Monday E-News emails and Minnehaha Facebook for that week's menu.

Wednesday Night Childcare

6:00-7:30 pm

Children and little ones are invited to supervised play-time after Wednesday Night Dinner. Meet in the gym. Kids continue to play in the gym and little ones go upstairs to the nursery & preschool rooms.

Minnehaha Playgroup

Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am

Babies and toddlers with their caregivers are invited to stop by each Thursday morning in the Nursery and Preschool Rooms for a time of play and community. Follow the "Minnehaha Playgroup" group on Facebook for more information.

Garden Planting Party

Wednesday, May 22 at 6:15 pm

Everyone is invited to join the fun in planting seedlings, create garden signs, and paint garden rocks for our church gardens in the side yard.



2nd Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, May 5 at 9:30 am

This is a special Sunday when our 2nd graders will each receive their own Bible. If you have a 2nd grader, please complete this short form by May 1:

<https://forms.gle/4SKJwYZkNvi4mTwQ9>

Introduction to Confirmation

The confirmation program at Minnehaha takes place for youth in 9th grade. All parents and students of next year's 9th graders (or any older youth who want to participate) are invited to an introductory meeting on Sunday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m. following Sunday School. We'll gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall and there will be refreshments. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like information about our confirmation program, please contact Becky Sechrist.

My Changing Self

Saturday, April 13 from 8:30-3:30 pm at Lake Harriet UMC

3rd-8th graders

Use QR code on poster to register by April 2.

LAKE HARRIET UMC, RICHFIELD UMC, & MINNEHAHA UMC
INVITE YOU TO:

MY CHANGING SELF



For 3rd-8th Graders: Exploring Sexuality & Identity Within Our Spirituality

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
8:30-3:30PM

COST: \$20/STUDENT
\$40/FAMILY MAX

LAKE HARRIET UMC
4901 CHOWEN AVE. S.
MPLS 55410

REGISTRATION FORM



DEADLINE IS APRIL 2



Family Fun Day at Wood Lake Nature Center



Parents' Night Out

Saturday, April 20 from 5-8 pm with dinner provided

Parents' Night Out is a fun-filled evening for your children and an opportunity for parents to either meet up together somewhere to socialize, or simply relax and even take a nap. Cost is \$10/child or \$25 family max.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/d4uGnHNG64T2p8fn7>

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT
Register at minnehaha.org

SAT APRIL 20 **5-8 PM**

MINNEHAHA UMC
3701 E. 50th Street
Mpls. MN 55417
RSVP JUNE +1-901-661-9465

MINNEHAHA UMC, RICHFIELD UMC, & LAKE HARRIET UMC INVITES YOU TO:

Camp Firelight
A SUMMER CAMP Adventure with God

**Vacation Bible Camp
CAMP FIRELIGHT**
A Summer Camp Adventure with God

WHEN: Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28
9:00am–Noon
Available after-care for all ages from Noon–4:30pm
(\$30/child, per day; \$75/week)

WHO: Pre-K 3 to entering 5th grade
Middle School Helpers: entering 6th–8th grade
High School & Adult Leaders

WHERE: Lake Harriet UMC – 4901 Chowen Ave. S.

COST: Free

Camper Registration Helper/Leader

Minne Mission

Minneapolis Mission Trip
July 8-10, 2024

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: Completed 5th-7th Grade
Where: Overnight lodging at Lake Harriet UMC
Cost:\$70

Registration

Camp Minnesota
Minnesota Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church
Empowering & Redefining Ministries

Vacation Bible Camp

June 24-28 from 9am-Noon at Lake Harriet UMC.

All children pre-K 3 to entering 5th grade are invited for a fun week of “A Summer Camp Adventure with God”. Middle school helpers and High school & adults leaders are also needed.

Use the QR codes on the poster to register.

MinneMission

July 8-10 at Lake Harriet UMC

All middle school youth are invited to this mini mission trip where they'll serve with various organizations right here in the Metro area.

Use the QR code on the poster to register.

Holy Week Services

Holy Week is observed during the last week of Lent, between Palm Sunday (March 24) and Easter Sunday (March 31). It is traditionally a time to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with the disciples, and his arrest, trial and death.

- A Maundy Thursday Service will be on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. It will last about half an hour and will include communion and hand washing.
- We will have a Good Friday service on March 29. It will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include 14 readings from the gospel of Mark about the events leading up to Jesus' death. It also includes music, silence, and the extinguishing of lights.



Easter Egg Hunt & Craft

March 31 at 10am in 2nd floor classrooms. There will be an egg hunt for PreK-1st graders, an egg hunt for 2nd-5th graders, an egg hunt without chocolate, as well as a craft room to color the giant Easter Butterfly.

Three Different Services for Easter

Join us for Easter Sunday on March 31. Our sunrise service will be outside (weather permitting) at 7:00, led by the youth. We will have two indoor services, with the choir and organ at 9:00 and the Methodicals band at 11:00. In addition, there will be refreshments between each of the services, and an Easter egg hunt for children at 10. We hope to see you on Easter morning!

Meet Jesus at the Intersection of Faith and Justice

Where We Meet is the book for our next Monday evening class. A series of reflections written by a young, diverse group of United Methodist pastors who are starting new communities of faith, they have some provocative questions for the rest of us about who we are, what our congregations are doing, and where we are going. We'll meet on Monday evenings, March 25 – April 29 from 6:30-7:30. Becky has a few of the books, so see her for a hard copy. If you prefer to get your book electronically, you can find it at the Upper Room website. The authors are Rachel Gilmore, Candace Lewis, Tyler Sit, and Matt Temple. We will be reading in advance of the first class, so see Becky for a reading schedule as well. The class will be offered in hybrid format; please contact Becky for a zoom link if you will be joining us remotely.



Celebration Sunday Worship Service

May 19 at 9:30 am

This is a special Sunday when we celebrate the past year of ministry here at Minnehaha and recognize all the gifts and talents of our community. The service will also include our children's musical, Daniel! Stay after the service for lunch.

MINNEHAHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



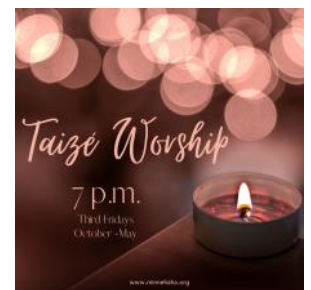
Celebrating Graduates

Sunday, June 2 at 9:30 am

This is a special Sunday when we honor this year's high school, college, & grad school graduates. If you or your family has a 2024 graduate, please use the QR code on the poster by May 16.

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 April 19 and May 17 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.



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 6:30, serve the food starting around 7:00/7:30, and are usually done cleaning up by 10:30. Join us on April 27 and May 25 for all or any portion of that time, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a friend!

Food Shelf Donations



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



Our Youth made sandwiches for the Dignity Center

MUMC
All-Church
AUCTION
SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!
April 14 & Lunch

Click Here to Donate:



DON'T MISS OUT!



Join us on April 14 for the Church's Biggest Fundraiser: The Service Auction!

Starts at Noon - Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall

Plus Lunch to Support Youth Mission Trips!

General Conference

General Conference is the decision-making body of the United Methodist Church, and it gathers every 4 years with delegates from around the world who consider, debate, and vote on our rules and teachings for the next 4 years. Because the pandemic prevented the meeting of General Conference in 2020, the 2020 General Conference is being held this year, April 23-May 3, in Charlotte, NC. We will then have the 2024 General Conference some time in 2026. Rules are so much fun! And, we can't change them until we meet, so hang on tight for the various things we will decide this year! There are over 1,000 petitions that will be considered by over 800 delegates from around the world. 56% of those delegates will come from the United States, 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, and 4% from Europe and 2% from concordat churches with close ties to the United Methodist Church. Our denominations annual conferences (Minnesota is an annual conference) elect the delegates from their area, and our constitution requires that half of the delegates are clergy and half are laypeople.

Since this is technically the 2020 General Conference, the percentage of delegates relies on the formula from before the disaffiliations in the last 2 years. But individual delegates must be members in good standing, so individual delegates whose congregations disaffiliated are no longer allowed to serve and are replaced by reserve delegates.

There are many things that the body will consider, but what to do in the face of disaffiliations, how we might gather in a future pandemic situation, and what we do with our various cultural differences are among the top things we are all watching.

The General Conference sessions will be livestreamed, and the second week, April 29-May 3, will be the time for general sessions. You can certainly livestream on your own, but if you are interested in watching the livestream as a group (with commentary from Becky), please let Becky know.

Newcomer Class

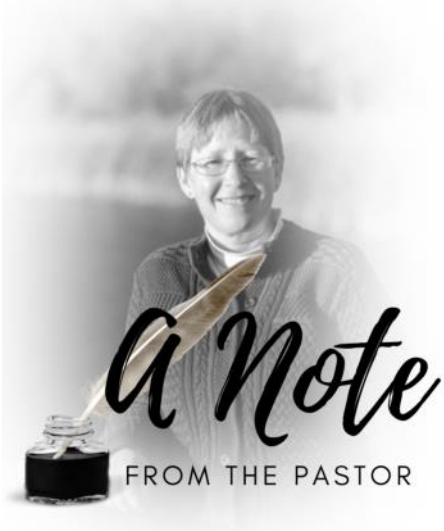
We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Sunday, May 5 at 10:45 a.m. (during Sunday School) in the library. If you are interested in coming, please let Becky Sechrist know so we can plan appropriately.

Monthly Gathering at Nokomis Square

All those at Nokomis Square are invited to gather for a time of conversation on the first Wednesday of the month in April and May at 1:00 in the common room. We'll be talking about General Conference at both gatherings – in April, we'll learn what General Conference is and does, and in May we'll hear about the decisions being made there.

Minnehaha Fellowship

Join other Minnehaha folks at Arbeiter Brewing on the 4th Saturday of each month from 3-5. You can bring your own food, and there are a variety of non-alcoholic drinks also available. In addition, Arbeiter welcomes children and dogs. Join us on April 27 and May 25.



Asking Questions and the Wesleyan Quadrilateral

In the season following Easter Sunday, the scripture passages for worship pose some big questions. We'll be addressing some of those questions (like Jesus' resurrection, the forgiveness of sins, is Jesus the only way to God) in the sermons. To do that work, we'll be using the Quadrilateral a lot. No, not the one from math class. The other quadrilateral, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. In John Wesley's writings, there is a clear approach to knowing God. The Bible, of course. The main way we come to know about God. But more than the Bible – how do we read and interpret the Bible? What if we have questions that aren't addressed in the Bible (like

microbiology and nuclear power)? For all those things, we bring in 3 other ways we come to know God, our experience, reason, and the traditions and teachings of the church over time. Taken together, Wesley advocated, we get a more robust picture of God and of how we understand God and understand our place in God's world. I'm not saying this doesn't just leave us with more questions, because a lot of times, it does. United Methodists are known for our theology of grace, and we are also known for asking lots of questions without necessarily providing lots of answers. The quadrilateral helps us understand that there are a variety of perspectives, and that things change over time. It helps us understand that some of what we know about God is really more mystery than knowledge. It provides an openness to our approach.

Taken together, ... we get a more robust picture of God and of how we understand God and understand our place in God's world.

As we wrestle with the questions, I invite us all to look beyond the easy answers and to get comfortable with the potential that sometimes finding the answer is not as important as the journey of engaging in our beliefs.

In Joy,

Becky





3701 East 50th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Address Service Requested

Phone: 612/721-6231
E-Mail: becky@minnehaha.org
office@minnehaha.org

4/24

Visit us online!
www.minnehaha.org

Easter Morning

7:00 Youth Led Sunrise Service
7:30 Coffee Hour
9:00 Worship with Choir & Organ
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:00 Egg Hunt
11:00 Worship with Band

