



Epiphany 2026

Worship in Epiphany

The season of Epiphany begins with the arrival of the Magi (the Sunday closest to Jan. 6) and ends at Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18). The season is variable on length (since Easter and Lent move around each year), and usually features gospel texts about events in Jesus' life. We will be following those gospel texts this year, which range from Jesus' baptism by John to the teaching of the Beatitudes. In between, we'll also celebrate Infant Recognition (Jan. 4) and observe MLK Jr. day by hearing the stories behind various spirituals and then singing them. We look forward to seeing you in worship!

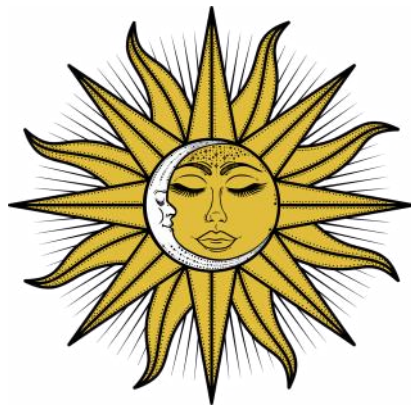
Seeking Reflections on Light and Dark for Lenten Devotional

Lent begins on Feb. 18, and we'd like to have a Lenten devotional to hand out on our theme this year – Light/Dark or Day/Night. We'll be following accounts in the Gospel of John where he cues us about the success of different things based on whether they happen in the light or in the dark, at the middle of the day or in the middle of the night.

If you have a reflection or poem or picture or piece of music that you have written that you'd like included in our Lenten Devotional, please send it to Pastor Becky before Feb. 1 so we have time to assemble and distribute the devotionals.

In this Issue:

<i>United Women in</i>	<u>2</u>
<i>Winter Play</i>	<u>3</u>
<i>Children & Youth</i>	<u>4,5</u>
<i>Winter Retreat</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Adult Classes</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Variety Show Pictures</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Finance Snapshot</i>	<u>10</u>
<i>Pastor's Note</i>	<u>11</u>



♦ **Wednesday Dec. 24**

Christmas Eve

- ♦ 4:00 Informal with flashlights
- ♦ 10:00 Traditional Candlelight

♦ **Dec. 28 (Traditional)**

Hymn sing!

♦ **Jan. 4 (Methodicals)**

Epiphany Sunday
Communion/Infant Recognition
Matthew 2:1-12
"Overwhelmed with Joy"

♦ **Jan. 11 (Traditional)**

Baptism Sunday
"Why Was Jesus Baptized?"
Matthew 3:13-17

♦ **Jan. 18 (Blended Service)**

MLK Jr. Sunday
Spirituals with their stories. Interspersed with various personal tales of mission trips.

♦ **Jan. 25 (Traditional)**

"Carrying the Light With a Trembling Hand"
Sarah Schroerlucke preaching
Psalm 27:1,4-9

♦ **Feb. 1 (Methodicals)**

Communion
Matthew 5:1-12
"Blessed Are The . . ."

♦ **Feb. 8 (Traditional)**

Matthew 5:13-20
"Light of the World"

♦ **Feb. 15 (Methodicals)**

Transfiguration Sunday/Communion
Mardi Gras celebration!
Come to the Table – A Feast for All



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

Welcome to 2026 and another amazing year with our Minnehaha UMC community and the activities of your United Women in Faith group, serving our church and the neighborhood thru service and funding for many missions for women and children.

I cannot continue this article without reviewing our fantastic Holiday Bazaar held on Saturday, Nov. 8 with great food, baked good, very cool craft vendors, rice pudding, lefsa, jewelry sales, Granny's Corner with collectibles, cookbooks, cards, jams.....on and on and on. What a day! Your UWF Leadership Team worked very hard putting it all together with cooking, sorting, setting up, baking, publicizing, and coordinating; super thanks to:

Maureen Trepp, Kim and Chuck Kanuit, Jenny and Dean Ammerman, Margaret Rawson, Charlene Johnson, Kitty Campbell, and Becky Nyseth

Our volunteers on Nov. 8 and also getting ready on Nov. 7 were Annette and Steve Meier, Geri Cook, Jane Moren, Josh Espinosa, Hazel and Hannah Schlosser, Pat Roth, Rene Cronquist, Gene Thompson, Mary Vrabel, Renee Beymer, Dan Heldt, Sean Kennedy-Heldt, Joyce Kovacs, Beth and Paul Minehart, Sarah Emrick, Hayley Forrest, Dan Johnson, Sue and Peter Johnson, Maggie and Addy Kappleman, John and Riley Davis, Scott Gruenhagen and Gail Minehart, Rick Chantry, Susan DeLattre, Sarah Selvig, Julia Knutson, Janice Linster, Shirley Arms, Jan Hougén, Virginia Conklin, Sue Claude, Wanda Driver, Kendra Kramer, Sharon Shimomura, Paula Barton, Lexi Mitchell, Jean Elliott, and Conrad Larson. Hopefully we have not missed anyone and really appreciate the talent of all.

We are very pleased to report a profit of \$3,589.08, about \$1,000 more than last year! Thank you, Thank you.

December is the month we give many of our mission gifts; this includes sending a District Pledge to the UWF of \$1600 along with \$215 toward special gifts. Emma Norton Services, Watercourse (mental health counseling for children), Clare Housing (housing services for those who are HIV positive), Meals on Wheels all received \$500 and our own food missions of the Food Shelf and MinneHarvest received \$700 and the Walker Care fund got \$250.. We also purchased animal gifts

(Continued on page 3)



Ukulele Chorus
on November 23

the Minnehaha Players
proudly present

The Rockin' Tale of Snow White

Fri. Jan 30 at 7pm
Sat. Jan 31 & Sun. Feb 1 at 2 pm
and
Fri. Feb 6 & Sat. Feb 7 at 7pm
Sun. Feb 8 at 2pm

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 E. 50th Street
Minneapolis 55417
www.minnehaha.org

Tickets: \$10 for adults,
\$6 for kids 12 & under,
\$25 family cap

Profits go to support UWF Missions for Women & Children-
Locally & Globally

Produced by special arrangement with
Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.
Englewood, CO

to developing countries thru the Heifer Project. We really appreciate our Treasurer, Kim Kanuit, for handling our income and gifts so well.

We continue to serve at Simpson Shelter. Because they have a new building, they will be putting together the food for each meal but we will be helping to prepare it. We last served on Dec. 30 and can always use someone new to help, though we only send a team of six.

Your UWF is once more financing the All Church Musical of February. This year's show is a repeat of one done in 2018 because we liked it so much: "The Rockin' Tale of Snow White". Come to the show the weekends of Jan. 30-Feb. 1 and Feb. 6-8. Look for the flyer.

"We're one people and we all live in the same house. Not the American house, but the world house....Find a way to get in trouble. Good trouble, necessary trouble." -John Lewis

Peace....some day, Maureen Trepp

Maureen Trepp, *President*



Youth Choir on December 14



Wednesday Night Childcare

Childcare is offered following the Wednesday Night Dinners from 6:00-7:15 pm. Supervision is offered for kids in the gym and the nursery/preschool rooms while parents continue to eat, socialize, help clean-up, or attend rehearsals or committee meetings.

Minnehaha Playgroup

Babies and toddlers with their caregivers are invited to stop by on Thursday mornings for a time of play and community. Playgroup meets in the 2nd floor nursery and preschool rooms. Follow the "Minnehaha Playgroup" on Facebook for more information.





MINNEHAHA
YOUTH GROUP
Grades 6th-12th
SUNDAYS
4:00-5:30 PM

Come together for weekly activities, snacks, and fun in community!



Bring your snow gear on Jan. 4 & 18

No Youth Group on Jan. 25



MINNEHAHA
YOUTH GROUP
SUNDAYS
4:00-5:30 PM

Come together in faith, friendship, & fun!

NOTES

- Feb. 8 - Bring your snow gear
Wear any football jersey or football swag
- Feb. 22 - Bring your snow gear

All 6th-12th graders welcome!

Christmas Pageant



Minnehaha Winter Retreat

January 23-25

Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds

Join us for a getaway weekend of winter fun!

Activities for All Ages

Friday Night Gathering

Saturday Morning Programs

-Adults -Youth -Children

Saturday Afternoon Freetime

Saturday Night Talent Show & Dance Party

Sunday Morning Worship

2 Lodging Options

Lakeview Lodge

Twin beds with shared bathrooms
down the hall

Sunrise Inn

Full sized beds with private
bathroom in the room

Register by Jan. 14



Winter Retreat Registration Link: <https://omella.com/c1pwd>

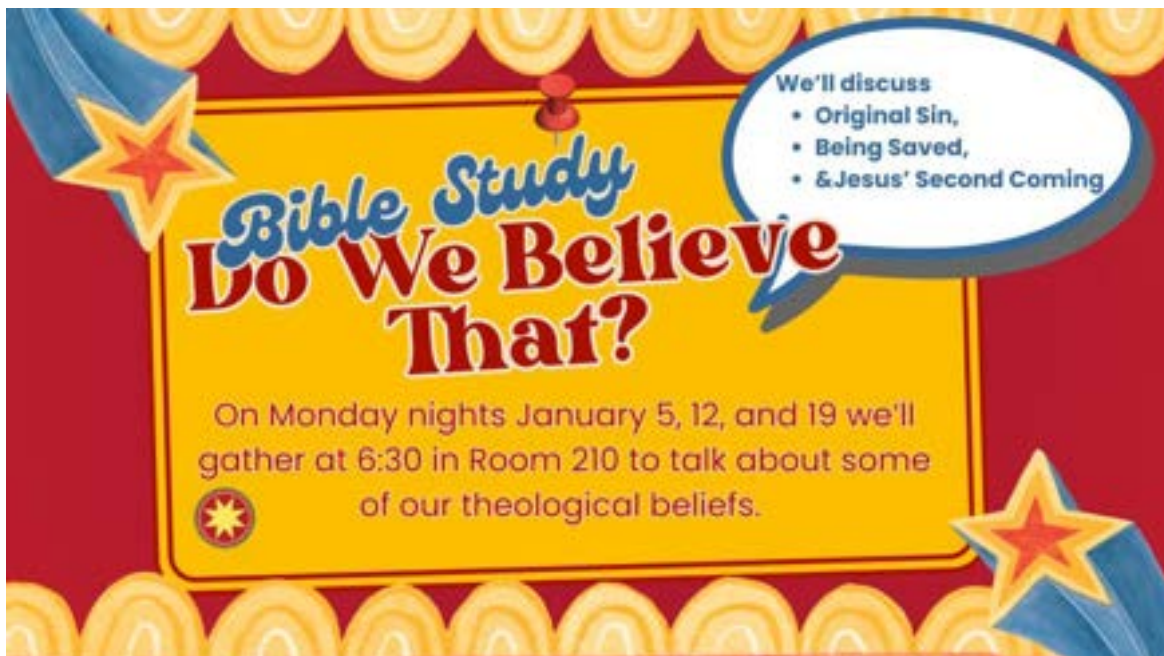
Time for Renewal

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 second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. from October through May, we offer a Taize 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 January 9 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.



Adult Sunday Faith Forum

The Adult Sunday Faith Forum (Sundays at 10:45-11:30) will start up again on January 4 in Room 310. Marshall Cook will be leading discussions based on a study from Dr. Amy Jill Levine, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*. As Dr. Levine notes, "how we understand the Bible depends greatly on what we bring to it. Learning how people with different experiences, assumptions, and convictions read the Bible can open new ways of seeing the text and encountering God in it." Dr. Levin, along with Marc Zvi Brettler (a professor of Jewish studies at Duke University) will discuss the original content of certain passages as well as how Jesus and Jews have understood the texts throughout history. The six sessions will cover the Creation account in Genesis, Adam & Eve, Israel's Emmanuel Prophecy, Isaiah's Suffering Servant, the Sign of Jonah, and Jesus' words on the cross from Psalm 22.







Wednesday night dinners are from 5:30-6:15 pm. Everyone is invited to join these weekly meals for good food and lively conversations. Cost: \$5/person; \$20/family

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting (otherwise known as a Church Conference) will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2025 at 11:30. We'll have our 2025 Financial Report, our 2025 Membership Report and our 2026 Budget. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all members of the congregation can vote. We will also have pizza and salad available.




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; join us on January 24 for all or any portion of that time, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a friend! You can volunteer anytime between 7:15 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.

MINNEHARVEST
a food mission of minnehaha united methodist church

2025 Contributions...So Far!



IN NOVEMBER, CONTRIBUTIONS WERE \$31,737. WE'LL NEED A REALLY STRONG DECEMBER TO CATCH UP.

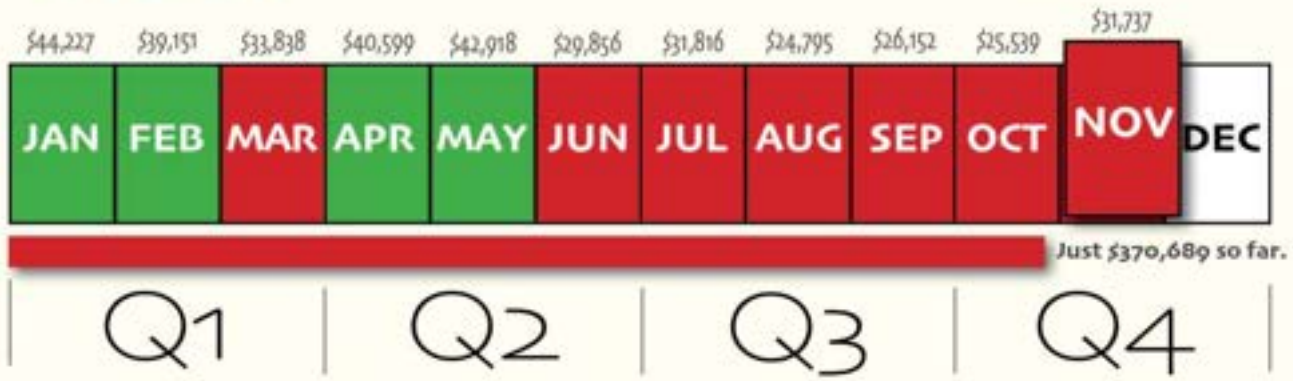


WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

Our Monthly Contribution Goal is 1/12 of \$465,293 or \$38,774.

CONTRIBUTIONS SO FAR FOR 2025:
\$370,689

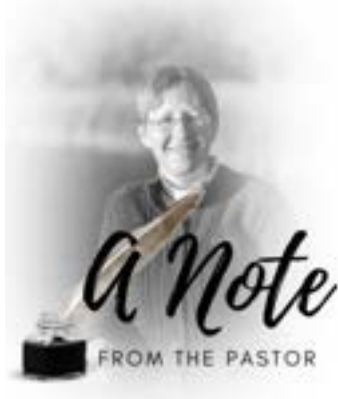
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS GOAL FOR 2025:
\$465,293
Includes \$23,645 to balance the church budget



4 Easy Ways to Donate to Minnehaha UMC

There are many ways to give to the church: Volunteer, support our food ministries or other missions, or with cash, check, or electronically. A monthly contribution through your bank (EFT) makes it easier for us to budget for the year, and there's just a small added fee. But do whatever works best for you. Know that the church also accepts gifts of stocks, bonds, and other securities, as well as real estate and more. Contributing through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) are other options. Also consider making Minnehaha UMC a beneficiary in your will or trust. If you need more information on gifting to Minnehaha United Methodist Church, contact the church treasurer or the pastor. Thank you!

Cash		No Fee
Check		No Fee
EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) via VANCO		0.45% Fee
PayPal (QR Code)		3.5% Fee



Epiphanies

This season of the church year is called Epiphany. The length of the season changes each year (because Easter and Lent move), but the intent is the same – we hear of Jesus' life and ministry before jumping into the texts for Lent. In our secular lives, there are the predictable countdowns – top 10 movies, top 10 most popular songs, top 10 book recommendations, etc. There are New Year's Eve parties, and there are New Year resolutions to be made. If you've read any of my previous January letters, you know this is not my favorite time of year. With all the preparations (church and home) for Christmas, the year-end reports, and the need to shovel my sidewalk from the latest snowfall, I am often caught (unpleasantly) by surprise on my New Year's resolutions. Since there is nothing magic about January

1, I often use this as my reminder of what I want to give up (or take on) for Lent. Lent is a different kind thing than a New Year's Resolution, so this year, I am thinking about my birthday instead. When I turned 50, I heard from a variety of people about the various things they wanted to do during their 50th year. Find 50 things they wanted to see or do. 50 pictures they wanted to take. You get the idea. I knew someone who tried every year to go on a bike ride on his birthday – a mile for every year old he was. I believe he was in his 70s before he had to amend his plans.

As usual, I am behind on this particular thing if I am aiming for a milestone. My 60th birthday was last year. But, again, there are no rules for this! So, I am going to spend the season of Epiphany listening to where God is beckoning me, what I might have as a goal for my 61st year. It might be to find an act of compassion each day. Or to bike an extra mile each week. Or . . . I don't know, but I'm leaving the door open for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

You might love making New Year's Resolutions. Or already know what you are doing for Lent. But in case you don't, maybe you'll join me in praying for God's insight into where each of us can be more of who God intended for us in this coming year.

In Hope,

Becky



Rachel Allgor, Lauren Loeffler, and Nick Peterson joined us on November 16



3701 East 50th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Address Service Requested

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

1/26

Visit us online!
www.minnehaha.org

