



# Minnehaha United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation  
*We Seek. We Serve. We Celebrate.*

## Welcome Friends!

We welcome you to worship wherever you may be in your faith's journey. We strive to live in the way of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love on a daily basis regardless of race, sexual orientation or faith history.

We livestream our worship services, and you may end up in view of the camera at any point in the service.

## Worship Personnel

Rev. Becky Sechrist, *Pastor*;  
Rev. Jean Elliott, *Director of Children, Youth, & Their Families*;  
Anders Nelson, *Organist*;  
Tim Siefkes, *Band Leader*;  
Cindy Bergstrom, *Choir Director*;  
Nicholas and Patience Sabah, *Communion Stewards*

**Minnehaha United Methodist Church acknowledges that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary land of Dakota People.**

## Attendance

We are delighted you are here! We invite you to "sign the welcome pad" electronically.

If you point your camera phone at the QR code, it will take you to a Google form where you can enter your information.



## Offering

For our offering, you can also give electronically through the PayPal account online, or by using this QR Code (which takes you to our PayPal account).



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# March 30, 2025 9:30 a.m.

\* Please rise in body or spirit

## Children in Worship

*We always welcome children in worship! We assume that they may make noise, wriggle, and even run around. If you would like childcare during worship, we do have care for children ages 0-4 from 9:30-10:30 am upstairs in the 2nd floor nursery. Our childcare workers are Laila and Maia. The worship service is also live-streamed into the nursery. In addition, we have activity bags for children and big kid activity boxes (2nd grade & older) at the back of the sanctuary. Rocking chairs are also available for nursing or rocking at the back of the sanctuary and in the 2nd floor nursery.*

## Prelude

Anders Nelson, *organist*

## Arioso

G.F. Handel, arr. William Felton

## Welcome

## \*Call to Worship

*(adapted from Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org,*

*based on Isaiah 55:1-9)*

**Leader:** God's reach is endless.

**People:** God's mercy is unstoppable.

**Leader:** God's grace is lavish.

**People:** God's love is constant.

**Leader:** God's wisdom is vast.

**People:** God's hope is stubborn.

**Leader:** God's presence is here—

**People:** with us, among us, moving through us.

**Leader:** Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**People:** We are in God's house. Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

## \*Opening Hymn

*The United Methodist hymnal (red)*

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness #140

Thomas O. Chisholm (1923) William M. Runyan (1923)

*(in v. 2, feel free to sing "Maker" in place of "Father")*

## Children's Message

Rev. Jean Elliott

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

## Sharing of Joys & Concerns

## Morning Prayer

*(adapted from Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org)*

**God of open doors, we often long to come home to you, to love, and to ourselves, but we aren't always sure how to get there. We know that we need you, but the road back to you is heavy with distractions. So if we can dare to be so forward, we pray—reach into the cacophony of our hearts and minds and make yourself known. Quiet everything but your words to us. Leave us awestruck. Drown out the distractions. Come as thunder or**

**come as a still, small voice; we don't care which, we just pray that you will come. Turn on the light. Find the parts of us that are lost. With hope we pray, Amen.**

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*inclusive*

**Our Creator, God in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kin-dom<sup>✠</sup> come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive  
those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kin-dom and the power  
and the glory forever. *Amen.***

<sup>✠</sup>*Kin-dom represents a hope for God's realm where we are all in community with one another.*

## **Choral Anthem**

Chancel Choir

*Grace*

Mark Hayes

## **Scripture Lesson**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Hassan Barzani

## **\*Hymn**

*The United Methodist hymnal (red)*

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling #348*

Will L. Thompson (1880)

## **Sermon**

**"Prodigal Grace"**

Rev. Becky Sechrist

## **Offering of Gifts and Tithes**

### **Offertory**

*Solemn Melody*

Henry Walford-Davies, arr. Hal Hopson

### **\*Act of Praise**

*The United Methodist Hymnal (red)*

*Doxology #94*

Thomas Ken (1674) Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**How grateful we are, O God, that you have claimed us and provided for us, even when we have been unfaithful. In thanksgiving for your compassion, and in recognition of needs among your children that you call us to address, we bring our best in these offerings. Make us useful in your service. Amen.**

## Affirmation of Faith

(adapted from Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org)

**We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.**

**We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.**

**We believe in a God who doesn't stop looking for us when we get lost.**

**We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.**

**In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.**

**We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.**

**We believe that this is our call. Let it be so. Amen.**

## Announcements

### \*Closing Hymn

*The United Methodist hymnal (red)*

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #384*

Charles Wesley (1747) John Zundel (1870)

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Finale in D minor*

Eric Thiman



**Statement from the Artist:** Inexplicable Joy by Hannah Garrity  
Full to the brim with joy. An existential crisis, like the COVID pandemic, helps us all to appreciate the joy with which the father of the prodigal son celebrates. This image depicts the joyful motion of a party, the lights in particular. The lines in this stained glass window design are inspired by photographs of light glowing and moving, dancing in the night. In the center circle, the shadow of a dancing silhouette repeats, echoing the way that we see figures move in two dimensions in the light of the night. In the corners of the window frame, architectural motifs that historically represent the Holy Trinity reflect the light as though shining themselves. Thinking about an expansive Lent as I worked on this paper lace, this image became all about joy. Joy that is misunderstood. Joy as an act of resistance. Inexplicable joy. In an expansive understanding, the joy that the father is experiencing makes sense. He shows an uncharacteristic willingness to celebrate inexplicably with joy. How can we notice and give grace to those who are experiencing inexplicable joy—particularly when it is an act of resistance? Where can we enter into their joy? Where in our own lives can we celebrate despite the incongruence of joy and pain, joy and discord, joy and anger?

# *In Our Prayers*

## **Holding in prayer:**

- **Hospice:** Darcie Siefkes
- **Receiving treatment for cancer:** Zobeida Bonilla, Jim Duncan (*Linda Duncan's husband*), Judy Durfey, George Gallagher (*Food Shelf Director*)

**Memorial Service** for Marc Thurow will be in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 12 at 11:00. Visitation at 10:00 and lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

## **Due to Spring Break:**

- No Sunday Youth Groups today
- No Wednesday Night Dinner April 2
- No Childcare on April 2 & 6

**Adult Faith Formation:** Marshall Cook is leading a series on the history of Christianity, from the disciples through the Reformation at 10:45 each Sunday. Come join the class on any Sunday and join in the conversation.

**Newcomer Class** We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining **today** 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.

## **We are looking for Scripture Readers**

Children, Teens & Adults are encouraged & welcome to sign up!

Annette Meier will send the scripture to you on Wednesday - if you don't hear from her, or you sign up later than Wednesday, please text/call her (612) 597-1778 or e-mail at [salmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:salmeier@hotmail.com)

Here is the link to the sign-up tool:



## **THIS WEEK AT MINNEHAHA**

### **Sunday Mar 30, 2025**

- 9:30a Worship with Organ and Choir (Sanctuary)
- 10:45a Adult Faith Formation (310)
- 10:45a Newcomer Class (Library)
- 10:45a Sunday School (Classrooms)
- 12p PUGA Dance Group (Gym)
- 3p Joseph rehearsal (310)
- 6p Rehearsal Mpls Choir Co-Op (Sanctuary)
- 6:30p Togolese Community Church (Fellowship Hall)
- 7p SAA (306)

### **Monday Mar 31, 2025**

- 1:30p Al-Anon (306)
- 6:30p Gospel of John (210)
- 6:30p Troop Meeting (Fellowship Hall & Gym)

### **Tuesday Apr 1, 2025**

- 9a Fun & Fitness Group (302/304)
- 10a Food Shelf (Fellowship Hall, Narthex)
- 11:30a Staff Meeting
- 6p Karate Group (Gym)

### **Wednesday Apr 2, 2025**

- 9:10a Men's Study of Scripture + Prophetic Consciousness (210)
- 1p Nokomis Square
- 5:30p Methodicals (Wesley Room)
- 6:15p Chancel Choir (310)

### **Thursday Apr 3, 2025**

- 9a Fun & Fitness Group (302/304)
- 9:30a Minnehaha Playgroup (202/204, (Gym until 10:45))
- 6p Karate Group (Gym)

### **Friday Apr 4, 2025 Newsletter Deadline**

- 10a Al-Anon (306)
- 6:30p RCA (306)

### **Saturday Apr 5, 2025**

- 8a Therapy dog pet partners class (Fellowship Hall)
- 9a M. Mazvydas Lithuanian Heritage School (Narthex, 206, 208, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310)
- 11a Karate Group (Gym)

### **Sunday Apr 6, 2025 Communion**

- 9:30a Worship with Band (Sanctuary)
- 10:45a Adult Faith Formation (310)
- 10:45a Sunday School (Classrooms)
- 4p Youth Groups (302/304 & 308, Gym)
- 5:30p Joseph rehearsal (310)
- 6p PUGA Dance Group (Gym)
- 6p Rehearsal Mpls Choir Co-Op (Sanctuary)
- 7p SAA (306)



## PALM SUNDAY AUCTION + LUNCH SUNDAY, APRIL 13 @ 11:45 AM



### Church Service Auction & Social Gathering Fundraiser

We're excited to expand our Church Service Auction with the addition of **Magnificent Minnehaha Meet-Ups!** Join us on **April 13th** for a day of fun, food, fellowship, and support for our church.

#### What is a Service Auction?

A Service Auction allows church members to donate their time, talents, and skills, which are then auctioned off to the highest bidder. Services raise money for the church, and all winning bids go directly to support our mission. We need your **service donations**—examples include:

- Home-cooked meals, cookies, or smoked meats
- Babysitting or pet-sitting
- Handyman or yard work
- Music lessons or art tutoring

#### What is a Magnificent Minnehaha Meet-Up (Social Gathering)?

A **Magnificent Minnehaha Meet-Up** is a casual gathering of 5-25 people where attendees connect and have fun. We need **hosts** to plan and host these events, which will also raise funds for the church. Examples include:

- Hosted or potluck dinner parties
- Game nights, movie nights, or BBQs
- Outdoor activities like hikes, bike tours, or ice fishing trips
- Crafting or cooking workshops

Meet-up hosts will plan the event, set attendance limits, and cover the cost. Registration fees for each meet-up will go directly to the church.

Your participation, whether bidding on services or hosting a gathering, helps support our church community. **Please mark your calendars**, and we look forward to seeing you on April 13th!

For questions or to donate a service or host a meet-up, contact Jed Retherford at 612-419-1255 or Jeff Sandager at 651-402-8468.



It's Here - the 2025

MINNEHAWA

YOUTH

PLANT SALE

Order your plant(s) at [gertensfundraising.com](http://gertensfundraising.com) by March 31st  
(Store ID 412)

Pick-up plants at church on May 9th 5-7pm or May 10th 9-11am

Proceeds support future youth mission trips



The Crucible reminds us that 'We are what we always were', and the urgent need for us as a community to push back against this bigotry. Before we, like Salem, get consumed by it.

In this world of The Crucible, the audience finds itself in The Society: an isolated, controlled, cult-like community. Here we see how quickly and devastatingly the consequences of repression, brutal control, and insidious politics can consume all in its path.

Performing at Living Spirit United Methodist Church - 4501 Bloomington Ave, Minneapolis, MN

March 21st-April 12th 2025

Thu/Fri/Sat 7pm & March 30th 2pm

Ticket and show info available at [nightfiretheatre.com/the-crucible](http://nightfiretheatre.com/the-crucible)

