



DECEMBER 2023

# THE EXTENSION *newsletter*



## Minnetonka

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## CHRISTMAS EVE *Worship*

**10:00 AM** TRADITIONAL  
SERVICE OF  
LESSONS AND  
CAROLS

**3:00 PM** FAMILY-FRIENDLY,  
CANDLELIGHT  
WORSHIP

**10:00 PM** CANDLELIGHT  
WORSHIP





# THE BINNIEDICTION

## 2023 Christmas Offering

This fall, we put our focus on prayer, particularly the power of breakthrough prayer - when we ask God to move through and/or beyond the barriers that hinder the realization of God's dreams for our lives. Our Advent/Christmas sermon series, "We're Expecting," seeks to extend our breakthrough prayer focus.

*Sermon Series Summary:* As a praying people, we expect God to hear and respond to our prayers. And if we are expecting God to appear, act or speak in this world, how might we engage in the midwifery needed to bring God's will to birth?

With the "We're Expecting" series in mind, the Mission Team of Minnetonka United Methodist Church decided to further the "We're Expecting" theme and earmark our 2023 Christmas Offering for three different organizations that serve mothers, babies and young children in different ways.

**Imara International** is a home for teenage mothers and their children in Nanyuki, Kenya. There, young mothers are given a chance to finish their education, learn vocational skills, grow in faith and practice life and parenting skills. Their children are cared for and have access to proper nutrition, early learning and education.

**Sojourner**, located in Hopkins, provides emergency shelter for women and children, support and legal advocacy services to persons victimized by domestic violence and other forms of

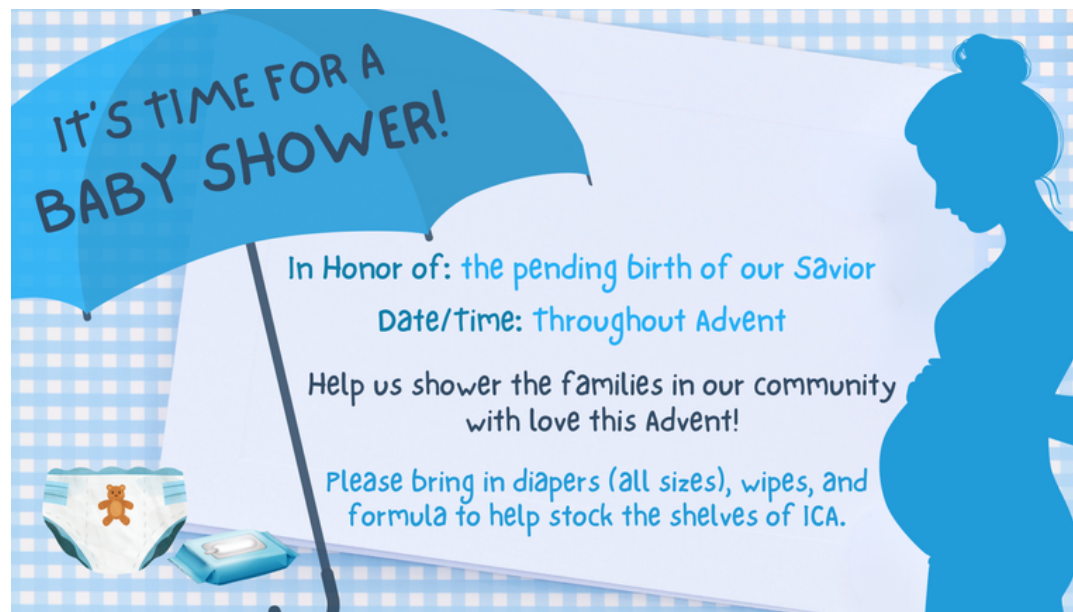
interpersonal violence. The organization advocates for victim safety, offers support during the transition from victim to survivor and seeks to educate individuals and the general public about prevention and the elimination of domestic violence.

**Inter-congregational Communities Association (ICA)** exists to better the larger community by connecting people with the food, employment, mental health services and housing they need.

When the church's Mission Team had a tour of ICA, we learned that baby formula and food, diapers (all sizes) and wipes are nearly always in short supply. This Christmas, in addition to monetary gifts, let's bless our neighbors in need with supplies to care for their little ones (as noted in the graphic below). Supplies can be placed in front of the altar before/after worship or during the Receiving of the Offering.

Thank you for your participation and generosity! Christmas Offering envelopes will be waiting for you in the Sanctuary and lobby.

Best of All, God is With Us,





# Festive Fun!

## Advent Nativity Devotional

This year's Advent Devotional can be found on the church's Facebook page. It's a sharing of nativities from Pastor Carrie's collection. May each depiction of the birth of our Savior give us pause for reflection, global awareness and an expression of gratitude to God.



## Live Nativity

Invite your friends and neighbors, coworkers and family! ALL are welcome! Grab a cup of hot chocolate and experience the Christmas story afresh as you walk through various scenes that tell the story of the arrival of Christ. Then, stick around for Christmas caroling around the campfire! It's going to be a wonderful afternoon/evening!

## Christmas Pageant - 12/24

Calling all Kiddos! You're invited to participate in an impromptu, unrehearsed telling of the story of Jesus' birth during the 3:00 PM worship service on Christmas Eve. Please plan to arrive a bit early to get matched with a costume. The adult leaders, Rebecca Pederson, Nadine Ronbeck and Laura Nordaune, will let you know when it's time for you to make your grand entrance. And don't worry, there are no lines to be memorized!





# CHILDREN'S AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

## Are You Able to Help?

As we continue our search for a new Director of Children's and Student Ministries, we would ask that you please sign up to lead or co-lead Sunday School and/or Quest (Wednesday night programming). The congregation has done a fantastic job of stepping up to fill the gap so far. THANK YOU!!! Please help us ensure that the faith formation of children remains a priority at MUMC by continuing to do so in the new year. This generation of kids needs you! Please click on the graphics below to sign up. *Thank you so very much!!!*



Led by Kailey Corder, with help from an incredible adult volunteer!



## Summer Mission Trip

Hey Students! Get ready for a fun and faith-filled week in service to God and neighbor in partnership with Next Step Ministries!

Our work will be primarily construction-focused with relational components incorporated. We'll work with Habitat KC and Kansas City Parks on projects such as full home builds, home additions, drywall, siding, flooring, wheelchair ramps, and more! Each evening will include great bands, challenging and inspiring speakers and a powerful video series created and

filmed exclusively for this mission experience. We'll kick off the trip with a Sunday Funday of group bonding at Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun amusement and water parks (<https://www.worldsoffun.com/>). You won't want to miss this incredible week of making friends, growing in faith, serving others, and having a blast! The trip won't be complete without YOU!!

The total cost of the trip will be \$650, but there will be fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due by Thursday, December 21. Signups and payment after December 21 are welcome, as spots remain available.

**Questions?** Please contact [Cathy Carlson](#), [Pastor Carrie](#), [Jason Anderson](#) or [Barb Kern-Pieh](#). To sign up, please click on the corresponding graphic above.







39TH ANNUAL

# HOMELESS MEMORIAL

March & Service

Thursday | December 14, 2023

Plymouth Congregational Church  
1900 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, MN

Honoring people who have died  
while homeless in Minnesota.

All are welcome/Todos son bienvenidos

### 5:00 p.m. | Vigil and Silent March

The march route begins at Plymouth Congregational Church, loops through Loring Park, and returns to the church.

### 6:00 p.m. | Service of Remembrance

The memorial service will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church and will be livestreamed at [facebook.com/simpsonhousing](https://www.facebook.com/simpsonhousing).

### 7:00 p.m. | Community Meal

Meal hosted and served by Minnetonka United Methodist Church and Plymouth Congregational Church.

[SimpsonHousing.org](https://www.simpsonhousing.org)  
#HomelessMemorialMN

## Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups

FRIDAY, DEC. 15- 9:00 AM

Join your MUMC friends for break at Perkins Restaurant, Hopkins Crossroad and Hwy 7. There will be two separate tables for the men and women at the same time in different rooms. Please contact Harly nd Cleone Haggmann (952-917-9022) by Thursday, Dec. 14th if you can be present or if you have any questions.

## Resource West Toy Drive

Help a child celebrate the holidays by donating to ResourceWest's Toy Chest. The Toy Chest program helps families provide a fun experience for their children. Many families that register for the program are experiencing hardship, so the opportunity to choose free gifts for their children can bring joy into their households. The Toy Chest provides new gifts to over 1,000 children and youth in the Hopkins and Minnetonka school districts. Let's all make a difference by bringing new, unwrapped gifts to the big blue barrel in the MUMC lobby. Or click [HERE](#) for details on how to donate online via direct donations or Target and Amazon wish lists. Gifts will be distributed to families from Dec 7 - 14.

## Holiday Gifts for Sojourner Project:

The church has supported Sojourner Project for many years through financial support and monthly meals at their domestic violence shelter in our community. We can all bring smiles to

the women and children staying at the local shelter. There's a basket with wish lists from the residents located in our lobby. Gift cards for \$25 at Target, Cub or Holiday are at the top of the list. Please bring unwrapped gifts to the church by the close of worship on Sunday, December 10.

*Thank you!*



## Your Christmas Cookies are Needed!

WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING IN HOMEMADE OR STORE-BUGHT CHRISTMAS COOKIES TO FOR THE CARING MINISTRIES TEAM TO DELIVER WHEN MAKING VISITS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

COOKIES NEEDED BY 11:00 AM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10





## Meet Noelle!

Noelle Page is our new **Music Director/Coordinator**. She grew up in Minnesota and earned a B.A. in Music from Northwestern College in St. Paul (now UNW). After college, she ventured into worship leading which inspired her to start writing her own music because her pastor told her, "All great worship leaders are songwriters." She is married to Jeff Page, who is also a songwriter, a talented guitarist, music producer and production technician. They have two precious kids, Billy and Bella, who will hopefully join the worship team when they get a little older.



Noelle has experienced brokenness in her life that has led her to feel compassion for people who are suffering and need to experience the greatness and depth of God's love for them. She believes that joining the staff team at Minnetonka United Methodist Church is a divine appointment and she is so excited to use her gifts to inspire healing, love, and joy in her new church family and beyond.

## Our New Technology Coordinator

Originally from Southern Ohio, now residing in St. Paul, Mark embarked on his IT career at 16. A mentored and self-taught professional, Mark began at Certified-IT-Solutions, Inc., establishing a foundation in general IT support and troubleshooting. Mark's career progressed through various roles in Managed Service Providers, small IT shops, and internal IT departments demonstrating versatility and a knack for rapid learning. In 2022, Mark joined Catholic Charities of the Twin Cities, quickly advancing from Desktop Support Specialist to Enterprise Application Administrator. Outside of work, Mark enjoys hiking, video games, and exploring new topics, accompanied by his dog, Billy Jean.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT DURING WORSHIP?

Please click on this graphic to let Pastor Carrie know!

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

Nursery Attendant

*We're Hiring!*

Click on this graphic for more information





## Help with Meal Service After the Homeless Memorial March

On Thurs, Dec 14, MUMC will continue our 30+ years tradition of serving the Community Dinner following the Homeless Memorial March and Service. Our guests enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings! We need 15 servers, 18 turkey donations, and lots of desserts. Sign up [HERE](#) to serve this dinner to 250 guests at Plymouth Congregational Church. Sign up [HERE](#) to provide desserts. Sign up [HERE](#) to provide turkey for the dinner. Turkey donors – stop by the Welcome Desk to pick up your foil pan and instructions.

## Dignity Center

Dignity Center: Join the team in the MUMC kitchen after worship THIS SUNDAY, Dec 10, to make sandwiches for The Dignity Center, a ministry of Hennepin Avenue UMC that provides assistance with job hunting, interviewing, transportation to interviews, referrals to other organizations, clothing, household goods and meals - all to support people along their paths to stability. MUMC makes a difference with financial support, monthly sandwich donations and a year-round coat drive. Donations of gently used coats, gloves and hats may be left in the bin in the lobby. Click [HERE](#) to donate directly to the Dignity Center.

## Simpson Shelter Donations

Thanks to all who continue to donate cash and much-needed shelter items. Special thanks to our Quilters who donate a quilt or 3 every month! If you have goods to donate, please leave them in the bin in the lobby. We'll bring them to Simpson tomorrow. Click [HERE](#) to find the list of their current needs. Click [HERE](#) to make a cash donation or designate Simpson on your MUMC offering.

## ICA - Food, Jobs, Housing

From our ICA partners: "THANK YOU to all who helped make our annual turkey distribution a success! Staff and volunteers have been busy these past couple of weeks giving out turkeys and fixings to our neighbors in need. In total, ICA gave out 840 turkeys. WOW! Thank you to all who helped volunteer at our distribution day and to those who donated to make this possible!" During the holidays there are many ways to help people in our community through ICA. Click [HERE](#) to donate directly to ICA or note "ICA" on your MUMC offering.



## UMCOR providing aid in Israel and Gaza

Our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been working diligently to provide emergency assistance to those impacted by the conflict in Israel and Gaza. An emergency grant has been awarded to a local partner who used UMCOR funds to procure and distribute 300 hygiene kits for internally displaced people in Gaza. UMCOR is working with partners in Israel to provide humanitarian relief there as well. UMCOR invites us to continue praying for a peaceful resolution to this conflict. To learn more about UMCOR's response to the war in Israel/Gaza, or to donate, visit their International Disaster Response webpage: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-international-latest-responses/> Donate directly to UMCOR or note "UMCOR" on your MUMC offering; please click the box "Yes, I would like to give credit to my local church".



## **The Extension**

is the monthly newsletter of  
Minnetonka United Methodist Church

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