

LENT 2024

THE EXTENSION *newsletter*



Minnetonka

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES!

Pop-Up Choir Rehearsals
11:15 AM - March 3, 10, 17



HOLY WEEK 2024

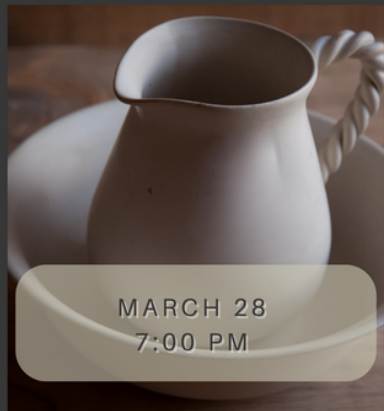
PALM SUNDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

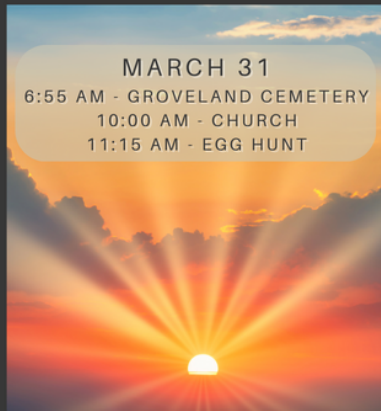
EASTER SUNDAY



MARCH 24
10:00 AM



MARCH 28
7:00 PM



MARCH 31
6:55 AM - GROVELAND CEMETERY
10:00 AM - CHURCH
11:15 AM - EGG HUNT

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THE BINNIEDICTION

Holy Week and Stations of Peter

There's something spectacular about starting a new week with Sunday morning worship. And there's something deeply moving about gathering for worship in the quiet of dark and candlelight. Each year during Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday), Minnetonka United Methodist Church holds a special evening worship service on Maundy Thursday designed to remind us of Jesus' final days, Last Supper and ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

This year's Maundy Thursday service will include Holy Communion and continue our Lenten journey with the wandering heart of Jesus' disciple, Peter. Perhaps you've heard of the Stations of the Cross. On Maundy Thursday, we will experience something similar, yet altogether different - Four Stations of Peter. Each "station" we encounter will focus on a particular action/experience of Peter's during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. There will be original art pieces from A Sanctified Art to prompt personal reflection, powerful music to guide our hearts and interactive components to move us from bystanders to active participants.

One way you can engage in the service more fully is to share your heart and your experiences with those who gather. I'm looking for four people to prepare and share written reflections based on one of the Stations of Peter and one or more of the questions/prompts posed below:

Station 1 - John 13:1, 3-20, 33-35 (Peter resists, then receives foot-washing)

- When was a time you resisted God? What happened?
- Tell about a time you said yes to God's call in your life. What happened?
- When have you experienced the love of God through an act of service to or from someone else?
- Talk about a time when someone modeled the cleansing forgiveness of Christ for you?

Station 2 - John 18:1-11 (Peter draws his sword)

- Talk about a time when you acted in a way that you

later regretted.

- Share about an experience you had when God taught you a lesson.
- When was a time you chose violence (verbal, physical, emotional, etc.) over love?
- Have you ever betrayed someone or been betrayed? Where did you see God working in and through the experience?

Station 3 - John 18:12, 15-18, 25-27 (Peter denies Jesus)

- How have you denied Jesus with your words and/or actions?
- Tell about a time God communicated to you in triplicate (aka, 3 ways God spoke to you or got your attention).
- Share an experience you've had where you called someone out for something they said or did OR you were called out for something you said or did. What happened? Where was God in the midst of it?
- Tell about a time you made a promise to God or someone else and didn't keep it. What happened?

Station 4 - John 19:1-30 (Jesus is crucified)

- When have you followed the crowd, so-to-speak, instead of doing or saying what's right?
- How have you been complicit in the wrongful treatment of others? What did or are you going to do about it?
- Tell about a time you were absent when you should have been present (for someone else, to a responsibility, from God...).
- How have you crucified Jesus?

If you are interested in preparing a reflection for Maundy Thursday worship, please let me know as soon as possible.

This Lent, I invite you to reflect upon where your life and Peter's intersect. And as you do, remember that Jesus chose to build the church upon his disciple, Peter. He also chooses YOU. Best of all, God is with us.



2024 Church Leadership

Many thanks to those who attended our January church conference, at which time the leaders listed below were elected to serve the church. Their "class" year, or the year in which their term expires on December 31, is listed next to each name. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have stepped up to serve Christ and his church in a leadership capacity.

2024 Servant Leadership Board

Pastor	Carrie Binnie	ex-officio
Chair	Kent Mein	2025
Vice Chair	Elaine Schroeder	2026
Treasurer	Eric Lunde	ex-officio
Finance	Kristen Vonsmith	2024
Trustees	Chinh Huhyn	2026
Staff/Parish Relations	Dennis Olsen	2026
Staff/Parish Relations	Nancy Swanson	2026
Children's, Youth and Family	Jodi Washek	2025
Mission	Kent Mein	2025
Worship and Welcome	Rebecca Pederson	2026
At Large	John Boyd	2026

Lay Representative to the 2023 Annual Conference Session

Cathy Kurtz 2024

A Word from Our District Superintendent

Dear Pastor and Church Members:

Thank you! Together with your partner congregations of the Minnesota Conference, thank you for paying 100% of your 2023 apportionment allocation. With it, you generously support congregational ministries, local, and global missions for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual; no one church could accomplish alone!

You have supported the connectional staff members who provide the leadership throughout the state and throughout our denomination. Apportionments help provide health insurance to retired clergy. They help start new faith communities and enable churches to engage in ministry turnarounds. Apportionments, along with your prayers and works of justice and mercy, help keep the vital Wesleyan Connection a sacred bond of mission in the United States and all around the world! Your faithful generosity greatly contributes to our collective ability to reach new people, cultivate spiritual vitality, and heal a broken world. Together, we demonstrate the power of loaves and fish to reveal the miraculous hope found in Christ's love.

Thank you again for "leading with generosity!" Together, God is using us to bless our world!

Celebrating with a joyful and grateful heart,

Rev. Cynthia D. Williams
Twin Cities District

LENT

2024 Easter Offering

Dear Church Family,

We are just weeks away from Easter and the celebration of the triumph of love over hate, hope over despair and life over death! As Christians, we must remember the Easter promise of new life and take hold of the opportunity to bear witness to our faith by offering others a glimpse of the promise of resurrection.

Because Minnetonka United Methodist Church prioritizes ministry to, with and for young people, the Mission Team has decided to split our 2024 Easter Offering between two very worthy organizations that exist to support youth - one local and one international.

Avenues for Youth supports LGBTQIA+ young people between the ages of 16-24 in Hennepin County. Whether they need someplace to stay for one night or a year and a half, Avenues offers holistic support to help youth find a path out of homelessness by providing a stable home; building trusting relationships and navigating each individual's next steps related to education, career, housing, health and wellness.

Imara International is a home in Nanyuki, Kenya for children and their teenage mothers

who have been victims of sexual assault. 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.

As a faith community, we are called to share our resources as we strive to continue the work of Christ and usher the reign of God into this world. Please prayerfully consider a generous gift to assist and care for God's young people.

You're invited to give using the Easter Offering envelopes found in the Sanctuary on the table in the center aisle. You can also give via the church [website](#).

Together, we can we can share resurrection hope. Together, we WILL make a difference.

With Gratitude,

The Mission Team of Minnetonka United Methodist Church:

Kent Mein
Emelia Johnson
Ian Vaagenes
Eric Lunde
Kevin Den Hartog

Pastor Carrie Binnie
Kathy Arendt
Blake Duerre
Lewis Kamiri

Youth Trip Sale

Place your order online by

Starting Feb 12th go to

www.gertensfundraising.com

Enter Store ID: 497

Site will be open until 10pm on

March 28th. No late orders

NEW SOUND SYSTEM - WE'RE ALMOST THERE!



We're about \$12,000 short of paying for a new sound system, and with your help, we hope to have it by Easter!

Please consider making a special gift today!

A Look Back at the Panama Mission Trip

Reflections from Barb Kern-Pieh

"I just returned from the most amazing week.... Our team took 2 days to travel from MN to the remote village of Guabal where we brought ~250 # of medications, 12 tubs of dental equipment, 3 dental chairs, two ultrasound machines, and 28 people to help deliver care in Panama. Our daily routine was to pack a bag lunch at 6:15, hot breakfast at 6:45 and then load into vans for a 45 minute travel along the steepest, curvy road you can imagine. As we crossed the "Continental Divide" the landscape became more rainforest - compared to the dry Pacific side. We saw full rainbows every morning as we journeyed up into the clouds, and gentle rains. Within minutes of our arrival a machete wound was at the door. Each morning, our Triage team would meet 150 - 200 people who had walked anywhere from 15 minutes to 5 hours to seek care. The first day, our clinic saw 135 patients.

Each day our hearts wept as we saw increasingly more complex patients, and we had run out of several items - including children's vitamins, and later adult Vits. We only had a few prenatal vits when we left. - Cindy Ceballos is our medical "host" - She and David have made the connections, and secured the correct permits for our work during the week. The clinic in Guabal does not have a doctor, no electricity, occasionally running water and a flush toilet, but it had 3 rooms, and we made an extra exam room on the porch. - We had 3 providers, and if a privacy exam was needed we floated into a room and closed the door. One day a father flagged us down as we drove to the clinic and asked us to help his wife who was in labor... we made a "birthing room" got a reassuring ultrasound, and got excited that a Labor nurse, Nurse Midwife, Anesthesiologist, with a bulb syringe and a piece of twine would be present to assist in the miracle of birth.... But alas, I think the adrenaline of being in a strange place, with unfamiliar voices slowed the labor down and eventually she transferred to the nearest hospital - ~2 hours away. She delivered a healthy 8# boy later that evening. (We needed to be off the mountain roads before dark for safety reasons). It was a fun part of our adventure.

Meanwhile, Our two ultrasonographers were busy scanning and by the end of the week they had done almost 300 exams....The 3 dentists were busy too, and I don't have the final numbers on our team yet, but together We must have seen over 1000 patients .

The construction team helped to build a foundation for an open air church shelter, they were able to work with the same people each day. The Arts, Crafts and activities team demonstrated love and care as they assisted > 50 people/hour at times - families who came and waited hours to be seen. By the end of the week, some people arrived at 9 PM the night before and stayed in the tin roof shelter to be first on the list for our last day. Each team member had a unique ability to demonstrate love and care, often no words were spoken - yet each one knew... The Return trip was 2 days - 7 hours in the van, and ~12 hours from hotel to MSP luggage carrousel... We were forced by tight connections to leave one behind in Houston, and true to her character, She found a family in need and used her bilingual skills to help them find their way... My heart is grateful to have spent time with such wonderful humans, I couldn't be more proud than to be a part of this team, and a humble servant to others."



PANAMA '24



Hey Students in Grades 6-12!

Do you think the Panama Mission Trip looks amazing?! You're in luck! We've got a great opportunity planned for you to engage in hands-on mission and service work this summer! It's not too late to sign up for the mission trip (July 27 - Aug. 2)! We're headed to Kansas City, MO. First Stop: Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun Amusement and Water Parks! We have to release our extra spots within the next week or so though, so no more procrastinating! Sign up today!

20
24

STUDENT MISSION TRIP

KANSAS CITY

JULY 27 - AUGUST 2

Minnetonka UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES!



VBS 2024

JULY 22 - 26

Join us for a summer adventure at Camp Firelight where we'll learn to face our fears while trusting in God.



music, skits, crafts, Bible stories, science, games, prayer, snacks, friends and FUN!!!



Minnetonka UMC

Ways You Can Help March Food Share Month



Our 2024 Goals
200,000 pounds of food
\$300,000 in donated funds



ICA



ICA March MN FoodShare Month, Feb 26 – Apr 6: Thanks to all who continue to support our local food shelf by stocking the bin in the MUMC lobby. March is MN FoodShare month so we will be hosting our annual MUMC food and funds drive. To kick things off, MUMC will be sending the full 2024 budgeted donation of \$1,000 in March so that ICA will receive matching funds. Anyone can do the same by clicking [HERE!](#) Then on Weds, Feb 21, Scott Searl, ICA's Director of Philanthropy, will be our guest speaker at the Lenten Soup Supper. ICA has been serving around 1,000 families each month at the food shelf and that need is expected to continue into 2024. To combat higher food costs, they will need to raise an additional \$255,000 this year. Housing needs also continue, requiring at least \$350,000 to keep families in their homes. ICA is more than a food shelf - they provide services for food, jobs and housing, benefiting people right here in our community.

UMCOR at work at home and around the world:
By working with partners and United Methodist conferences, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is ready to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they happen.

In the U.S., they have an entire team of Conference Disaster Response Coordinators who lead the response when disaster strikes and manage recover projects long after.

Abroad, despite barriers to aid, UMCOR remains active in the Middle East, providing hope and healing to those who are suffering.

Learn how giving to "UMCOR - Where Most Needed" empowers fast and flexible responses.



Avenues for Youth: MUMC Missions is supporting this service organization with an annual donation of \$400, birthday parties and other fun activities during the year. Avenues has supported youth ages 16-24 in Hennepin County for almost 30 years. Whether a young person needs someplace to stay for just one night, or a year and a half, Avenues supports youth to find their path out of homelessness. Click [HERE](#) to read more about Avenues for Youth.

Simpson Shelter Meal Service, Monday, March 18, 6:00 pm: Join the MUMC team to serve dinner at Simpson Shelter on Thursday, Feb 15, to serve dinner at Simpson Shelter. Carpooling is available. Sign up [HERE](#) or check the box on the connection card. Please bring donations of cookies and bars to the kitchen by noon that day.

Simpson Shelter Donations: Thanks to all who continue to donate cash and much-needed shelter items. If you have goods to donate, please leave them in the bin in the lobby. We'll take them to Simpson next week. Click [HERE](#) to find the list of their current needs. Click [HERE](#) to make a cash donation, or designate "Simpson" on your MUMC offering.

Caritas Concert – SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, March 2: It's a concert of delightful a cappella music celebrating love, with music by Debussy, The Wailin' Jennys, Stevie Wonder, Dowland, and more. Ticket sales benefit Avenues for Youth and donations will be accepted at the concert.



Small Sums: Small Sums is a local non-profit organization that equips homeless workers with the things they need to get back to work and back to a more stable life - work clothes, work shoes or boots, tools and bus passes. MUMC supports them with \$500 donation, plus individual donations throughout the year. In January, they outfitted 90 workers with essential resources. That's approximately 180 pairs of pants and t-shirts, 60 bus passes, 90 steel-toed boots or slip-resistant shoes, 30 gas cards, tools, training, and so much more! There are many opportunities to volunteer with Small Sums.

MUMC Staff Team

Lead Pastor
Director of Student Ministries
Congregational Care
Church Administrator
Music Director
Facility Preparation and Configuration
Technology Coordinator

Rev. Carrie Binnie
Rev. Chris Carr
Rev. Carol Walvatne
Nickie Matlick
Noelle Page
Brian Williams
Mark Sites

carrie.binnie@minnetonkaumc.org
chris.carr@minnetonkaumc.org
carol.walvatne@minnetonkaumc.org
nickie.matlick@minnetonkaumc.org
noelle.page@minnetonkaumc.org
brian.williams@minnetonkaumc.org
mark.sites@minnetonkaumc.org

Easter Candy Requested!

Donations can be
brought to the
church office

Thank you!



Please help us
to prepare for
the annual
Easter Sunday
Egg Hunt by
donating
individually-
wrapped
candies.



Minnetonka
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Place
Stamp
Here