

January 2019

The Extension

Minnetonka United Methodist Church

The vision of Minnetonka United Methodist Church is to be caring, inclusive, and Spirit-filled in all that we do. Our commitment is to follow Christ's example and, as a Reconciling Congregation, to welcome persons of all sexual identities and orientation into this faith community.



Following Yonder Star: The search for our Core Values

January begins the season of Epiphany which opens with the star of Bethlehem and its guiding light directing the three wisemen toward Bethlehem and continues through the end of February with its theme of Christ's light spreading into the world.

This January we will be exploring and articulating our congregation's "Core Values" and considering how they are like the star that guides us to the place where God wants us to be. We will be considering where these values originate, what they are, and how they can guide and shape our ministry. They are, or at least should be the cornerstone of everything we do here at MUMC. They should be the measuring stick by which we measure the success and importance of our work together here at MUMC.

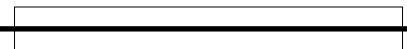
Our work on Core Values during January will focus in a few different places.

1. I will be preaching and shaping worship around the topic of Core Values.
2. I will be leading at least one and perhaps two, large group gatherings in which people can brainstorm, discuss, and prioritize possible core values for MUMC.
3. I will be leading two smaller classes around the topic of Core Values, the Brown Bag class on Mondays at noon and the Wednesday evening adult class.

At the end of the month a small team of Servant Leadership Board members and I will take the ideas and information we have collected and create 4-5 formal core values that will become part of our congregations governing documents and which will shape our ministry together. We will share those core values with the congregation before bringing them to the Servant Leadership board for final approval.

I hope that you will make it a priority to be part of this important month-long conversation!

Pastor Dave



Prayer Shawl Ministry

January 6, 2019, 10:00-10:45 am

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy these last few months. We are working on prayer shawls as well as Lydia Scarves. Come to our next meeting to find out how you can get involved. All are welcome the first Sunday of each month between services at 10:00 am. Check the bulletin for location. Call Barbara Lunde, 612-616-6569 if you have questions.

Lydia Scarf Project Update

MUMC has pledged to make 200 hand knit or crochet scarves by May 2019. So far 80 scarves have been made, please keep working and return your completed scarves to Pastor Tiffany's office as soon as possible. We still have yarn for anyone that would like a small portable project for the winter months. All completed scarves will be taken to Annual Conference and stored for General Conference 2020!

Caring and Hospitalities Ministries Director

April Townsend is our new Caring and Hospitality Ministries Director. A graduate of Drake University, April is a nurse. Her daughter Hayley is in 6th grade at MME, and her son Jake is in 2nd grade at Groveland.

April and her family began attending MUMC in the fall of 2016. She has been involved cooking Wednesday night dinners, serving at the Welcome desk, attending the morning moms' group and starting the evening moms' group, and initiating the Free Film and Food Fridays.

If you, or someone you know, needs pastoral care, please reach out to April or one of the pastors. April's role is "triage," that is to determine the care needs. She deploys the lay chaplains and the pastors, she works with the prayer shawl ministry, and coordinates meals. As we strive to be caring, inclusive, and Spirit-filled, April will work to ensure that everyone receives the care of our community.

April will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Her contact information is:

april.townsend@minnetonkaumc.org, church 952-474-4114 extension 12, and her cell is 720-301-1753.

Lenten Devotion Writing Opportunity

We hope you enjoyed the Advent text devotions written by Pastor Dave and Pastor Tiffany. As we look ahead to Lent, we would also like to offer a daily text devotion. Would you like to write one (or more)? If so, please contact Pastor Tiffany.

2019 Summer Internship

We are once again seeking a summer intern to provide assistance, leadership, and support in all summer ministries of our socially progressive congregation as they seek to follow Christ's example of being caring, inclusive, and Spirit-filled in all that they do. This is a part time position, approximately 30 hours per week, June 9- August 21. For a full job description, please contact Pastor Tiffany or Haley.

Celtic Contemplative Worship Sunday, January 13, 6:51 pm Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Service titled "Don't Let Me Fall". Pilgrim Lutheran Church is located at 1935 Saint Clair Avenue, St. Paul

Contemplative Worship Westminster Presbyterian Church

Centering Prayer: Wednesdays, 12:00-12:30 pm, Bates Room
Contemplative Evening Prayer: Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 pm, The Clearing
Candlelit quiet pray and silence, with music in the Celtic, Taizé and other traditions.

Yoga in the New Year at Minnetonka UMC! Wednesdays beginning January 9, 10:00-11:00 am All Skill Levels Welcome

Come experience the power of yoga to calm the mind and reduce stress, while also improving strength, flexibility and balance. This will be a drop-in slow flow yoga class that focuses on mindful movement linked with the breath. Cost will be \$10 per class or a six class pass for \$50. Bring your own mat please. Classes will be held in the Multipurpose Room and will be taught by Kate McDonald, RYT200. For questions, please contact Kate at renaissancelearning95@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Dinners & Activities

Dinner served 5:30-6:15 pm

Everyone is welcome to enjoy delicious food and inclusive fellowship!

Please email or call the church office or complete a reservation slip to let us know you will be coming, and include your payment with your reservation slip, if possible.

All are welcome regardless of ability to pay.

Suggested payment: \$5 – Adults; \$3 – Children; Free - Children age 3 & under; \$20 - Family Max

January 2	No Activities
January 9	Pasta Bar
January 16	Meatloaf Dinner
January 23	Pulled Pork Sandwiches
January 30	Sandwiches and Salad

**Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser
Order January 13-27
Pick up Sunday, February 3**



6,000 Youth Homeless in MN! Did you know that on any given night in MN, over 6,000 youth are homeless and on their own?

Avenues for Homeless Youth provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and intensive supportive services to youth in addition to their GLBT Host Home Program which provides community-based housing for homeless youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

Each year, the MUMC Reconciling Team hosts a fundraiser to support the work of Avenues.

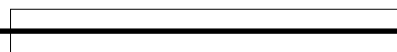
Save the date for the Annual Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser for Avenues!

Subs are handmade using the freshest ingredients by the MUMC Reconciling Team and will be wrapped and available for pick-up the morning of the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 3 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Please plan to pre-order your subs between January 13-January 27. Signup will be posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your support of the Avenues for Homeless Youth Mission!

**Spiritual Writing Class
Fridays beginning January 11, 9:30-11:00 am**

Carey Meyer and Sarah Meyer are offering another spiritual writing class. It will be offered on Friday mornings beginning Jan. 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Conference room. You do not need any writing experience to participate. Writing prompts will be given, and sharing will be an option. Writing can be a way for the Holy Spirit to talk to us, if we but listen.



Family Ministry News

family@minnetonkaumc.org



Join the Story.

**Sunday School:
Live Out Loud!**

Join us each Sunday at 9:00 or 10:45.
Sunday School: K - 6th Grade,
Preschool, and Childcare is offered
during both services every Sunday.



Wednesday Nights, 6:30-7:30 pm
Kindergarten-6th Grade

Each week we will go on a quest
together to discover the Bible and our
faith by building with LEGO's, playing
with Play-Doh, baking,
or doing projects!



Children's Choir

Singers in K-6th grades are invited to
rehearse every Sunday at 10:00.

Talk with Angel Clark if you are
interested in trying Children's Choir.
Children's Choir resumes in February!

Save the Date: Fat Sunday!

Sunday, March 3

Come celebrate Mardi Gras at this fun Fat Sunday event with pancakes, friends & Jazz music!

Summer Camps @ MUMC: Registration forms now available!

Drama Camp (K-6): June 10-14, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, \$75

Youth Mission Trip (8th-12th): Madison, WI. July 7-13, \$450

Vacation Bible School (Age 3-6th Grade): To Mars & Beyond! July 22-26, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, \$25

Family Camping Weekend: August 2-4, \$100/family

MAD Camp (5th-7th): Make a Difference Overnight Camp. August 6-8, \$100

Free Film & Food Friday
Friday, January 18
5:30-8:00 pm
Luau with Catered Dinner
A Showing of Moana

Family Snow Tubing

Sunday, January 13 @ 1:00 pm

Meet at MUMC at 1pm to go snow tubing at Elm Creek
Park in Maple Grove. This will be a great, fun, family
event! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or by e-mailing
Haley. Cost is \$15 per person for two hours of snow
tubing.

Youth News

youth@minnetonkaumc.org

High School Youth Event

Escape Rooms & Lunch – Sunday, January 20, 12:00 pm
Join us after church for lunch and some fun escape rooms
together! Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up with Haley to
save your spot!

Young Adult Gathering

Thursday, January 3, 6:30 pm
Dinner & Feed My Starving Children
Ages 16-30 are invited to join us for dinner, catching up,
and serving together!
RSVP to Haley or Pastor Tiffany

Silent Auction – Make up date

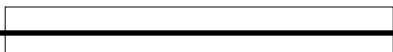
The Silent Auction fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip will be held on Sundays, February 10 and 17 in Fellowship Hall.
Come support the youth mission trip by bidding on these great items!

Confirmation

7th Grade dives into Jesus' Life and Ministry.
8th Graders and their parents will be taking the Making
Sense of the Bible class with Pastor Tiffany from
6:30-8:00 on January 9, 16, and 23.

Re-You-Nite for 9th-12th Graders

Saturday, February 9, 3:00-11:00 pm
Join us for another awesome night with youth from other
Reconciling United Methodist Churches! RSVP to Haley



Minnetonka United Methodist Women

Lydia Circle – Wednesday, January 23, 9:30 am - Do you get caught up in the *Work More to Spend More* trap? Do you suffer from *Affluenza*? How is your *Consumption*? Is *Stuff* taking over your life? Come to Lydia Circle to discuss these questions and to establish your relationship with *MONEY*! For more information contact Karen Malmstrom, 952.470.4172.

Lunch Bunch - Wednesday, January 23, 11:30 am - Join us at Kip's Irish Pub, 9970 Wayzata Blvd. St. Louis Park - in the Marriott Hotel. For reservations and carpooling from church, please call Eileen Jensen at 952-935-4306 by January 22. For good food, fellowship, and fun - all are welcome.

UMW Mission Giving - Because of your baking, pledging, rummage sale contributions and greeting card purchases Minnetonka United Methodist Women were able to share your hard work with the following gifting in 2018.

Pledge to Missions, United Methodist Women	\$4075.00
UMCOR	\$1000.00
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 175.00
Gifts to Mission	\$ 45.00
World Thank Offering	\$ 13.16
Emma Norton	\$ 475.00
Sojourner	\$ 375.00
MN Indian Women’s Resource Center	\$ 375.00
My Health for Teens & Young Adults	\$ 250.00

The Wesley Foundation: Where College Students Explore Their Faith and Serve the Community February 2, 2019 at the Community United Methodist Church in Columbia Heights, 9:00 am-2:30 pm

After high school, how do our children and grandchildren stay connected to the church? Campus minister, Lauren Rheingans, shares how the University of Minnesota’s Wesley Foundation helps college students get “Connected in Christ” and what lessons campus ministry teaches us. Sponsored by the Twin Cities United Methodist Women’s Winter Gathering and open to all. Following lunch, you have the opportunity to learn more about United Methodist Women in leadership training sessions.

To register for the full day or half day, contact Diane Denkmann, denkmann@hotmail.com. For more information contact Karen Malmstrom at 952-470-4172

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE THANKS - The United Methodist Women give thanks to all of those who donated the fabulous baked goods, candy, and jelly for our Holiday Bake Sale on December 16. Thank you also to those who generously purchased these items. \$900 was raised, all going to mission, which is outstanding. Blessings to you all.

Mission Opportunities

Thank You from Simpson Housing - Thank you to all who served at and donated food for the 34th Annual Homeless Memorial Dinner on December 20. MUMC donated and served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings for the shelter guests and those who attended the march and memorial service. Over 60 people from MUMC participated by donating turkeys or desserts and serving the meal. It is a loving annual event of tribute and remembrance. Thank you!

Serve at Simpson Shelter Dinner - Please join us to serve the fabulous MUMC meatloaf dinner at Simpson Shelter on Monday, January 14. Donations of cookies and bars are always appreciated. Please bring desserts to the church kitchen by noon that day. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. Contact Kathy Arendt at 612.810.0699 or by email at kjarendt@aol.com. Carpooling is available

Simpson Shelter Needs - Simpson Shelter always needs new or gently used flat & fitted twin size sheets, pillow cases, pillows, new or gently used bath towels; travel size shampoo; gloves, blankets, new men’s and women’s underwear, socks and t-shirts; disposable razors; stick deodorant; travel size toothpaste! Please place your donations in the bin in the lobby. Thank you to all who have donated so generously!

A Note from the Commission on Religion and Race

MUMC's Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) team is working towards discerning how we as a congregation can take action to bring about racial justice. We're working with a consultant, Rev. Shawn Moore, (he was a guest preacher in August 2018). We are in conversation with the City of Minnetonka, Minnetonka Police Department, and other congregations. We'd like to partner with the School District as well.

I was fortunate to attend K-12 in the Minnetonka Schools, and am blessed by the great education I received many moons ago. While my education included learnings about slavery and sending indigenous people to reservations hundreds of years ago, I was not taught about the racial injustices of current times. For example, I wasn't taught that for decades federal housing policies explicitly promoted segregation. I wasn't taught that there was a new form of legalized slavery happening in our corporate for-profit prisons – forced labor by prisoners where large corporation in the US are profiting from the free labor of our incarcerated black and brown brothers and sisters. (watch Netflix "13th" for more details.)

We wonder what our current students are learning about race. Do you know? Do you work in the Minnetonka School District? Do you know somebody that works in the District? We'd love to connect with you and learn more about what our students are currently learning. Thanks in advance! Please contact Celeste Scott, Co-leader MUMC CORR, at: celescott@yahoo.com

We would like to ask you to pray for the work we are doing. We invite those of you that feel God calling you to this work to join us. We typically meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Panama Mission Trip 2019

After a year off, MUMC is once again sending a mission to Panama. This year we will be going to a new location, Santa Fe, Panama, which is an hour from Santiago, our previous location. Twenty team members will depart Saturday, January 26, 2019, and return on February 2. Within our team will be several missions- VBS, construction, Women's Health and a Dental Clinic.

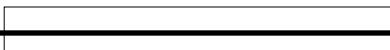
Prayer partners needed! An important element of a mission trip is the support received from those back home. One way to participate and provide support is to sign up to be a Prayer Partner. What is a Prayer Partner? It is someone (or a group of people) who are willing to support a team member with spiritual support, including but not limited to daily prayers for your prayer partner and the mission team, daily notes of encouragement, perhaps an inspirational bookmark or small diary to record experiences. Use your imagination and creativity. For some team members, this is their first international mission experience. The culture is different, the climate challenging and the language is different. All need your prayers of support.

Another way for you to serve with the team is through your donations to help support an *Albergue*, a hostel where people from outside of the city can stay as they recover from medical treatment for various illnesses. They are in need of such things as a functional stove for \$200; mattresses at \$25 each; plumbing PVC piping \$125-\$225; paint and brushes; bricks; toilets, sinks, shower heads. Whatever amount you can give toward these items will be helping so many people who cannot afford to travel back and forth for their treatment or pay to stay at a local hotel. Your gifts will be your hands and feet of Christ serving others.

Beginning Sunday, January 6, there will be a sign board with information and opportunities to be a Prayer Partner for a team member as well as information for how to be a part of the team through your donations. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities to serve. Prayer Partner questions can be directed to Katie Childress, 612-242-3270, childress76@q.com. Other questions contact Judy Sunderland, 612-849-3027, jsunder@msn.com

Gratitude

A Huge Thank You for all the wish list items donated for Sojourner's Boutique. Moms and kids this year will be able to choose gifts for each other from your over one thousand dollars' worth of items!! God Bless You – Everyone!



Tiffany's Epiphanies

2019 is finally here, and it is full of possibilities. Though some depict a new year as a tiny baby (which does seem fitting after celebrating Christmas and new life), I have always thought of a new year as a new book filled with blank pages. I can't begin to imagine all the ministry that God has in store for us. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." I know what our ministry teams and staff have planned, but I also know that God's abundance is far greater than anything I can imagine.

Last January, I could never have imagined how I would fill my 2018 "book." Now I look back at "pages" of family pictures and fun memories: the McDonald family vacation to the beach, Marty's sister's wedding, my cousin's wedding, my trip to visit my great aunt and uncle.

May your 2019 be full of love and joy and be open to what Lord has in store for you. Be awed by what only God can do in your life. I pray this prayer for all of us that Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:16-19:

I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.



MUMC cares and asks you to pray for...

- Tanner Wald and all deployed military.
- Peter Fischer as he goes through cancer treatment
- Prayers of Joy that Tony Weaver has returned home from deployment
- Cynthia Jung's sister Carolyn facing health concerns
- Jeanne Swartout in the loss of her brother, as they removed his life support on 12/15.
- The following people dealing with health concerns:
 - Norm Brummer, Cathy Gilson, Kirk McConkey, Opal Swanson, Merle Skinner, Carole Green.

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METHODIST CHURCH
17611 Lake St. Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55345

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is

the monthly newsletter of
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*Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors*

The Extension

Suggested Scripture Readings for January

Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
January 6	Matthew 2:1-12	January 20	
1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
January 13	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	January 27	Luke 4:14-21

MUMC Staff

Interim Lead Pastor
Pastor
Administrator
Music Director/Admin
Groups & Caring Ministries
Children, Youth & Families
Jazz Music Coordinator
Custodians
Sound Board/Technology
Nursery Attendants
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David Comstock
Rev. Tiffany McDonald
Michelle Schober
Matthew Reaves
April Townsend
Haley Mathison
Dave Graf
Scott Langseth, April Townsend
Jason Anderson
Jamie Anderson, Carol Branby
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