

April 2018

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.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1

Sunrise Service with Communion	6:55 am - Groveland Cemetery
Traditional Easter Worship Service	9:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt for children	10:00 am
Jazz Easter Worship Service	10:45 am
Easter Egg Hunt for children	11:45 am



A Journey of Celtic Prayer and Praise Sunday, April 1, 7:00 pm

Theme: *Walk to Emmaus*

Celtic Music: Laura MacKenzie

Join us for a variety of readings, music, silence, and Holy Communion.

Vacation Bible School

Rolling River Rampage
Kick-Off Party Sunday, April 8
VBS: July 23-27, 2018
Age 3 – Grade 6

During this fun camping themed adventure, kids will explore some powerful stories of Jesus through story, crafts, games, snack, music, and science.

Find ADVENTURE, ACCEPTANCE, JOY, REST, and PEACE on the river!



Register online at www.minnetonkaumc.org/children/vbs-2

Confirmation Sunday

April 29

Confirmands will be introduced at 9:00 am worship and confirmed during 10:45 am worship.

Congratulations to this year's confirmands!

Riley Anderson
Lilly Bruhn
Lizzy Del Monte
Addie Diaz

Catherine Jance
Emma Komis
Evan Komis
Dean Limond

Ellie Meyer
Zoe Meyer
Darby O'Connor
Zach Piehl

Dom Scatena
Julia Steidl

Wednesday Night Dinners & Activities

Dinner served 5:30-6:15 pm

Meal costs: Adults \$5, Children ages 4-12 \$3, Children age 3 & under FREE, Family Max \$20

Everyone is welcome! We ask that you make a reservation by Monday noon so we have adequate food for everyone.

We always welcome your help for the after dinner cleanup! To reserve your spot either RSVP to the church office or use the reservation form in the lobby. The intent of the Wednesday night meal is that it is an inclusive time of fellowship; therefore, all are welcome regardless of ability to pay... but still let us know you are coming. Please include your payment with your reservation if possible. Thank you!

April 4	Meatloaf Dinner
April 11	Breakfast for Dinner
April 18	Pizza & Salad
April 25	Confirmation Banquet

**Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sunday, April 8, 10:00 am**

Gather with church friends to bless others and make a prayer shawl. It can be knitted or crocheted. If you would like to learn how to make a prayer shawl we would love to teach you and coach you along the way. We are available if you get stuck or just need encouragement. **All are welcome between worship services 10:00-10:45.** Stop by to see what it is all about! Questions? Barbara Lunde 612.616.6569 or Marcia Yockers 952.807.4167.

**Men's Indoor Golf Event
Saturday, April 14, 5:00-8:00 pm**

The time for our Annual Indoor Golf Event is at hand. It is schedule for Saturday, April 14, 5:00-8:00 pm. We will have the usual brats and Sloppy Joes to eat and play a challenging 9 hold course in the church. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall; advance sign-ups help determine the amount of food needed. The cost is \$5 at the door. Contact Bill Lurth with questions 952-933-1390.

**Young at Heart (Senior Group)
Thursday, April 19
11:30 am-1:30 pm**

Lunch and planning for summer activities. Lunch will be provided. Bring your ideas for summer activities. Contact Judy Sunderland with questions.

**Brown Bag Studies
Mondays, 12:00-1:15 pm
Bring your lunch & learn with friends.**

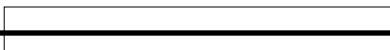
April 9-May 14: *Uppity Women of the Bible- Esther – a Living the Questions study.* Who was Esther? What role did she play? What was happening during that time? Any questions about these studies, please contact Judy Sunderland at the church office or judy.sunderland@minnetonkaumc.org

**Affordable Housing Forum
Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 pm**

Join us for a Forum on Affordable Housing on Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Dana Neuhauser, a Provisional Deacon in the Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, will share with us about the affordable housing issues in the Twin Cities and in our communities. She serves as the Twin Cities District Coalition Organizer and as Minister of Public Witness at New City Church.

To prepare for the Forum, we will screen "Sold Out: Affordable Housing at Risk," on Wednesday April 4 at 6:30 pm, also in the Fellowship Hall. Produced with the Minnesota Housing Partnership, Sold Out contains interviews with tenants, and also offers solutions to current housing issues.

If you would like to view the documentary on your own, or see a preview, visit <https://www.tpt.org/sold-out-affordable-housing-at-risk/>. It will also be airing on TPT on March 25 and April 1.



Children, Youth, and Family Ministry News



April Sunday School

During the "Strike a Pose" series, kids will learn what it takes to be shaped into different characters to get the Bible experience. Plus, fun games all month long!
 K-6th Grade Sunday School
 Ages 3-5 Preschool
 Childcare available both services.



6:30-7:30 pm, April 4, 11 & 18
 Building Faith Brick by Brick
 Kindergarten-6th Grade
 Discover the Bible and build faith together with LEGO's, Play-Doh, baking, or fun projects!



Children's Choir

Singers in K-6th grades are invited to rehearse every Sunday at 10:00 am downstairs.
 Talk with Angel Clark if you are interested in trying Children's Choir!
 Children's Choir will perform:
 April 22 @ 9:00 am

Easter

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, April 1

The hunt begins at 10:00 am AND 11:45 am outside on church grounds (weather permitting). Children will collect 10 Easter eggs and exchange for a bag of Easter goodies! Bags provided or bring your own basket. Invite grandchildren, friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Contact Haley Mathison if you would like to hide the Easter Eggs.

VBS Kick-Off

Sunday, April 8

Fun VBS themed activities in Sunday School, and a registration table between services!

Vacation Bible School is July 23-27, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Come meet our new friend Romper, learn about the VBS stories, make a craft, register for VBS and sign up to volunteer. Hope to see you there!

Contact Haley Mathison or Chris Fiscus with questions. Registration is open online: minnetonkaumc.org/children/vbs-2/

Kids Craft Sale

"Creativity is intelligence having fun." -Albert Einstein

Inaugural Children's Craft Fair

Local Artists

Sunday, April 15, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Experience the great depth of creativity and artistry in our congregation's children. Several artists will be present to discuss their work, their inspiration, and the latest trends in toys (#squishies, #beyblades).

Confirmation Update

Confirmation Banquet:

Wednesday, April 25 (Confirmation is Sunday, April 29)

7th Graders: All 7th graders will be serving at the confirmation banquet. Let's make this a special evening for the 8th graders and their families!

8th Graders: Invite parents, siblings, grandparents, and others to celebrate this special evening with you. Enjoy a special meal, share your statement of faith, receive a gift from confirmation teachers, and rehearse for confirmation.

High School Youth Group

Sunday, April 22 @ 12:00 pm Join us for High School Youth Group and lunch at Snuffy's!

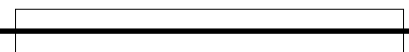
Email or text Haley Mathison to RSVP.

Youth Mission Trip

25 youth will be serving on a mission trip to Mission, SD on the Rosebud Indian Reservation with Tree of Life July 8-14.

Join us for one of our mission trip fundraisers:

- Spring Plant Sale (orders due by April 9)
- Wall O Money (April 29)
- Car Wash & Cookout – Sunday, June 3



Summer Camps 2017

Drama Camp

June 11-15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, for children completing grades 1-8

Cost is \$75 for the week and registration will be available online and at church. The week will culminate with a free program Friday evening for family and friends. The week includes enhancing drama skills with group dramatics, stage presence, voice projection, characterization and scenery work. We will create sketches from C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. Folks are encouraged to invite neighbors and friends to become involved in this Biblical based drama program. Contact Rev. Linda Evans with questions.



Youth Mission Trip

July 8-14, Indian Reservation in Lake Traverse, SD

This summer, 25 youth and 10 adults will be going on a mission trip to South Dakota to serve on the Rosebud Indian Reservation with Tree of Life Ministries.

At Minnetonka UMC, we strive to offer mission trip experiences for our youth to go out into the world and be caring, inclusive, and Spirit-filled; and to experience other cultures and communities.

Vacation Bible School

July 23-27, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, for children age 3-entering grade 6

We'll be taking kids on an action-packed camp adventure! With our Rolling River Rampage curriculum, we'll be having a super fun camp experience where kids discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories are just some of the fun things we'll be doing at Camp VBS this summer!



MAD Camp

Tuesday, August 7, 8:00 am – Thursday, August 9, 6:00 pm

Kids entering 5th – 7th grades Fall 2018

Three days, Two nights, One awesome time!

Calling all campers! You're invited to participate in this awesome mission, eco, and fun-focused overnight camp held at Minnetonka UMC this summer. Kids will have a fun mission trip experience, learn about nature and God's creation, and **make a difference** in our local and global community.

Friends and neighbors are welcome to attend this camp, too!

The program registration cost is \$100.

Contact Haley Mathison with questions or for more information about M.A.D. Camp! haley.mathison@minnetonkaumc.org



Bake Sale for Hurricane Victims - April 8, 10:00 am

On April 8 between services, Emma Rayle will be leading some of the youth of the church in selling baked goods next to the VBS registration table. 100% of the proceeds will go to victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. Hope to see you there!

MUMC cares and asks you to pray for...

- Jenny Hummel and family on the passing of her father.
- Michelle Gehrz and family on the passing of her mother.
- Family of Nancy Fust on her passing
- Family of Vivian McGonagle on her passing.
- Sue Belz and family
- Cathy Gilson for healing from surgery
- Lisa Goede & Eleanor Goede, baptized on February 25.

United Methodist Women

Lydia Circle – Wednesday, April 25, 9:30 am

Lydia Circle will focus on why Climate Justice is a religious issue. This study suggests: "Victims of climate change are the new face of the poor...When creation is threatened in this way, churches are called to speak out and act as an expression of their commitment to life, justice and peace."

And the study asks: "If the mission of the church includes the alleviation of human suffering, and if human suffering is happening, in part, due to the lifestyles of those of us in developed countries that contribute to climate change, then how should the mission of the church change in order for us to permanently alleviate human suffering?"

Lunch Bunch – Wednesday, April 25, 11:30 am

Join us at Christo's, 15600 Highway 7, Minnetonka. For reservations and carpooling from Church, please call Eileen Jensen at 952-935-4306 by April 24. For fellowship, food, and fun - all are welcome.

United Methodist Women Twin Cities District Gathering and Emma Norton Tea April 28, 8:45 am - Normandale Hylands UMC

Morning worship followed by speaker, Rev. Lyndy Zabel "Reflecting Light in Dark Places" – Living a meaningful life through service. Rev. Zabel, the Director of Missions and Community Engagement in the MN Conference UMC, is the founder of OC Ministries, serving children in West Africa and Jamaica, in the areas of education, health care, clean water, reading glasses, and an avocado project in Jamaica. Lunch is included. All are welcome. Registration details in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Opportunities

Simpson Shelter Meatloaf Prep – Saturday, April 7, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Help make the delicious meatloaf that is always a hit at the Simpson Shelter. We will make 108 lbs of meatloaf that day! Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Organizer: Kathy Arendt, 612-810-0699.

Simpson Shelter Meal – Thursday, April 19, 6:00-9:00 pm

This is a fun and rewarding family service opportunity. Sign-up sheets for the whole year are posted on the mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. This month we will serve the MUMC signature meatloaf dinner. Sign up to serve or bring desserts. Questions? Contact Kathy Arendt or 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, and travel size toothpaste. Please place your donations in the bin in the lobby. Thank you to all who have donated so generously!

Thank you

While you're visiting the Missions board, please read the loving thank you letters and the giant card from our ministry partners - Resource West, Avenues for Homeless Youth, ICA and Simpson Housing Services. MUMC's service and donations of time, money, food and personal items are making a difference for hundreds of people every year.

Words of Appreciation

Friends at MUMC, Thank you for all of your support to Dee Anderson and Jim Stumpfa. It has made a difference in their lives. We are very grateful! - *Louis Jensen (Jim's Daughter)*

I want to thank all of you Caring & Inclusive MUMC-ers who gave me rides to/from church activities. It made my 2 months without a car go so much smoother and faster. Of course your prayers helped too as my elbow is pretty much healed. - *Carolyn Oakman*

Sincere thank you for the tremendous support of our congregation at MUMC in our time of need as we were dealing with cancer treatment. The treatment has gone well to this point in time. We feel very blessed. - *Sandy and Mike Harrison*

Thank you to everyone that helped with transitioning furniture from the old to the new. Many people showed up ready to do whatever needing doing. Please know your time and effort is greatly appreciated!

Celtic Pilgrimage

Revs. Michael Miller and Tiffany McDonald invite you to a Celtic pilgrimage to Scotland September 26-October 5, 2019. To learn more, please attend the informational meeting on Sunday, April 22, 10:10 am. Brochures are also available at the welcome desk and on Pastor Tiffany's door. Many in our congregation have already taken this trip and found it meaningful. Two past participants share below.

The Celtic Pilgrimage to Iona in 2015 was such a blessing to me. I had had the opportunity to travel to England, Ireland, Wales and North Wales for various choir trips, but had never been to Scotland, the home of my maternal great-grandfather. Loved ones helped me realize this dream-come-true. I couldn't have asked for more wonderful travel companions and, together, we experienced the most amazing things! Iona is where, it is said, "Heaven and earth meet". I felt that there. It is deeply spiritual, mystical, magical, all of these things. Sacred moments and experiences were deeply personal and others were shared with very dear people, some whom I had never met before the trip. Stopping in Edinburgh allowed me to do some family genealogy work and I was able to walk the streets my great-grandfather and great-great-grandparents had walked...we even briefly visited St. Andrews Golf Course where my great-grandfather built golf clubs and was a pro! I highly recommend this trip and experience to any and all. It was the trip of a lifetime for me! - Chris Ball

Visiting and learning about the origins of Celtic Spirituality deepened my desire to learn more and to incorporate Celtic beliefs in my daily life. The highlight of our trip in 2015 was the time spent on the island of Iona. There were so many opportunities to just be - to be quiet, to explore individual spirituality, to share with others experiencing the special aura of Iona. I have yearned to return to Iona ever since my return home. - Katie Childress

Being the Way Forward - Special Meeting for all, April 22, 10:00 am

For many years the United Methodist Church and the Reconciling Ministries Network have been unable to get the votes to remove harmful language and various restrictions of LGBTQ people in the United Methodist Church. Join others between worship services on Sunday April 22 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to get an update on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

For the past year Dave Nuckols has served on the global Commission on a Way Forward as it works to develop a recommendation to the Council of Bishops on various issues of human sexuality and our Church. The Council will review the final report of the Commission in May and then forward a recommendation to the delegates at a special United Methodist Church General Conference in St Louis in February 2019. Dave will provide an overview of the actions that led to the formation of the Commission, the work of the Commission, and he will outline the two different models under discussion that would allow local churches to be fully inclusive and affirming of LGBTQ people without requiring every United Methodist Church to be inclusive. Any changes will require the approval of the General Conference which is comprised of delegates from around the world.

Please join us and encourage others to attend for this important update.

Implicit Bias Circle - April 28, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

On April 28 MUMC Committee On Religion and Race (CORR) Ministry and Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) are hosting a guided discussion on Implicit Bias from 9:00 am-12:00 pm at MUMC in Fellowship Hall. This discussion is the fourth circle we've held at MUMC. As with the past circles, Dr. Nadarajan (Raj) Sethuraju, will be the circle keeper. Raj is a leader in the Twin Cities Restorative Justice Community. He uses these practices to uncover the source of bias and promote understanding with the goal of putting things right. He lives in Carver County and works at Metropolitan State University as the Assistant Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

During Lent as we explored the Sermon on the Mount, Pastor Matt spoke on Matthew 7:1-5 in which Jesus urges us to remove the logs in our own eyes first before the speck in someone else's eye. The problem is that many times those logs are the well-hidden implicit biases that we all unknowingly carry around with us every day. Those biases that color our world affect how we treat others. And, sometimes the best way to recognize logs and understand their impact is through thoughtful reflection with others.

Come join the conversation on April 28 as we all seek to find the logs in our own eyes so that we can see the world in all its colors.

Tiffany's Epiphanies

April 23 is the 50th Anniversary of The United Methodist Church. In 1968, there was a General Conference held in Dallas, Texas to join The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. This created The United Methodist Church, making it one of the largest Protestant denominations in the world at that time, with about eleven million members.

Dr. Albert Outler gave the uniting sermon that morning. In it, he preached that "The eschatological orientation of faith is forever demanding that the old be constantly re-examined and reconstituted - always with an eye to the urgent, the needful, the effective." He meant that faith is about death and eternal life. God makes all things new, and we are all works in progress, even the church.

We are at a pivotal moment in the history of our young denomination. Since 1968, The United Methodist Church has grown in many places throughout the world, but membership in the United States has declined. At General Conference 2016, the Bishops took a pause at the divisive conversations. They created a Commission on the Way Forward, and our own Dave Nuckols serves on the 32-member Commission. By the time you read this, The Commission on the Way Forward will have met and prepared its final report for the Council of Bishops. In May 2019 a special General Conference will meet. Dave will share more with our congregation this month on Sunday, April 22.

While I believe we are better together, I also believe what Dr. Outler preached. We must constantly be re-examining who we are and what is needed in our communities. We must continue to ask: Who needs to hear the Gospel? With whom do I and we need to share God's unconditional love and grace? Where is God calling me personally, and our congregation? Where can I use my gifts to serve God and God's people? Please continue to pray that during this time all the people called Methodist will not lose sight of our mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Guest Readiness

Spring is here and that means more change is in the air as the Guest Readiness Team's plans continue to unfold. From new furniture arriving to signs and art appearing, the team is excited to continue implementing plans that will renovate and refresh various spaces within the church.

On March 21, old furniture was gathered from various rooms in the church and donated to Bridging, a furniture warehouse located in Bloomington and Roseville. Bridging serves people living at or below poverty level and those who are coming out of homelessness with basic household items. This is a great opportunity for the church to serve those who are in need as we renovate the church.

New furniture arrived March 23 in the Nursery, Toddler/Preschool Room, Youth Room, Adventure Room, Multipurpose Room, Adult Studies Room, Conference Room, Lobby and Coffee Area. Be sure to check out the new additions. Furniture was purchased from Commercial Furniture Service in Hopkins.

Look for more changes as new room signs, directional signs, wall art, communications slat wall and additional millwork furniture arrives.

Thank you to everyone for their contributions and support of the Guest Readiness project!

Rally to End Racism in Washington, D.C., April 3-5

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's assassination, the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) is hosting a Rally to End Racism. Bishop Bruce R. Ough will kick off the event on April 3 with a prayer rally to Awaken, Confront, and Transform, at the United Methodist Building in D.C. at 2:00 pm. The rally hopes to:

- **Awaken** to the truth that racism is evil and hurts us all
- **Confront** racism through truth-telling and action to right the wrong
- **Transform** the hearts, minds, and behaviors of people and institutions
- **ACT Now: Unite to End Racism** in the areas of church life and practices, criminal, economic and social justice, civil and human rights, environmental justice, immigration, media, and education.

Join in the call to heal the soul of the nation by praying for this event. If you would like to attend, there are buses leaving from Wisconsin, and Pastor Tiffany has more information.

MINNETONKA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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Minnetonka, MN 55345

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Suggested Scripture Readings for April

Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24
April 1	John 20:1-18	April 22	John 10:11-18
2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2	5 th Sunday	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21
April 8	John 20:19-31	April 29	John 15:1-8
3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7		
April 15	Luke 24:36b-48		



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

MUMC Staff

Pastor	Pastor Matt Sipe
Pastor	Rev. Tiffany McDonald
Administrator	Michelle Schober
Admin/Music Director	Matt Reaves
Groups & Caring Ministries	Judy Sunderland
Children, Youth & Families	Haley Mathison
Jazz Music Coordinator	Dave Graf
Custodians	Ron Ball, Scott Langseth
Sound Board	Jason Anderson
Nursery Attendants	Jamie Anderson, Carol Branby
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Harly Hagmann

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