



February 2025

THE MESSENGER

A Publication of The United Methodist Church
340 N Newell Ave, Minden, NE 68959



Dear Minden UMC Family,

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We've just gone through a tough January with the sudden arrival of a cold, harsh winter. Due to the cold weather, attendance at worship services decreased, and outdoor activities were limited. Despite these challenges, we made it through January without major difficulties, and now February is here. Of course, winter's chill will continue, but from experience, we know that after February passes, spring will come. So, we wait with joy and anticipation.

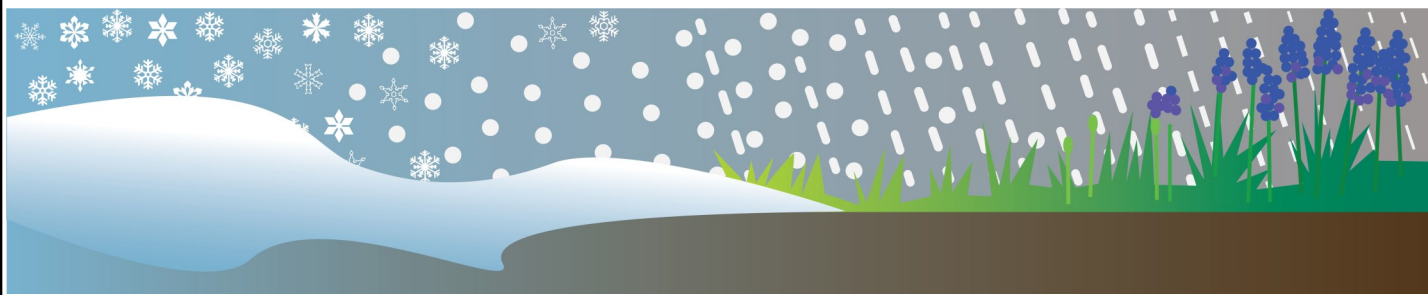
You might have recently heard that our family will be leaving this church at the end of June. Having served as a pastor here for nearly seven years, making this decision was truly difficult and challenging. It wasn't easy, as we have been deeply loved by all of you, and personally, I have experienced much growth in ministry and life here. Additionally, my wife and children have adapted well to life here, and it is truly sad for us to leave.

However, this was not a sudden decision. I made this choice because I felt that both the growth of our church and the direction of my ministry needed a change. Just as spring follows winter, I trust that the new pastor will lead this church into continued growth. Moreover, with five months remaining before my departure, there is ample time to transition and complete my ministry here.

While I do not compare myself to Jesus, even He did not remain with His disciples forever. The disciples wanted to build shelters and remain with the Lord forever. However, in God's perfect timing, Jesus departed from them, and after that, the Holy Spirit came and transformed their hearts. Change can be challenging and may bring difficulties, but it is also a sign of growth and essential for a better future.

We do not yet know which pastor will come. However, when we pray with all our hearts, I believe that the bishop and the cabinet will appoint a pastor who will lead this church through its next season of growth. Let us join hands in prayer for this transition, trusting that our good and faithful God will provide what is best for our future.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Peter Choi



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Worship 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School	3 7pm Girl Scouts	4	5 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group	6 9:30am Prayer Time	7 6pm Girl Scouts -	8 - 9am Girl Scouts
9 10:00am Worship 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School	10 WIC 7pm Boy Scouts	11	12 9:30am United Women in Faith 6pm Finance Mtg	13 9:30am Prayer Time	14 	15
16 10:00am Worship 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School	17 7pm Girl Scouts	18	19 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group	20 9:30am Prayer Time	21	22
23 10:00am Worship 7th Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School 2:00pm Dance Recital	24 7m Boy Scouts	25	26 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 5:00pm Education Mtg 6:30pm Youth Group	27 9:30am Prayer Time	28	

January 2025 Financial Report...

General Giving in January	\$11,272
General Fund Giving to Date	\$11,272
General Expenses in January	\$18,333
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$18,333

(This report does not include the final days in January)



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Nadine Fahrlander, Marion Johnson, Lee Mills, Dan & Ginger Frizane, Joe Hultquist, and Larry Anderson.

Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

If you or your family has a prayer request and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

Scripture Readers:

February 2:	Kent Verbeck
February 9:	KayLyn McBride
February 16:	Marilyn Rasmussen
February 23:	?

Refreshment Hosts:

February 2:	?
February 9:	Gary & Deb Smidt
February 16:	?
February 23:	?

Greeters/Ushers:

February 2:	?
February 9:	Gary & Deb Smidt
February 16:	?
February 23:	?

February 2:

Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers, Dawn Moyer, and ?_____.

Please Call (308) 832-1995 if you can fill one of the open dates or email managerumcminden@msn.com.



February Anniversaries

4—Dick & KayLyn McBride—58 years
16—Jason & Jaime Sinsel—18 years
17—Donlyn & Sandra Space—51 years
23—Bill & Kathy Hunter—56 years

February Birthdays

4—Mark Loseke
10—Kara Suchsland
10—John Mullin
15—Lee Ann Lux
15—Nicholas Pearson
22—James Wilkinson
24—Mearlin Beahm
25—Ed Roswe
25—Clark Bauer

Presentation of the Bible Service ***March 2, 2025***

Join us for a special worship service on March 2, 2025, as we celebrate the *Presentation of the Bible*. Your presence at this significant event is highly valued and we look forward to sharing this moment with you.

This cherished tradition honors third graders by presenting them with their own Bible, while also including older students who may have missed this opportunity in previous years.

Through this gift, we pray our children will grow in wisdom and faith, building a lifelong foundation rooted in God's Word. This milestone in their faith journey also serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to nurture and guide the next generation in God's truth and love. Your presence and support are crucial in this journey.



Youth Group
February 5 & 19 at 6:30pm

February Sermon Series: Living the Questions: A Journey Through Faith and Life

In the January newsletter, I shared 11 possible topics for this series. After careful consideration, I have selected 4 final topics. I am confident this will be a meaningful time for you to engage, reflect, and ask your own questions, leading to deeper insights. I warmly invite everyone to be part of this impactful journey.

- **Feb 2: War and Peace**

How should Christians understand and respond to conflict, especially in today's world? What does the Bible say about war, peace, and justice?

- **Feb 9: How Unbelievers View Jesus**

What can we learn from their perspective? How does the world see Jesus, and how can their views help us better share our faith?

- **Feb 16: The Afterlife**

What happens after we die? A deeper look into Christian views on heaven, hell, and what the Bible says about eternal life.

- **Feb 23: The Role of Women in the Church**

What does the Bible say about the role of women in ministry and leadership? How should we approach this issue in modern times?

Valentine's Card Outreach: Sharing God's Love

Valentine's Day is a beautiful reminder to cherish the people in our lives and to share love in meaningful ways. This year, why not take a moment to express your heart through a handwritten note? There will have cards available for you on February 9th during worship.



Is there someone you've been meaning to thank? A friend you haven't spoken to in a while? A fellow church member who could use some encouragement? Now is the perfect time to reach out with kindness!

A simple card, a few heartfelt words, or a gentle reminder of God's unfailing love can brighten someone's day more than you know. Pray about who might need to hear from you, then take a moment to write, bless, and connect.

Let's make this Valentine's Day more than chocolates and flowers—let's fill it with love, gratitude, and the joy of sharing God's love with one another!

LITTLE READERS,**BIG FAITH!****SAVE THE DATE**Sat, February 22nd, 2025
9:30-11:00 am central Our next KidsMin
Zoom hosted by your
regional coordinators!**Little Readers, Big Faith**
Saturday, February 22nd**9:30-11:00 am central through Zoom**

Are you ready to transform your church's kids' ministry? Join us for an inspiring Zoom event on Saturday, February 22nd from 9:30-11:00 AM Central.

Imagine a children's library within your church, a place where young hearts can explore stories that help them understand and process emotions, learn the joy of giving through engaging examples, and deepen their faith and connection with God. Whether it's a Sunday school resource, a quiet reading nook in your worship space, or a take-home treasure, a children's library can be a powerful tool for spiritual growth.

This event is perfect for pastors, volunteers, staff, and anyone passionate about children's ministry.

It's hosted by your KidsMin Regional Coordinators.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain practical tips and insights from experienced leaders, connect with like-minded individuals, and learn about the \$200 grant available to Great Plains churches to build their children's library. Priority for grants will be given to attendees of the zoom event.

Let's inspire the next generation of faith leaders together.

REGISTER HERE. <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/KidsMinWorkLittleReaders02222025>

APPLY FOR GRANT HERE:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16tus2fYtb1E9FAxGonCuknRnzfARD1BT7hHIC_imlFE/edit?usp=drivesdk



Journey Through Lent with 40 Devotions

Would you like to observe Lent more meaningfully? This year, Lent begins on March 5. To commemorate this season, we are looking for 40 people to read 40 devotions from *The Upper Room* over 40 days.

If you read a devotion, I will record it, or you can send me a video file. A sign-up sheet will soon be available at the church. If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you, please write down your name.

These devotions will be shared daily on our church's Facebook and YouTube pages.



I sincerely thank everyone who has supported Southern California with material aid and prayers. As the wildfires have weakened, many evacuees are beginning to return, but some still cannot go back. They have lost their homes and livelihoods to the fires, and some even no longer have a church to return to. Yet, because of people like you, I believe there is hope for our lives and our future. Please continue to pray, and if you wish to offer financial support, you can use the picture and scan the QR code.



United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Kid's Church School every Wednesday
3:30pm-5:00pm



**Love one
another.**

1 JOHN 4:7

Church Contact Information: Church office: 308-832-1995—managerumcminden@msn.com
Mindenumc.org

Pastor Peter Choi—201-888-8430, Please call or text for appointment or
email peterchoiminden@gmail.com

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager—308-830-2867, Mon-Wed 8am-Noon, Thurs. 8-10:30am

Jeanette Wilkinson, Prayer Chain—402-756-0772

Randy Nolan, Custodian—308-830-3973