THE MESSENGER—APRIL 2025



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

Dear Minden UMC,

As the weather has become much warmer lately, I've found myself opening the doors more often. Especially when I open both the front and back doors at the same time, I can feel the fresh air rushing in, filling the house with a sense of renewal and freshness. This experience reminds me of what I feel during this Lenten season.

While we faithfully attend worship and live out our faith throughout the year, Lent feels like opening both windows at once. As I reflect on the life and sacrifice of Jesus and listen to the daily Upper Room devotions shared by our congregation, I experience God's grace filling my heart, just like the fresh air that flows through when both windows are open.

How are your spiritual lives these days? Are you growing deeper in faith? Or, perhaps because of the busyness of life or a loss of interest, has your relationship with God become more distant? We all wish our faith could remain steady, strong, and deep, but we know that isn't always the case. During these times, what we need to

do is open the door of our hearts wide, so the Holy Spirit can enter and work within us.

One of the things I find most meaningful about Christianity is that it isn't about what we want to do, but about living in alignment with God's guidance and will.

In the past, I often thought that in order to deepen my faith and see the church grow, I had to "do" something—whether that was through action or effort. I believed that by my own works, my faith would grow stronger, and the church would thrive. But as I've spent more time in prayer, study, and reflection, I've come to realize that it's not about what I do; it's about allowing God's presence to work within me. It's about opening my heart to His will, rather than trying to make things happen on my own.



I recognize myself more as a messenger, sharing the ways that God is working in my life and our community. My role is not to "perform" but to faithfully listen to God and allow Him to speak through me.

To truly live out God's will, we need to continually open our hearts, creating space for the Holy Spirit to work in us. This is a lifelong process, a journey of surrender, trust, and openness to God's transformative grace.

As we approach Easter and Holy Week, we are reminded of the ultimate act of obedience Jesus demonstrated. He humbly accepted God's will, even to the point of death on the cross, showing us what it truly means to surrender our lives to God. As we reflect on this, may we, too, open our hearts to God's will, allowing Him to shape and guide our lives.

In this season of reflection and devotion, I encourage you to take time each day to listen to the Holy Spirit. Open the doors of your heart and let His grace flow in, just like the fresh air that fills a room when we open the windows wide. May this season bring you closer to the heart of Christ, helping you to live more fully in His will.

With love and blessings, Pastor Peter Choi

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fools' Day	2 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6:30 Youth Group	3 9:30am Prayer Time	4	5
6 10:00am Worship 5th Sunday in Lent 11:00am Adult Sunday School	7 7pm Girl Scouts	8	9 3:30-5pm Wednesday School	10 9:30am Prayer Time	11	12
13 10:00am Worship Passion/Palm Sunday 11:00am Adult Sunday School	14 Holy Week — 8am-4pm WIC 7pm Boy Scouts	15	3:30-5pm Wednesday School	17 Holy Thursday 9:30am	18 Good Friday	19 Holy Saturday
20 10:00am Worship Easter Sunday 11:00am Adult Sunday School	21 7pm Girl Scouts	22	6:30 Youth Group 23 3:30-5pm Wednesday School	Prayer Time 24 9:30am Prayer Time	25 Mobile Food Pantry Arbor Day	26
27 10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday of Easter 11:00am Adult Sunday School	28 7pm Boy Scouts	29	3:30-5pm Wednesday School			



March 2025 Financial Report...

General Giving in March \$16,210
General Fund Giving to Date \$39,633
General Expenses in March \$23,529

General Fund Expenses to Date \$54,480

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

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Anyone you know that can use God's comfort.

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:

April 6: Leanna Warner

April 13: Shirley Fellers

April 20: Nadine Fahrlander

April 27: Marilyn Rasmusser

April 27: Marilyn Rasmussen

Refreshment Hosts:

April 6: Dawn Moyer

April 13: Gary & Deb Smidt

April 20: Tunnell Family

April 27: Leanna Warner

Greeters/Ushers:

April 6: ?

April 13:

April 20: Tunnell Family

April 27: Loneta Nolan

April 6:

Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Servers: ? _____, ? _____ ? ____ and ? _____

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

April Anniversaries

27—Keller & Erin Koch—1 year 29—Doug & Shirley Fellers—25 years

Youth Group April 2 & 16 at 6:30pm

April Birthdays

3—Joan Fries
13—Val Kauk
15—Phyllis Burnham
15—Bailee Fries
18—Lyra Johnson
20—Jeanette Wilkinson
25—Joyce Bender
25—Riley Ratka





Palm Sunday Service: 10:00 AM, April 13; We will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The kids will sing a song and wave palm branches.

Maundy Thursday Devotion: 7:00 PM, April 17; Pastor Peter will share a devotion on Facebook and YouTube.

Good Friday Service: 07:00

PM, **April 18**; We will reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and take time for repentance.

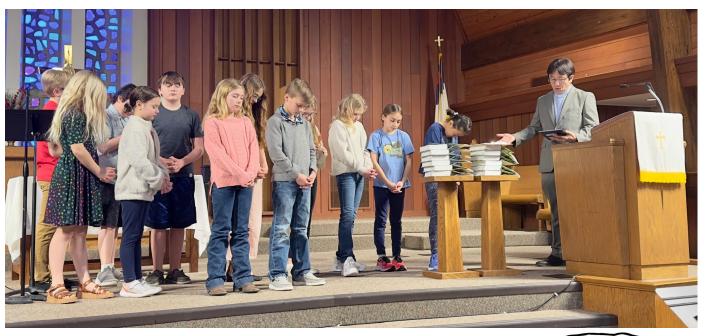
Easter Service: 10:00 AM, April 20; Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Want to?

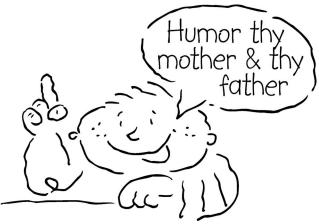
- · Bring Hope to someone?
- · Be a smiling face?
- · Make a lasting difference?

Our Disaster Response Ministry is the place for you! Come be a person of hope and make a difference in the life of a survivor following a disaster. Any youth in grades 9th and above and individuals 18 years old and above are needed in our ministry. To become a credentialed Early Response Team individual, you must go through a UMCOR training. Dates for upcoming training events are: April 5, Trinity UMC, Grand Island, NE; April 26, FUMC Omaha, NE; April 26, Trinity UMC, Salina, KS; and June 21, FUMC Norfolk, NE.

To register: www.greatplainsumc.org/register. For more information, contact Rev. Hollie Tapley, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, htapley@greatplainsumc.org



































Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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



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