

<p>Minden United Methodist Church</p> <p><i>Purpose: To provide a place for people to grow in faith and to become disciples of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p><i>Vision: Change lives, know God, serve with joy and grace.</i></p> <p>Office Hours:</p> <p><u>Pastor Peter:</u> Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday Pastor Peter will not be in the office.</p> <p><u>Aleda Younkin:</u> Office Manager Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30-12:00 PM—1:00 –3:00 PM Friday: 8:30 AM-11:30 AM</p> <p>Pastor: Peter Choi Office Manager: Aleda Younkin Minden Custodian: Debra Overleese Prayer Chain: Joan Fries</p>	
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Worship Time:
9:45 AM
Sunday School
9:00 AM

Address Service Requested

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United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
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Minden, Nebraska

The Messenger

January 2019

Our Vision: The Lord will renew and strengthen us like eagles.

Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed this relaxing Christmas season and you are refreshed and prepared to take on the New Year. I am so glad to set a new vision for 2019 and I look forward to how God is going to reveal Himself with it. I quoted this vision from Isaiah 40:31, “*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*” It is sad to tell the fact that many churches in USA are maintaining or dying, but God does not want to see this happen because the Church is the body of Christ. God still wants to change our lives and the world through the Church community. Thus, our church in 2019 would be renewed and then strengthened in Jesus Christ. Our church would be the role model to break the darkness of the world, as well. If we go forward in unity and service for the transformation of our church, we will run and not grow weary like eagles.

We plan to increase the average worship attendance to 90 in 2019. From our Charge Conference books, the attendance shows 72 in 2017 and 74 in 2018. It is tough to increase it up to 90 because we will raise the average attendance by 20 percent. However, it is not impossible with the power of the Holy Spirit. We also have prepared some strategies for this goal and I believe we can make it.

For the limits of the page, I share only one strategy with you. I will keep posting them in our newsletter. First, we should focus on the younger generation, especially for not only the Sunday school and youth group but also their parents. I will soon have a meeting with the youth group and their parents. I will listen to what they want from our church as well as tell them what our church wants.

Again, it is not possible without you. Can we hold hands and walk together? We want you with your stewardship at your church at the Minden United Methodist Church.

Peter Choi



Children's Christmas Program



Jentry Marie Olsen's Baptism



Children's Christmas Program



Christmas Cantata



UMW Christmas Luncheon



Confirmation Class visiting Bethany

I had incredible examples to "train" from! From Hebrews 13:7 - "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." As I said, I was blessed with wonderful examples of Christianity from the time I was a wee babe through my childhood and onward which I know with certainty that they led me to know that God lives in my heart. From 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" How precious it is to know that when we have Jesus in our hearts, we are made new again! I believe in God not because my parents told me, not because the church told me, but because I've experienced His goodness and His mercy, myself. Our God is always seeking us. In every sunset, every clear blue sky, every ocean wave, every snow topped mountain, every starry night. He encompasses each day with the invitation, "I am here for you". Maybe He came into your heart as gentle as a floating feather or maybe He came into your heart with loud clanging cymbals. It doesn't really matter how He got there, it just matters that He's there. Jw♥

We encourage anyone from the congregation to share stories and memories about their faith.

Human Relations Day...January 20th, 2019...

United Methodists connect with Human Relations Day by supporting community ministries like Bridging the Vision that teach and advocate for justice, especially among people struggling to survive in the margins of society.

Human Relations Day "challenges our understanding of community engagement and how the community really experiences Shalom," Daniels said. Please give generously on Human Relations Day:

The Human Relations Day offering receipts will be allocated and administered as follows:

- Community Developers Program: 57% (administered by the General Board of Global Ministries [GBGM])
- United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33% (administered by GBGM)
- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10% (administered by the General Board of Church & Society)

Your gifts to Human Relations Day provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Youth Offender Rehabilitation, Community Developers self-improvement programs and United Methodist Voluntary Services community advocacy programs. It's time to think and support justice, to become radical in changing lives and changing the world. Please give generously.

When Did You Become A Christian?

By Joyce Will

During a Bible study several years ago, our leader asked that question - when did you become a Christian? For many in the group, their walk with God had a profound beginning. Then it was my turn to tell my story. While each in the group was telling their stories, I was partly listening to them and partly thinking, what am I going to say? I'm not in any way boisterous in my story of my walk in Christianity, so when she looked at me, meaning it was my turn to speak, I began rather timidly, "I don't really recall a particular exact time. It seems like He's always lived in my heart and I've always been a Christian". And with that statement, everyone looked at me like I was some kind of freak! Who doesn't have a profound time when they turned their life over to the Lord? So back to the question, when did you become a Christian or rather when did I become a Christian? My parents, my two grandmothers and one grandfather were good and faithful servants of the Upland Methodist Church. My family started their walks with God in the wonderful little church in Upland which literally became my second home! I am told that when I was just a wee babe, I was brought to choir practice that my mother led and my father sang in, and placed in a basket on the floor while choir practice was being conducted, every Wednesday evening without fail. I often say that I've walked that Christian life since I was that wee babe placed on the floor at the Upland Methodist Church. It seemed like we were at the church almost constantly back then for meetings, gatherings, programs, choir, Sunday School, church, lunches, youth, WSCS - the list could be quite long if I continued but I loved every second that I was there. I clearly recall the time when we had two missionaries visit and led week long evening gatherings. I would sit and listen to every word they said. I was fascinated by their walk with the Lord and at the end of their visit I remember most of the children came up front of the church with the missionaries to ask Jesus into our hearts. While physically being in a Christian setting does not automatically make you a Christian, I believe that being there where you are led by example, will draw your heart to want to follow Him. I was led by example by many, many wonderful Christian people in that church family. As a really small child I understood what it meant to be a Christian and soon found myself becoming more and more involved in that life as well. So when did I become a Christian? No, I never had a profound occurrence as some people share, but I firmly believe that God placed me there at just the right time, to glean from everyone in that church that came into my life as I grew up - I was led by example, and isn't that what God wants us to do, to lead other's to Him by our Christian example? Proverbs 22:6 says - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

Continued on the next page...



Adult Sunday School Class



Greetings from our Congregation



Havens' Family Lighting Advent Candles





Special Music by Marlys Farm & Glen Haselbarth



Candlelight Service Christmas



Christmas Eve Children's Time

January 2019								Minden/Upland Members and Friends	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5			
6 NO Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Service Adult SS after Worship No Confirmation 2:00 pm Girl Scouts	7 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	8 7:00 pm Finance Mtg.	9 9:00 am UMW General Meeting	10	11	12			
13 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Service Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation 1:00 pm Cub Scouts	14	15 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	16 6:00 pm Mom’s United	17	18	19			
20 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Service Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation	21 8:30 am-4:00 pm WIC 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	22 7:00 pm Ad. Council Mtg.	23	24	25	26			
27 9:00 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer Time 9:45 am Worship Service Adult SS after Worship 1:00 pm Confirmation 2:00 pm Boy Scouts	28	29	30	31 Mobile Food Pantry	 If you or your family has a prayer request you would like put on the Prayer Chain for prayer please call Joan Fries at 402-756-0257.				
Life in Our Church Families...		January Greeters & Ushers		January Refreshment Hosts...		January Scripture Readers...		Financial Report	
Deaths: <i>Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of:</i> Sherry Deisley who passed away on Dec. 5 th . Baptisms: <i>Welcome to the family of God:</i> Jentry Marie daughter of Jake & Michala Olsen Known Hospitalizations & Prayer List: Julie Ratka Please let us know if you know of someone in the hospital so we can add them to our prayer list.		Jan. 6 th : Dave & Allyson Jameson Paul & Dawn Moyer Jan. 13 th : Marlys Farm & Shirley Fellers Marilyn Rasmussen & Carolynn Hendrickson Jan. 20 th : Confirmation Class Jan. 27 th : Dick & Kay Lyn McBride Denny & Fran Lange		Jan. 6 th : Jaime Sinsel & Family Jan. 13 th : Ray & Karli Havens & Family Jan. 20 th : Dawn & Paul Moyer Jan. 27 th : James & Jeanette Wilkinson		Jan. 6 th : Ginger Frizane Jan. 13 th : Marilyn Rasmussen Jan. 20 th : Confirmation Class Jan. 27 th : Jeanette Wilkinson		General Giving in December: \$24,461 General Fund Giving to Date \$174,271 General Expenses in December \$20,822 General Fund Expenses to Date: \$187,544 This report does not include the final Sunday in December.	