

# The Messenger



September 2020

Beloved Minden Methodist Brothers and Sisters,

I greet all of you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. I pray that all stay safe and healthy. From 28 people, we have received the survey regarding COVID-19 and our future. Thank you for your participation and for sending back the survey to us. You can see the survey results included with this newsletter.

The average attendance is in the 30s after resuming in-person worship on June 14, 2020. That is only 40 percent of the average attendance of 2019 that comes to worship service. About 20 people participate in live-streaming worship and about 50 people on Sunday watch the worship video. We send a bulletin and sermon script to those who cannot join online and in-person worship every week. Graciously, the number of offering (January through July) is slightly higher than in the last two years. We are more connected than you expected.

With this pandemic, I am not honestly sure about how we are going. I don't see our future transparently. Nevertheless, I have faith God is still working with, in, and through us. God has His plan to awaken and recover our church during this mysterious time. Moreover, I have seen a vision in this mist for today and tomorrow.

Previously, we waited for you in our church building. We had programs in our church building. If you cannot come to the church at this time, we can go and see you at your places. We can still communicate with each other via ZOOM and social media. I have looked back to my ministry at this church for two years. Now, we have to consider more time and energy for the preparation of the worship service. Repeating to attend worship service every Sunday is significantly important for our Christian livings.

The COVID-19 has made us turn inward and hold on. We canceled programs. We have worried about COVID-19 and waited to wish to go back to normal soon. Do not wait for returning normal without anything. Instead, it is time to navigate and walk toward a new way together. This pandemic will give another opportunity to be more revitalized.

I, your pastor, cannot do the ministry myself, but I need you to come together for the revitalization of the church. You must return to our church. The return of each person will make me dance. I mean that you can at least come to the drive-in worship once a month. It is very safe at the drive-in service and I would love to see you all there, September 27, 2020. I believe that God is calling us to turn outward and reach out together.

In Christ,  
Pastor Peter Choi

**Vision:**  
**Extend Hospitality**  
**to Strangers**  
"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality."  
(Romans 12:13)



**Office Hours:**  
**Pastor Peter Choi**  
Please call for appointment 201-888-8430  
Tuesday-Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm  
**Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager**  
Monday-Friday 8am-Noon  
**Tony & Julie Ratka, Custodian**  
**Joan Fries, Prayer Chain**

Address/Service Requested



**Worship Time**  
**9:45 AM**

United Methodist Church  
340 N. Newell Ave  
Minden, NE 68959-2415  
Church Office: (308) 832-1995  
Pastor's Cell: 201-888-8430  
Parsonage: (308) 832-2215  
Email: peterchoiminden@gmail.com  
Office: managerumcminden@msn.com

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### Follower or Leader? by Joyce Will

Would you consider yourself a follower or a leader? I myself tend to be a follower for the simple reason that I'm not a real outgoing type of person. As a child, I was very content to hide behind my mother's skirts. I was at times painfully timid and shy, not wanting to be first, not wanting to stand out and certainly not being a leader. Instead, I was more than content to follow the leader. But then fast forward several years and I was a nurse. Now that kind of a person needs to be a leader most all the time, from making snap decisions on your own to developing a plan and having everyone involved follow your leadership. That was sometimes a difficult thing to do because I was so much more comfortable being a follower than a leader. Have any of you ever been in a position such as that, to where you were suddenly put into the lead role with others following you? It's a place that could make or break you. The one scripture that I always lean on whenever I feel like I need strength and courage is a familiar one to most of us. It's from Philippians 4:14 - "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me." I can't begin to tell you how many times I quietly said that verse while I was at work in a tough situation and I still find myself almost daily repeating that when I'm in a hard spot. God created each of us differently, aren't you glad He did? God gave all of us different gifts and that's more than okay. He made some of us leaders who have the followers and He made some of us followers who have the leaders. So here's another question - are you a follower of Jesus? Being a follower of Jesus, my friends, isn't always an easy snap. Many times it's just the opposite. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus simply says to us, "Come, follow me." Being a follower of Jesus is at times really hard, because we must follow Him as our leader. When we follow Jesus, we are taught to be kind and love others that just don't have any plan of their own to be kind to us let alone love us. At times it means putting others needs before our own self. It means forgiving those who hurt us when they don't ask for our forgiveness. Being a follower of Jesus means often times that we can draw from His power, His strength, and His peace to get us through some really tough times in our lives. It means that God wants us to be leaders so that we can bring others to follow Him, to know Him and to love Him by our Christian examples. Is it easy? Not when at times we are made to feel that we are outcasts and feel rejected. But here's the thing - God wants us to make a difference in this world. He wants us to have a heart like Jesus' that allows us to love the most difficult person. He wants us to get to know Him so we always have a friend in our corner so we will never feel alone. John 8:12 tells us this: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" My friends, be the follower that Jesus so desires us to be so that we can lead others to know God's steadfast love. Jw♥





**Zoom Chats with Pastor Peter**

[Zoom.com](https://zoom.us)

**Meeting ID: 434 655 2693**

**Password: 399400**

**Phone Number to Call if you don't have a Computer or Smart Phone: 1-312-626-6799**

**September 10 at 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**September 17 at 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**September 24 at 1:00pm & 7:00pm**

**JUST  
DROPPING  
BY**



During September, Pastor Peter will reach out to all church members and non-members who have registered and visit their houses.

DUE TO COVID-19, he will not enter your house but wear a mask and keep 12 feet social distancing outside. It will be just a five minute visitation or a little longer on request.

**COMMUNION**

**September 6th from 10:45-11:15**

**Communion will be served by the northwest entrance.**

**2 Day Intensive Training on Spiritual Gifts**

The intensive event was birthed out of a need for kingdom minded people to understand the gift of tongues and prophecy, both privately and corporately, and the advanced methods and strategies of this dynamic and powerful gift of the Holy Spirit.

September 25-26, 9am-5pm

First United Methodist Church, 604 West Ave, Holdrege, NE

\$60 per day or \$100 for both days

(when paid by 9/20/2020)

Call to Register 308-995-8691.



**NO SEPTEMBER UNITED  
METHODIST WOMEN MEETING**



**September 27th —Drive-In Worship Service**  
Come to the south parking lot and tune in to 90.3FM.

**Life in Our Church Families...**

Take a moment and say a prayer for Lori Conyers's parents and Dolly Grams. Pray for all those who need God's guidance. 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 you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Joan Fries at 402-756-0257.



- 1- Lonna Rowse
- Radford Hansen
- 3- Cozette Sinsel
- 4- Emily Cohen
- 6- Amanda Wubbenhorst
- JoAnn Hansen
- 7- Lori Loseke
- Chloe Choi
- 8- Michael Swartz
- Lori Conyers
- 9- Bill Hunter
- Aleda Younkin
- 10- Paul Blanchard
- 11- Tim Tunnell
- Larry Snavely
- Roger Jones
- 13- Chase Shelton
- 15- Elaine Curren
- Betty Cross
- 16- Mary Nuss
- 17- Debra Smidt
- 19- Fred Will
- 21- Marlys Farm
- 23- Jeff Johnson
- 26- Avery Froid
- 27- Kyla Putnam
- Kevin Howard
- Mindy Heath
- 28- Jenae Boudreau

# September 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>5:30pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>2</b> <b>7pm SPRC</b> <b>Meeting</b>			
<b>6 9:45 am Worship</b> <b>in person and online</b> <b>10:45-11:15 Drive up</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> <b>5:30pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>	<b>9</b> <b>7pm Finance</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Zoom w/Pastor</b> <b>1pm &amp; 7 pm</b>		
<b>13 9:45 am Worship</b> <b>in person and online</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7pm</b> <b>Boy Scouts</b>	<b>15</b> <b>5:30pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b>		<b>17</b> <b>Zoom w/Pastor</b> <b>1pm &amp; 7 pm</b>		
<b>20</b> <b>9:45 am Worship</b> <b>in person and online</b>		<b>22 5:30pm</b> <b>Girl Scouts</b> 		<b>24</b> <b>Zoom w/Pastor</b> <b>1pm &amp; 7 pm</b>		
<b>27</b> <b>9:45 am Drive-In</b> <b>Worship and online</b>						

- September 2  
Tim & Susan Tunnell  
20 years
- September 8  
Dale & Nancy Lambert  
46 years
- September 10  
Dudley & Michelle Scharff  
26 years
- September 17  
Brooke & Joe Lundeen  
9 years
- September 25  
Jess & Kyla Putnam  
21 years

Worship  
with us  
from



**Online Service Information**  
[facebook.com/mindenumc](https://facebook.com/mindenumc)  
[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)  
*search: Minden United Methodist  
Church in Nebraska*

August Financial Report...	
General Giving in August	\$7,736
General Fund Giving to Date	\$108,413
General Expenses in August	\$14,661
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$141,772
(This report does not include the final days in August.)	