

The Messenger



March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the precious name of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I would remember the Ash Wednesday service last year on February 26, 2020. We started to transcribe the Gospel of Luke and John for the season of Lent. In the meantime, we suddenly stopped all activities and in-person service for the COVID-19.

February 17, 2021, we had the Ash Wednesday worship service. Because the pandemic is still going on, we had the worship service differently. We drew the cross on our forehead with ashed swabs while everyone was wearing a mask. It was unusual, but the imposition of ashes reminded us, "We are dust, and to dust, we shall return." We had the same experience of grace from God, and I went more profound in my spirituality through this experience.

According to Christian tradition, we celebrate forty days from Ash Wednesday as the season of Lent. Many Christians prepare for Easter. This year, we cannot transcribe the gospels, but we follow Lenten practices for this season. You can pick it up at the church entrance or follow posts on our Facebook page. I also share my devotion every Thursday with a book, *Final Words*, written by Adam Hamilton. I strongly encourage you to follow our church programs at your place. This practice makes our spirituality deeper and broader in the relationship with God.

As I preached the first Sunday of Lent, I think the pandemic is like the wilderness. The story was about the temptations of Jesus. Jesus was driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was in the desert for forty days, and he ate nothing. Jesus was very vulnerable in his physical body. Nevertheless, as the Spirit of God was with him, he could overcome his weakness. He could earn the power to proclaim the good news of God.

Our body is not comfortable as we follow Lenten practices. It probably bothers us. However, we can deepen our spirituality with God. We can focus on Jesus Christ. We can consider the wellness of our congregation as we pray for our church family. We can support our community as we collect food pantry items. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us to strengthen our loving relationship with God and our neighbors.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Peter Choi

Online Service Information
[facebook.com/mindenumc](https://www.facebook.com/mindenumc)

www.youtube.com

search: Minden United Methodist Church in Nebraska



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Worship Time
9:45 am

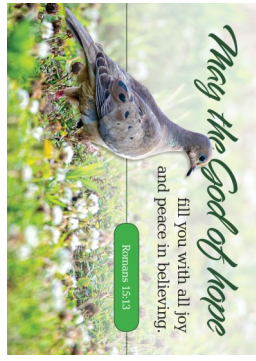


Address/Service Requested

2021 Vision:

Overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15: 13 NIV)



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

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I Know He's Always Watching Me by Joyce Will

I tend to be a worrier. I am guessing that most of us worry, fret, and become anxious from time to time. For myself, my worrying is in a way that I can somehow try to control a situation that I have no control over. As humans, we tend to want to be in control so there are no surprises, so that we can know for certain that something will be taken care of, so that we can feel more safe and secure in the situation. God sent His Son, Jesus into an upside down world when times were pretty unstable at best. Jesus often was found with fishermen, who might fish all night and then worry when they didn't catch a single thing worth bringing home to sell. What's more, Jesus knew our human hearts and all the upheavals and temptations presented to us day in and day out. I have always loved the song, "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" and before the last word of the song is sung, I will usually have a tear or two falling down my cheeks. It's a beautiful song that touches my heart. It was written a long time ago, but is still sung so beautifully yet today. So what does God say about this ailment we bestow upon ourselves? Jesus talks to us about worrying in Matthew 6:26-27, "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Jesus reminds us that God faithfully provides for all of us, even the beautiful birds He made for us to enjoy. Do they worry about where their food comes from? While I don't know what a bird thinks, I do know this; God provides for those birds and we are more wonderfully and incredibly made than a little brown sparrow. God gave each of us life and made our bodies so extraordinary and valuable. My friends, we humans are the crown of God's creations. We are the only creatures on earth that are made in His image and we are of much more value than birds. So if God provides for birds, then I know that He provides for us whom He so carefully and lovingly created. Bottom lines is this: worrying does no good. It provides us with something to do while we wait, but it takes us away from God. It distracts us from God and at times takes our hope and faith away when most of the time what we worry about never happens anyway. Jesus assures us again and again that we are always in His care, that His steadfast love is always available to strengthen us, that He is with us every second that we are alive. He knows what we need in our lives and He will never take that which we need away from us. My friends, when worries threaten to make us feel like they are too much for us, let God be your rock, your strength. Put your complete trust in Him. Let Him be your comfort. For while His eye is always on the sparrow, for sure and for certain, I know He's always watching me. Jw♥





Communion will be served
March 7th by the west entrance
from 10:45-11:15.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN March 10th at 9:30am



February Financial Report...

General Giving in February	\$
General Fund Giving to Date	\$
General Expenses in February	\$
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$

(This report does not include the final days in February.)

Thank You
Thank you for all the cards and well wished for Phyllis's 94th Birthday. We would also like to thank the hospitality committee for the flower. We greatly appreciate receiving the weekly mailer, including the sermon and bulletin. It is great to keep in touch during our current situation.

Dr. & Phyllis Finkner

Children's Sunday School Wednesday from 3:30-5:00



Life in Our Church Families...

Take a moment and say a prayer for Denny Lange, Sandy Johnson, Kathi Schutz, Marjorie Hultquist, family & friends of Maxine Grams, and Lori Conyers's parents. 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 and you would like to put on the Prayer Chain call Joan Fries at 402-756-0257.

Minden Food Pantry Donations

The Pantry is located in The Closet at 341 E 4th Street. The hours are Tuesday 10-5 and Wednesday 9-4. Please call if you want to make sure they are open before going 832-1221. We would like to encourage you at this time to take your food donations directly to the closet. Thank You.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>March 2021</p> <p>HB Happy Birthday HA Happy Anniversary</p>	<p>1</p> <p>HB Sirena Havens</p> <p>7pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>2</p> <p>HB Shirley Fellers HA Merlin & Lynette Beahm—46 years</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HB Tom Taylor</p> <p>3:30pm Sunday School</p>	<p>4</p> <p>HB Joe Hultquist</p>	<p>5</p> <p>HB Janell Shelton</p>	<p>6</p> <p>HB Vivian Bunger HB Larry Evans HB Payden Havens</p>
<p>7 9:45 am Worship 3rd Sunday in Lent Drive Up Communion following Worship</p>	<p>8</p> <p>HB Jane Craig</p> <p>7pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>HB Roxanne Sorensen HA Ed & Roxanne Sorensen—36 years</p>	<p>10</p> <p>HB LeRoy Smith</p> <p>9:30am UMW 3:30pm Sunday School 7:00pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>HB Roma Anderson</p>	<p>12</p> <p>HB Isabelle Martin</p>	<p>13</p> <p>HA Jason & Corey Smidt—17 years</p>
<p>14 9:45 am Worship 4th Sunday in Lent</p>  <p>Daylight Saving Time begins</p>	<p>15</p> <p>HB Maliyah Melroy</p>	<p>16</p> <p>HB Tami Hanson</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HB Maxine Christensen 3:30 Sunday School</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>HB Ginger Frizane</p>	<p>20</p> <p>HB Sandy Johnson HB Amy Kring HB Russ Olsen HA Russ & Carolyn Olsen—7years</p>
<p>21 9:45 am Worship 5th Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>22</p> <p>HB Laci Loseke</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>HB Lisa Maulsby HB Karen Smith</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>HB Reed Danielson HB John Finkner HA Ray & Karli Havens—14 years 3:30 Sunday School</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>HB Darin Fischer</p>
<p>28 9:45 am Worship Palm Sunday</p> <p>HB David Olsen HB Jake Putnam HA Lonnie & Marsha Granger—34 years</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>HB Gene Lundeen</p> <p>3:30 Sunday School</p>	<p>April 1 Holy Thursday</p>	<p>April 2 Good Friday</p>	<p>April 3 Holy Saturday</p>