

# The Messenger



May 2021

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

As the Easter season is almost over, Jesus is going to leave us soon and ascend into heaven. Its celebration quickly slides into the past, and we again are tempted to move back into our doubts and fears. Nonetheless, he will not leave us orphans; but he will come to us (John 14:18). Jesus promises that he will send the Holy Spirit into us. He encourages us in our faith. He empowers us to make his disciples. He unites us to Jesus and shares in the work of God.

As most people have received the COVID vaccine, we are striving towards normal with our vision for 2021, "Overflow with Hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit". We can bring a hymnal book with us. We had Movie Night at the Church. From this May, refreshments in the fellowship hall will be offered. United Methodist Women meet at the Church regularly. We plan to have an in-person Vacation Bible Study and Rummage Sale. There will be more changes soon.

Unfortunately, some of the approaches and assumptions of the past might be no longer working. I have tried to pursue the culture of new trends, but the pace of the pandemic moves too fast. Sometimes, I feel it is beyond my capacity to keep pace with it. As the pandemic lasts over one year, some experts speculate how the Church responds to the new uncharted territory. Some traditional concepts may not work well.

According to Tod Bolsinger, Adaptive Leadership is more needed after the pandemic. It is like we find ourselves without a map. There is no clear plan, no map to follow, no past expertise to give confidence to both the leader and followers. Instead, the leader must calmly and courageously tell the truth about their condition. It sounds more like relational leadership than constitutional leadership. We need to be more resilient.

As I encounter the new wave of the pandemic, I recognize that ministry is more relational than programmed. I can hear more concerns and prayers. I can more clearly see the despairs and pains of the congregation through this challenging time. I can feel more connected with the church family. I have some new ideas to connect in Christ in this coming season.

We, branches, are all connected to the vine, Jesus Christ, to have a fruitful life of discipleship. Although the world is rapidly changing, the Truth never changes. We are the people of God. Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life. The Holy Spirit is still with us. Just imagine surfing. Don't go against the wave but ride on the top of a wave. Enjoy it!  
In Christ's Unfailing Love

Pastor Peter Choi

## 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

Address/Service Requested



Sunday Worship  
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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### Listen With Your Heart by Joyce Will

Do you ever just stop what you are doing and listen? I mean, really hear what is going on around you? I love to do that when I am on a walk, especially early in the mornings before people are scurrying around to go to work or school. I love that quiet time to hear the birds sing and the squirrels chatter. Our world is overflowing with so much noise that it often times drowns out the beautiful sounds that God meant for us to hear. God gave us those protrusions on the sides of our head so that we can hear, but more so that we can listen. You say, aren't they the same thing, isn't listening the same as hearing? Yes and no. God gave us the sense of hearing but listening is when we have to focus on what we hear. And God gave each of us that ability too, to listen. In James, chapter 1, verse 19 it tells us directly about listening: "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Do you ever think that good listening, not just hearing, but really listening to what is being said to you, is an act of love? Listening is an important concept in the Bible where we are time and again instructed to listen to God's instructions. But the Bible also teaches us to love others by listening to them. Not just hearing them but listening to them is a way that we show love. How many times do people come to us to seek advice, or just need a listening ear. Friends, stop what you are doing and really listen to when they pour their heart out to you. So often, God uses people to hear the words of others. God simply

wants to use us as a way of affirming His love as we listen with compassion and understanding. By doing this, you will show that you not only care, but are being an example of what our God does when we come to Him and pour our hearts out. Psalms 34:15 - "For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and he gives attention when they cry to him." God drops everything He's doing when we talk to Him. Day or night, He's always available to hear what is on our minds, and He listens to us pour out our feelings to Him. My friends, when you have that opportunity to show just a teeny bit of who God is, simply by dropping everything that you are doing, totally focus on what that person is saying, and fully listen, it's then that we can reflect the love of our Lord as we seek to hear the words of another. For it is then that we exhibit His kindness, His empathy and His compassion to those that trust us with their cares, their worries and what's on their hearts. Just simply listen with your heart. Jw♥

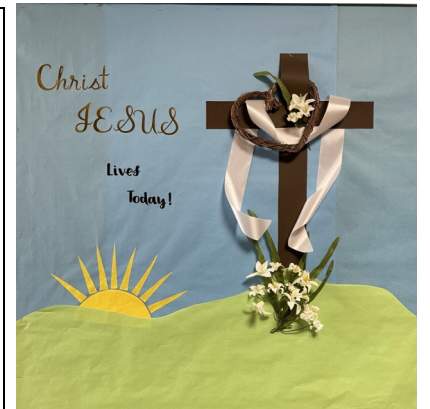






Save Your Items for Our Rummage Sale

The rummage sale is planned for September 2021. Please continue to save your clean, gently used items for the sale. Items need to be in a box or bag. You can start bringing these items July 15th.



### Life in Our Church Families...

Take a moment and say a prayer for Gary Smidt, Ginger Frizane, Fred Will, Linda Amstuz, Libby Williams, Virginia Madsen, and Nadine Fahrlander. 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.

**UMW  
May 12th  
at 9:30am**

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

### April Financial Report...

General Giving in April	\$17,807
General Fund Giving to Date	\$65,283
General Expenses in April	\$13,370
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$93,033
(This report does not include the final days in April.)	

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>May 2021</b></p> <p>HB Happy Birthday HA Happy Anniversary</p>						<p><b>1</b></p> 
<p><b>2</b> 9:45 am Worship 5th Sunday of Easter</p>	<b>3</b>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>HB Delaine Maxon HB Tony Ratka</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>HB Gracie Fries HB Jaime Sinsel</p> <p>3:30pm Sunday School 7:00pm SPRC meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>HB Scott Maxon</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>HA Radford &amp; JoAnn Hansen—59 years</p>	<b>8</b>
<p><b>9</b> 9:45 am Worship 6th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Recognition of Graduates</p>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>HB Ray Havens</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>HB Donlyn Space</p> <p>9:30 am UMW 3:30pm Sunday School 7:00pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>HB Sam Tunnell</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>HB Gabriella Froid Mobile Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Minden High School Graduation</p>
<p><b>16</b> 9:45 am Worship 7th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>HA Mick &amp; Valerie Jameson—18 years</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>HB Carolyn Olsen HB Melanie Remmenga</p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>HB Jane Albers HB Alexandra Bauer HB Dave Craig</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>HA Orlan &amp; Dolly Grams—65 years</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>HA Mark &amp; Melissa Klabunde—16 years HB Michael Froid HB Anita Gleason</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>HB Wade Melroy</p>
<p><b>23</b> 9:45 am Worship Day of Pentecost HB Jessica Tunnell</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>HB Doug Hammer HB Gage Fries</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>HB Jacey Smidt</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>HA Larry &amp; Sheila Anderson—49 years HB Braxton Janda</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>HB Steve Younkin</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>HA Larry &amp; Kim Snavely—22 yrs HA Mike &amp; MaryJo Froid—22 yrs HB Thelma Jensen</p>
<p><b>30</b> 9:45 am Worship—Trinity Sunday HA Clark &amp; Jennifer Bauer—29 years</p>	<p><b>31</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts</p>				