

A Publication of The United Methodist Church
Minden, Nebraska

The Messenger



July 2022

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I have recently heard on the news that a 3,400-year-old city emerges from a reservoir in Iraq after months of extreme drought. Archaeologists discovered a well-preserved wall made from sun-dried mud bricks. They also found ancient relics such as five ceramic vessels and 100 cuneiform tablets. They have a clearer picture of what the ancient city might have been like.

From this evacuation, I have learned one important lesson: it is hard to see what is in there unless we see the river bed. We cannot breathe in water for over five minutes. It is hard to see in the water since we have lousy visibility. Our mobility is not free. The deeper the water is, the harder it would be.

Many churches are experiencing a severe drought of ministry after the pandemic. Perhaps, we didn't see the direction of the church when the water was enough. Many are experiencing a drought of energy. Many are experiencing a drought of routine in church life. Many are experiencing a drought of worship attendance. We have been doing something in ministry to overcome a drought of vitality. Unfortunately, we are still thirsty without enough water.

Again, the good news is that when waters recede and become shallower, we can analyze our situations quickly and find what we need preciously. As the river bed is exposed, we can realize the seriousness and see what we need. God gives us water, but we can better prepare with strategies in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A church planter, Paul Nixon, came to our church on June 18, and I attended a replanting seminar in Topeka on June 20-21. While our congregation and I were talking about our church situations, I realized what we need for the church's ministry. I could assume that previous or existing terms might not work at some points. I could feel we have been missing something important in our ministry.

We have to consider two essential things discipleship and community. First, we have been missing the importance of discipleship. Jesus is our master teacher, and we follow his teachings. We need to teach our neighbors and friends his teachings. Without discipleship, we cannot sustain our church ministry. That's why we still learn who Jesus is even 2000 years later. I am preparing a discipleship program for next year. I will let you know more about this later.

Second, we need to reach out to the community. Without community, it is impossible to tell the growth of the church. We need to find ways to connect to the community. We need to show Jesus' love to our neighbors. We must discover how we support schools, nursing homes, and local businesses. We gave school supplies to our kids when school season started. This year we try it in a different way. I will announce that in our bulletin and newsletter.

The Holy Spirit is telling us don't make an excuse anymore. Don't do this tomorrow but do this NOW! The drought of church ministry is a sign to give us an opportunity. Without your act and decision, it is impossible because the church works only when people gather in the name of Christ. May God's blessings be upon us as we decide today.

In Christ's Unfailing Love

Pastor Peter Choi

No Expiration Dates by Joyce Will

I can remember when we never had expiration dates on food items or other things. I guess back when we didn't have those dates printed on the items, they were good forever. Now it seems like if you have an item that the expiration date has arrived, it must be tossed in the trash can. So how is it that what used to be good for a very long time, suddenly has only a 1-2 year span of when it can be used. It makes me chuckle a bit. I grew up in a household that never threw anything away. If it wasn't covered with that icky looking mold or something similar, we used it until it was used up. My parents didn't waste anything. Their motto clearly was "waste not, want not". What I'm really glad about is that God has no expiration dates.

He makes promises that we read about in our Bibles. What's more, I don't ever recall God saying that His grace is only good for 1 year in our lives. I don't ever recall God saying that when His mercy that He gives to us is all used up, there is no more. God always keeps His promises and we know this because of His faithfulness to each of us. So many times



in our relationship with our friends and family, the promises that we thought would be forever, actually had a shelf life and sadly when that expiration date came, that promise was not kept. But here's the thing, God isn't like our friends! And isn't that the best news bite you've read in a long, long time? God is a promise keeper. We can come to Him with our sadness, our problems, our burdens and yes, our sins. Matthew 11:28 tells us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and bur-

dened, and I will give you rest." And in Hebrews 3:5 Jesus tells us "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Aren't those the promises that fills your heart with warmth that you just can't find anywhere else. And another promise that has absolutely no expiration date is this from Jeremiah 31:3 - "I have loved you with an everlasting love." What joy that brings to us to know that His love for every one of us, never gets stale or moldy - it's fresh every single day. God's love and grace and mercy just never expires. It never fades. It never sours or loses it sweetness. I ask you to get your Bible and turn to Psalms 136. It has a message repeated again and again. For all of the 26 verses in the Psalm, God tells us one thing: His faithful love endures forever. That's sure to make your heart smile! As long as we are alive, God's faithfulness to us is our lifeline. As long as we have breath, we can count on it. Lean on it. Trust this, my friends with all of your hearts because simply put, God has no expiration dates. Jw♥

RUMMAGE SALE

Begin bringing clean and gently used items to room 103.

August 7 – Begin set up after church.

All helpers needed!

August 8 – Set up and price

August 9 – Sale 9am-7pm

August 10 – Sale 9am-7pm

August 11 – \$3 Sack sale 9-1pm

1:00 pack and load Goodwill truck



Pastor Peter completed the requirements to transfer his membership to the Great Plains as a provisional elder at the annual conference.



Vacation Bible School
MONUMENTAL—GOD'S GREATNESS

July 10-14, 2022

5:00 Supper

5:30 Opening

5:50-7:20 Activities

7:20-7:30 Closing

The VBS committee has purchased an iron-on t-shirt patch for each person attending VBS. If you could bring a blank t-shirt we will iron them on for each child.


Life in Our Church Families...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Gary Smidt, Larry Anderson, Kurt Muller, Lori Conyer's father,
Merlin Beahm, and Jan Hofferber (Kathi Schutz's mother).

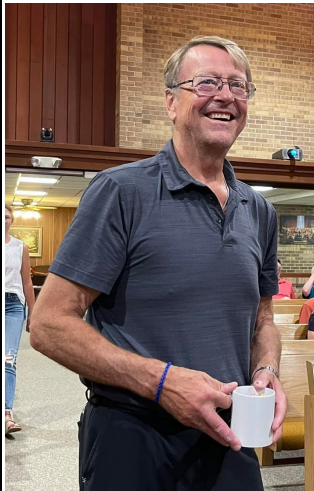
Please call the office when you know of any illness, hospitalization, new babies, marriages, joyous or sad news among your friends or family members.

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">JULY 2022</p> <p style="margin: 0;">HB Happy Birthday HA Happy Anniversary</p> </div>		
<p>3 10:00 am Worship 4th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>HA Wade & Kim Melroy—23 years</p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Independence Day</p> <p>HB Virginia Madsen</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>10 10:00 am Worship 5th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>HB Aiden Sinsel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><<<<<<<<— VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — Meal 5:00pm — Program</p>	<p>11</p> <p>HB Nadine Fahrlander</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>17 10:00 am Worship 6th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>HB Doug Fellers</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>24 10:00 am Worship 7th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>25</p> <p>HA Kurt & Jennifer Muller—35 years</p>	<p>26</p> <p>HB Rhodell Jameson HA Joe & Marjorie Hultquist—58 years</p>
<p>31 10:00 am Worship 8th Sunday after Pentecost —Kearney County Fair—</p>		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 HB Joyce Jameson HB Dawn Moyer	2
6 HB Aubree Kring	7	8 HB Stetson Heath	9 HB Randy Nolan
13 9:30am UMW HB Elta Kern HB Hailey Choi ram 5:30-7:30pm --->-->-->-->-->	14 HB Anna Sinsel HA Scott & Delaine Maxon—20 years	15 HB Ian Goding	16 HB Bobbie Heitman
20	21	22 HB Susan Tunnell MHS All-Class Reunion	23 HB Alaina Suchsland HA Ed & Lonna Rowse—28 years MHS All-Class Reunion
27	28 HB Julie Ratka HB Leah Boudreau HB Lisa Cohen HA Gary & Deb Smidt—48 years	29 —Kearney County Fair—	30 HB Carlie Bauer -Kearney County Fair





June Financial Report...

General Giving in June	\$7,707
General Fund Giving to Date	\$89,201
General Expenses in June	\$16,667
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$116,688

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

Scripture Readers for July & August:

July 3:	Kaylyn McBride
July 10:	Marah Dornhoff
July 17:	Doug Hammer
July 24:	Larry Evans
July 31:	
August 7:	Jodi Boudreau
August 14:	Dawn Moyer
August 21:	
August 28:	

Refreshment Hosts July & August:

July 3:	James & Jeanette Wilkinson
July 10:	
July 17:	Frizanes
July 24:	McBrides
July 31:	Martins
August 7:	Jodi Boudreau
August 14:	Dawn Moyer
August 21:	Jack Hultquist
August 28:	

Greeters/Ushers for July & August:

July 3:	Russ & Carolyn Olsen
July 10:	Jarvis Kring Family
July 17:	Hammers
July 24:	Hospitality Team
July 31:	Lori Conyers
August 7:	
August 14:	
August 21:	
August 28:	

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

July 3: Communion Steward: McBrides

Communion Servers: (4 people) _____

August 7: Communion Steward:

Communion Servers: _____, _____,
_____, and _____.

"Heritage Goodie Coffee"

Any Sunday that you have signed up to be Refreshment Host we would like to challenge you to be creative and provide foods to share with the church after the service that are from your heritage background. It may be something from Germany, Sweden, Italy, France, Mexico, Korea, Ireland, Greece, Denmark, etc. - wherever your heritage is from. Ethnic foods are fun to make and fun to serve to others. The possibilities are endless, maybe there is a certain kind of drink that your heritage enjoys that you would be able to share with others, too. Make it fun. Let's celebrate the countries our families are from and share that with our church family.



**Summer
camp**

If your child would like to go to church camp this summer we have money available to pay for her/him to attend. Camp information is on the bulletin board inside the west door.

**United Methodist Church
340 N. Newell Ave
Minden, NE 68959**

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One Great Hour
of Sharing



Sunday Worship 10:00am

2022 Vision:
**Expand Our Boundaries
Through the Word of God.**
“Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path”
(Psalm 119:105)

An illustration of a church building with a steeple and a cross. In front of the church, a group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered. Some are holding hands, and one person appears to be speaking or leading a group. The scene is set against a background of clouds.

Church Information:
Church office: 308-832-1995
Parsonage: 308-832-2215

Pastor Peter Choi: 201-888-8430
**Please call or text for
appointment or email
peterchoiminden@gmail.com.**

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager:
308-830-2867
managerumcminden@msn.com
Monday–Friday 8am-Noon

Joan Fries, Prayer Chain:
402-756-0257