



The Messenger

July 2023

Dear Beloved Minden Methodist Church Family,

I thoroughly enjoyed Vacation Bible School with our teachers, volunteers, food servers, and kids for five days. Through this program, I recognized the potentiality, resilience, and hope for now and the future of the Church.

I had been worried about VBS for this year since we didn't have a director until April. Moreover, there were time conflicts, such as swimming lessons and softball. Nevertheless, I sensed God was leading and blessing us to have the most amazing VBS. Kathi Schutz willingly accepted the voluntary role of VBS director, even though it took her over an hour to commute from her home to our Church. All volunteers worked hard to make our VBS more meaningful and enjoyable. The evening meals were perfect.

"Hero Hotline" (VBS's title) is a beautiful program, accompanied by the scripture, "So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up" (Romans 14:19). We all have various gifts, and our ages vary greatly. But I have experienced the unity of being one body in Jesus Christ. As our gifts are blended, the light of Christ reflects on the kids.

I have been a part of this Church for over five years now. When we first came to this Church, Chloe was just five years old, and Hailey was only two. And now they are ten and seven, respectively. Lena and I can see more grey hairs.

I am incredibly grateful to God that this Church was my first appointment because you welcomed our family and cared for us, even though I was not fully prepared yet. You have supported my growth in faith and ministry. It has been challenging for the past five years with the time of Covid-19 and the disaffiliation of UMC, and there have been some changes in the Church leadership. Nevertheless, I am genuinely thankful for your trust and support. And stand together in solidarity.

If you have gardening experience, you may know that we must provide more nutrients each year to continue cultivating vegetables and fruit. Otherwise, the plants won't grow or will die soon. Similarly, you and I need to be recharged through the power of the Holy Spirit every day. Then our love for Christ will never diminish, and our Church will flourish in Him. Let us join hands and walk together for the glory of God.

In Christ's Unfailing Love

Your Pastor Peter Choi

**Clean out your closets
and storage rooms.
Please bring clean and gently
used items for the Rummage Sale
and put them in Room 103.**

**Rummage Sale dates are
August 15-17, 2023.**



The Faithful Relationship by Joyce Will

Relationships amaze me, confound me and sometimes make me cry. I'm sure that I'm probably not the only one that has those feelings from time to time. Some of us have



"Know now then that the Lord your God is the only true God! He is the faithful God, who keeps the covenant and proves loyal to everyone who loves him and keeps his commands—even to the thousandth generation!"

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

a good friend that has been by our side throughout all stages of life. But some of those close friendships change because of so many things; life in general is a big object to our friendships. Most of us can remember that very first real friend we ever had; and we would be very blessed to have that faithful friend continually throughout our lives. As we know, times can change those friendships. Most relationships are like that; they change as we change. We make new friends, but no one can take the place of your very first friend; that relationship you'll carry in your heart, overflowing with memories. So can you remember when you started your relationship with the Lord, the most faithful Friend you will ever have? I've heard some quote the exact day they gave their heart to the Lord and others just generalize when it happened. The thing is, God doesn't force us to have a friendship with Him, one of those intense close relationships that we have heard preachers

preach about or authors write about. No, God is just there, just waiting with open arms for us to invite Him into our lives. When we do choose to follow God, He desires that we are in a faithful relationship with Him. And here's the deal - if we only follow Christ part of the time, when it's convenient for us, the devil himself is ready and so willing to hop in and devour us. God doesn't take a day off but neither does that pesky devil! That's why God gives us instructions. You say, "and just where might those instructions be?" Well, my friends, God's instruction book is called the Bible. It's not just a book to toss in the backseat of your car, gather dust bunnies in a corner, or use as a coffee cup coaster. The Bible is filled with so many instructions for us, for our lives and for being a Christian. One of those instructions is directed at prayer; you know, that conversation that you have with God anytime day or night no matter where you might be. How many times a day do you pray? Do you know in the Bible it tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "pray without ceasing". And from Psalms 116:2 - "Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath." The simple truth is this - we need God. Every minute of the day and night, we need Him. We need His mercy, His grace, His forgiveness, His wisdom, His direction, His comfort. There will never be a time that we don't need to pray because there will never be a time that He won't hear us. God longs for us to be His, to be devoted to Him, to be one of His sheep. Keep His words in your heart and draw near to Him. It will be then and only then that you will know that most precious friendship with Him is truly a faithful relationship. Jw♥



Rev. Dr. David M. Wilson has served as resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church since Jan. 1, 2023. He was elected to episcopal office Nov. 2, 2022, on a historic vote by the South Central Jurisdiction’s delegates, when Bishop Wilson was one of three people elected on the first and only ballot needed to fill bishop vacancies.

Bishop Wilson, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, holds the distinction of being the first Native American elected to serve as a bishop in the history of The United Methodist Church.

WWW.HOPE4LIBERIA.ORG

July 23 during worship there will be a spokes person from Hope 4 Liberia to inform us about their mission. Their Mission: Hope 4 Liberia is a registered NGO that exists to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, educational and economic needs of double-orphaned children in Liberia.

Scripture Readers:

- July 2: Ed Rowse
- July 9: Michael Boudreau
- July 16: Julie Ratka
- July 23: ?
- July 30: ?

Refreshment Hosts:

- July 2: Dave & Jane Craig
- July 9: Wilkinsons
- July 16: Ratkas
- July 23: Grahams
- July 30: ?

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

Greeters/Ushers:

- July 2: Dave & Jane Craig
- July 9: ?
- July 16: Ratkas
- July 23: ?
- July 30: ?

July 2: Communion Steward: ? _____

Communion Servers: Ed Rowse, Lori Conyers, ? _____, ? _____.

Confirmation Sunday—July 30, 2023—Worship 10:00am



**JULY BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES**

Anniversaries

- 14—Scott & Delaine Maxon—21 years
- 23—Ed & Lonna Rowse—29 years
- 24—Rod & Linda Duffey—25 years
- 25—Kurt & Jennifer Muller—36 years
- 26—Joe & Marjorie Hultquist—59 years
- 28—Gary & Deb Smidt—49 years

Birthdays

- 1—Dawn Moyer
Joyce Jameson
- 4—Virginia Madsen
- 6—Aubree Kring
- 9—Randy Nolan
- 10—Aiden Sinsel
- 11—Nadine Fahrlander
- 13—Hailey Choi
Elta Kern
- 14—Anna Sinsel
- 16—Bobbie Heitman
- 17—Doug Fellers
- 20—Leslie Lambert
- 22—Susan Tunnell
- 23—Alaina Suchsland
- 26—Rhodell Jameson
- 28—Julie Ratka
Leah Boudreau



thanks

Thank you for the Cross of Life and “God’s Wisdom For the Graduate.” Also thank you for all the support.

Levi Loseke

I wanted to personally thank you for letting me use the 9 square for the Dawg Days event.
Cassidy Lupkes, Chamber

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for: Libby Williams, Marjorie Hultquist, Fred Will, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, John Burnham, 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 Jeanette Wilkinson at 402-756-0772.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10am Worship 5th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	3	4 	5	6 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study	7	8
9 10am Worship 6th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	10	11	12 9:30am UMW	13 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study	14	15
16 10am Worship 7th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	17	18	19	20 9:30am Prayer Time	21	22
23 10am Worship 8th Sunday after Pentecost Hope 4 Liberia 11am Adult Sunday School	24 WIC	25	26	27 9:30am Prayer Time	28	29
30 10am Worship Confirmation Day 9th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School	31					





June Financial Report...

General Giving in June	\$13,483.20
General Fund Giving to Date	\$79,220.73
General Expenses in June	\$18,670.71
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$116,898.52

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

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

**Sunday
Worship
10:00am**



Thank you everyone for all you did to make VBS possible.

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–Thursday 8am-Noon

Jeanette Wilkinson,
Prayer Chain: 402-756-0772

