

The Messenger



October 2023

Dear Friends of Minden United Methodist Church,

Surprisingly, autumn is already here. Autumn is a transitional season that comes after summer and before winter. We experience many changes in this season. The harvest has begun after the growing season! The leaves are changing their colors and start to fall. In the morning, children wear sweaters, but in the afternoon, they take them off.

In this changing season, let us take time to reflect on the changes in our lives and our church. What do these changes mean for us? Change is also an inevitable part of life. Moreover, without death, there is no future. For example, to provide nutrients to the soil for the next year, something must undergo the cycle of life and death.

Over the past three years, we have undergone deep and disruptive changes. Our routines and habits have been altered. We cannot return to the old days anymore. In this way, change can often evoke mixed emotions—excitement, uncertainty, and fear. Yet, I am convinced that we are on the path to becoming a better church through these changes.

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24).” In this passage, Jesus foretells his death on the cross. And everyone knows his death is never useless. His death changes everything. We can have the resurrection of life through his sacrifice. Our relationship is restored with his cross.

Surely, Christianity is the religion of sacrifice. In death, we can see life. People have different personalities, thoughts, theologies, and opinions. Church is the gathering of various people. But we have the same doctrine, Jesus Christ. As we all see Jesus Christ, we are walking toward the same destination. Everything is possible with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

It is time to focus on our mission. The hesitating time is over. We need to reach out to the community and share his love with others. We never stop sharing his message with everyone we meet. And let us remember that we are not alone. Together, as a supportive and loving community, we can face the future with hope and courage. We continue to strengthen our bond with God and one another.

In the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven." Let us embrace the seasons of change with open hearts and steadfast faith in God's guidance.

Yours in Christ's love,

Peter Choi

Pastor, Minden United Methodist Church

Just Come Home by Joyce Will

Back in the day for many of us, when you were the notorious rebellious teenager, did any of you have to sneak back into your house at night because you stayed out way past when you were suppose to be home? It might surprise you how many of us could raise our hand and confess, yep, that would have been me. While we can chuckle about it now, I don't doubt at the time, some of us were a bit scared to come home because we knew we'd be in trouble. Some punishments were uncalled for, some were justified, but I wonder how many came home without any repercussions? I doubt not many. You see, our parents always seemed to have our best interest at heart even though we maybe often didn't see it that way. So what about our Father? As much as we try, we are not perfect no matter what our age. I'm sure that when we



mess up during our walk in Faith, our Father probably just shakes His head a bit, but He never gives up on us. As humans, we often think we know best, right? No matter our age, we sometimes tend to believe that we can do things better than the Christian way. And why is that? What is it about being a Christian that makes us feel from time to time like we must stray just a bit, push the limits? We as humans have selfish hearts and often think only how we want things to be, not trust our Father to lead us in the right ways. We as humans often get distracted. Let's admit it, life is busy! Especially if your family is younger, children that are

school age, involved in all sorts of activities and you as parents have jobs that are often demanding as well. Or maybe you're in college, trying to juggle classes, a job and hanging out with friends. No matter where we are in life, that busyness is so distracting at times that we just run on our own, push our walk of Faith to the side, and go gung-ho in the fast lane of life. My friends, we have a Father that is faithful to us, that is beyond goodness and gives us immeasurable mercy and endless grace - even when we mess up, even when we wander, even when we don't make it home in time. I love the parable of the prodigal son found in Luke, chapter 15. Get your Bible out and take a moment to read this parable again. What a wonderful parable Jesus told of this wandering son who came back home where his earthly father waited for him. How can we ever fathom to understand how our Father waits for us, especially when we take a while to come back home. That's the most wonderful thing about the Lord; He's always waiting for us, always ready with open arms to welcome us back to Him. His love for each one of us is unconditional; He loves us so much more than we can ever imagine! And because of that, when we sometimes lose our way home, our Father whispers to us, "I don't care how far you've wandered, just come home." **Jw♥**

October 26, 2023
Gateway District Church Conference
at 7:00pm
First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, Ne



Scouting For Food is Saturday October 28th.
Anyone who would like to donate and won't be home
that day or live out of town can bring their items and
put them in the cart by the main entrance and the
scouts will pick them up that morning.

Scripture Readers:

- October 1:** Marilyn Rasmussen
- October 8:** Lori Conyers
- October 15:** ?
- October 22:** ?
- October 29:** ?

Refreshment Hosts:

- October 1:** Dawn Moyer
- October 8:** Dan & Ginger Frizane
- October 15:** Jack Hultquist
- October 22:** Sandy Johnson
- October 29:** Youth Group Lunch Fundraiser

Greeters/Ushers:

- October 1:** Haven's Family
- October 8:** Lori Conyers
- October 15:** ?
- October 22:** ?
- October 29:** Youth Group

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

October 1: Communion Steward: Shirley Fellers

Servers: Lori Conyers, Shirley Fellers, ? _____, ? _____.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2—Brodie Kring
- 2—Kurt Muller
- 4—Spencer Mills
- 5—Dylan Janda
- 5—Kaleigh Melroy
- 5—Drew Rome
- 9—Knox Smidt
- 11—Alaina Boudreau
- 11—Karli Havens
- 12—Mark Klabunde
- 13—Malcom Dornhoff
- 17—Addison Klabunde
- 17—Susan Fries
- 17—Zachary Froid
- 19—Louise Carlson
- 20—Jennifer Bauer
- 20—George Sinsel
- 26—Natalie Janda
- 28—Alvan Lux
- 29—Judy Hansen
- 29—Hayzlee Kring
- 30—Ed Sorensen

Anniversaries

- 5—Todd & Kelli Suchsland—27 years.
- 14—Chris & Lisa Cohen—29 years
- 30—David & Allyson Jameson—42 years

October
11th & 25th
6:30pm



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Youth Group
Lunch Fundraiser
October 29th
following worship
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Life in Our Church Family...


Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Pray for healing and comfort for Joe Hultquist, Marjorie Hultquist, Peggy Rasmussen, Larry Anderson, Merlin Beahm, Kent Verbeck, and Jan Hofferber (Kathi'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.

October 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1 10am Worship 18th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School | 2 7pm Girl Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts | 3 7pm Girl Scouts | 4 3:30pm Kid's Church School | 5 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study | 6 2:30pm Homecoming Parade | 7 |
| 8 10am Worship 19th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School Nominations Committee Meeting following worship | 9 7pm Boy Scouts | 10 7pm Cub Scouts | 11 9:30am UMW 3:30pm Kid's Church School 4:30pm SPRC 6:30pm Youth Group 7pm Finance Mtg | 12 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study 7pm Ad Council | 13 Mobile Food Pantry | 14 |
| 15 10am Worship 20th Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School | 16 WIC 7pm Girl Scouts | 17 7pm Girl Scouts | 18 3:30pm Kid's Church School | 19 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study | 20 | 21 |
| 22 10am Worship 21st Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School | 23 7pm Boy Scouts | 24 7pm Cub Scouts | 25 3:30pm Kid's Church School 6:30pm Youth Group | 26 9:30am Prayer Time 10am Bible Study 7pm Gateway District Church Conference at Kearney | 27 | 28 Scouting for Food—fill the cart and the scouts will pick it up this day. |
| 29 10am Worship 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 11am Adult Sunday School 11am Youth Group Lunch Fundraiser | 30 | 31  | | | | |

*Grateful,
Thankful
&
Blessed*





*Thankful
for all who
volunteer*



September Financial Report...

| | |
|--|-----------|
| General Giving in September | \$11,319 |
| General Fund Giving to Date | \$120,953 |
| General Expenses in September | \$18,122 |
| General Fund Expenses to Date | \$162,437 |
| (This report does not include the final days in September) | |

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

Sunday Worship 10am
Kid's Church School
every Wednesday 3:30pm

* **Youth Group Lunch Fundraiser October 29th following worship** *

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

