

January 2025

THE MESSENGER

A Publication of The United Methodist Church

340 N Newell Ave

Minden, NE 68959



Dear Minden UMC Family,

Happy New Year! The year 2025 has begun, and our hearts are ready for a fresh start. While life often feels like one day leading into another, the New Year offers a special opportunity for renewal and a fresh beginning. Likewise, I hope 2025 will be a time for our church to take a new leap forward, filled with the blessings God provides.

As I thought and prayed about a vision for our church in 2025, I became firmly convinced that the most important thing for us is to build a life of true worship.

Our vision statement for 2025 is ***“A Life Centered on Worship”***, inspired by **Romans 12:1: *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”***

Worship is more than what we do on Sunday mornings; it is the foundation of a Christ-centered life. It shapes our thoughts, guides our actions, and draws us closer to God and to one another.

Many people view the week as six days of work followed by a day of rest on Sunday. However, Scripture calls us to think differently. It teaches us to live all six days with the Sabbath at the center of our lives. In other words, the Sabbath is not just a day of rest but the focal point of our week.

For example, Jewish traditions avoid tasks like cooking on the Sabbath, viewing them as forms of work. While Christians living in the grace of Christ are not bound by these rules, we can learn from the intent behind them. The purpose is to dedicate the Sabbath entirely to God, setting aside distractions and focusing fully on Him.

Jewish families prepare meals in advance so that their Sabbath day can remain centered on worship and communion with God. Similarly, as followers of Christ, we are called to orient our lives around worship, allowing it to permeate not only one day of the week but every aspect of our lives.

In 2025, let us commit to making worship the heart of all we do—whether in church, at work, or at home. As a community, we will explore how worship transforms not only our time together on Sundays but also our individual lives throughout the week.

I encourage you to reflect on how God is calling you to engage in worship this year. Is it by singing louder, praying more intentionally, serving others, or simply being present in the moment? Together, we can embrace this vision of worship-centered living and grow deeper in faith.

I look forward to journeying with you in 2025, trusting in God’s faithfulness and grace. Let us make this year a time where worship leads us closer to Christ and to each other.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Peter Choi



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				9:30am Prayer Time		
5 10:00am Worship Epiphany Sunday 11:00am Adult Sunday School	6 7pm Girl Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	7	8 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6pm Finance Mtg 6:30pm Youth Group	9 9:30am Prayer Time	10	11
12 10:00am Worship Baptism of the Lord 11:00am Adult Sunday School	13 WIC 6pm Boy Scouts	14	15 3:30-5pm Wednesday School	16 9:30am Prayer Time	17	18
19 10:00am Worship 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School 3pm Boy Scouts	20 7pm Girl Scouts 7pm Boy Scouts	21	22 3:30-5pm Wednesday School 6:30pm Youth Group	23 9:30am Prayer Time	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Adult Sunday School	27	28	29 3:30-5pm Wednesday School	30 9:30am Prayer Time	31	

December 2024 Financial Report...

General Giving in December	\$18,932
General Fund Giving to Date	\$168,702
General Expenses in December	\$8,077
General Fund Expenses to Date	\$191,673
(This report does not include the final days in December)	



YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Life in Our Church Family...

Take a moment and say a prayer for:

Nadine Fahrlander, Marion Johnson, Lee Mills, Dan & Ginger Frizane, Joe Hultquist, and Larry Anderson.

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.

Scripture Readers:

January 5: Leanna Warner
 January 12: ?
 January 19: ?
 January 26: ?

Greeters/Ushers:

January 5: ?
 January 12: ?
 January 19: ?
 January 26: ?

Refreshment Hosts:

January 5: ?
 January 12: ?
 January 19: ?
 January 26: ?

January 5:

Communion Steward: ? _____
 Servers: ? _____, ? _____, ? _____ ? _____.

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



January Birthdays

- 2—Steven Fries
- 3—Dick McBride
- 3—Rita Smith
- 5—Steven Favinger
- 7—Kent Verbeck
- 10—Loneta Nolan
- 11—Nikki Dornhoff
- 17—Pastor Peter Choi
- 18—Kim Snavelly
- 19—Jack Hultquist
- 19—Alison Lovin
- 20—Jim Madsen
- 21—Zachary Klabunde
- 24—Makenna Dornhoff
- 25—Ian Sinsel
- 29—Dudley Scharff

January Anniversaries

- 7—Mike & Jodi Boudreau—36 years
- 8—Pastor Peter Choi & Lena Kim—14 years



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Youth Group
January 8 & 22 at 6:30pm



New Sermon Series: Living the Questions: A Journey Through Faith and Life

In February, Pastor Peter will lead a four-week sermon series based on topics you are interested in. As Christians, we often wrestle with balancing our faith and the realities of life.

There are times when it's difficult to know where we should stand, especially in areas like the relationship between science and religion, how we should view war, or even how unbelievers perceive Jesus. We also frequently hear the phrase "God is in control," but as Christians, we sometimes face suffering ourselves.

I'm sure many of you have questions about these topics. From your feedback, I'll select four key themes to develop a sermon series that speaks directly to your interests and spiritual journey. Stay tuned, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

1. Faith and Science: How do they intersect, and can they coexist? Is science threatening to faith, or can both explain different aspects of truth?
2. Faith and Doubt: Is it okay to doubt? How can faith coexist with periods of doubt and questioning?
3. The Problem of Evil: If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world? How can Christians reconcile God's goodness with the existence of suffering and injustice?
4. Social Justice and Faith: How do Christians respond to issues of racism, poverty, and injustice? What is the Church's role in the world today when it comes to social issues?
5. War and Peace: How should Christians understand and respond to conflict, especially in today's world? What does the Bible say about war, peace, and justice?
6. The Afterlife: What happens after we die? A deeper look into Christian views on heaven, hell, and what the Bible says about eternal life.
7. How Unbelievers View Jesus: What can we learn from their perspective? How does the world see Jesus, and what can we learn from their views to better share our faith?
8. The Role of Women in the Church: What does the Bible say about the role of women in ministry and leadership? How should we approach this issue in modern times?
9. Is Christianity the Only Way? What about people from other faiths? What does it mean to claim Jesus as the only way to God in a pluralistic world?
10. Money and Faith: How should Christians view wealth and poverty? What does the Bible say about money, materialism, and generosity?
11. Perceived Errors in the Bible: What do we do when we come across apparent contradictions or errors in Scripture? How should we approach these moments and reconcile them with our faith? Is the Bible inerrant, or are there deeper layers of meaning that we need to understand?






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



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Kid's Church School every Wednesday
3:30pm-5:00pm

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to 
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.

Church Contact Information: Church office: 308-832-1995—managerumcminden@msn.com
Mindenumc.org

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

Jaime Sinsel, Office Manager—308-830-2867, Mon-Wed 8am-Noon, Thurs. 8-10:30am

Jeanette Wilkinson, Prayer Chain—402-756-0772

Randy Nolan, Custodian—308-830-3973