



Good THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

→ we seek we serve we celebrate



LENT 2026

Worship in Lent

Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. It concludes the day before Easter Sunday on April 5. The season of Lent is usually set aside for purposeful reflection and connection to God. It is traditional to give something up during this time, something that gets in the way of your pathway to God.

Our focus in Lent this year is the way in which metaphors of day and night are used in the gospel of John. John uses daylight to indicate a connection to God and night to indicate a disconnect. It's not black and white (sorry, bad pun), and some stories have a mix of daytime and nighttime in them. People in the stories also transition from day to night and night to day. As we move toward the spring equinox, and then toward summer solstice, we are very aware of the power of daylight and night. We are "giving up" more night hours and adding in more daylight hours. May our Lenten practice mimic the turning of our planet; let us give up the things that keep us from seeing God and let us add more things that allow us to see and experience God more clearly.



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♦ **Feb. 15** (Methodicals)
Transfiguration Sunday/Communion
Mardi Gras celebration!
Come to the Table – A Feast for All

♦ **Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday**
6:30 Ash Wednesday Service
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
"Return to God"

♦ **Feb. 22** (Traditional)
Matthew 4:1-11
"Living By More Than Bread"

♦ **Mar 1** (Methodicals)
John 3:1-17
"Coming to Jesus at Night"

♦ **Mar. 8** (Traditional) *Daylight Savings begins*
United Women in Faith Sunday
John 4:5-42
"Encountering Jesus in the Middle of the Day"

♦ **Mar. 15** (Methodicals)
John 9:1-41
"Days With Jesus"

♦ **Mar. 22** (Traditional)
John 11:1-45
"Jesus at the Equinox"

♦ **Mar. 29** (Methodicals)
Palm Sunday/Communion
Matthew 21:1-11
"It's a Parade!"

♦ **Mar. 30 Good Friday**
7pm Tenebrae Service

♦ **April 5 Easter**
7 a.m. Sunrise led by youth
9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary
John 20:1-18
"Early in the Morning"



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

Oof da, we say, we've gotten out of January and all those below zero days so now....outdoor stuff? Maybe.

We really enjoyed being indoors for the UWF sponsored musical, "Rockin' Tale of Snow White" performed 6 times by a cast of nearly 40 actors, musical direction by Eric Strom, choreography by Ashley Trepp, direction by Maureen Trepp, producers Tanya Ketcham, Jenia Strom and Virginia Conklin and a support crew of 15 plus parents helping A LOT! It was great fun and always



Snow White

amazing to get a musical ready in a month and performed over two weekends. The profits, after paying for expenses, goes into the treasury of our United Women in Faith who provides funds to missions for women and children. This year we are able to contribute funds to the DHH Church which has been helping out families to pay for their rent. These families haven't been able to go to work to earn money for their rent due to the ICE invasion. For the cast and their families and our audiences this was a wonderful time to not worry about the tragedies in our community.

I was able to attend the Open House for the new building of Simpson Housing

(Continued on page 3)



Sharing stories of service at MLK Jr. Sunday



Siri S., Hazel R.



Elias E., Calvin E.



Nick P.

"It Can't Happen Here... Again"

Theatre De Facto will perform this 30 minute staged reading on March 5th at 6:30, Room 302-304. It is an adaptation of a novel and play written by Sinclair Lewis to warn against fascism in the 1930s. The adaptation focuses on the dangerous situation in which we now find ourselves. It is an inspiring call to action! Please join us!

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP,
WALK THE INDOOR LABYRINTH
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**



(Continued from page 2)

Services which is on the same site as Simpson Church and is where the homeless shelter started in the '70's. It is a beautiful new site which has two stories of forty one-bedroom apartments for long stays and a floor of dormitory style rooms for at least 75 people. The kitchen/dining room, where we will be prepping food and serving, are awesome. Instead of bringing the food for the meal, we will be preparing the recipe provided by Simpson. There will be space for only 6 servers so, if you're interested, sign up with Maureen soon. The next two dates we are serving are March 2 and March 31 and we can carpool from church. Drive by the new building on 28th St. and 1st Ave.

What else this spring? UWF Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, March 8.

Save your rummage! We will again join the NENA neighborhood sales in early June. Our sale will be Friday, June 5 and Sat. June 6 with a bag sale and clean up after church on June 7. We need help setting up, selling and taking down with set up June 4. You can bring rummage to church on Sunday, May 24 or May 31.

Know you are loved and you belong. Peace, Maureen Trepp



Simpson Housing



It's Here - the 2025 MINNEHAHA YOUTH PLANT SALE

Order your plants at gertensfundraising.com starting March 1.
Sale ends April 6. (Store ID 412)

Pick-up at church on Wednesday, May 13 from 5:30-7:00 pm

*Proceeds go to the high school mission trip's
"Dresser Build" with Bridging*

Youth Plant Sale Fundraiser

Our youth are again selling beautiful plants from Gerten's!

The online sale begins on March 1 and ends on April 6.

Place your order at gertensfundraising.com and use Store ID 412.

NOTE: Plants do sell out, so be sure to order soon!

Pick up your plants at church on Wednesday, May 13 between 5:30-7:00 pm.



MINNEHAHA

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAYS

4:00-5:30 PM

Come and gather together each week for snacks and fun activities with your friends!

All 6th-12th graders welcome!

Looking for a Sleep-Away Camp Experience?

Many From the Minnehaha Community Participate in our Conference Summer Camp Program at Camp Koronis

We encourage you to join us!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW AT campminnesota.org

Teddy Bear Camp

For 6-9 year olds

July 26-28

A great first sleep away camp!

Pathways Camp - Session 2

For 9-13 year olds

July 5-10

Pathways Camp - Session 3

For 9-13 year olds

July 19-24

Teen Week

For 13-18 year olds

July 12-17



Youth Ski Trip to Spirit Mountain



Infant Recognition

MINNEHAHA THEATER CAMP

JUNE 22-26

9AM-3PM

**2:00 PM PERFORMANCE
FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

**EXPLORE IMPROV, SKIT MAKING,
CHARACTER CREATING,
AND ACTING JUST FOR FUN!**

YOUTH FINISHING 5TH-12TH GRADE

COST \$100

REGISTER ONLINE MINNEHAHA.ORG

MINNEHAHA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

July 19-23

High school youth are invited to serve our neighbors with various outreach opportunities around the Twin Cities. This is a 5-day, 4-night service learning trip that partners with local non-profits to explore a variety of justice issues such as food insecurity, poverty, housing, and creation care. There will also be evening activities, worship, and a fun all-day outing on Thursday.

Who: Finishing 8th-12th Grade

Where: Overnight lodging at Lake Harriet UMC

Cost: \$100

REGISTER ONLINE MINNEHAHA.ORG

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP

July 27-29



**INTERFAITH
ACTION** OF GREATER
SAINT PAUL

Middle school youth are invited on this 3-day, 2-night service trip led by Interfaith Action of St. Paul. Come and gain hands-on experience of serving and learning about St. Paul.

Who: Finishing 5th-8th Grade

Where: Serving around St. Paul.

Overnight lodging: at Hamline UMC

Cost: \$100

REGISTER ONLINE MINNEHAHA.ORG

March on Palm Sunday

We don't have the details yet, but hold the date of Palm Sunday (March 29) on your calendars in the afternoon. An ecumenical march is being planned by faith leaders for that afternoon. Just as Jesus marched into Jerusalem on one side of town while there was a military march happening on the other side of town, congregations are invited to march together for values of justice, hospitality, and compassion for our neighbors. The cold days of winter are a good time to get your signs with biblical passages ready for that march!

MinneHarvest

Our free food give-away once a month is a source of food relied upon by many, and it happens through volunteers who come each month. We gather outside on the 4th Saturday of each month; join us on February 28 and March 28 for all or any portion of that time, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring a friend! You can volunteer anytime between 7:15 and 10:30 a.m. We start setting up around 7:00, serve the food starting around 8:00, and are usually done cleaning up by 10:30.

MINNEHARVEST
a food mission of minnehaha united methodist church

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2026

This is a great way to start 2026. Thank you for your pledges and contributions. It should be a fantastic year!

Thank you for supporting Minnehaha UMC.

OUR JANUARY 2026 CONTRIBUTIONS ARE: **\$55,690**

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS GOAL FOR 2026: **\$502,810**

We need to average \$41,901 each month to make our goal.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
We're in the green: \$55,690. That's \$13,789 above the monthly goal. Off to a great start in 2026!											
Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		

4 Easy Ways to Donate to Minnehaha UMC

There are many ways to give to the church: Volunteer, support our food ministries or other missions, or with cash, check, or electronically. A monthly contribution through your bank (EFT) makes it easier for us to budget for the year, and there's just a small added fee. But do whatever works best for you. Know that the church also accepts gifts of stocks, bonds, and other securities, as well as real estate and more. Contributing through a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) are other options. Also consider making Minnehaha UMC a beneficiary in your will or trust. If you need more information on gifting to Minnehaha United Methodist Church, contact the church treasurer or the pastor. Thank you!

Cash		No Fee
Check		No Fee
EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) via VANCU		0.45% Fee
PayPal (OR Code)		3.5% Fee

Time for Renewal

It's easy to get caught up in the daily demands of life. In our busyness, we can lose track of ourselves, and of what God is calling us to be and to do. Take an opportunity to slow down, to rest in silence and music, and to feed your soul. On the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. from October through May, we offer a Taize service, a time of sanctuary, a time for prayer, a time for community, and a time for silence. As we sing and pray, our hearts are opened so that we may hear God speaking to us, and our souls are fed so that we may be about God's work in the world. Please join us on March 13 for a time of renewal. The service is also livestreamed, so you can worship through your screen, wherever you are, either in real time or anytime after.



Ash Wednesday

6:30 pm

February 18



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 this year, and we will be starting our Lenten observance with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. If you've never been to an Ash Wednesday service before, this is a more solemn service that includes ashes made from the burning of palms from last year's Palm Sunday. We "impose" the ashes on our foreheads or back of your hand as a reminder of how sometimes even our best intentions can go awry, and as a reminder of our own mortality. All ages are invited to participate in the service.

If you need a daytime service, we will be doing an Ash Wednesday service at Nokomis Square in partnership with Lake Nokomis Lutheran at 1:00 p.m. that same day.

Holy Week Services

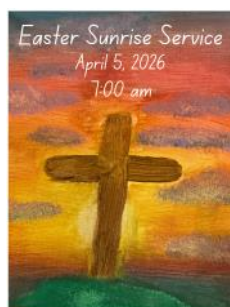
Holy Week is observed during the last week of Lent, between Palm Sunday (March 29) and Easter Sunday (April 5). It is traditionally a time to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with the disciples, and his arrest, trial and death.

- We will have a Good Friday service on April 3. It will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include 14 readings from the gospel of Matthew about the events leading up to Jesus' death. It also includes music, silence, and the extinguishing of lights.



Three Different Services for Easter

Join us for Easter Sunday on April 5. Our sunrise service will be at 7:00, led by the youth. We will have two more indoor services, with the choir and organ at 9:00 and the Methodicals band at 11:00. In addition, there will be refreshments between each of the services, and an Easter egg hunt for children from 10:00-11:00. We hope to see you on Easter morning!



Minnehaha Tubing

All ages are invited for a fun afternoon of snow tubing! You'll need to purchase your tickets online. Tickets available starting 2 days before our tubing day:

<https://mncaganweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?module=PST&display=calendar&type=tubinghill>



Minnehaha Snow Tubing
Saturday, Feb. 28 3-4:45 pm
Trapp Farm Park Tubing Hill
 (841 Wilderness Run Rd, Eagan)
 All ages are invited to meet up for an afternoon of fun in the snow!
 Tickets can only be purchased online & available starting 2 days before our tubing day
 Cost: \$5/person; under 42" free

Newcomer Classes

We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Wednesday, February 25. Please join us during the Wednesday night dinner at 5:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (dinner is at 5:30). Your meal is on us, and we'll have a table set aside for the class. Just to give us an idea of numbers, please RSVP to becky@minnehaha.org.

If you aren't able to attend that class, our next one will be on Sunday, March 22 at 10:45 during Sunday School.



Wednesday Night Childcare

Childcare is offered following the Wednesday Night Dinners from 6:00-7:15 pm. Supervision is offered for kids in the gym and the nursery/preschool rooms while parents continue to eat, socialize, help clean-up, or attend rehearsals or



Wednesday night dinners are from 5:30-6:15 pm downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join in these weekly meals for good food and lively conversation. Cost: \$5/person; \$20/family



Minnehaha Playgroup

Babies and toddlers with their caregivers are invited to stop by on Thursday mornings for a time of play and community. Playgroup meets in the 2nd floor nursery and preschool rooms. Follow the "Minnehaha Playgroup" on Facebook for more



Minnehaha Snapshot: Fourth Quarter 2025

Thanks to you, lots of good things happened at Minnehaha UMC in the fourth quarter of 2025. We celebrated 25 years of Taizé worship, served a record number of households at the Food Shelf, paraded in Halloween costumes, ate amazing meals, enjoyed the Christmas pageant, and more!

25 YEARS OF TAIZE WORSHIP AT MUMC



25 years ago the church added a Taizé worship service of song, prayer and meditation based on a worship service originating in France. It's at 7PM on the 2nd Friday of each month, October through May.

3 NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED



On November 16, we welcomed three new members to the church: Lauren, Rachel and Nick!

399 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED OCT. 27



October 27 was a record-setting day for Minnehaha Food Shelf. 399 households were served in 5 hours – the average is 275. The need is there. Thanks for supporting this great church mission!

100 PERCENT PAID IN FULL



Thanks to you, the church's bills, apportionment payments, and staff salaries were paid in full through December 31, 2025.

211 AT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



More than 200 kids, youth and adults attended the 2025 all-church Christmas Pageant: CSI: Bethlehem. There were puppets, magi, angels, shepherds, camels, detectives, two baby Jesuses and more!

122 AT VARIETY SHOW AND HARVEST MEAL



The Variety Show & Harvest Dinner was a huge success, showcasing amazing talent and serving a mouth-watering meal. Thanks to Julia, Pete & Jonathan!

10 AT PLAYGROUP ON THURSDAY A.M.



On Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Minnehaha hosts a neighborhood playgroup for caregivers and their kids. It's a great time of learning, socializing and fun. Thank you, Katie!

35 COSTUMED KIDS AND YOUTH IN PARADE



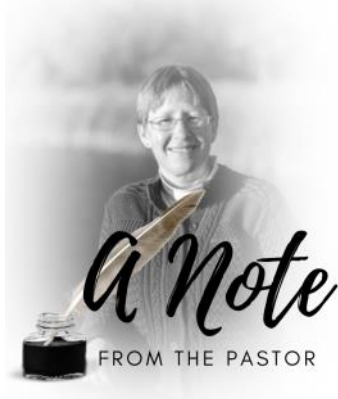
In spite of the rain, 35 kids, youth and adults – dressed as princesses and superheros and more – paraded to Nokomis Square and back on Oct. 25.

286 AT FOOD SHELF PASTA DINNER



On October 23, 286 attended the pasta dinner to benefit Minnehaha Food Shelf. \$12,500 was raised! Thanks to all the volunteers, attendees, and local businesses for their generosity.





Resistance and Light

I hardly know what to write. Each day brings its own new horrors and court rulings and subpoenas and stories. So let me say that I am so proud of you, of our congregation, and of our community. You all are showing up in all the ways you can. You are “resisting evil, injustice and oppression in whatever ways they present themselves” (our baptismal vow) by speaking out, blowing whistles, gathering food, doing laundry, watching on the corners near schools and restaurants, and a hundred other things. And I am so proud of how each of you take your discipleship seriously and find the way to step into a lane. You are also taking your discipleship seriously when your lane is to read your children a bedtime story and get a good night’s sleep. To pray before a meal, or anytime. To call a friend just to talk. To check in with a neighbor and make sure they are taking the breaks they need to continue this work.

I also get to witness some light that I want to share with you. The man who rang the doorbell at church, pressed some money into my hand for the Food Shelf and asked me to pray with him as tears ran down his face. The so many emails and cards from congregations all over the country letting us know that they are praying for us. The piles of diapers, all sizes, that are dropped off outside of the front doors. Congregational leaders that are gathering together in all sorts of forums and sharing best ideas and practices as well as planning more resistance.

As I am sure you are, I am in tears regularly at stories about the fear in our children, the stories of brutality to adults and children alike, the ways in which this surge is about trying to strip people of their humanity and instill fear. Thank you for being the light as well as the resistance. Thank you for seeing the spirit of God in everyone. Thank you for recognizing the fear and still proclaiming that fear is not how the story of God ends.

Know that people all over the world are praying for you. For us. Continue to be light and resistance.

In Hope,

Becky





3701 East 50th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Address Service Requested

Phone: 612/721-6231
E-Mail: becky@minnehaha.org
office@minnehaha.org

2/26

Visit us online!
www.minnehaha.org

Our Easter Garden

The Sanctuary will be decorated with flowering spring plants Easter morning. To contribute, please complete this form and bring/mail it to the church office or place it in an offering, with your payment, by February 25.

Given By: _____

Phone or email: _____

Suggested donation \$20. You may give more if you wish.

Given in:

☐ Memory of ☐ Celebration of ☐ Honor of ☐ _____
other

(please print)



(Plants may be taken home after the **11:00** Easter service
or during the following week.)