

Volume 51 Issue 2

The Joy Is In The Giving And Being Together!

February 2020 MUSTARD SEED

Our church family offers us many ways to learn and grow together in ministry. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time and talents!



Sunday School



Christmas Pageant

All-Church Christmas Drama Hey God





January Exercises

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Sermon Series: "Love Letters"
February 1st & 2nd - Souper Bowl Collection & Chili Sale
Sunday, February 2nd @ 10:10 am - Soccer Sunday meeting
Wednesday, February 5th @ 5 pm - VBS Planning Meeting
Friday, February 7th @ 6 pm - Family Game Night
Sunday, February 9th - Wear pink, red, & white to Worship
Sunday, February 23rd @ 5:45 pm - Daybreak Meal Service
Wednesday, February 26th @ 7 pm - Ash Wednesday Service
Friday, February 28th - First Fish Fry from 4-7 pm









Pastor's Page - February, 2020

"Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." (1 Corinthians 13:7)

A note from the pastor

At the beginning of 2020, we heard heartbreaking news about our denomination. The "Protocol for Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation" is meant to be an amicable way to separate our denomination. Still, it's a plan to divide our denomination. Even if we've been expecting it, it's difficult to hear. For those who are still shocked by this news, let me share that I share your heartache. I also remind us that this is only a proposal and that an official decision will not be made until General Conference 2020 (May 5-15, 2020).

In the face of disagreements, John Wesley offered these words, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity." I remind us that the basis for our faith is not our views on human sexuality. We are Christians because of our shared confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. What binds us together is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the Church, our call is to bear witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ by serving as His hands and feet in the world. While we may disagree on divisive issues, we agree on so much more. So, with grace and mercy, let's embrace one another and offer grace to one another. Let's cover each other's faults and imperfections with love. Let's hear Christ's call to love one another – just as He loved us. Let's be the Church that honors God and blesses others, including sisters & brothers with whom we disagree.

Happy New Year! I pray that all of you are healthy and well as we start 2020.

First – I want to thank our SPRC and congregation for allowing my family to take a break following services on Christmas Eve. The picture (above) was taken during our time away.

Second – I want to thank everyone who helped us start 2020 with a focus on health. Thank you to everyone who offered health tips and led exercises during worship services. It was a fun and important reminder that every day and every part of our lives (physical, spiritual, financial, etc) are gifts from God. May we embrace every day with gratitude and joy.

In February, we're focusing on the subject of love. Our sermon series, "Love Letters" will offer biblical and personal testimonies about love – not only for the context of marriage but also friendships. We'll hear several couples & friends share letters that they've written to each other. I hope that you join us for this time of solid biblical teaching and personal renewal.

During this series, we'll also be reminded about the power of love – not only on a personal but community level. As we reflect on Christ's call to love, let's lift up our denominational leaders and delegates in prayer. Rather than getting upset, let's focus on the hope we share in Christ. While it will be a long and difficult road ahead, we know that the love of God is always with us. We trust that while the future of human institutions are uncertain, the love of God is steadfast. Love endures all things. Love perseveres under all circumstances. Love will carry us through.

Throughout our history, Methodists have had our share of fights and disputes (even divisions). However, we have endured because of God's love and grace for a sinful and broken people like us. So, let's continue to put our trust and hope – not in institutions – but in God and God's love. Love always wins.

Speaking of love, we also need to start preparing for the Lenten season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday service (Feb. 26). We'll gather for worship on Ash Wednesday at 7 pm. This also means that we need to prepare for our Lenten Fish Fry, which begins Friday, Feb. 28. Sign up sheets are coming soon.

God bless you!

Pastor Sarah

Minooka United Methodist Church

205 West Church Street Minooka, IL 60447 815-467-2322 minookaumc.com

Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m. Blended Worship Service

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

Sunday School

9:15 am Children's Church during 9 am Worship (3 yrs. - 5th Grade) 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) September - May

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Administrative Assistant Katie Wojcieszak

Church Phone: 815-467-2322 Church e-mail:

admin@minookaumc.com

Pastor Sarah Hong 815-212-5166 pastor@minookaumc.com

Music Director Jill Kohler jlager97@gmail.com

Youth Director Brandon Carson brandoncarson@stfrancis.edu





Please keep us informed of members who are critically ill or in the hospital:
Office 815-467-2322
Pastor Sarah 815-212-5166
To be on our Prayer Chain, please call the Church Office.



The pantry gang is hoping for and looking forward to a healthy and eventful new year.

The families of the pantry want to express genuine "Thank You" for your support of the pantry. Your generosity filled over two dozen Christmas baskets and gave the children presents to open on this special day. The adults were extremely grateful for the gas cards. The Christmas Basket program was a success and everyone experienced the spirit of Christmas.

We are ready for the new year! We have full shelves and some help with the pantry. Although we have experienced a small decline in clients recently this is also great news! That means those families not in need of support right now are doing better at home.

We can never say "Thank You" too many times. Your help ensures that everyone who seeks assistance has enough food to eat.

The Pantry Team



"Grace Instead Of Judgment"

Comparison sneaks into our perspective subtly, quietly. One minute we are compassionate and understanding, and the next minute we are glad that we are not the only ones needing help. Pride slips in, and we find ourselves judging others instead of supporting and encouraging them. To lead like Jesus is to gratefully and freely be justified by grace alone and to offer that grace to others.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace though the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24) We thank Jesus for redeeming us and justifying us freely by His grace. We need to stop when we get our eyes on our own need for grace and begin to compare ourselves with others. May we offer grace instead of judgment today.

In Christ,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant



Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT ASP 2020 - "Tennessee Here We (MUMC) Come"

Heading to Tennessee June 6th through the 13th in 2020. It is time to sign-up for ASP 2020. Our registration number for those of us veterans, you have registered on ASP home website before, is 9111, what are the chances of that number. If you are first timer contact Marlin Hartman by email, hartmarlin@aol.com, by text or call 815-405-2978 or talk to him Sunday mornings at Fellowship after 9 o'clock service. He can ask answer all your questions on what this trip is about and why it is important to you, us and them.



Changes Coming!!

The Children's Ministry Committee made some major changes starting Sunday, Feb. 2nd. We will have Children's Church in the Sunday School room (gathering room) right after the "Children's Message" at the 9 am service. (There will be no more 10:30 am Sunday School Class for children 3 yrs. to 5th Grade).

Children's Church will last for approximately 45 minutes (9:25am-10:10am) and includes a DVD lesson, craft, and Bible story of the day. I hope that your children can join Children's Church starting Feb. 2nd.

**Jr. hígh and Sr. Hígh Sunday School will still meet at 10:30 am.



Confirmation Schedule

February Class Schedule

~February 2nd- Class

~February 9th - Class

~February 16th - No Class

~Saturday, February 22nd - Joliet Jewish Synagogue Visit @ 11:30 am ~February 23rd - Class

~February 26th - Ash Wednesday 7 pm Service ~February 28th-April 3rd - Fish Fry Fridays from 3-8 pm (Service hours)

Please pray for our Confirmands and their sponsors:

Ross Gunderson Marlin Hartman

Hannah Loverude Dee Dee Casagrande

Neva Morris Cindy White

Ella Randich Val Gunderson
Paige Vause Kim Nave

Kimberly Wences Gail Girard

*Classes meet at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise specified

Mark Your Calendar:

~Sunday, February 9th - Wear pink, red, & white to Worship (Sunday School students and congregation) There will be a Valentine's Day craft too!

~Sunday, March 15th - Un-Birthday Party (birthday party for everyone)



"Show Me the Money" CHILI SALES

The Outreach Committee will be selling chili on Super Bowl weekend February 1st & 2nd after services.

The price is \$5 per container. First come, first served.

Proceeds will go to Family Game Night.



SAVE THE DATE: 2020 VBS

Monday, June 22nd Friday June 26th from 5:45-8pm. The
theme this year is
"To Mars and Beyond".

Planning meeting Wednesday, February 5th @ 5 pm.

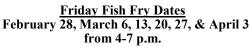
Please contact Ashley Grygienc or the church office if you can help.



SOCCER SUNDAY

Details coming soon.

The Soccer Sunday Committee will meet Sunday, February 2nd immediately following 9 am service. The meeting will be held in Pastor Sarah's office.



Volunteers needed.

Please contact Gail Flatness if you can help with the most amazing Fish Fry around!





Friday, February 7th from

Game Night

6-7:30 pm

The Outreach Committee is hosting game night! Join us in the Annex for an evening of fun!!

Family and friends are invited. Bring a snack and a board game to share. *Please note a meal will not be served.*

Community News!



MINOOKA AMERICAN LEGION POST 1188

Music * Raffles * Snacks * Silent Auction

FEBRUARY 8, 2020

7:00 p. m.- Midnight

\$20 per PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH AMERICAN LEGION OR TWIN RAIL PUB

815-693-9162 OR 815-690-7036 TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

LOCATION: CHAPINS EAST

502 TWIN RAIL DR MINOOKA

HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS NO CHARGE FOR ANY SERVICEMAN IN UNIFORM

MUMC Friday Fish Fry Dates

February 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, & April 3 from 4-7 p.m. in the annex.

Come join us for the most amazing Fish Fry around!



SOCCER SUNDAY!!



Information Coming Soon!!

Stayed tuned to the Happenings and the website for details and registration.

*We are in great need of help for Soccer Sunday. Please contact the office if you can help.



Miscellaneous Info



Chancel Choir

All are welcome to join in this ministry. Please see Jill Kohler with your interest. Hope to see you there!

Praise Team

All experienced musicians are encouraged to join the Praise Team! If you have questions, please call the church office or see Jill Kohler after Sunday services.



Celebration Sunday

We have a great opportunity

available to give glory to our God in the way of an offering to celebrate the many joys in our lives! This opportunity is available on the first Sunday of each month. Please call church office for more information.

Senior Exercise



SCHOO

Classes are at: 8:15-9:15 & 9:30-10:30 Tuesdays & Thursdays Come and see what's happening and get healthy at the same time!

Davbreak

Members of our church serve dinner to the residents of Daybreak in Joliet periodically throughout the year. We will be meeting there Sunday, February 23rd at 5:45 p.m. Contact the church office if you would like to join us.

> Daybreak 611 E. Cass St., Joliet

Sunday School Information

Sunday School is here and we would like to ask all interested families to go to our website (www.minookaumc.com) to register their children online. Go to the Sunday School or Family Ministry tab on the front page. If you would prefer to do a paper version you can find one in the Narthex.

My Church, Your Church, Our Church

On a cold night in December at 5:00 pm, our church had a spiritual Drama. The church service started with a wonderful sermon by Pastor Sarah. Then after many many weeks of practicing the play, HEY GOD began.

Hey God was a spiritual journey of a grandmother (played by the REMARKABLE Marguerite Stelling) who has lost her way. Her two granddaughters (played by the talented Ava Staley and Miriam Staley) are trying to show her that you must pray to God, listen to God, believe in God. Bring your troubles back to God.

The granddaughters make a plan to bring different people to their HEY GOD BENCH, so they can talk to God, about their own spiritual journey, all the while Grandmother is hopefully listening and learning. The grandmother is a very GRUMPY GRANDMA. The first person to the Hey God bench was Hannah (played by the kind Hannah Cichon). Hannah's heart was heavy and was pretending like I am ok when I am not ok. She prays to God!!! While praying (Patti Kelly who has an amazing talent, and a beautiful voice) sings OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART LORD. The song shows Hannah how to open her heart to feel strong and strengthened. Afterward, her troubles are gone.

The second person to the HEY GOD bench is (Lindsey McCoy a very talented ice dancer who is currently training for the Olympics). Lindsey has lost her faith and her busy life has come crashing down on her, leaving her unable to dance. She goes to the HEY GOD bench to talk to God. After praying she starts to dance to the song OH MY SOUL. Lindsey realizes that God has been there all along, she just forgot to listen and believe.

The third person to the HEY GOD bench is the Shepherd (played by our Fish Fry master and the talented Dale Lockwood). The shepherd is trying to figure out GOD'S plan for himself, God has him in a field with sheep, and he has lost all of his patience. The shepherd is very troubled and asks God "WHY ME LORD" (Dale shares his amazing voice) and sings "WHY ME LORD. The shepherd realizes that NO man is ever the same after God has laid his hand upon you.

The fourth person to the HEY GOD bench was Mary (played by Kim Nave beautiful, amazing woman) who tells God how she missed her son, and she knows why her son was born in a manager to show compassion, kindness, love, and obedience. Her son died for the forgiveness of our sins. After Mary finished talking and praying to God, HOW GREAT THOU ART was performed by Rose Stefanski (from Saint Anthony church in Joliet and a Daybreak volunteer).

The granddaughters talk with their GRUMPY GRANDMA about the people who have visited the HEY GOD bench. Grandmother tells the girls that she realizes that she was yelling at God and telling him what to do. I forgot to pray and listen to God. All she ever wanted was to see her two sisters after 40 years of being apart. Grandmother asks God to forgive her, and she wants to feel again. After talking to God Evelyn Myztk (a talented generous singer from Saint Francis in Bolingbrook and a volunteer from Daybreak) sings HE IS ONLY A PRAYER AWAY.

All the while the grandaughters were looking for GRUMPY GRANDMA'S now NICE Grandmother's two sisters. After the song, they answered the Grandmother's prayer with her two sisters (played by Betty Hoerner, Marie Manzi). Everyone stood up and sang the sisters favorite song, IT's ME IT'S ME OH LORD.

After the play, Rose sang AVA MARIA during the offering. It was amazing and beautiful. The church service ended with Jill on the flute playing SILENT NIGHT, while everyone lit their candles and joined in. Beautiful service at MY CHURCH YOUR CHURCH OUR CHURCH

THANK YOU ALL.....EVERYONE GAVE THEIR ALL

Gail Flatness

THANK YOU GOES TO:

Narrator: Trinity Staley

Talented, Wonderful Musicians: Laura Wagner, Jill Kohler, Karen Dirst

Media Center: Cindy White

Ushers: Karen and Claude Crawshaw
Greeters: Karen Dorick & Dawn Nemitz

Just Because: Katie in the office

ANYONE WHO PUT UP WITH ME

SURPRISE FOR MARGUERITE (GRUMPY GRANDMA)

The sisters in the play were Marguerite's very own sisters.

She had no idea until they appeared on stage.

We got Marguerite GGGGGGGGGOOD



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report from the Financial Resourcing Committee:

MUMC 2019 Financial Review

We finished in the "black" in financial terms for 2019, Thank you Congregation and especially those who pledged and met or exceeded their pledge. Another big thank you for committees and staff who were wise in our church spending.

Some general financial information:

Our present balance is \$1,128,764.56. Around \$950,000 is in the Ridge Road fund. Our income was just over \$200,000 and expenses quite close but in the positive overall. Once again thank you all for your financial support in 2019 and for 2020 as well. More information is available in the financial report file in the church

office.

Average attendance in December: 107

2020 Minooka United Methodist Church Leadership

(Staff & Committee (Team Ministry) Chairs) - New since last year

(1) Staff

Security - Gail Flatness

Custodian – Johanna Spencer

Nursery - Stephanie McComas & Christine Yenser

Accompanists - Jill Kohler (Music Director) & Laura Wagner

Teen Choir Volunteer Director - Trinity Staley

Administrative Assistant - Katie Wojcieszak

Pastor - Sarah Hong

(2) Leadership (Chairs)

Church Council - Marlin Hartman

Building Committee - Val Gunderson

Certified Lay Speakers - Pearl Lindley & Dutch Nave

Children's Event Coordinator - Ashley Grygienc

Children's Ministry Co-Chairs - Ruth Satorius &

Jean Terdic (Sunday School Superintendent)

Finance Committee - Rodney Hiser

Financial Secretary - Mary Ray

Lay Leaders - Karen Gaba & Shari Millard

Lay Speakers - Kim Nave, Chris Vause & Shari Millard

Membership Secretary & Membership Committee - Karen Crawshaw

Memorial Committee - Johanna Spencer

Men's Prayer Breakfast - Jim Satorius

ASP Mission - Marlin Hartman

Daybreak Mission - Gail Girard

Outreach Committee - Connie Morris & Gail Flatness

Resource Center - Madeline Reed

Soccer Sunday Committee - Matthew McComas

Staff-Parish Relationship Committee - Claude Crawshaw

Trustee Co-Chairs - Les Millard & Paul Froidcoeur

Worship Committee - Cindy White

Youth Council - Kim Nave

SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND

At Worship services on February 1st & 2nd the Worship Committee will pass a soup bowl for a special offering. This event is to bring awareness of the problem of hunger in our community. We are asking for monetary donations which are symbolic of buying someone a bowl of soup. All money collected will go to the Good Samaritan fund, which is Pastor Sarah's discretionary fund for helping people in need. Last year we gave \$271 to this very worthy cause. Let's see if we can break our record! Thank you so much for your generosity. Questions? See Cindy White



Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are located in Fellowship Hall.
If you don't have

offering envelopes but would like them, please see Mary Ray.

Don't forget to use myEoffering to donate on-line or set up recurring giving! Go to www.minookaumc.com and click on the green "donate now" button.





February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion 8:00 am Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast 9:00 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Worship
2 Communion 9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:10 am Soccer Sun- day Mtg. 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 11:30 am Confirmation	3 5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Grief Sup- port Group 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Evening Circle	4 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Faithtalk 6:00 pm Worship Mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	5 5:00 pm VBS Plan- ning Mtg. 6:00 pm Outreach Committee	6 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise	7 6:00 pm Family Game Night	8 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Trustee Mtg. 5:00 pm Worship
9 9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 11:30 am Confirmation	5:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm UMW Mtg.	11 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 10:00 am Food Pan- try 12pm Faithtalk 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	9:45 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Food Pantry	8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise	Happy Mcladuce	15 5:00 pm Worship
16 9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High)	5:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting	18 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Faithtalk 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	19	20 8:15 am Sr Exer- cise 9:30 am Sr. Exer- cise	21	22 11:30 am Confir- mation Joliet Jew- ish Synagogue Visit 5:00 pm Worship
9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 11:30 am Confirmation 5:45 pm Daybreak	5:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Book Study	25 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Faithtalk 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg.	26 10:00 am Public Ash Imposition @ Daybreak 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	27 8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise	28 4-7 pm Fish Fry	5:00 pm Worship

February 9:00 am SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

February 2nd Communion Sunday

LAY READER Shari Millard USHER Matt McComas

February 9th

LAY READER Kim Nave

USHER Volunteers Needed

GREETER Jean Terdic

February 16th

LAY READER Kim Nave

USHER Volunteers Needed

February 23rd

LAY READER Youth USHER Youth



Fellowship Sign-up Following 9 am Worship

*Please sign up for Fellowship. We would like to continue this ministry. If all regular 9 am Worship attendees sign up for one week we will have most of the year covered.

February 2	Dennis & Connie Morris			
February 9	Judy Clusen & Carol Lockwood			
February 16	Volunteer Needed			
February 23	Ron & Mindy Herath			
March 1	SPRC			
March 8	SPRC			
March 15	SPRC			



RESOURCE CENTER!

Please visit the MUMC Resource Center for something to read! There are many interesting curriculum sets that can be checked out for extended times in order to be used in a small study group. Encourage your kids to go in and check out a book for the week. Help them choose different genres. If you don't see something you think we should have, put a suggestion in the box!



SMALL GROUPS/BOOK STUDY

faith TALK



FAITH TALK: BIBLE EACH TUESDAY at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come and join us as we continue our study on "Women of Faith Study Bible".

All are welcome!

BOOK-CLUB

Book Club

Book Club will meet on February 24th at 7:00 pm. Our next book selection is Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng.

See Cindy White for more information.

All are encouraged to join us!



Attention

Men's Breakfast February 8th at 8:00 a.m.

All men are invited! No reservations needed!



Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast

The next breakfast will be Saturday, February 1st at 8:00 a.m.

Come and join other ladies for

breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

If you have any questions please see Kim Nave or
Gail Flatness.

Evening Circle Evening Circle will be meeting on

Monday, February 3rd at 7 p.m. at the home of Karen Pubentz.

Don & Linda Akerberg have moved!



Their new address is available in the church office if you would like to add it to your directory.

You can visit this link to read and print the monthly calendar http://www.minookaumc.com/mustard_seed.htm

March 2020 news is due into the office on **Monday, February 17th.**

If you have any questions or articles you would like in our next issue, please contact the office at 815.467.2322 or mumc2322@gmail.com

Thank you, Katie Wojcieszak



Minooka United Methodist Church

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Or Current Resident

















