

March 2020 MUSTARD SEED

Volume 51
Issue 3

The Joy Is In The Giving
And Being Together!

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!



Daybreak

Children's Church



Children's Message



Ash Wednesday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fridays, February 28th - April 3rd - Lent Fish Fry's from 4-7 pm in the annex

February 29th - April 5th: 6 Week Sermon Series "Three Simple Rules"

March 7th & 8th - Communion

Sunday, March 8th - Daylight Savings begins (Spring forward)

Sunday, March 8th - Soccer Sunday Meeting @ 10:10 am

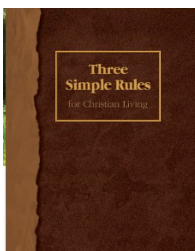
Friday, March 13th - Winter Jam, Hoffman Estates, 4 pm - 10 pm

Sunday, March 15th - Unbirthday party (Birthday party for Sunday School)

Sunday, March 29th - Soccer Sunday Meeting @ 10:10 am

Sunday, March 29th - New Member Class @ 10:30 am

Saturday, April 4th - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 am at our Ridge Rd. location



Pastor's Page - March, 2020



⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.” (Psalms 51:8-9)

Lent is around the corner and some of you are thinking about the things you will give up or abstain from this year. One congregant asked if we could add something meaningful instead of subtracting trivial. What if we could add practices that could bless and deepen faith? I think this is a great idea. Perhaps it's volunteering to serve food at the Daybreak Center on the last Sunday of each month. Perhaps it's setting aside a daily time for prayer.

Perhaps it's making worship services a priority instead of an afterthought. (note: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 26th. Ash Wednesday worship service is at 7 PM.) Whatever you do, by addition or subtraction, let's observe a Holy Lent in 2020.

On Friday, February 7, over thirty people enjoyed MUMC's Family Game Night. Personally, the highlight from the evening was karaoke, as you can see in the picture above. Our fun stands in stark contrast to some Christians, who teach that we should not rejoice or even smile during Lent. Some churches strictly prohibit saying 'Hallelujah' during Lent. Personally, I do not think that being somber and sad are the keys to Lent. A question I ask about Lent is whether this is a season about guarding church tradition OR drawing near to our Savior? Are we blindly following rules OR deepening our walk with Christ?

Like many of you, I was discouraged to receive the news that the youth director we hired abruptly resigned before his starting date in February. As I preached the sermon on "Love perseveres" on Feb. 1 & 2, I found God speaking to my heart. As we sang and laughed together at Game Night, I found hope and comfort in our community of grace.

Our Scriptures teach us to "Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS" (Philippians 4:4). The word "ALWAYS" includes Lent. While we clean up the clutter in our hearts, we can still rejoice. While we examine and reconcile relationships with family and friends, we can still give thanks joyfully to the Lord. While we repent of our sin and draw near to God, we can share in the joy and gladness of God's love for us. We've all made mistakes. We've all fallen short – individually, as a local church, as a larger denomination. However, we can rejoice in the Lord always. We can count our blessings and encourage each other in faith over these next 40 days.

Speaking of rejoicing, I will be visiting South Korea to celebrate my father's 80th birthday at the end of February. It will be a wonderful time to visit with my father and my siblings. I ask for your prayers – for my time with my family to be a time of blessing and encouragement.

Let me close with several suggestions (we are following the 3 suggestions to rethink of our ministry model by Rev. David Jankowski at All-Church Retreat on Jan. 26) for enhancing your joy this Lent. On Feb 29th, MUMC will kick off our Lenten Small Groups. We will focus on the 3 Simple Rules of Wesleyan living (Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God). Small Group is one of the best ways to connect into the church and grow in faith. I hope you'll sign up and join a Small Group this Lent.

Second, I invite you to help us evaluate our worship services. With the hope of making our services more relevant and excellent, our Worship Committee developed an evaluation form. Forms are available at the usher's table in the sanctuary. Responses can be emailed or dropped off with the church office. As you reflect on our times of worship, please think about how we can make our church more welcoming to the next generation.

Third, let's pray for a youth ministry director. It's been a long and challenging process for our Staff Parish Relations Committee. Please pray for us to have patience and wisdom as we seek new staff to lead our youth ministry. I also want to thank everyone who volunteered at youth events as chaperones, helpers, second adults or just supporters. We have Winter Jam Concert on March 13th at 4:00-10:00 pm. We're looking for volunteers to help with upcoming events: Soccer Sunday, VBS and Egg Hunting. If you have any questions regarding youth ministry, contact me or the church office. Thank you in advance for making a difference in our youth and our community.

One of MUMC's Lenten traditions is the Friday Fish Fry. We start serving on Feb. 28th and continue for the next 6 Fridays (4-7pm). If you'd like to help, contact Gail Flatness.

May your Lent be filled with joy in our Lord, who gives us strength!

Pastor Sarah

Minooka United Methodist Church

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

Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship Service

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m.

Blended Worship Service

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

Sunday School

September - May

9:15 am Children's Church during 9 am
Worship (3 yrs. - 5th Grade)

10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High)

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



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.

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Blended Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Service



The winter holidays are past. As the daylight increases and the signs of Spring begin to appear, we are energized and optimistic for the new season. The pantry is doing well and we are able to lend the support our families in need at this time. We still continue to support about 30 to 35 families. Four new senior citizens and 2 mothers with children have joined the pantry. Thank you for your part, as well as the various community organizations and individuals whom make all this possible.

As we enter the Lenten season, our next project is planning and organizing items for our Easter Day dinner. Before we know it it will be here.

Until next time, we will continue to support our families and the community in the spirit and responsibility entrusted to us.

The Pantry Team



“Prayer Makes The Difference”

In this season of Lent our thoughts turn toward prayer. We know the importance of having others pray for us. We know how we need wisdom, encouragement, and endurance to run the race God has set before us. Do we, in turn, pray for those around us? It could make a big difference for others when we lift them up in prayer.

“I urge, then, first of all that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people---for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

In Christ,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant



ASP Appalachia

SERVICE PROJECT®

ASP 2020 - "Tennessee Here We (MUMC) Come"

ASP is heading to Tennessee June 6th through the 13th in 2020. It is time to sign-up for ASP 2020. Our registration number if 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 the 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 to Sunday School!!

The Children's Ministry Committee made some major changes to Sunday School. 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.

**Jr. high and Sr. High Sunday School will still meet at 10:30 am.



Confirmation Schedule

March Class Schedule

~Sunday, March 1st - No Class

~Sunday, March 8th - Class

~Sunday, March 15th - Class

~Sunday, March 22nd -

Prayer Ministry Center Visit @ 10:45 am

~Sunday, March 29th - Class

~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*

SOCCER SUNDAY!!

Registration now being taken!

This is a five week program for pre-k through 5th Grade that will run April 5th - May 17th from 1:00-2:30 pm. (No soccer on Easter or Mother's day.)

Registration is \$25 per child. Jerseys are \$25 each and are only needed for new participants or those requiring a larger size.

Register at minookaumc.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need parking helpers, greeters, & field helpers. Coaches, assistant coaches and youth helpers are also needed. Your participation will make a big difference. **Sign up in the Narthex.**

* Please see Matt McComas (Soccer Sunday Committee Chair) if you have questions.

SAVE THE DATE: 2020 VBS



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

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



Winter Jam is an incredible evening of live concerts by the top artists in Christian music, plus worship and ministry, to encourage believers and share the good news with those who have yet to trust Christ.

Location: Sears Centre Arena Hoffman Estates
When: Friday, March 13th, 2020
Depart: Leave Minooka UMC at 4:00 pm
When: Doors open at 6:00 pm
Winter Jam starts at 7:00 pm
Cost: \$15 per person at the door

Community News!

AMERICAN LEGION

Chili COOK-OFF

FUNDRAISER

March 15th, 2020
1:00pm



Cash prize for the Winner!

Local Celebrity Judges

Performance by
River Road Trio

Raffle Baskets

Tickets available through
Legion members
Twin Rail Pub
Online at Eventbrite

Enter by emailing:
Sergio Lopez at
SergioDlopez.82@gmail.com
OR CALL
Madie Valentino
(Twin Rail Pub) at
(815) 521-4000

\$5 advance tickets
\$7 at the door

Includes: One drink & chili tasting
Proceeds from the raffle and tickets go to The Minooka American Legion

502 Twin Rail Dr, Minooka, IL 60447

THE VINTAGE FAIRE

INDOOR VINTAGE FAIRE DATES FOR 2020:
Feb 23rd, March 29th, April 26th
at Chapin East 502 Twin Rail Dr, Minooka, IL
Early Bird Entry 8-9am \$5 • 9am-3pm \$4

OUTDOOR VINTAGE FAIRE DATES FOR 2020:
May 31st, June 28th, July 26th, Aug 30th, Sept 27th, Oct 25th
at 24550 W Shepley Road, Minooka
Entry \$4 • 8am-3pm

Checkout our Facebook page for more info
Text (815) 790-7032 or email vintage.morris@yahoo.com
with any vendor inquires

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.



Daybreak

Members of our church serve dinner to the residents of Daybreak in Joliet periodically throughout the year. We will be meeting there **Sunday, March 29th** at 5:45 p.m. Contact the church office if you would like to join us.

Daybreak
611 E. Cass St., Joliet



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

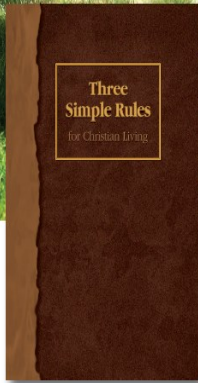


Classes are at:
8:15-9:15 & 9:30-10:30
Tuesdays & Thursdays
Come and see what's happening and get healthy at the same time!



Sunday School Information

For those families interested in joining our Christian Education program you can find registration for Sunday School & Children's Church on our website at www.minookaumc.com. Go to the Sunday School tab on the front page. Contact the church office with any questions.



Three Simple Rules for Christian Living

Join us as we study
**Three Simple Rules
for Christian Living**

**What are the three simple rules
for Christian living?**

All are welcome to join!

Join Us For Our Lenten Bible Study

“Three Simple Rules”
by Rueben P. Job.

What are the three simple rules for Christian living? Where do they come from? Why are they so important for Christians? How can I practice them?

Many days and times to choose from:

Mondays @ 6:00 pm
3/2, 9, 16, 23, 30, & April 6

Tuesdays @ Noon
3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31, & April 7

Wednesdays @ 2:00 pm
3/4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, & 8

Thursdays @ 5:00 pm (only 5 weeks)
3/5, 12, 19, 26, & April 2

Saturdays @ 3:45 pm
3/7, 14, 21, 28, & April 4

A Lenten Prayer

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. Amen

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. Amen
Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. Amen

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realize my need of you. Amen

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus.

Amen

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day. Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report from the Financial Resourcing Committee:

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.

Finance information not available at the time of printing.

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.



Average attendance in February: 96



Thank you for your prayers, expressions of condolences, cards, monetary memorials, and all the delicious food. You helped us through some difficult days. I was amazed by your great generosity. It is a privilege to be surrounded by such a great church family.

~Maurice Davenport and Family



OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN HALLOWED BE THY NAME
THY KINGDOM COME
 THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
 GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
 AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US
 AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER
AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER
 Confessing the New Covenant

Now Collecting Candy!

Help us fill our
EASTER EGGS

We need to fill 10,000 eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th. A collection bin is located under the name tags in the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!





Friday Fish Fry Dates
 March 6, 13, 20, 27, & April 3
 from 4-7 p.m.

Visit our Facebook page for a full menu, pricing, and weekly blue-plate specials. Credit cards now accepted! Phone orders and carryout available.

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



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 2:30 pm Youth & Family Bowling</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Grief Support Group 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Evening Circle</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Lent Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 5:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4-7 pm Fish Fry</p> 	<p>7 Communion</p> <p>9:00 am Food Pantry 3:45 pm Lent Bible Study 5:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>8 Communion</p> <p>9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:10 Soccer Sunday Mtg. 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 11:30 am Confirmation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm UMW Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 10:00 am Food Pantry 12pm Lent Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:45 am Food Pantry 2:00 pm Lent Bible Study 5:00 pm Food Pantry 6:00 pm Outreach Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 5:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4-7 pm Fish Fry 4:00 pm Youth Winter Jam Concert</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:30 am Trustee Mtg. 3:45 pm Lent Bible Study 5:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 11:30 am Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study 7:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Lent Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 5:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>4-7 pm Fish Fry</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>3:45 pm Lent Bible Study 5:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 10:45 am Confirmation—Prayer Ministry Ctr. Visit</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Book Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Lent Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 5:00 pm Lent Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4-7 pm Fish Fry</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 am Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast 3:45 pm Lent Bible Study 5:00 pm Worship</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am Worship & Children's Church 10:10 Soccer Sunday Mtg. 10:30 am Sunday School (Jr. & Sr. High) 10:30 New Member's Class 11:30 am Confirmation 5:45 pm Daybreak Meal Serving</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study 7:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:15 am Sr Exercise 9:30 am Sr. Exercise 12pm Lent Bible Study 6:00 Worship Mtg. 6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>				

SMALL GROUPS/BOOK STUDY

March 9:00 am SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

March 1st

LAY READER Shari Millard
 USHERS Loverude & Nischke Family

March 8th Communion Sunday

LAY READER Kim Nave
 USHERS Val Gunderson & Ross Gunderson

March 15th

LAY READER Kim Nave
 USHERS Les Millard

March 22nd

LAY READER Youth
 USHERS Youth

March 29th

LAY READER Volunteer Needed
 USHERS Volunteers Needed

	Evening Circle @ the home of Mari Kirsch	Monday 3/2 @ 7 pm
	Grief Support Group	Monday 3/2 @ 6 pm
	Men's Prayer Breakfast	Saturday 3/14 @ 7:30 am
	Book Club - book selection Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng	Monday 3/23 @ 7 pm
	Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast	Saturday 3/28 @ 8:00 am



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.*

March 1	Danny Harvey & Gordon McCoy
March 8	Volunteers Needed
March 15	Karen Gaba & Needed
March 22	Ron Herath & Mindy Closen
March 29	Volunteers Needed
April 5th	Debbie Thompson
April 12th	Volunteers Needed
April 19th	Volunteers Needed
April 26th	Volunteers Needed



Les and Shari Millard are inviting high school students and young adults to join a small group. This group will meet on Sundays @ 1 pm in the youth room. Contact Shari with questions or interest.



March Communion will be March 7th & 8th.



RESOURCE CENTER!

Looking for some inspirational or informational books to read during the Lenten season? Drop by the Resource Center to see the materials that are on the book cart display. There's something there for all ages!

CHURCH LIBRARY

"Love the Lord your God with all your mind."



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

April 2020 news is due into the office on **Monday, March 16th**

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

