



Volume 53
Issue 1/2

January/February 2022 MUSTARD SEED

*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!*



Christmas Caroling for Shut-ins



Children's Message

*Senior
Luncheon*



Angel Tree

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~January 15th & 16th - Leadership Commissioning
- ~Monday, January 24th @ 7 p.m. - Book Group
- ~Friday, January 28th @ 6:00 p.m. - Youth New Year's Bash
- ~February Sermon Series - Greatest Commandment
- ~Sunday, February 6th @ 10:45 a.m. - All-Church Retreat (Leadership Training)
- ~Sunday, February 13th @ 11:30 a.m. - Youth Game Day
- ~Wednesday, February 16th @ 11:30 a.m. - Senior Luncheon
- ~Friday, February 25th @ 6 p.m. - Youth & Family Bowling



Pastor's Page - January/February 2022

*May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our ancestors;
may God never leave us nor forsake us. (1 Kings 8:57)*



Happy New Year! Franciscan brothers and sisters share that the reality of **Christ's birth, Emmanuel – God with us, is the assurance of God's love and Creation's redemption.** Even in the midst of the Covid pandemic, natural disasters, ongoing violence, and countless tragedies, the good news of Jesus' birth gives us eternal hope and joy. In Jesus, God said "yes" to us, even when we were stuck in our sin and rebellion. **In Jesus, we hear God's invitation to receive forgiveness, freedom, and new life.** I pray that you and your family will experience God's joy and peace this new year.

The new year is a time of renewal. We say goodbye to 2021 and turn a new page. While the upcoming year will have its challenges and setbacks, it will also be a time of renewed hope, exciting milestones, and unexpected blessings. **In 2022, Minooka UMC will enter into Phase 2 of our construction project.** We will take new steps of faith. We will experience God's faithfulness anew. As the prophet Isaiah writes, we will *"soar on wings like eagles... run and not grow weary... walk and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31).

I want to express my gratitude to the faithful ministry partners of MUMC. With your help, Advent and Christmas were seasons of blessing and hope for members of our congregation and the wider community. Of course, this was not only true for the past month. MUMC has (and continues to be) a church that worships God and serves our neighbors. Thank you all for your support and faithfulness throughout 2021. On **January 15th and 16th**, we will **commission the 2022 MUMC Leadership.** On **February 6**, we will gather for our **All Church Retreat** (10:45 AM – 1:15 PM) to share our dreams for the upcoming year.

Let me highlight two requests as we start the new year. First, I invite us to **embrace unity over division.** Let's embrace facts over rumors. With the ongoing Covid pandemic and looming possibility of denominational schism at the 2022 General Conference, there will be many rumors and gossip. I encourage us to be grounded in facts, not rumors. Let's focus our energy on building up the body of Christ, not tearing it down. In January, we will hear several **Capital Campaign speeches** from our Building and Trustee Committee. They will offer clear, actionable steps we can all take to embrace God's preferred future for MUMC's future.

Second, let's work hard to ensure a **safe ministry environment for children and teenagers.** The ongoing Boy Scout bankruptcy case is a wake-up call for all of us. We need to ensure child safety is a top priority for our ministry. Therefore, in 2022, we will be more diligent in conducting background checks for all volunteers. We will do all we can to follow safety protocols in our ministries with children and youth.

Speaking of safety and wholeness, I hope you'll join us for our **January sermon series, "New Start: Health."** **In this 5-week sermon series,** we will learn how we can grow healthier physically, relationally, mentally, spiritually, and financially. Let's make the new year an opportunity for a new start. I hope you will invite family and friends to this practical and powerful series.

Pastor Sarah

Minooka United Methodist Church

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

Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church

Saturday Worship

3:00 p.m.
Blended Worship Service

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m.
Online & In-person
Blended Worship Service

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Office Manager

Katie Wojcieszak

Church Phone: 815-467-2322

Church e-mail:

admin@minookaumc.com

Pastor Sarah Hong

815-212-5166

pastor@minookaumc.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Music Director

Jill Kohler

jlager97@gmail.com

Youth Directors Will and Jill Kohler

jlager97@gmail.com



PASTORAL CARE
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.



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a healthy and blessed Christmas. Our families appreciated the Christmas baskets and gifts. They would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and gifts. Your gifts put smiles and joy into the children's lives, gave the parents the gift of seeing their children smiling on Christmas morning and a happy day in a challenging year.

Now that the New Year has arrived, we should follow the tradition of reflecting on the past year and consider our goals for the coming year. There were challenges this year, but the operation of the pantry was easier. The clients were able to come into the pantry and pick their items; we had the continued generosity of the community, and we had the necessary volunteer support. The pantry was and is in a healthy state. With the November and December donations, the pantry has full shelves. The community support and the future is bright.

We would like to thank our supporters:

YOU, St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's CCW, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Minooka Intermediate School, Channahon Methodist Church, Minooka Women's Club, St. Nicholas Club, and Daybreak and all the individual donations. Without this support, we could not exist and continue serving the community.

COVID continues to be our main challenge. Several of our families had to deal with COVID and the death of family members. It was another sad year for some. But I hope the pantry was there to lend support in some meaningful way. We were there to listen, provide some socialization, and I hope to give some spiritual support and the realization that people care about them. This will continue to be our #1 purpose and goal. We will continue to send the message that we are a community that cares and as the saying goes, "We are all in this together." Our goal is to make the world kinder and a little bit better.

Thank you to all; Happy New Year; and let's make this the BEST year!

The Pantry Team

"Expect the Unexpected"

As we enter into a New Year 2022, sometimes we can plan for opportunities to serve others, but sometimes situations change unexpectedly. Your plans fall apart, and you begin to look for God's plan in the midst of changing circumstances. That is when it gets exciting. All of a sudden you realize it isn't about you and your plans, but about God and what He is up to. Life takes on a fresh expectancy as God begins to reveal His Plan. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19)

How did Jesus do it, dealing with fallen people every day, training slow-learning disciples (like you and me)? Combatting leaders who were set in their ways, and wrestling against spiritual oppositions? How did He manage to reflect the truth, grace, love, and compassion of God through His life in spite of the obstacles in front of Him? When we get discouraged, we can always look to Him and His example. "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." (Hebrews 12:3) God has a way of changing things up just when we are getting used to the old way of doing things.

New Year Blessings,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant

Saturday 3:00 p.m.
Blended Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m.
**Online & In-person
Blended Worship**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School Pre-K through 5th Grade

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
1/16	Jesus Is Baptized	2/6	Jesus Heals
1/23	Jesus Chooses	2/13	Jesus Calls the Fisherman
1/30	Jesus Brings Good News	2/20	Jesus Calls Levi
		2/27	Go Two by Two



YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar



- Sunday, January 16th
11:30 a.m. - Craft Day
- Friday, January 28th
6-8 p.m. Youth New Year's Bash and Night Out for Parents
- Sunday, February 13th
11:30 a.m. - Game Day
- Friday, February 25th
6 p.m. Family Bowling Night
More details to follow.

Parent volunteers are needed for all youth events. A sign up sheet is located outside the Youth Director office.

If you can help or need more information contact Will or Jill Kohler.

**Meet in the basement of the church except for bowling.*

Confirmation



- January & February Class Schedule
- ~Sunday, January 16th @ 10:45 a.m. (Zoom)
Let Us Pray - Talking & Listening
 - ~Sunday, January 23rd @ 10:45 a.m. (In-person)
The Bible 1 & 2
 - ~Sunday, February 6th @ 10:45 a.m.
All-Church Retreat
 - ~Sunday, February 20th - Chicago Temple UMC Online Worship
 - ~Sunday, February 28th @ 10:45 a.m. (In-person)
I Believe In God, the Creator & Who Is God We Worship

Please pray for our Confirmands: Isabel, Keira, Kyla, & Preston

**Free Senior Luncheon
February 16th @ 11:30 a.m.**

“Forever Young”

We will hold a free lunch in the Minooka UMC annex (located directly behind the church) for ages 55 and better on the third Wednesday of the month! Invite friends and neighbors (55 years and older). **Please make your reservation by calling the office at 815-467-2322 no later than February 13th.**



Mark your calendar!

The 2022 All-Church Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, February 6th from 10:45 am-1:15 pm. We will meet in the annex and lunch will be provided. Everyone is invited. The details of the retreat will be shared later.

**LEADERSHIP
TRAINING**



**Saturday &
Sunday
Fellowship**

Minooka UMC leadership would like to have weekly Fellowship after both worship services. Could you sign up for one Sunday? You can provide your own choice of treats OR you can simply pick up donuts and get reimbursed.

Sign-up on the clip board in Fellowship Hall.

Contact Karen Gaba or the church office if you have any question.

Sermons



January and February Sermons

- *January 15th & 16th ~ New Start 3: Financial Health (1 Timothy 6: 3-10)
- *January 22nd & 23rd ~New Start 4: Physical Health (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)
- *January 29th & 30th ~ New Start 5: Emotional Health (Jobs 2:11-13 & Romans 12:15-16)
- *February 5th & 6th ~ New Start 6: Mental Health (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 , Philippian 4:6-8)
- *February 12th & 13th - Greatest Commandment 1: What is in Your Bucket? (John 17:20-23)
- *February 19th & 20th - Greatest Commandment 2: Love Generously (Matthew 16:13-20)
- *February 26th & 27th - Greatest Commandment 3: Become People of Love (Matthew 6:1-4)

Outreach Committee News




We would like to thank everyone who provided gifts for the Angel Tree this year. With your generosity all 40 gift tags and 35 gas/grocery gift cards were filled. We are consistently impressed with the way our members come together to extend love to our community.





How would you feel if you knew that people were praying for you, your concerns, or your family on a regular basis? Pretty comforting right! Come join us every Wednesday at 4 p.m. for approximately an hour. We come together based on the scripture in Matthew 18:18-20. ¹⁸“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them.” Prayer is powerful! We pray for each other, stand in agreement with each other, and we know our prayers are heard. If you can’t make it in person, you can text Pastor Sarah or Karen Gaba and we will pray for your needs/concerns. Prayers get answers!
We hope to see you and pray for you.

SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE January

6 Gus DeGuzman 11 Patty McGehee 12 Ruth Pesack 13 Brad Gossen 14 Jan Stadt 16 Phyllis Underhill 17 Ruth Satorius	20 Wade Clausing 20 John Randich 22 Eli White 23 Dwane Brockman 24 Julie Craig 24 Dean Geyer	 3 Dale & Carol Lockwood 25 Paul & Katie Wojcieszak 27 Ric & Melody Coop 28 Paul & Beth Froidcoeur
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January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion 5:00 p.m. Worship 
2 Communion 9:30 a.m. Worship	3 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	4 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	5 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	6 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	7	8 9:00 a.m. Food Pantry 5:00 p.m. Worship
9 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Dehanging of the Greens	10 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 6:00 p.m. Worship Mtg.	11 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	12 9:45 a.m. Food Pantry 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	13 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. SPRC	14	15 Leadership Commissioning 1:30 p.m. Youth Council Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Worship
16 Leadership Commissioning 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Confirmation (Zoom) 11:30 a.m. Youth Craft Day	17 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 	18 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Finance Mtg.	19 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	20 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 7:00 p.m. Trustee Mtg.	21	22 3:00 p.m. Worship
23 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Confirmation (In-person)	24 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Book Study	25 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Church Council	26 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	27 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	28 6:00 p.m. Youth New Year's Bash (Parent Night Out)	29 8:00 a.m. Lords Ladies Prayer Breakfast 3:00 p.m. Worship
30 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	31 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting					

SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE February



12 Claude & Karen Crawshaw
23 Danny & Martha Ann Harvey

2	Brad Gunderson	13	Kaytlyn Harvey
2	Ethan Klug	15	Karen Hinds
2	Joshua Yenser	18	Kathy Joerger
3	Carol Lockwood	19	Rodney Hiser
5	James Kloiber	20	Ethan Klug
6	Bob Reszel	20	Helen Miller
7	Judy Clusen	20	Alan Spencer
7	Avianna Giacomi	23	Andrea Miller
7	Shari Millard	23	Trinity Staley
8	Margaret Lyons	23	Bob White
9	Anna Geyer	26	John Larabee
9	William Kohler	27	Marlin Hartman
9	Angela Van Winkle	27	Mindy Closen
10	Jay Giacomi	27	Laura Wagner
11	Cindy Gossen	28	Ross Gunderson
11	Connie Morris	29	Kim Coffman
13	Michael Beitler		



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	2 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	3 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	4	5 3:00 p.m. Worship
6 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. All-Church Retreat	7 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 	8 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 10:00 a.m. Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	9 9:45 a.m. Food Pantry 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	10 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	11	12 9:00 a.m. Food Pantry 3:00 p.m. Worship
13 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Youth Game Day	14 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 	15 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Finance Mtg.	16 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	17 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	18	19 3:00 p.m. Worship
20 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	21 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	22 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Church Council	23 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	24 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	25 6:00 p.m. Youth & Family Bowling	26 8:00 a.m. Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast 3:00 p.m. Worship
27 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Confirmation (In-person)	28 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Book Group					

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God of the ages, you have blessed us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

RIDGE ROAD PROGRESS



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Financial Resource Committee would like to end 2021 with a huge thank you to everyone for your ongoing generosity. 2021 has been a challenging year for everyone. With your generous giving, we have been able to continue supporting the important missions MUMC is known for. Thank you again and we are looking forward to a good year in 2022!

~Shari Millard (Finance Committee Chair)

Don't forget to use My E-offering to donate on-line or set up recurring giving! Go to www.minookaumc.com and click on the red "Give" button on the top of the webpage.



myEoffering

Electronic Giving Made Simple & Cost Effective
A CHURCH BUDGET COMPANY



Give

GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

January & February SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

January 15th

LAY READER Karen Gaba

January 16th

LAY READER Kim Nave
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

January 22nd

LAY READER Mari Kirsch

January 23rd

LAY READER Marlin Hartman
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

January 29th

LAY READER Chris Vause

January 30th

LAY READER Kim Nave
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

February 5th Communion

LAY READER Volunteer Needed

February 6th Communion

LAY READER Val Gunderson
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

February 12th

LAY READER Volunteer Needed

February 13th

LAY READER Marlin Hartman
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

February 19th

LAY READER Volunteer Needed

February 20th

LAY READER Kim Nave
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

February 26th

LAY READER Volunteer Needed

February 27th

LAY READER Shari Millard
 USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed
 MEDIA Volunteer Needed FB Volunteer Needed

	Bible Study	Every Sunday @ 8:00 a.m.
	Book Group - Stay tuned for our January book selection.	No December Meeting
	Faith Talk <i>CANCELED</i> due to lack of attendance. Contact Cindy White with questions.	
	Prayer Partners - prayer meeting <i>Meet in the sanctuary.</i>	Every Wednesday @ 4 PM
	UMW Circle <i>Meet in Fellowship Hall</i>	No February Meeting

Men's and Women's Prayer Breakfasts

The Lord's Ladies and Men's Prayer Breakfasts will not gather in February. Stay tuned to the Mustard Seed and Happenings for the March meeting information.



February 5th & 6th

Communion & Red T-Shirt Weekend

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Meet us for "I see with my little eyes" (image Bible study) on Sunday morning at 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with Kim Nave. The January themes are based on the things we give up for our are new year resolutions.

Come dressed as you are. We would love for you to join us!



You can visit our website at minookaumc.com to find the monthly calendar. The Mustard Seed, Happenings, and bulletins can be found under our Resources on the website as well.

March 2022 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, February 14th**

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.



from the Church Office



Senior Exercise

These classes are free to attend and registration is not required. Classes are held at: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the annex.

Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:

Officer Tyler B.
 (Val Gunderson)
 Beulah Carmichael
 (Gus D.)
 Cash
 (Mari Kirsch)
 Cindy
 (Mary Ray)
 Jo Coop
 Dave
 (Marguerite Stelling)
 Doug
 (Madeline Reed)
 Jessamyn Ehteshami-Afshar
 Ellis & Bill
 (Johanna Spencer)
 Marion Geyer
 (Dean Geyer)
 Greg
 (Karen Larson)
 Marth Ann Harvey
 Tianna Juley
 Jim Kloiber
 (Connie Kloiber)
 Mark
 (Ruth Casagrande)

Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:

May
 (Mindy Closen)
 Michael
 (Adrienne Hartman)
 Michael's Family
 (Bonnie Davy)
 Nina
 (George & Pam Coley)
 Terry & Amy Pease
 Ray
 (Marguerite Stelling)
 Renee R.
 (Tammie Patterson)
 Ruth Satorius
 Susan
 (Mary Ray)
 Ed Thompson
 Julie Thompson
 Trudi
 (Vicki Allen)
 Yoshie & Her Twins
 (Marguerite Stelling)

All Military - Church Family

Troy Herath
 Charles Loverude
 Dutch Nave
 Bret Nemitz
 Duane Schmitke
 Ethan Staley

***Please let the office know when name(s) can be taken off the list.**

Minooka United Methodist Church

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815-467-2322

Www.minookaumc.com

Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church