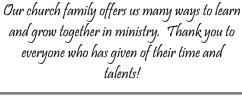


Volume 53 Issue 1/2

January/February 2022 MUSTARD SEED

The Joy Is In The Giving

And Being Together!







Senior Luncheon



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

ilager97@gmail.com

Youth Directors Will and Jill Kohler

ilager97@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 3:00 p.m. **Blended Worship**

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





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 slowlearning 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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



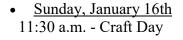
Sunday School Pre-K through 5th Grade

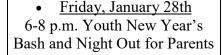
<u>Date</u>	Lesson	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
1/16	Jesus Is Baptized	2/6	Jesus Heals
1/23	Jesus Chooses	2/13	Jesus Calls the Fisherman
1/30	Jesus Brings Good News	2/20	Jesus Calls Levi
		2/27	Go Two by Two



YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar





- Sunday, 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.





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.



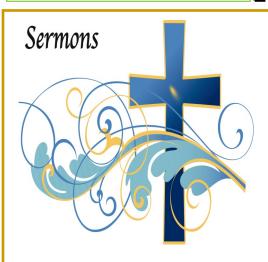


Saturday & Sunday Fellowship

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.

<u>Sign-up on the clip board in Fellow-</u> ship Hall.

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



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. *I8 "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. *I9 Again, 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. *I6 For 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 11 12 13 14 16 17	Gus DeGuzman Patty McGehee Ruth Pesack Brad Gossen Jan Stadt Phyllis Underhill Ruth Satorius	2 2 2 2	20 20 22 23 24 24	Wade Clausing John Randich Eli White Dwane Brockman Julie Craig Dean Geyer	3 25 27 28	Dale & Carol Lockwood Paul & Katie Wojcieszak Ric & Melody Coop Paul & Beth Froidcoeur
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January 2022

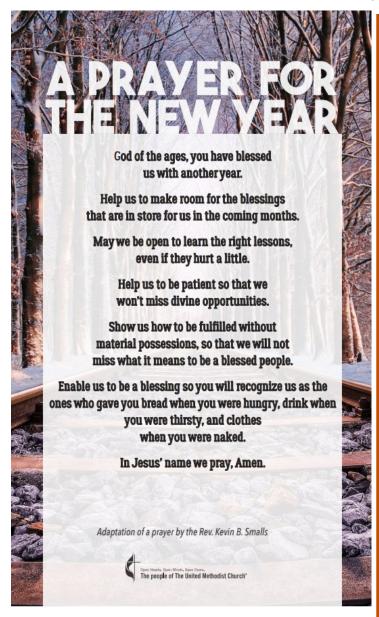
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion 5:00 p.m. Worship Happy New Year
2 Communion 9:30 a.m. Worship	3 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting	4 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	5 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	6 8:15 a.m. Sr Exercise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exercise	7	8 9:00 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	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. Confirma- tion (Zoom) 11:30 a.m. Youth Craft Day	17 6:00 p.m. AA Meeting Martin Luther King Jr. Day	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	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. Confirma- tion (In-person)	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	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

2 2 2 3 5 6 7 7 7 8 9 9 9	Brad Gunderson Ethan Klug Joshua Yenser Carol Lockwood James Kloiber Bob Reszel Judy Clusen Avianna Giacomi Shari Millard Margaret Lyons Anna Geyer William Kohler Angela Van Winkle Jay Giacomi Cindy Gossen Grania Margin	27 27 27 27 28	Kaytlyn Harvey Karen Hinds Kathy Joerger Rodney Hiser Ethan Klug Helen Miller Alan Spencer Andrea Miller Trinity Staley Bob White John Larabee Marlin Hartman Mindy Closen Laura Wagner Ross Gunderson	12 Claude & Karen Crawshaw 23 Danny & Martha Ann Harvey
	2		C	

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 Exer- cise 9:30 a.m. Sr. Exer- cise	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	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
8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	21 6:00 p.m. AA Meet- ing	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. Confir- mation (In-person)	28 6:00 p.m. AA Meet- ing 7:00 p.m. Book Group					



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.





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 Volunteer Needed February 5th Communion LAY READER Volunteer Needed February 6th Communion LAY READER Val Gunderson USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed MEDIA Volunteer Needed 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 FΒ Volunteer Needed

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.

GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

CHOCK OF CALLED A DOOK OF COT							
Bible Study	Bible Study	Every Sunday @ 8:00 a.m.					
BOOK- CLUB	Book Group - Stay tuned for our January book selection.	No December Meeting					
faith TALK	Faithtalk CANCELED due to lack of attendance. Contact Cindy White with questions.						
Proyer Partier	Prayer Partners - prayer meeting Meet in the sanctuary.	Every Wednesday @ 4 PM					
WOMEN WOMEN	UMW Circle Meet in Fellowship Hall	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.







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!



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 & Hér 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 205 West Church Street Minooka, IL 60447 815-467-2322

Www.minookaumc.com Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church