



Volume 53
Issue 4

*The Joy Is In The Giving
And Being Together!*

April 2022 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!



Senior Luncheon



Sunday Worship



VBS Planning



Friday Fish Fry

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~Sunday, April 3rd @ 10:30 a.m. - ASP Information Meeting
- ~Sunday, April 3rd @ 10:40 a.m. - New Member's Class
- ~Monday, April 4th @ 1 p.m. - UMW Circle
- ~Saturday, April 9th @ 7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast
- ~Sunday, April 10th @ 9:30 a.m. - New Member's Welcome Ceremony
- ~Thursday, April 14th from 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Open House
- ~Friday, April 15th @ 10 a.m. - Good Friday Cross Walk (Lions Park)
- ~Friday, April 15th @ 7 p.m. - Good Friday Worship
- ~Saturday, April 30th @ 8 a.m. - Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast





Pastor's Page - April 2022

“(Jesus said to His disciples) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one’s life for one’s friend.” – John 15:12-13



Theologian Stanley Hauerwas once said, *“Our life beyond death is hope made possible not by some general sentimental belief in life after death but our participation in the life of Christ.”* Lent is a season for Christians to reflect on our mortality, afterlife, and eternity. The Church is called to answer these questions about our hope in Jesus Christ who suffered, died, and rose from the grave. I pray that all of us find ways to engage with the story of God’s love in Jesus Christ during the blessed season.

In the middle of February, Caleb and I attended a clergy conference in New York focusing on the spiritual revival. Due to the political conflicts in our denomination, I did not have high expectations for this conference. However, God had something else in mind. From our first worship gathering, I was touched by the Holy Spirit. The speakers reminded us of John Wesley’s spiritual roots and the Methodist emphasis on spiritual awakening. They challenged us to reclaim our spiritual identity and fire. During this conference, I repented of my sin – my unwillingness to engage with the whispers of the Holy Spirit. I was convicted by the words of John Wesley, *“Perhaps the reason the working of the Holy Spirit ceased to be found might be because of the hardness of our hearts, unready to receive anything unless we see it with our eyes and hear it with our ears.”* (**The Journal of John Wesley Vol. 8 – 2:201-204**). This conference was a powerful time of prayer and worship. I am grateful for God’s invitation to be renewed and refreshed before the Lenten season.

Praise God for our Lenten Bible studies. We have six groups for learning and discussion around Adam Hamilton’s curriculum, *24 Hours that Changed the World*. The lessons are thought-provoking and the discussions are spirited. Thank you to our Small Group leaders and all of our participants.

Friday afternoons during Lent have been busy at MUMC. With the pandemic declining, we are able to serve our neighbors through our Annual Fish Fry. While we are feeding hungry stomachs, we hope to connect with neighbors and nourish hungry souls. Thank you to all of our cooks and servers, greeters, and cashiers. Let’s seek to bless every person we meet with the love of Jesus Christ.

Let’s pray for the sale of our current building. After a slow winter, there have been multiple showings over the last few weeks. Let’s pray for the right buyers to make an offer on our current building. Let’s pray that this space would continue to serve as a house of worship where people can encounter the power of Christ’s love and resurrection.

I also pray that your Lenten journey would be filled with testimonies, a-ha moments, and unexpected encounters with the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is offering wisdom and guidance. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is offering comfort and healing. As we approach Holy Week (starting April 11,) may our hearts be soft and tuned in to the heart of God.

Friends, Easter is coming soon! There is much to do before this celebration. There will be times of joy and celebration. There will be times for tears and heartache. In the midst of it all, may we rededicate ourselves to loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May we recommit ourselves to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

God bless you,
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

5:00 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



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.



As we look forward to Spring, the Pantry is in a good position to support our families. Our shelves are full for now. But commercial donations have been fewer, so we may have to ask for donations more often and begin to buy meat again. We have had our meat donated for the past year and a half. Our inventory is about depleted, so, we will need to buy meat if we want to continue giving a meat product. We do have the financial support at this time, but with inflation, we will spend more this year. We will closely monitor our needs and make decisions based on our future resources.

It is hard to predict the future and our needs. Will inflation increase our need for support to more of our community families? Obviously, we hope not, but we want to be prepared for an increase. Let's pray that things improve, so our families can remain or become independent of our support.

Finally, some of our families and team members have some health issues. They can use our prayers.

If you wish to donate, we are running low on the following items: canned pears and pineapple, mayonnaise, Ranch dressing, ketchup, pepper, apple juice, coffee, dish soap, and drinks (powder or liquids).

Thank you,
Jean Jun

"Put Your Hope In God"

In this Easter Season, my thoughts turn toward hope. What keeps us going when life gets difficult? Where do we look to renew our hope when things seem hopeless? God is our only secure hope. He doesn't change like the circumstances; He remains faithful and sure. Confidence grounded in anything other than Him is misplaced. When challenging days come, when the future is cloudy, look to God. He alone is worthy of your confidence and hope.

God will faithfully lead You and renew Your vision and hope as You look to Him. "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." (Psalm 42:11) Christ died on the cross to forgive us of our sins. Fix your eyes on your Lord and Savior. He holds the future securely in His hands, and He invites us to follow Him into the future He is creating. Praise the Lord!

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Blended Worship

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School Pre-K through 5th Grade

Date	Lesson
4/3	Jesus Enters Jerusalem
4/10	Jesus Lives
4/17	Easter- no class
4/24	The Road to Emmaus

Save the date!

May 22nd : Last day of Sunday School classes & teacher appreciation.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS



* Fish Fry - 4/1, & 4/8

Volunteers are needed and appreciated for any amount of time you are available between 4 and 7 p.m.

*Sunday, April 3rd @ 10:30 a.m. - ASP Informational Meeting

*Saturday, April 9th @ 10:00 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt (Church Lawn)

*Sunday, April 24th @ 11:30 a.m. - ASP Prep & Basic Tool Skills

Parent volunteers are needed for all youth events. If you can help or need more information contact Will or Jill Kohler.

Confirmation



April Class Schedule

~Sunday, April 3rd @ 1 p.m. (Zoom)-

Lessons: I Choose to Follow Jesus & The Vows of Confirmation

~Sunday, April 10th @ 10:45 a.m. (In-person) -

Skit Practice and Prep for Confirmation Sunday

~Thursday, April 14th from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Open House

~Friday, April 15th @ 10 a.m. - Good Friday Cross Walk

~Friday, April 15th @ 7 p.m. - Good Friday Worship

~Sunday, April 24th @ 10:45 a.m. (In-person) - Skit Practice & Interviews

~Saturday, April 30th @ 6:30 p.m. - Confirmation Ceremony Rehearsal

~May 1st @ 9:30 a.m. - Confirmation Ceremony



Please pray for our Confirmands and their sponsors.

Preston Klug

Alex Nolan

Kyla Kohler

Kim Nave

Isabel Sanchez-Lyons

Chris Vause

Kiera Wences

Madeline Reed

Community News

Free Senior Luncheon April 20th @ Noon

“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 April 17th.**



Friday Fish Fry Dates

April 1 & 8 from 4-7 p.m.

Carry-out only. Visit our Facebook page for the full menu and pricing.

Volunteers needed.

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



EASTER EGG *Hunt*

Donations of candy are being accepted for our Easter egg Hunt! A collecting bin is located in the narthex.

Save the Date!

The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th @ 10 a.m. on the Church Lawn.



Good Friday

Ecumenical Cross Walk April 15th @ 10AM

Join us and members of our community as we all walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

The walk will take place at Lions Park located at 8875 McEvilly Rd., Minooka, IL 60447.



Save the Date!

Join us for our spring play titled “Hold on, don’t let go.” on Saturday, April 23rd during the 5 pm service. A love offering will be collected for Ridge Rd.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday
Open House

April 14th: 10:00 am -7:00 pm

Good Friday Cross Walk
April 15th @ 10:00 am
(Lions Park)


Good Friday Service
April 15th @ 7:00 pm


Easter Saturday Service
April 16th @ 5:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
April 17th @ 6:30 am
(Sanctuary)



Easter Sunday Service
April 17th @ 9:30 am

SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE April

1	Collin McComas	16	Alex Nolan	
1	Jack McComas	17	Ruth Hanna	
2	Ruth Casagrande	17	Levi Nischke	
2	Don Casagrande	17	Ethan Staley	
3	Hailey Allgaeuer	18	Cyndi Campbell	
3	Valerie Gunderson	19	Donna Sabo	
6	Abigail Hong	22	Lauren Bivens	
8	LaVerne Spencer	23	Julie Geyer	
10	Christy Hiser	25	Rae Cichon	
10	Seth Satorius	25	Piper Gunderson	
11	Owen Ratulowski	25	Eli Bivens	
13	Matthew McComas	25	Brendon McGrath	
15	Bob Stelling	28	Westin Dailey	



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 4-7 PM Fish Fry (Carry-out) 	2 Communion 3:45 PM Lenten Bible Study 5:00 PM Worship
3 Communion 8:00 AM Lent Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM ASP Info. Mtg. 10:40 AM New Member's Class 1:00 PM Confirmation (Zoom)	4 1:00 PM UMW Circle 5:30 PM Lenten Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 PM AA Meeting	5 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 12:00 PM Lent Bible Study 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	6 10:00 AM Mid Week Devotion 5:00 PM Prayer Partners 6:30 AM Lenten Bible Study	7 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	8 4-7 PM Fish Fry (Carry-out) 	9 Palm Saturday 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Food Pantry 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 3:45 PM Lenten Bible Study 5:00 PM Worship
10 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Lent Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship & New Member's Ceremony 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation (In-person)	11 5:30 PM Lenten Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 PM AA Meeting	12 10:00 AM Food Pantry 10:30 AM Lenten Bible Study 12:00 PM Lent Bible Study 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	13 9:00 AM Food Pantry 10:00 AM Mid Week Devotion 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners 6:30 AM Lenten Bible Study	14 Maundy Thursday 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 10 AM - 7 PM Maundy Thursday Open House	15 Good Friday 10:00 AM Ecumenical Cross Walk 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	16 Easter & Communion 5:00 PM Worship
17 Easter & Communion 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 9:30 AM Worship	18 6:00 PM AA Meeting	19 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Finance	20 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	21 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	22	23 5:00 PM Worship & Spring Play
24 8:00 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Confirmation (In-person) 11:30 AM ASP Prep & Basic Tool Skills	25 6:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Book Group	26 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Church Council	27 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	28 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	29	30 8:00 AM LLPB 5:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal



Easter Flowers

Honor or remember a loved one by donating a flower to the sanctuary this Easter.

Order forms can be found in the pews. Please place your order by April 3rd.

HELLO

NEW MEMBERS

New Members' Class

We will hold a New Member's class on Sunday, **April 3rd at 10:40 a.m.** Anyone interested in becoming a member of MUMC is invited. Join us downstairs in the Senior High Sunday School room. The class will cover the United Methodist history, theology and local church's story.

There will be a reception to welcome our new members into the church on April 10th during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Contact Karen Crawshaw with your interest.



LAVA LAVA LUAAU

Save the date!

VBS 2022

August 1st-5th

Controlling Our Emotions

Join us for our all new 5-day VBS from 6-8 p.m. each night. Contact Ashley Grygienc if you can volunteer.



Graduation Sunday

If you have a child or grandchild that graduated in December or will graduate in May from High School, College or Graduate School we would like to acknowledge their accomplishment during services the weekend of May 14th & 15th.

If you would like your graduate to be included please provide the office with a photo, his/her name, degree, school attended, and short bio including future plans by May 9th.

Congratulations
★ on your ★
GRADUATION



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Report March 2022

As we move forward in the post pandemic era our church is doing ok financially. We are paying our bills and moving forward with construction of our new church on Ridge Road. We would like to thank those who gave towards the Ukraine crisis on March 13th and 20th. We would also like to thank all those who have worked or eaten at the Church Fish Fries. This Fish Fry is our main fundraiser for the year. One last thank you for those who have turned in their Pledge Cards. It is an exciting time as move back to normal and moving to closer to an address on Ridge Road.

Godspeed,

Finance Committee

Outreach Committee News



The Outreach committee is looking for volunteers to stuff eggs for the Easter egg hunt.

Eggs will be stuffed on Wednesday, April 6th at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Please let Karen Gaba know if you can help!

Outreach also needs egg droppers on Saturday, April 9th at 9 a.m. Come join us and “drop” eggs on the church lawn for the Easter egg hunt!



ASP Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT®

The Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry that has deployed over 400,000 volunteers on mission trips throughout Appalachia, repairing more than 18,000 homes along the way. From ramps and roofs to painting and flooring, ASP completes a variety of home repair and new home construction projects. ASP serves in 25 counties throughout KY, NC, TN, VA, and WV.

Top Ten Reasons NOT to Go on Mission Trips:

- I will miss time with my friends
- I will miss my baseball/soccer game
- Can't play video games
- Won't have internet
- It will be hot
- I will be somewhere I have never been
- I will meet people I don't know
- I won't have much privacy
- Food is not that great
- I HAVE TO WORK

The list goes on and on. There are many reasons not to go on Mission Trips. Only a FEW Reasons to go on a Mission Trip.

Reasons to go on a Mission Trip:

- People Need Help
- You are a Christian
- WWJD
- Might be Fun

The 2022 trip is scheduled for June 11-18th. An informational meeting will be held on April 3rd after the 9:30 am service or contact Marlin Hartman for registration or general information.



April SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

April 2nd	Communion & Red T-shirts	
LAY READER	Chris Vause	
April 3rd	Communion & Red T-shirts	
LAY READER	Val Gunderson	
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed	
MEDIA Volunteer Needed	FB	Volunteer Needed
April 9th		
LAY READER	Chris Vause	
April 10th		
LAY READER	Marlin Hartman	
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed	
MEDIA Volunteer Needed	FB	Volunteer Needed
April 16th	Communion	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba	
April 17th	Communion	
LAY READER	Kim Nave	
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed	
MEDIA Volunteer Needed	FB	Volunteer Needed
April 23rd		
LAY READER	Pear Lindley	
April 24th		
LAY READER	Shari Millard	
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed	
MEDIA Volunteer Needed	FB	Volunteer Needed
April 30th		
LAY READER	Karen Gaba	

April 2nd & 3rd

Communion & Red T-Shirt Weekend



Coffee Fellowship

Saturday & Sunday Fellowship

Minooka UMC leadership would like to hold Fellowship after both worship services on the weekend.

Could you provide refreshments either Saturday or Sunday?

Sign up on the clip board in Fellowship Hall.

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



Give

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.

May 2022 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, April 18th**

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.



Message

from the Church Office

GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

Bible Study	Bible Study	Every Sunday @ 8:00 a.m.
BOOK CLUB	Book Group - The book selection for April is "The Day the World Came to Town" by Jim DeFede	Monday 4/25 @ 7 p.m.
Faith TALK	Faithtalk (Women's Bible Study) <i>Meet in Fellowship Hall</i>	Tuesday @ Noon
Prayer Partners	Prayer Partners - prayer meeting <i>Meet in the sanctuary.</i>	Every Wednesday @ 5 PM
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN	UMW Circle <i>Meet in Fellowship Hall</i>	4/4 @ 1 p.m.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

April 9th @ 7:30 a.m.

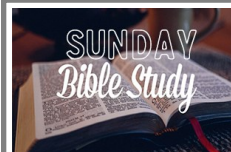
Please join the men of this congregation for breakfast and prayer. All men are welcome.



Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast

The next breakfast will be **Saturday, April 30th** 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.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Meet us at 8 a.m.

April Themes

4/3 - The Torture and Humiliation of the King
4/10 - The Crucifixion
4/17 - Easter - No Meeting
4/24 - TBA



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:

Don Akerberg
 Vicki Allen
 Baby Alex
 (Vicky Napierkowski)
 Baby Rocco
 (Adrienne Hartman)
 Ed B.
 (Joann Malic)
 Officer Tyler B.
 (Val Gunderson)
 Beulah Carmichael
 (Gus D.)
 Caroline
 (Lauren Bivens)
 Cash
 (Mari Kirsch)
 Paul Clusen
 Jo Coop
 Bonnie Davy
 Shirley Deary
 Doug
 (Madeline Reed)

Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:

Marion Geyer
 Greg
 (Karen Larson)
 Martha Ann Harvey
 Tianna Juley
 Jim Kloiber
 (Connie Kloiber)
 Larry & Karen Larson
 Mark
 (Ruth Casagrande)
 May
 (Mindy Closen)
 Kim Nave & Joan Yunker
 Terry & Amy Pease
 Renee R.
 (Tammie Patterson)
 Sylvia & Joy C.
 Julie Thompson
 Wren
 (Leslie W.)
 Ellis Wright

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.**



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.

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.

Minooka United Methodist Church

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