



Volume 53  
Issue 5

# May 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!*



*Egg Stuffing*



*Friday Fish Fry*



*Easter Egg Hunt*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~Saturday, April 30th @ 8 a.m. - Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast
- ~Sunday, May 1st @ 9:30 a.m. - Confirmation Sunday
- ~Sunday, May 1st @ 11:30 a.m. - Youth Group Mother's Day Cards & Gifts
- ~Monday, May 2nd @ 1 p.m. - UMW Circle
- ~May 7th & 8th - Mother's Day Weekend
- ~Saturday, May 14th @ 7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast
- ~May 14th & 15th - Graduation Recognition Weekend
- ~Sunday, May 15th @ 11:30 a.m. - ASP Prep & Basic Skills
- ~Saturday, May 28th @ 8:00 a.m. - Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast
- ~Sunday, May 29th @ 11:30 a.m. - ASP Prep & Basic Skills





## Pastor's Page - May 2022

*<sup>57</sup> Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.  
(1 Corinthians 15:57-58)*



When Lewis and Clark reached the Continental Divide, they expected to find a river that would allow them to paddle easily to the Pacific Ocean. What they saw instead were the Rocky Mountains – an unexpected series of challenges that pushed the boundaries of their strength and endurance. Minooka UMC has faced similar challenges for the last 40 months. When MUMC Church Conference approved the listing of our current property with a realtor (in November 2018), we expected to find a buyer within 6 months. Some people thought we should sell the current building before breaking ground on Ridge Rd. As we paddled together and broke ground on Ridge Rd. anyway, the “For Sale” sign changed hands 3 times with 3 different realtors. Then, we encountered the Covid-19 pandemic. For the last two years, we have been paddling through the Rocky Mountains.

In the midst of the challenges, we stood firm. We remained steadfast and focused on the work of the Lord before us. In May 2021, Minooka UMC took the bold step of faith and broke ground on Ridge Rd. This past month (April 2022,) we signed the sales contract with Apostolic International Church. In a matter of months, we will move to a temporary worship space while our new home continues to be built.

Journeying through the Rocky Mountains seemed impossible, but God has blessed each step as we stayed faithful. I am grateful for the vision and perseverance of our Trustees and MUMC leadership team. Special thanks to Jim Satorius and Claude (Karen) Crawshaw for finding all necessary documents and communicating with our lawyer, Tim Malmquist, and relators, Kristian Lee and Lauren Grigus.

We have a lot of work to do over the next 90 days. We need to find (or build) storage space. We need to pack (or discard) worship furniture and office equipment. We need to find a place to keep the pipe organ and confirm a transitional place for worship services. While there is much to be done, I am confident that God, who has led us through the years, will continue to guide and lead us forward.

Thank you for being a congregation that embraces God's vision and passion for reaching a new generation for Christ. Thank you for your faithful prayers and ongoing support of our journey. Let's continue to stand firm on the promises of God and know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. Let's continue to pursue God's vision for MUMC and the surrounding community.

Here are some additional words of thanksgiving.

Thank you to our Membership Committee & Shepherds for supporting our New Members, who were received into MUMC on April 3 & 10. Let's extend our warm welcome to Jeanette, Jeff, Sylvia, Marion, Leslie, and Jerry. Thank you to our Worship Committee, lay preachers (Kim, Chris and Pearl), Music Ministry Team (Accompanists, Special musicians, Choir members), Spring Play writer & producer, Gail, and all the other worship servants, who helped us lead services during Holy Week, Easter, and Bright Weekend (April 23-24). Praise God for the many gifts of our talented laity!

Friends, I remind us that the church is not a building, but the people. As the people of God, we have a bright future ahead.

On May 1, I hope you'll join us for Confirmation weekend as we celebrate the confirmation of 4 students. As we receive them into the Church, we'll hear their testimonies, hopes and dreams. We'll be reminded of how God used us to bless and nurture them in faith. We'll also be reminded that God has new generations of people (young and old) who God wants to reach in our community. No matter where we are located, let's be a bold and faithful community that faithfully follows the Lord. Let's be a bold and faithful community that pursues God's dreams for the future – no matter what setbacks and obstacles we face.

May is a beautiful month to celebrate life. Thank you for your prayers and support as we celebrate Confirmation, Mother's Day, Graduates, and a new stage of life together!

Christ is Risen!

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.



While Spring and Winter battle it out, the pantry continues to deliver services efficiently and consistently. In addition, we are keeping an eye on the rising prices, but donations are keeping our shelves full. Also, we have just made connections with two other pantries, so the future looks bright.

Speaking of the future, we are planning for it. With the prospect of the church selling, we need to find a new location. Nothing definite yet, but we are working with another partner.

During COVID, we had to change to keep the pantry open and the way we supported the community. Today, we are back to our preferred way of running the pantry. But to do this in the future, we also need to increase our volunteer team. During COVID, I planned and bought the items to be distributed. With one or two volunteers, we packed the the food, came up with an organizational plan for pick up and did the actual pickup. Currently, the families come in and pick up their food, but we are operating on a minimal number of volunteers. I am still doing the shopping for the milk, eggs and any other items we need. Five of us are running the pantry with the generous help of donations by the community. My volunteers have been facing their own issues while trying to keep their commitment to the pantry. They have done this for three years. I think it is time to help them. They will continue to serve, but I am asking for more volunteers to lessen the time and workload for each person. So, if you can help, give your name to Katie in the office and we will contact you. With your help, the pantry will just get better.

Finally, the Pantry team would like to wish all the mothers a "Happy Mother's Day". Thank you for your support and generosity.

Jean Jun and Virginia Guertin

### "Forgiveness"

Do you remember when Peter asked Jesus how many times He needed to forgive? It is a question that anyone who has been hurt can relate to. Jesus' answer made it clear that forgiveness is not an option for His followers, especially for those who want to follow in His footsteps as Christ-like servants. Forgiving others keeps our hearts humble, and allows God to use us.

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)

Jesus forgives us time and time again. We need the help of God to extend that same forgiveness and grace to those around us. We need to make forgiveness a way of life, so that we can remain pliable and useful. God never gives up on us, and we must not give up on others. "This is my command: Love each other." (John 15:17) Love for God naturally overflows into love for others, love that takes shape in our words and actions, our attitudes an relationships.

In Christ,

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
5/1	The Parables of Jesus
5/8	Thomas Believes
5/15	TBA
5/22	Last day of class and teacher appreciation.



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS



\*Sunday, May 1 @ 11:30 a.m. -  
Mother's Day Cards & Gifts

\*Sunday, May 15 @ 11:30 a.m. -  
ASP Prep & Basic Skills

\*Sunday, May 29th @ 11:30 a.m. -  
ASP Prep & Basic Skills

**ASP trip June 12-18**

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



*Please pray for our Confirmands and their sponsors.*

Preston Klug  
Kyla Kohler  
Isabel Sanchez-Lyons  
Kiera Wences

Alex Nolan  
Kim Nave  
Chris Vause  
Madeline Reed

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

*Help these young people mark an important  
step in their journey of faith by witnessing the  
Ritual of Confirmation on  
Sunday, May 1st @ 9:30 a.m.*





## Community News

### Free Senior Luncheon May 18 @ 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 May 15.**



### **Grief Support Group**

Starting June 1st, MUMC will offer 4 weeks of Grief Support at 6 pm on Wednesdays (June 1, 8, 15 & 22) in Fellowship Hall. Invite those who struggle with grief. Pearl Lindley and Chris Vause will be the co-leaders.



### **New date!**

**VBS 2022**

**Sunday, June 26th**

Join us for our all new VBS from 2-4 p.m. Contact Ashley Grygienc if you can volunteer.

## *Welcome new members!*



Sylvia Courtright



Jeffrey Harris



Marion Geyer



Gerald Morrow



Jeanette Harris



Leslie Wzorek



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Would you be willing to have your quarterly giving statements sent to you via email? If you prefer to continue to have the statement mailed to you, you do not need to do anything!

If you prefer the email method, choose one of these:

1. Return this to the church office with your name & email:

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

2. Use this link to electronically submit your email address

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMBC6V9>

Thank you! Gail Girard, Financial Secretary




### ***Graduation Recognition***

*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.***

## SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE May

6 Noah Hinds 8 Mia McCammon 9 Christine Yenser 10 Anita Reiss 11 Cole Spencer 12 Keane Brockman 12 Dale Nave 12 Jeff Spencer 14 Adrienne Hartman 15 Samuel McComas 16 Noah Kasmer 17 Zachary Beitler 17 Alan Miller 17 Ethan Noe	18 Jeanette Harris 18 Karen Larson 19 Tred Gunderson 20 Neva Morris 21 Jolyn Lamping 21 Zachary Volz 22 Marian Gaba 23 Larry Korelc 27 George Coley 28 Doug Lockwood 30 Kayli Jones 30 Jayme McGehee	 4 Jay & Karen Hinds 12 Johnny & Kim Allgaeuer 14 Glen & Sydney Yunker 18 John & Kim Nave 19 Pastor Sarah & Rev. Caleb Hong
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### May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Communion &amp; Red T-shirt</b> 9:30 AM Worship & Confirmation Ceremony 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Mother's Day Crafts	2 1 PM UMW Circle 6:00 PM AA Meeting	3 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	5 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	6	<b>7 Mother's Day Weekend</b> 5:00 PM Worship
<b>8 Mother's Day Weekend</b> 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 	9 6:00 PM AA Meeting	10 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 10:00 AM Food Pantry 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	11 9:00 AM Food Pantry 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners 6:00 PM Outreach Mtg.	12 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 6:30 PM SPRC	13	<b>14 Graduation Recognition</b> 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM Trustee Mtg. 9:00 AM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Worship
<b>15 Graduation Recognition</b> 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:30AM ASP Prep	16 6:00 PM AA Meeting	17 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	19 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	20	21 5:00 PM Worship
22 9:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Teacher Appreciation 5:00 PM Day-break 	23 6:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Book Group	24 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:00 PM Finance Mtg. 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Church Council	25 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	26 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise	27	28 8:00 AM LLPB 5:00 PM Worship
29 9:30 AM Worship 11:30AM ASP Prep	30 	31 8:15 AM Sr Exercise 9:30 AM Sr. Exercise 12:00 PM Faithtalk 6:30 PM Boy Scouts				

## GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

### May SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

<b>April 30th</b>	<b>Communion &amp; Red T-shirts</b>
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>May 1st Communion &amp; Red T-shirts</b>	
LAY READER	Confirmands
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>May 7th</b>	
LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>May 8th</b>	
LAY READER	Val Gunderson
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>May 14th</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>May 15th</b>	
LAY READER	Marlin Hartman
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>May 21st</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>May 22nd</b>	
LAY READER	Shari Millard
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>May 28th</b>	
LAY READER	Mari Kirsch
<b>May 29th</b>	
LAY READER	Kim Nave
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed

### April 30th & May 1st

#### 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](http://www.minookaumc.com) and click on the red "Give" button on the top of the webpage.



Give

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





June 2022 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, May 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](mailto:mumc2322@gmail.com).



Message

from the Church Office

	<b>Sunday Moring Bible Study</b>	See below
	<b>Book Group</b> - The book selection for May is <i>"I Will Always Write Back"</i> by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch, and Martin Ganda	Monday 5/23 @ 7 p.m.
	<b>Faithtalk (Family Bible library - Heroes of Long Ago)</b> <i>Meet in Fellowship Hall</i>	Tuesday @ Noon
	<b>Prayer Partners - prayer meeting</b> <i>Meet in the sanctuary.</i>	Every Wednesday @ 5 PM
	<b>UMW Circle</b> <i>Meet in Fellowship Hall</i>	5/2 @ 1 p.m.



#### Men's Prayer Breakfast

May 14th @ 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, May 28th 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**

Sunday Bible study will take a break and resume in the summer. Stay tuned for more details.



#### 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:**

Vicki Allen  
 Nancy Anderson  
 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  
 Rev. Gary Curl  
 (Alex Nolan)  
 Shirley Deary  
 Doug

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

(Madeline Reed)  
 Shane Giacomi  
 (Cyndi Campbell)  
 Martha Ann Harvey  
 Tianna Juley  
 Jim & Connie Kloiber  
 May  
 (Mindy Closen)  
 Kim Nave & Joan Yunker  
 Nancy  
 (Leslie Wzorek)  
 Joyce O'Brien  
 Amy Pease  
 Renee R.  
 (Tammie Patterson)  
 Bob Stelling  
 Sylvia & Joy C.  
 Julie Thompson  
 Marie Webb  
 Wren  
 (Leslie Wzorek)  
 Ellis Wright

**All Military - Church Family**

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

Prayer is powerful! Come join us every Wednesday at 5 p.m. for approximately an hour. We come together based on the scripture in Matthew 18:18-20.

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.



**\*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

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Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church