



Volume 53  
Issue 9

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

# September 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!*



*Youth Group*



*Homebound Visits*



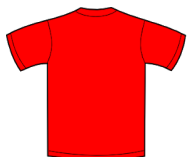
*Backpack Blessing*



*Tank Removal*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~Sunday, August 28th @ 10:30 a.m. - 2022-23 Confirmation Information Meeting
- ~September 3rd & 4th - Communion & Red T-Shirt Weekend
- ~September 11th @ 9:30 a.m. - Rally Sunday
- ~Wednesday, September 21st @ noon - Senior Luncheon  
(NEW LOCATION: St. Mary's in Minooka)
- ~Sunday, September 25th @ 9:30 a.m. - Bible Giving Sunday
- ~Sunday, September @ 10:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class In-Person
- ~Sunday, October 2nd @ 10:30 a.m. - New Member's Meeting





## Pastor's Page - September 2022

*"We constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling, and that by His power God may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith." (2 Thessalonians 1:11)*



One of the songs I find myself humming is the praise song, **"Goodness of God."** I was reflecting on these lyrics this week as I prayed over the sudden death of our congregant's young relatives, neighbors in hospice care, and friends who have been sick for a long time. I also thought of this song as I prayed over Kentucky flood victims, the people of Ukraine, and the victims of violence in our backyard and around the world. As I prayed, I reflected on the fragility and fleeting nature of our lives, as well as God's presence in the midst of our hardships.

The lyric of **"Goodness of God"** hit me hard. Even in our suffering and struggle, the song reminds us that God's goodness exists in the reality that we are **"being held in God's hands each day."** Regardless of your hardships, you (and I) can always experience the goodness of God. After all, God never leaves nor forsakes us. God never sleeps nor slumbers. While we may stumble and wander away from God, God is always ready to receive us when we repent and turn back. **"You have led me through the fire in the darkest night, You are close like no other..."** Praise God for the gift of God's love and faithfulness that gives us strength and hope.

Praise God for the two underground oil tanks that were removed on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank Jim Satorius (Trustee Co-Chair) and our other Trustees, who made sure that this complicated and messy situation was handled well. Let's pray together for the setting of a new closing date with our potential buyers. Thank you also to our Building & Trustee Committee for their wisdom in adjusting plans to address the sidewalk, parking lot, and exterior work before the interior work on Ridge Road. Praise God for your wisdom and faithfulness during this construction process.

We had an exciting weekend of blessing backpacks on August 20-21. Seeing the smiley faces of students, teachers and parents warmed my heart. Let's continue to prioritize our Christian Education ministry and Children/Youth ministry. Let's support the ministry of our Sunday School teachers and new Superintendent, Katrina Nolan.

Our Youth Ministry kicked off their 2022-23 year with a movie night on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> and Walk in the Park on Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>. Praise God for the dedication of our Youth Ministry Directors, Jill & Will Kohler. Confirmation classes for 8<sup>th</sup> graders (and older) will start in September. Let's pray for our new confirmands and their families as they begin their confirmation journey.

When the closing date is set, our MUMC leadership will finalize the space-sharing details with Channahon UMC. We are blessed to have our sister church open up its doors to us as we transition to our new facility. I pray that this time will strengthen the bonds and ministries of both congregations. While some things will change (eg. worship time,) we will try to maintain our regular fall schedule such as nominations, new members, congregational care, and our Fall All Church Bible study. (Note: we will focus on the curriculum, **"Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets"** by Andy Stanley starting in October. The signup board is in the narthex.) In October, our Outreach Committee will lead our Trunk or Treat party for the community so pick up some candy to donate.

As we continue our transition journey, let's embrace the mindset of pilgrims, not tourists. Let's remember **the goodness of God**, who loves us and is running after us. Regardless of the delays and surprises we encounter, let's sing of God's love and hope for our congregation and community. Speaking of journey, we will complete our summer sermon series "The Journey Through Wilderness" at the end of August. I hope you have been challenged and blessed by our study of the Numbers and Deuteronomy. (You can check out past sermons on our website, [www.minookaumc.com](http://www.minookaumc.com).)

Friends, God has been so good to us. Like the apostle Paul in his prayer for the church in Thessalonica, may we live the life worthy of Christ's calling on our lives. May we (as members of Christ's Church) produce holy fruit that offers peace and joy and hope to our community. Let's live faithfully, so that others may experience the goodness of God in us.

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

### **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.

**Saturday 5:00 p.m.**  
**Blended Worship**

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



The Helping Hands Food Panty has a new home. It has successfully moved to St. Mary's basement. Our families came to our new location in August and were treated to their expected support. The move, organization, and delivery of support went very well.

An Open House is being planned. We hope everyone will attend. Although the pantry has a new location, we are still the same pantry we have been for many years. Our mission is still to serve our community by working with our neighbors, community organizations, and volunteers. This has not changed.

August 28th is/was the first community food organization since our move. This collection will be phase two of our move. Organization and storage will be the next challenge.

I was asked where individual donations can be delivered. The easiest and fastest way is to bring them to St. Mary's office porch.

A huge "Thank You" goes to the congregation for housing the pantry for these many years and allowing all the equipment to move with us. So, as we begin our new chapter, I hope you will remain committed to the continual support of the pantry.

Finally, summer is ending. It is a time of transition for both the season and the pantry to new activities and events. Enjoy!

Jean Jun and Virginia Guertin

### "To God Be The Glory"

What is our ultimate goal in life: self-glorification or God-glorification? Self-glorification is closely linked to instant gratification. Pride, power and fear lead to ways of leading that exalt self, trample others, and force results without God's involvement. Humility and confidence exalt God, honor others, invite God's perspective, and follow His leading.

"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." (Psalm 115:1) God's love and faithfulness is beyond anything we could ever deserve or imagine.

When life's events challenge our ability to follow Jesus, times of solitude and dialogue with God become increasingly important. Above the wind and storm, we are able to reflect on the unchanging realities of life and gain an eternal spiritual perspective on events and people, including our own role and responsibilities. The Spirit wants to use these times to renew our strength, realign our perspective, and refresh our hearts. "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. (Psalm 8:1)

In Christ,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant





# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Prayer to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;

and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is Back for S'more Learning!

Join us on **Sunday, September 11** as we kick off our Sunday School year with Rally Sunday! Hear a special message from our new Superintendent, and join us afterwards to meet the teachers and make a special "Make Your Own S'mores Mix" treat!

Sunday School classes will begin **Sunday, September 18** during the 9:30 a.m. worship. Please register your child by visiting

[www.MinookaUMC.com](http://www.MinookaUMC.com) or complete a paper registration form that can be found in the narthex.



26th *Mark Your*  
**Calendar**



**Sunday, September 25th** is Bible Giving Sunday during worship. Third graders and older who have not received a Deep Blue Bible and eighth graders and older who have not received a Youth Bible will be presented with one.



Youth Directors, Jill & Will Kohler and the Youth Council have an exciting plan for a new school year. They will share their plan with the congregation (especially with the families with youth) on

Rally Weekend (Sep. 10 & 11). Stay tuned!"



### Sunday School Supply Drive

Help the Sunday School program kick off the year by donating craft supplies from our wish list!

View the list on Amazon by visiting

<https://amzn.to/3STL723>.

Amazon Gift Cards and monetary donations are also greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off at the church office!



## Confirmation

Important Date!

The 2022-23 Confirmation Class information meeting is this **Sunday, August 28th @ 10:30 a.m.**

All rising 8th-grade students and their parents are invited to attend this informational meeting for our upcoming Confirmation Class.

Confirmation classes begin **Sunday, September 25th @ 10:45 a.m.**

Please see Pastor Sarah with any questions.

## For UMCOR—Kentucky Flooding

To respond to the recent Kentucky flooding (including the ASP mission site that MUMC team served in June), you can write a check to Minooka UMC with “For UMCOR—Kentucky Flooding” in the memo line. If you’d like to give online, go to our website, [Minookaumc.com](http://Minookaumc.com) and under the “connect” tab you will find a link to use.

Thank you!



HELLO  
NEW MEMBERS

### *New Member's Class*

Anyone interested in becoming a member of MUMC should attend our class on **October 2nd** after worship at **10:30 a.m.** We will hold a reception and welcome the new members into the church on October 16th during the 9:30 a.m. service. Join us for refreshments immediately following the ceremony. Contact Karen Crawshaw with your interest.

### MUMC 2022 Turkey Dinner

Our annual Turkey Dinner will not be held this year. Let us pray that we will have our own space next year to resume this fundraiser.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

*The MUMC Finance Committee would like to thank you for your continued faithful giving. Your generosity is how we support the important missions and activities at our church. Due to the faithful stewardship of our committees, our general fund is currently able to meet our church expenses.*

*If you find yourself wanting to make an additional contribution, you can do that at any time.*

*If you would like to do this, you can put a comment in the memo section on your check (or include a note with your check) to indicate where you would like that money to go.*

*Not sure where to designate those additional funds...*

*Our Ridge Road Development Fund could use additional contributions due to the rapidly increasing cost of building materials. Again, be sure to notate Ridge Road Development Fund in the memo section on your check or include a note with your check.*

*Thank you again for your generosity and faithful giving.*

MUMC will offer an

“All-Church Fall Bible Study” opportunity starting the first week in October.

Good questions lead to better decisions. Discover five game-changing questions to ask every time you make a decision--questions that will help you in your finances, relationships, career, and more. Fewer regrets will set you up for success in every season of life, for the rest of your life.

The curriculum we will be using is

“**Better Decision, Fewer Regrets**” by Pastor **Andy Stanley**.

Session 1: More than a Decision

Session 2: The Integrity Question

Session 3: The Legacy Question

Session 4: The Conscience Question

Session 5: The Maturity Question

Session 6: The Relationship Question

Sign up sheets can be found in the narthex. Join one of these sessions.

\*Saturday @ 3:45 p.m. - begins 10/1

\*Sunday @ 8 a.m. - begins 10/2

\*Monday @ 5:45 p.m. (Zoom) - begins 10/3

\*Tuesday @ Noon - begins 10/4

\*Wednesday @ 7 p.m. - begins 10/5

better  
decisions,  
fewer  
regrets



### “Forever Young” Free Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, September 21st  
@ 12:15 pm.

Sign in at 11:30 a.m.

*Please note that the luncheon has temporarily moved to St. Mary's Parish Hall in Minooka.*



### **MUMC Trunk or Treat Returns!**

The Outreach Committee is looking for donations of individually wrapped candy. A collection box for the candy can be found in the narthex. The Trunk or Treat will be held at the end of October. The time, date and location will be announced soon.


## SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE September

2	Gerald Pubentz	18	Glen Nemitz
6	Kyle Joerger	19	Jennifer Brockman
9	Nicole Czarnecki	19	Kevin McCammon
10	Derek Dailey	20	Nikki Randich
10	Keagan Taylor	20	Pastor Sarah Hong
11	Mason Smith	21	Joann Malic
12	Karen Crawshaw	22	Jane Carhart
12	Caleb Froidcoeur	23	Maurice Davenport
12	David Volz	26	Wayne Greenback
15	Melody Bartnik	26	Bob Stewart
16	Jaelyn Giacomini	27	Lorelei Boyer
16	Becky Pease	27	Cindy White
16	Susan Spencer	28	Noah Staley
16	Kenzie Taylor	30	Joy Clendening
17	Helen Daly		



4	Ron & Wendy Tredennick
7	Bob & Marguerite Stelling
12	Paul & Melody Bartnik
14	Allan & Andrea Miller
23	Jim & Ruth Satorius

## September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 PM Sunday School Mtg.	2	3 Communion 5:00 PM Worship
4 Communion 9:30 AM Worship	5 	6 12:00 PM Faithtalk	7 5:00 PM Prayer Partners 6:00 PM Outreach Comm Mtg.	8	9	10 7:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 PM Worship
11 9:30 AM Worship & Rally Sunday	12	13 12:00 PM Faithtalk	14 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	15	16	17 5:00 PM Worship
18 9:30 AM Worship & Sunday School	19	20 12:00 PM Faithtalk 7:00 PM Finance Mtg.	21 12:15 PM Senior Luncheon 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	22	23	24 8:00 AM Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast 5:00 PM Worship
25 9:30 AM Worship, Sunday School & Bible Giving 10:45 AM Confir- mation	26 7:00 PM Book Group	27 12:00 PM Faithtalk 7:00 PM Church Council	28 5:00 PM Prayer Partners	29 6:30 PM SPRC Mtg.	30	

## SEPTEMBER SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

<b>September 3rd Communion &amp; Red T-shirts</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>September 4th Communion &amp; Red T-shirts</b>	
LAY READER	Val Gunderson
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>September 10th</b>	
LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>September 11th</b>	
LAY READER	Kim Nave
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>September 17th</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>September 18th</b>	
LAY READER	Marlin Hartman
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>September 24th</b>	
LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>September 25th</b>	
LAY READER	Kim Nave
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed

## September 3rd & 4th

### Communion & Red T-Shirt Weekend



### Coffee Fellowship

Fellowship will return on **September 4th**. The Outreach Committee will provide treats on September 4th & October 2nd. We are looking of other to provide fellowship for the other Sundays. A sign up sheet is locate in Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Sarah will visit her father in S. Korea from Aug. 30th to Sep. 20th. Your prayers for her safe travel are appreciated. Contact the office for any pastoral request.

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.



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.

October 2022 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, September 26th**. 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

## GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

### BOOK GROUP



Join us Monday, September 26th @ 7 p.m. The book selection for September is "The Heart Mender" by Andy Andrews.

Contact Cindy White with questions.

### FAITHTALK: BIBLE STUDY



Faithtalk meets Tuesdays at noon in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to join this Bible study based on "The Family Life Bible"

Contact Cindy White with questions.



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 5 p.m. for approximately an hour. We come together based on the scripture in Matthew 18:18-20.

<sup>18</sup> "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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.

### Senior Exercise



Senior exercise classes at our location have ended. Beginning July 26th classes will resume at the Minooka Village Hall in the community room.

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Alex & Brie  
 (Mari Kirsch)  
 Amy  
 (Martha Ann Harvey)  
 Officer Tyler B.  
 (Val Gunderson)  
 Chuck  
 (Cindy White)  
 Joy Courtright  
 Sylvia Courtright  
 Rev. Gary Curl  
 (Alex Nolan)  
 Bonnie Davy  
 Gus DeGuzman  
 Nancy Fiske  
 (Jill Kohler)  
 Jeff & Jeanette Harris  
 Janet Harvey  
 (Bonnie Davy)  
 Martha Ann Harvey  
 Cole Herron  
 (Cyndi Campbell)  
 Janet  
 (Katrina Nolan)

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Joseph  
 (Guy Carlson)  
 Tianna Juley  
 Roslyn Kryszewski  
 Pegi Laneuville  
 Carol Lockwood  
 May  
 (Mindy Closen)  
 Dale Nave  
 Robert Nave  
 Joyce O'Brien  
 Amy Pease  
 Bob Pesak  
 Bob Reszin  
 Bob Stelling  
 Sue, Suzanne & Cindy P.  
 Julie Thompson  
 John & Karin Teubel  
 (Val Gunderson)  
 Jodi Trudeau  
 (Val Gunderson)  
 Ellis Wright  
 Joan Yunker

**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](http://www.minookaumc.com)**

**Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church**