



Volume 54  
Issue 2

# February 2023 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!*



*Leadership  
Commissioning*



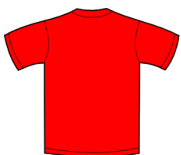
*Fellowship after our first combined worship service with CUMC.*



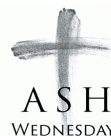
*Sunday Music Leaders*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~February 4th & 5th - Communion & Red Shirt Weekend
- ~Sunday February 5th @ 9 a.m. - Combined Worship with CUMC
- ~Monday, February 14th @ 1:00 p.m. - Afternoon Circle (Meets off campus.)
- ~Wednesday, February 15th @ 11:30 a.m. - Senior Luncheon
- ~Tuesday, February 21st @ 10:30 a.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins (Meets off campus.)
- ~Wednesday, February 22nd @ 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Services
- ~Saturday, February 25th @ 10:30 a.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins
- ~Sunday, February 26th @ 10:15 a.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins
- ~Monday, February 27th @ 5:45 p.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins (Zoom)
- ~Tuesday, February 28th @ 12:00 p.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins
- ~Wednesday, March 1st @ 6:30 p.m. - Lent Bible Study Begins



**Love and  
Marriage**



**LESS  
FRET  
MORE FAITH**



## Pastor's Page - February 2023

<sup>2</sup> “(Job replied to the Lord) **I know that You can do anything, and no one can stop You.**”<sup>3</sup> You asked, ‘Who is this that questions My wisdom with such ignorance?’ **It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. (Jobs 42:2-3)**



Minooka UMC experienced God’s abundant blessings in November. Until the last moment, I was anxious that we would not sell our beloved Church Street building. I started to waver in my faith that this would never happen. In those moments, many MUMC friends (yes, many of you) reminded me of God’s faithful love for MUMC. After finalizing the sale on Nov 30, I found myself repeating the words of Job (42:2), “God, I know that You can do anything and no one can stop you!”

Praise God who makes all things possible! Praise God that – even in the midst of my doubts – the dreams that God sowed decades ago in MUMC are becoming reality. At times, I have to confess that God’s plans for MUMC and for our community are just too wonderful for me to comprehend. I am humbled to see how God uses faith, the size of a mustard seed, to move mountains. May we remember and give thanks daily for God’s miraculous and timely provisions. May we remain humble and leave all of our concerns at the feet of the Lord. While we still have to secure more financing for ongoing construction, let us remain faithful and grateful for God’s work in our midst. Amen?

I want to thank MUMC leadership for your ongoing faithfulness. In a very short time frame (in the days before and after Thanksgiving), we removed and stored the pipe organ, reserved the moving trailer, hired movers, and worked day & night to empty the building. This was nothing short of a miracle. I also want to express my gratitude to Pastor Doh, staff, and congregation of Channahon UMC, who opened their arms and welcomed us in. Most of all, I want to thank our Building and Trustee Committees for their ongoing commitment to the Ridge Road construction. Let’s keep our eyes on the prize and continue to follow the Lord’s leading.

Since this is the first Mustard Seed in 4 months, there is a lot to cover. Praise God for the beautiful worship services during Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Despite the cold weather, our hearts were warmed as we welcomed Jesus in our midst. Thank you to the Worship Committee, music staff, lay readers, Advent candle lighters, ushers and media center volunteers for your dedication and service.

We are worshipping with Channahon UMC on the 1st Sunday of each month. This is a great opportunity for us to nurture our friendship and celebrate our unity in Christ. Thank you all for your flexibility with worship times and meeting spaces.

We are in the final weekend of our “New Chapter” sermon series. As you heard messages to reinvigorate your health (physically, spiritually, financially, and emotionally,) may we remain firm and stick to our new year resolutions and start a new chapter of our lives.

In February, we will begin a new series, “Love & Marriage,” to nurture the most important relationships in our lives. Kim and John Nave will present “Mr. and Mrs.” devotional materials during the worship services. If you’d like a copy of these devotions, you can request them from Kim and John. I hope you’ll invite friends and family to worship with us.

Lent is just around the corner. I invite you to attend Ash Wednesday worship services (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.) to start your Lenten journey. During this Holy Season, we’ll study “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado for 5 weeks starting on February 25th. There will be 6 different groups you can choose from. The sign-up sheets are available on the usher’s table near the entrance of the sanctuary.

Finally, I want to thank our Senior Luncheon organizers and Daybreak meal organizers. Thank you for helping us serve our seniors and neighbors in need. Thank you to those who organized, sorted and delivered our Angel Tree gifts and to the meal delivery team, who provided food for congregation members who are sick and recovering. Thank you to all who visited the sick and send cards to shut-ins. Thank you to all who make calls and check in with one another during the week. You are the faithful ones who testify to the goodness of the WayMaker.

When I wrote my last Mustard Seed article, it was the end of September and autumn was settling in. Now, we are in the middle of winter and awaiting the arrival of spring. Praise God for the blessings of 2023! As we kick off 2023, I remind us that we have started the RR P.O.M. (Ridge Road Project of the Month). I hope you’ll join me in pursuing God’s dreams for MUMC in 2023.

Pastor Sarah

## Minooka United Methodist Church

PO Box 819

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

11:30 a.m.

Online & In-person

Blended Worship Service

*\*We will hold a combined service with CUMC the first Sunday of each month @ 9 a.m.*

### **Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Thursday

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.



Welcome to a new year. The pantry finished last year with a busy December. We gave our families Christmas baskets and gifts in addition to their usual allowance. The families were very appreciative and would like to thank those whom supported with the Giving Tree. Christmas was a little brighter with your support.

The past few months, we were and are busy training a few more volunteers. Thank you to those whom helped with our two bountiful food community collections. With their help, we were able to organize and shelve the items in short order. We also gained more information for what we need and where we can store the food. If you would like to join our volunteer team, let me know.

We had a shock last month! Eggs! \$5.00 a dozen got our attention. Hopefully, this situation will not last very long. As you know, eggs are given every month. The families were surprised we had eggs for them, but were happy to receive them.

The next few months will be quieter, but we are in a very good position to support our current number and will be able to support additional families. We are open to new families that need support.

Finally, last year was a year of BIG change for you and the pantry. The pantry's situation is settled and the future seems secure and bright. This year's goal is to look forward and provide the best support possible by a very generous community.

Thank you and the Team sends you wishes for health, hope, and peace which equals happiness.

***Pantry needs: peanut butter & jelly, crackers, soup, cereal, ketchup, ramen noodles. Please bring donations to St. Mary's.***

### **"The Light of Christ's Love"**

A relationship with Jesus fulfills the deepest needs of our souls, the need for encouragement, comfort, acceptance, compassion and understanding. When we invite Jesus to satisfy our innermost needs, we are free to love others as He did. "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.. (Philippians 2:1-2)

Jesus has an unconditional love for us. He meets the deepest needs of our souls. He accepts us, believes in us and encourages us. Jesus transforms us with His love. We are called to minister to others according to their needs: to pray for one another, to be considerate of one another, and to love one another. The disciples practiced mutual submission, consulting one another on doctrinal issues and working through disagreements so as to honor Christ. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)

Blessings,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant

**Saturday 3:00 p.m.**  
**Blended Worship**

**Sunday 11:30 a.m.**  
**Online & In-person**  
**Blended Worship**



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## Children's Message

### Children's Message Volunteers Needed

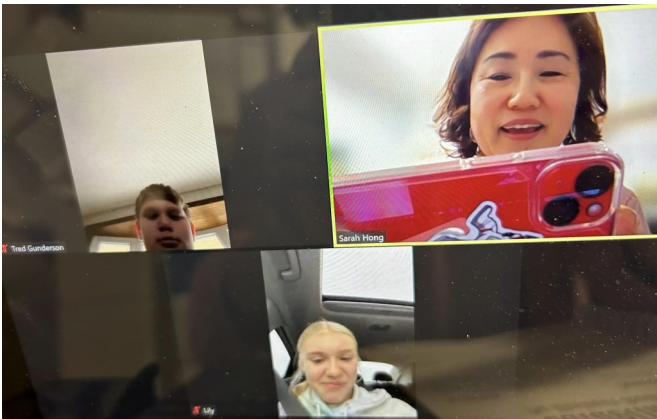
We need volunteers to deliver the Children's Message at the start of Sunday service. The Sunday School Superintendent will work with you to coordinate your message with the Sunday School lesson for that week. To sign up, contact Pastor Sarah or Katrina Nolan.

## Confirmation

### February Class Schedule

- ~Sunday, February 5th, Class @ 10:30 a.m. (Zoom) -  
Let us Pray: Talking & Listening & Who is God we worship?
- ~Sunday, February 19th, @ 11:00 a.m. - Attend Chicago Temple UMC online Worship
- ~Wednesday, February 22nd @ 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service
- ~Sunday, February 26th, Class @ 10:15 a.m. (In person) -  
I believe in God, the Creator, Holy Spirit, and Jesus the Savior

**Our Confirmation Class includes: Addie, Lilly, & Tred**  
Please keep them in your prayers as they continue this faith journey.



Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for  
Sunday, May 7th @ 11:30 a.m.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## “Forever Young” Free Senior Luncheon WELCOME BACK!

*We are anxious to see everyone.....*

*LET THE FUN BEGIN*

*THEME:.....BACK IN THE 50'S AGAIN*

*Wear your 50's clothes:.....check back of your closet..*

*WHEN: February 15, 2023*

*WHERE: ST. Mary's Church (temporary place until our new church is ready)*

*TIME: SIGN IN.....11:30 LUNCH 12:20*

*COME ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK WITH US*

**NO REGISTRATION TAKEN AFTER  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9TH**



## United Women in Faith

*The Channahon UMC chapter invites you to support their fundraiser. Shop for premium nuts, confections, and snacks at*

[channahonUWF.terrylynn.com](http://channahonUWF.terrylynn.com)

## Labyrinth Party

*On Saturday, February 18th Channahon UWF will host a Labyrinth Party from 1-2:30 p.m. See the flier in the MUMC office for more information.*



## February and March Sermon Themes

February Sermon Series - “Love & Marriage”

Invite your loved ones to the new sermon series to enrich their relationship and marriage.

Feb. 4th – Love & Marriage 1: Two become one

Feb. 11th/12th – How to care for Emotional Needs

Feb. 18th/19th - Extending Forgiveness Now and Then

Lent Bible Study & Sermon series “Anxious for Nothing” (by Max Lucado)

Feb. 25th /26th – Rejoice in the Lord Always

March 4th/5th – Let Your Gentleness be evident to All

March 11th/12th – Present your Requests to God

March 18th/19th – The Peace of God will Guard Your Heart

March 25th/26th – Meditate on These Things

April 1st/2nd – Palm Saturday & Sunday Reflection

**Love and  
Marriage**

**LESS  
FRET  
MORE FAITH**



Prairie South District Superintendent Brian Gilbert will come and preach on April 2nd (Palm Sunday) at 9 a.m. (Combined worship). Invite others and plan to attend!

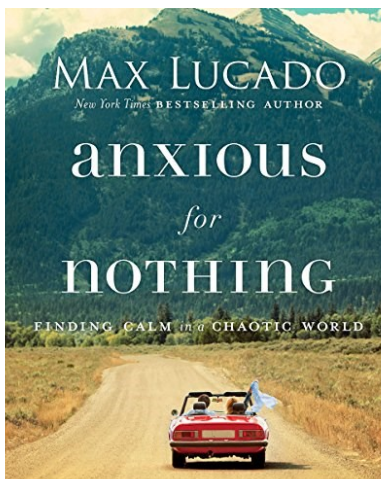
May's Combined worship with Channahon UMC will be May 14th (Mother's Day) at 9 a.m. – You can spend more time with your mother and family after 9 a.m. worship! (Confirmation will be held on May 7th.)



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Money, money, money. No one likes to talk about money but it is a reality of existence. As Pastor Sarah spoke from the pulpit on the topic this past month, enough said on the necessity. Biggest TWO CHANGES that have occurred -Number 1 the selling of our church and a deposit of \$493,551 (Amen Amen) and – Number 2 the Red Door Loan from the Conference \$500,000 (Amen) these two changes allow Minooka United Methodist Church Construction to continue. Change number 2 included the word loan, and yes, starting in 2023 we will have a monthly payment of approximately \$3400. This means GROWTH is necessary for us to sustain our new Church. As we prepare to move onto Ridge Road this year, be a part of our planning and preparation for our opening month. This GROWTH will require many hands and of course many hands make the load light.*

~Finance Committee



### Lenten Bible Study

Our study based on the book  
 “Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World” by Max Lucado  
 begins the week of February 25th.

*Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Is irrational anxiety your constant companion? Let God help you win the war on worry and receive the lasting peace of Christ.*

*We all encounter anxiety, but we don't have to let worry and fear control our lives. Anxious for Nothing, from New York Times bestselling author, Max Lucado, provides a roadmap for battling with and healing from anxiety. Anxious for Nothing invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7.*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

In this book, Max will help you:

**Celebrate God's goodness**

**Ask God for help**

**Leave your concerns with God**

**Meditate on good things**

Stop letting anxiety rule the day.

Join Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sign up sheets can be found in the office.

Join one of these sessions.

\*Saturday @ 1:45 p.m. - 2/25 (only) @ 3:45 p.m. 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, & 3/25

Leader: Karen Gaba

\*Sunday @ 10:15 a.m. - 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, & 3/26

Leader: Kim Nave

\*Monday @ 5:45 p.m. (Zoom) - 2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, & 3/27

Leader: Chris Vause

\*Tuesday @ 10:30 a.m. (bi-weekly) - 2/21, 3/7, & 3/21

Leaders: Pastor Sarah & Marguerite Stelling

\*Tuesday @ Noon - 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, & 3/28

Leader: Cindy White

\*Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. - 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, & 3/29

Leader: Marlin Hartman





# Ridge Road Bique Bond



**Introducing the Ridge Road Project of the Month!**

January is the beginning of the RR Project of the Month (RR P.O.M)

This month's project is **BATHROOM FIXTURES & STUFF**

How can you participate?  
You can help the project by buying a portion (share) of the project for \$25.

Can you buy more than one portion?  
Of course!

I want to help, now what?  
Clearly mark envelopes or checks with RR P.O.M. and leave in offering plate. You can also give using the E-offering online link!

The project for February is Gutters and Downspouts.

## SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE February

2	Brad Gunderson	13	Kaytlyn Harvey
2	Ethan Klug	15	Karen Hinds
2	Joshua Yenser	20	Ethan Klug
3	Carol Lockwood	20	Helen Miller
5	James Kloiber	20	Alan Spencer
6	Bob Reszel	23	Trinity Flatness
7	Judy Clusen	23	Bob White
7	Shari Millard	26	John Larabee
8	Margaret Lyons	27	Marlin Hartman
9	Anna Geyer	27	Mindy Closen
9	William Kohler	27	Laura Wagner
11	Cindy Gossen	28	Ross Gunderson
11	Connie Morris		
13	Michael Beitler		



5 Michael & Karina McGrath  
12 Claude & Karen Crawshaw  
23 Danny & Martha Ann Harvey

## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	2 7:30 p.m. Bible Study	3	4 <b>Communion &amp; Red Shirt Weekend</b> 3:00 p.m. Worship
5 <b>Communion &amp; Red Shirt Weekend</b> 9:00 a.m. Combined Worship with CUMC 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 Confirmation (Zoom)	6	7 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	8 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	9 7:30 p.m. Bible Study	10	11 3:00 p.m. Worship
12 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship	13 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Circle	14 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 	15 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon 4:00 p.m. Prayer Partners 5:00 p.m. Outreach Mtg.	16 7:30 p.m. Bible Study	17	18 3:00 p.m. Worship
19 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship	20 	21 10:30 a.m. Lent Bible Study (Off campus) 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 7:00 p.m. Finance	22 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	23 7:30 p.m. Bible Study	24	25 9:00 a.m. LLPB 1:45 p.m. Lent Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Worship
26 10:15 a.m. Lent Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 Confirmation (In-person) 11:30 a.m. Worship	27 5:45 p.m. Lent Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00 p.m. Book Group	28 12:00 p.m. Lent Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Church Council				



## FEBRUARY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

<b>February 4th</b>	<b>Communion &amp; Red Shirts</b>
LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>February 5th @ 9 AM</b>	<b>Communion &amp; Red Shirts</b>
LAY READER	N/A
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>February 11th</b>	
LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>February 12th</b>	
LAY READER	Val Gunderson
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>February 18th</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>February 19th</b>	
LAY READER	Marlin Hartman
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed
<b>February 25th</b>	
LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>February 26th</b>	
LAY READER	Kim Nave
USHER(S) & GREETERS	Volunteers Needed

## GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

	<b>Book Group</b> - book selection " <i>These Silent Woods</i> " by Kimi Cunningham Grant	Monday February 27th @ 7 PM
	<b>Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast</b> <i>Meet in the fellowship hall.</i>	Saturday, February 25th @ 9 a.m.
	<b>Prayer Partners - prayer meeting</b> <i>Come pray for your needs/concerns.</i>	Wednesday @ 4 PM
	<b>Afternoon Circle</b> <i>Meeting locations are announced in the Happenings. Karen &amp; Ruth can be contacted for more information.</i>	Monday, February 13th @ 1 p.m.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

If any men are interested in starting up the Men's Prayer Breakfast again, please contact Jim Satorius at 815-474-2630 or [jamessatorius@gmail.com](mailto:jamessatorius@gmail.com).

### Valentines Cards for Seniors

Illinois State Senator, Sue Rezin is collecting and delivering cards to senior citizens in Grundy County and the surrounding areas who are in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. MUMC is helping with this effort by collecting valentine cards (handmade or store-bought) at the church until February 6th.



### New Bible Study Forming

A new Bible Study "Gospel of John (N.T. Wright)" group will meet on Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Ferguson's home. If you want to join the bible study, please contact Pastor Sarah Hong.

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.

March 2022 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, February 20th**

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

### Prairie South District Events

Contact Pastor Sarah if you are interested in attending any of these district events.

\*Saturday, February 11th from 9 a.m. - Noon  
Laity Convocation @ Faith UMC Orland Park  
Fee \$15

\*Wednesday, February 15th @ 7 p.m.  
Meeting with Bishop Dan Schwerin @  
Sycamore UMC

**February 5th & February 6th**  
(Combined worship with CUMC @ 9 AM)

**Communion & Red Shirt Weekend**



### Senior Exercise

The free classes offered by Morris Hospital now take place at Minooka Village Hall in the community room on Tuesday & Thursday at 8:30 & 9:30 a.m.

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Cindy  
 (Mary Ray)  
 Joy Courtright  
 Sylvia Courtright  
 Cubby  
 (Marlin Hartman)  
 Rev. Gary Curl  
 (Alex Nolan)  
 Gus DeGuzman  
 Kristin Ehteshami-Afshar  
 Emma, Joe & Baby  
 (Karen Pubentz)  
 Jennifer Ferguson  
 Keith Flatness  
 Larry Flatness  
 (Gail Flatness)  
 Jeff Harris  
 Marlin Hartman  
 Martha Ann Harvey  
 Cole Herron  
 (Cyndi Campbell)

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Tianna Juley  
 Carol Lockwood  
 Joann Malic  
 May  
 (Mindy Closen)  
 Judie Millard  
 (Les Millard)  
 Connie Morris  
 Katrina Nolan  
 Joyce O'Brien  
 Patricia & Ed  
 (Marguerite Stelling)  
 Pam  
 (Joy Clendening)  
 Amy Pease  
 Bob Stelling  
 Julie Thompson  
 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.**



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. <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.

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS**

While we are worshiping in our temporary location, we have a new mailing address. If you wish to mail an offering or other correspondence, please send it to:

**Minooka UMC  
 PO Box 819  
 Minooka, IL 60447**



**Minooka United Methodist Church**

**PO Box 819**

**Minooka, IL 60447**

**815-467-2322**

**Www.minookaumc.com**

**Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church**