

Volume 54 Issue 4

# The Joy Is In The Giving And Being Together!



Maundy Thursday Rehearsal

## April 2023 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!



Men's Prayer Breakfast



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

~Saturday. April 1st @ 5 p.m. - Palm Saturday & Communion ~Sunday, April 2nd @ 9 a.m. - Palm Sunday, Combined Worship & Communion ~Thursday, April 6th @ 6 p.m. - \*Maundy Thursday Soup, Salad & Service ~Friday, April 7th @ 10 a.m. - Good Friday Ecumenical Cross Walk @ CUMC ~Friday, April 7th @ 7 p.m. - \*Good Friday Combined Worship ~Saturday, April 8th @ 10 a.m. - Community Easer Egg Hunt ~Saturday, April 8th @ 5 p.m. - Easter Saturday Worship ~Sunday, April 9th @ 7 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service @ Ridge Rd. ~Sunday, April 9th @ 11:30 a.m. - \*Easter Sunday Worship ~Monday, April 10th @ 1 p.m. - Afternoon Circle ~Saturday, April 15th @ 7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast ~Saturday, April 29th @ 9 a.m. - Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast













## Pastor's Page - April 2023

"What is the message we have to shout? 'There is a great party being prepared! And God wants everybody there.'" - Gordon Cosby



Easter is a busy time, but I love the energy and brightness of Easter. In 10 days, we'll shout the liturgy that Christians have shared for thousands of years, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!" We'll celebrate the miraculous fulfillment of God's promise. Life has defeated death. Light has overcome darkness. God's promises have been fulfilled. Gordon Crosby, the founder

of Church of the Savior in Washington DC, reminds us to shout the news of resurrection – to declare that the great party has begun and God wants everybody there. As we enter the Easter season, let us proclaim the good news of God's salvation and hope through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Speaking of celebrations, I want to thank our Building & Trustee Committee members for organizing the caravans to Ridge Road and the building tours in March. It was amazing to see the progress of our new facility. While there's still much work to be done, praise God for how far we've come. There is so much to be grateful for this Easter season. I am also thrilled to hear that the Ridge Road Project of the Month (POM) has been going well. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support. I am excited to say that we purchased stackable chairs for the sanctuary on March 25.

During Lent, we gathered in 6 Small Groups to study the Max Lucado curriculum, "Anxious For Nothing." Thank you to our Small Group leaders: Cindy White, Chris Vause, Marlin Hartman, Karen Gaba, and Kim Nave. Thank you to Bob & Marguerite Stelling for hosting the Tuesday morning group in their home. Over the last 5 weeks, we saturated ourselves in the powerful words of Philippians 4:4-8. May we continue to count our blessings and center our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ. Let's practice C.A.L.M. to fight against the debilitating temptations of daily anxiety. In case you forgot, C.A.L.M. stands for: Celebrate God's goodness, Ask for God's help, Leave our requests to God, and Meditate on Godly things.

During Holy Week, Minooka UMC will confirm our unity with the larger Body of Christ by participating in ecumenical worship services. On Maundy Thursday (April 6 @ 7 PM,) we will share a meal (soup & salad) and hear the dramatic reading "We Were There" with Channahon UMC. On Good Friday (April 7 @ 10 AM,) we will join the "Ecumenical Cross Walk" with other 6 churches in Channahon and Minooka. Later in the evening (@ 7 PM,) we will worship with Channahon UMC in the Channahon UMC sanctuary. On Saturday, April 8, we will co-host an Easter Egg Hunt with Channahon UMC in their spacious backyard. This will be followed by Easter celebrations on Saturday, April 8 @ 5 pm and Sunday, April 9 @ 11:30 am. We will also gather for a (brief) Easter Sunrise Service at the Ridge Road parking lot on April 9 @ 7 am. (note – this service will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. Stay tuned.)

After Easter, Minooka UMC will receive new members on Sunday, April 23. I hope many of you can attend and help us welcome our newest members. Speaking of new members, we will celebrate a baptism of a special young man on Easter Sunday. This is an exciting celebration you won't want to miss. Thank you to our Membership Committee Chair, Karen Crawshaw, and the other members of the Membership Committee. Thank you to our office manager, Katie Wojcieszak, for your support in arranging these celebrations.

I'm excited to see us resume ministries such as the Ladies Prayer Breakfast, Men's Prayer Breakfast and Daybreak Supper serving ministry. I'm grateful to our hosts in the Channahon UMC congregation. It warmed my heart to see the combined Sunday School room filled with 16 children on March 26, as well as youth at the Youth Art Activities at the Four Rivers Center on March 25. God is so good.

Let us live each day with hope. Even in the midst of natural disasters and tragic events, God calls us to hang on to the promise of resurrection – to serve as beacons of hope in the midst of darkness. As we continue our journey together, let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the author and perfector of our faith.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Sarah

#### Minooka United Methodist Church

PO Box 819
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**

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.

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

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





Time has flown by! Since the holidays, the pantry has been busy, but routine. So, there is nothing exciting to report other than we are servicing our families and any new families that need food support.

Donations have been steadily coming into the pantry. We have been fortunate to receive some produce which the families have been very happy to receive.

Our exciting news is the Pantry has begun a partnership with the libraries. We are stocking their micro-pantries. These pantries are a cabinet outside where a few items are stocked. I have noticed people have been taking advantage of these small pantries, so, it seems like a good partnership and helps meet the needs of the community. For their part the library will have a food collection in April for our pantry. This partnership is a positive extension of our support for our community.

More good news - our volunteer team is growing. We have four new volunteers whom we are happy to welcome to our team. If you would like to join our team, give us a call.

As mentioned above, donations have been generous, but we have some shortages. Therefore, we have a WISH LIST.

Cooking oil, vinegar, coffee, soups ( no tomato), and shampoo

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Finally, Easter is this month, so we will try to make it special.

Until next month, let's be kind to each other.

Jean Jun

#### Please bring donations to St. Marv's.

#### "Loving One Another"

In this Easter Season we think of the love of Jesus. Jesus loved His disciples to the end of His life, and commanded His disciples to love one another just as He had loved them. John referred to Himself as "the one Jesus loved," and urged his hearers to love others with action and in truth. Actively loving others is an undeniable indication that we have experienced the transformational, unconditional love of God. "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters." (Hebrews 13:1)

We give thanks for God's love, "to the end" and forgiving, cleansing, and transforming us. Have you ever noticed how Jesus always had the right words at the right time? He never seems to have been flustered, whether He was interacting with His disciples or with those who opposed Him. When a comforting word was needed, it was on His lips. When a rebuke was required, He gave it firmly and concisely, but without malice. "The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction." (Proverbs 16:23)

Easter Blessings,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### **Sunday School Lessons**

<u>Date</u>	Pre-K through 5th Grade
4/2	Palm Sunday
4/9	Easter
4/16	Emmaus
4/23	Thomas
4/30	Ascension

#### **Sunday School Information**

Our Sunday School now meets in combination with CUMC on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in their education wing.

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Join us on Saturday, April 8th at 10 a.m. Fourth graders and under are invited. Meet on the CUMC lawn.

#### **VBS 2023**

Save the date! We will hold a combined VBS this year with CUMC. It will be held the week of July 16th.

Details coming soon!



#### April Class Schedule

~Saturday, April 8th @ 9 a.m. - Easter Egg "Hiding"
 ~Sunday, April 16th @ 10:15 a.m. (In person)
 Own Your Faith & Confirmation vows
 ~Sunday, April 23rd @ 10:15 a.m. (In person)
 Speeches, Stoles & Skit Practice
 ~Sunday, April 23rd @ 10:15 a.m. (In person)
 Exit Interviews & Make-up Work

#### Holy Week Schedule

~Thursday, April 6th @ 6 p.m. -Maundy Thursday Service ~Friday, April 7th @ 10:00 a.m. -Ecumenical Crosswalk @ CUMC ~Friday, April 7th @ 7 p.m. -Good Friday Service

#### Easter Services

~Saturday, April 8th @ 5 p.m. ~Sunday, April 9th @ 7 a.m. (Ridge Rd.) & 11:30 a.m. (CUMC)



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.



#### **CUMC Family Movie Night**



Meet in fellowship hall at 6 p.m. on April 21st.

Free fun for the whole family! Two movies will be featured to accommodate all ages.

Popcorn and beverages are provided.





ASP 2023 -June 10th-17th, 2023

The Minooka United Methodist Church is planning its annual mission trip to the Appalachian area the second week of June. Our missionaries will head to Kentucky. We will be teaming up with Grace Methodist for this year as we transition to our new church. Practice work sessions will be both team building and skill improvement. Youth participation has decreased over the years and this is a request for all youth graduating 8th grade through graduation from high school to join our team. These trips are an experience of a lifetime for these teenagers. If you have a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, neighbor kid talk to them and get them in contact with me to explain the process. The sooner the better, but due to financial commitment, May 1 is our deadline for participation.

God's work is not always easy or glamorous, our youth always step up to do jobs that many would refuse. WWJD, I think we know who is beside us in spirit.

ASP Mission Leader

Marlin Hartman

## COMMUNITY News

#### Free Senior Luncheon April 19th @ 11:30 AM

"Forever Young"

We will hold a free lunch at St. Mary 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. Slots fill fast! Call by April 12th.



#### Good Friday Ecumenical Cross Walk April 7th @ 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 Channahon UMC located at 24751 W. Eames St., Channahon



#### COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT!

Saturday, April 8th @ 10 a.m. Fourth grade and under are invited to meet on the CUMC church lawn. This event is free to the community!



## CHANNAHON + MINOOKA VILLAGE CLEANUP





Join your fellow residents and friends in keeping our communities beautiful!



### SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023 10:00 AM

Volunteers will receive gloves, bags and a map with designated cleanup area. Lunch will be provided after at the Village of Minocka Community Room (121 McEvilly Rd, Minocka, II, 60447)

Thank you to Grainger of Minooka for sponsoring our efforts

GRAINGER

Please RSVP to jeff.lind@minooka.com by Monday, April 24, 2023

Walk-ups are also welcome.







#### R.R. Project of the Month

Can you help a project by buying a portion (share) for \$25? You can buy more than one portion if you wish. Clearly mark envelopes or checks with RR P.O.M. and leave in the offering plate. You can also give online through my e-offering using the link!

The project for April is Floor Tiles.

ASP Mission Fundraiser – Scrip Cards

Pre-Covid, the Scrip Card Program was doing quite well, Covid put an end to that success. The MUMC High School mission trip for over 20 years has helped families in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia by making their homes warmer, safer and dryer. This mission is presently supported by Scrip Card orders and individual donations. The Scrip Program is continuing to function but only a few families are using it. The Scrip Program allows Our Church to get a percentage (%) of your purchases. These cards are from Walmart, Dunkin' Donuts, Menards, Speedway Gas and many more stores in our area. Scrip card orders are handled by Adrienne Hartman, ordering forms are sent out with the monthly email on Scrip Card orders. The ordering forms are also available at worship services as well. Money you would be spending anyway can be used to help support our youth to learn to "Love their Neighbor" with time, sweat and energy. **Questions call Adrienne 815-474-6972.** 

















Save the date!

We will hold combined VBS with CUMC this year. VBS will be held the week of July 16th. Stay tuned for more details!

# EASTER EGG

The Outreach committee is looking for donations of individually wrapped candies for the annual Easter egg hunt. The egg stuffing party is canceled. Thank you to those who donated time to prefill the eggs for the hunt.

Contact Karen Gaba with questions.



# NEW MEMBERS

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#### New Members' Class

We will hold a New Member's class on Sunday, **April 16th at 12:45 a.m**. Anyone interested in

becoming a member of MUMC is invited. 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 23rd during the 11:30 a.m. service.

Contact Karen Crawshaw with your interest.

The Hub Cluster is sponsoring the Building Beloved Community workshop at Rochelle UMC on Saturday April 15 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. This workshop was created by a committee of UMCNIC laity and clergy led by Dr. Richard Guzman, North Central College Professor Emeritus, and seeks to lay the groundwork for friendships and alliances that will fight racism together. Registrations are due April 3. Call Rochelle UMC at (815)562-2164 or email admin@RochelleUMC.com. The \$20 fee can be paid by check or cash the morning of the workshop. Light breakfast served at 8:30 and lunch is included.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE



Minooka UMC is moving forward and I hope all had a chance to see and touch the Ridge Road Church. Thank you to all who have supported RRPOM (Ridge Road Project of the

Month). We have averaged about \$900 per month to aid in Church construction finishing touches. Our General Fund is staying strong with our expenses being much less since being embraced by Channahon. Capital Giving is still a priority with building finances being tight. Our Church has almost completed building a Church during a difficult time, pandemic, inflation, war, but we have been successful. Please continue to attend our Services either on Saturday or Sunday and don't forgot your Lenten Change Box. Thank you for your continued support and please give generously as we reach the home stretch of long journey.

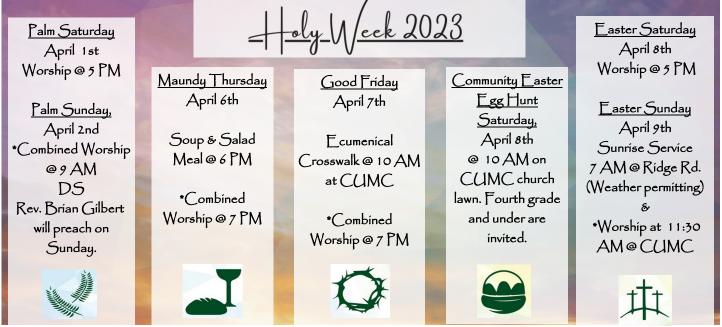
~Finance Committee



Prairie South District Superintendent Rev. Brian Gilbert will come and preach on Palm Sunday, April 2nd 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.)



## SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE April

1 1 2 2 3 3 6 8 10 11 13 15	Collin McComas Jack McComas Ruth Casagrande Don Casagrande Hailey Allgaeuer Valerie Gunderson Abigail Hong LaVerne Spencer Seth Satorius Owen Ratulowski Matthew McComas Bob Stelling Alex Nolan	17 17 17 18 21 22 23 25 25 25 25 25	Ruth Hanna Levi Nischke Ethan Staley Cyndi Campbell Kiera Wences Lauren Bivens Julie Geyer Rae Cichon Piper Gunderson Eli Bivens Brendon McGrath Westin Dailey	23 24 24 24 29 29 29	Brad & Val Gunderson Dick & Teri Parrish Laverne & Johanna Spencer John & Stacy Taylor Wayne & Shelley Dailey Alex & Katrina Nolan Bob & Ruth Pesack
	Bir	thdays Nonth			

## **April** 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Palm Saturday Communion & Red Shirt Week- end 5:00 p.m. Worship
2 Palm Sunday, Communion, & Red Shirt Week- end 9:00 a.m. Combined Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	3 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Rehearsal	4 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	5 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	6 6:00 p.m. Maun- dy Thursday Soup, Salad, & Service	7 10:00 a.m. Ecu- menical Crosswalk 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Combined Service	8 Easter Saturday 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt 5:00 p.m. Worship
9 Easter Sunday 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service 11:30 a.m. Worship	10 1:00 p.m. After- noon Circle 6:30 p.m. Worship Mtg.	11 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	12 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	13 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off cam- pus)	14	15 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p.m. Worship
16 10:15 a.m. Confirmation (In person) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship 12:45 p.m. New Member's Class	17	18 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 7:00 p.m. Finance Mtg.	19 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	20 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off cam- pus)	21 6:00 p.m. CUMC Movie Night	22 5:00 p.m. Worship
23 10:15 a.m. Confirmation (In person) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship & New Member's Join Ceremony	24 7:00 p.m. Book Group	25 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 7:00 p.m. Church Council	26 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	27 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off cam- pus)	28	29 9:00 a.m. LLPB 5:00 p.m. Worship
30 10:15 a.m. Confirma- tion (In person) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School						

#### APRIL SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

April 1st Communion & Red Shirts

LAY READER Chris Vause

April 2nd @ 9 AM Communion & Red Shirts

LAY READER CUMC

USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed

**April 8th** 

LAY READER Karen Gaba

**April 9th** 

LAY READER Kim Nave

USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed

April 15th

LAY READER Chris Vause

**April 16th** 

LAY READER Marlin Hartman USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed

April 22nd

LAY READER Karen Gaba

April 23rd

LAY READER Val Gunderson USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed

April 29th

LAY READER Chris Vause

April 30th

LAY READER Shari Millard

USHER(S) & GREETERS Volunteers Needed

# April 1st & April 2nd (Combined worship on Sunday with CUMC @ 9 AM) Communion & Red Shirt Weekend

Don't forget to use My E-offering to donate on-line or set up recurring giving! Go to <a href="https://www.minookaumc.com">www.minookaumc.com</a> and click on the red "Give" button on the top of the webpage.





from the Church Office

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 2023 news is due into the office no later than **Monday**, **April 17th**.

If you have any questions or articles you would like in our next issue, please contact the office at 815.467.2322 or <a href="mailto:mumc2322@gmail.com">mumc2322@gmail.com</a>.

#### GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

<u> GRUL</u>	175, BIBLE & BOOK	. 51007
GOSPEL	Bible Study This small group studies "Gospel of John (N.T. Wright)" Meets off campus. Contact Pastor Sarah or the office.	Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.
BOOK- CLUB	Book Group - book selection for April is When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed. Meets in choir room 119.	Monday April 24th @ 7 PM
Faith TALK	Faithtalk Women's Bible study Meet in choir room 119.	Tuesday @ Noon
WOMEN'S BREAKFAST	Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast Meet in the fellowship hall.	Saturday, April 29th @ 9 a.m.
BREAKFAST	Men's Prayer Breakfast Enjoy a great time of fellowship and good food with other Christian men. Meet in fellowship hall.	Saturday, April 15th @ 7:30 a.m.
Promer Partner	Prayer Partners - prayer meeting <u>Come pray for your needs/</u> <u>concerns.</u>	Wednesday @ 5 PM
	Afternoon Circle UWF  Meeting locations are announced in the Happenings. Karen & Ruth can be contacted for more information.	Monday, April 10th @ 1 p.m.

#### Free Senior Luncheon April 19th @ 11:30 AM

"Forever Young"

We will hold a free lunch at St. Mary 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.

Slots fill fast! Call by April 12th.





#### Senior Exercise

These 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:

Cyndi Campbell

Chuck

(Marguerite Stelling)

Cindy

(Mary Ray) Joy Courtright Sylvia Courtright

Cubby

(Marlin Hartman) Gus DeGuzman

Kristin Ehteshami-Afshar

Eric

(Gerry Morrow) Larry Flatness (Gail Flatness)

Brad & Val Gunderson

Tom H.

(Marguerite Stelling)

Jeff Harris Jude

(Karen Pubentz)

#### **Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Tianna Juley Roslyn Kryszewski

Carol Lockwood

Lucile

(Joy Clendening)

Margie

(Cyndi Campbell)

Mav

(Mindy Closen) Judie Millard (Les Millard) Connie Morris Joyce O'Brien Amy Pease Toni Sallese

**Bob Stelling** Julie Thompson Christine Yenser

#### **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 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.

#### **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