



Volume 54  
Issue 5

# May 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!*



*Easter Deliveries for Homebound*



*All-Church Transitional Meeting*

*Easter Egg Hunt*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~Saturday, April 29th @ 9 a.m. - Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast
- ~Saturday, May 6th @ 5 p.m. - Communion
- ~Sunday, May 7th @ 11:30 a.m. - Communion & Confirmation Sunday
- ~Sunday, May 7th @ 11:30 a.m. - Communion & Confirmation Sunday
- ~Monday, May 8th @ 1:30 p.m. - Afternoon Circle (**Time Change**)
- ~Sunday, May 14th @ 9:00 a.m. - Combined Worship and Mother's Day
- ~Saturday, May 20th @ 7:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast
- ~May 20th & 21st - Graduation Recognition Services
- ~May 27th & 28th - Memorial Day Services



## Pastor's Page - May 2023



*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven..... a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.. (Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 5)*



In January 2015, I received the good news that I would be appointed to Minooka UMC. Since then, Minooka UMC has been a haven for me and my family. Even though we all knew this season would end, it is much harder than I imagined. Today, I am a much better pastor and leader because of the love, care, and support I received at Minooka UMC. When I was ordained in June of 2010, I vowed to be part of the itineracy, which means that I will go where I am sent by the Bishop and Cabinet. After much prayer, I accepted another call to serve two other churches (in Rockford, IL,) starting July 1st.

Minooka UMC has not yet moved into our new home on Ridge Rd. However, I was privileged to be a part of the groundbreaking and foundational work. As we count the months and weeks before we move into our new home, I feel peace that our strong lay leadership and new pastor will complete this God-given task. I look forward to attending the opening ceremony as a former pastor of Minooka UMC.

Even though I am just learning about my new appointment at Beth Eden & Aldersgate UMC, I know God has a wonderful plan for me. I will do my best to serve and care for them, just as I am sure that the next pastor of Minooka UMC will do the same for you. I am grateful for the leadership of our SPRC, especially Claude Crawshaw (SPRC chair,) for a smooth and prayerful transition. I am grateful for all of our amazing lay leadership, who carry out their ministries with faithfulness and excellence. While I will miss everyone, I need to respect the new boundaries and position of the incoming pastor. I need to let the new pastor serve as your new pastor. Therefore, I ask you not to contact me with pastoral care and/or church matters after June 30. You can share family updates but know that I will not respond. I will see and read your updates but will maintain pastoral boundaries. Starting July 1st, I encourage you to allow the newly appointed pastor to serve as the shepherd and spiritual leader of MUMC.

Transitions can be experienced as a crisis or opportunity. I am confident that this pastoral transition will be an opportunity for Minooka UMC. Over the last 8 years, we have dreamed together and experienced God's faithfulness together. We have prayed together, cried together, laughed together, and served together. Even as you pray for me, please know that I am praying for you and that MUMC has a special place in my heart. So, let us not be anxious, but trust in the faithfulness of God, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

On another note, Minooka UMC received 5 new members on April 23. We also celebrated 3 baptisms in April. May will be another exciting month as we celebrate Confirmants, baptisms, Mothers, and Sunday School teachers. I hope you will join us for these special worship services.

Thank you to our Transition Team and all of our volunteers for distributing door hangers at the end of April. We will continue to plan for a fun and exciting Open House at Ridge Road. Thank you to Chris Vause, Marlin Hartman, the Building & Trustee Committees, and all who have been working on the details of our move into Ridge Road. Thanks also to our Worship Committee and Transition Team their efforts to obtain a new Contemporary Worship leader. There are so many reasons to give thanks. Let's continue to build and trust and grow together!

Blessings,

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



**PASTORAL CARE**  
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.



The Pantry team hopes everyone had a blessed and happy Easter. We are also grateful for the nice days we have been fortunate to enjoy.

Big news! The Pantry is organized according to items and years. There is a place for everything and we can easily find everything. A special "Thank you" must be given to Marie Moretti. In her past life, she stocked shelves for a grocery store and she actually likes doing this work. She saved us time and physical work! Virginia and I helped, but most of the credit has to go to Marie. She's a keeper.

We are very fortunate to have some wonderful and dedicated volunteers. The new volunteers are becoming more comfortable with our procedures and families. Although we can cover our pantry days and needs, the pantry would be better if we had more volunteers. If we can get more volunteers we can develop a system that does not rely on the same people every month. Life events change monthly, so if we had more flexibility and a substitute list, we can lessen the responsibility and prevent burnout. Please give this some thought and if you're willing to join our team please contact Katie.

Some other big news is both Pastor Sarah and Father Tuan are leaving our community. We will need to contact the incoming church leaders on the Pantry's mission, procedures, and families. Thank you to Pastor Sarah for all her cheerful support during her time here. We will miss you.

If you know anyone or a family that needs food support, let them know about our pantry.

**Our Wish List: Breakfast cereal and bars, canned fruit, juice, sugar, salt and pepper, coffee, and dish soap. Please NO Mac and Cheese, mashed potatoes, or stuffing. (Please bring donations to St. Mary's.)**

Finally, thank you for all your support. Stay healthy and safe.

Jean Jun, Virginia Guertin.

### "Letting Jesus Lead"

We all wonder what the future holds for us. Scripture assures us that Jesus is our traveling companion. The key to the disciples' lives with Jesus was that they were following His lead, going where He wanted to go, talking about what He wanted to talk about, accomplishing His purposes, and not the other way around. "They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him." (Mark 10:32)

Joy refreshes, it lightens the spirit, restores us physically, and opens our eyes to see those around us. Joy relieves stress and allows us to look at life through different eyes.

Lasting Joy, deep inner joy, flows from nurturing our relationship with God through solitude, through time spent in Scripture and in prayer. "Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. (1 Chronicles 16:27) God's presence overshadows all else. He is always with us and renews our strength.

Blessings,

Pearl Lindley, Certified Lay Servant



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


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





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Sunday School Lessons

<u>Date</u>	<u>Pre-K through 5th Grade</u>
5/7	Peter
5/14	Peter & Tabitha
5/21	Peter in Prison (Last SS Class) 

### Sunday School Information

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



ASP Mission trip June 10th-17th, 2023

Our Mission team is not complete and still looking for some high school youth to fill our openings for a "Hero". This Hero needs no previous experience just a desire to help others and want to have a good time in the process. Presently the Kohler family (Will, Jill and Kyla) are the core. Myself (Marlin) and Kelly both with previous experience. Addie Satorius, Anna Stinson, Hannah Loverude and Ava Staley round out the team. One more is needed to even the teams.

A week you will remember for the rest of your life- WWJD – He would volunteer.

Marlin Hartman



## VBS 2023

Save the date! We will hold a combined VBS this year with CUMC July 16th-20th  
Details coming soon!



Please pray for our Confirmands and their sponsors.

Tred Gunderson  
Addie Satorius  
Lily Randich

Will Kohler  
Katrina Nolan  
DeeDee Casagrande

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Dress Rehearsal  
Saturday, May 6th @ 6 p.m.

Help these young people mark an important step in their journey of faith by witnessing the Ritual of Confirmation on Sunday, May 7th @ 11:30 a.m.





*Welcome our newly baptized and new members!*



Stacy & Olivia Ferguson



Jack McGrath



Stacy Ferguson



Mika & Sue Hammerstein



Chris Miller



Bob Moorman



# Ridge Road

## UPDATE

### 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 May project will be announced soon!



### CHURCH COUNCIL RIDGE ROAD



The Ridge Road Transition Team led by Chris Vause has done a great job of preparing our leaders and our congregation for the Grand Opening. This team identified 3 Key areas to prepare our members for a successful beginning. These items are as follows:

~Praise Team - Identification of a leader and musicians to create a musical environment for the Generation X and Y. A candidate has been identified and we are in discussions with that individual. They will be visiting our church services in the near future.

~Survey – Communicate to the surrounding Ridge Road community who we are and survey them on general demographics and needs. Project “Door Hanger” was created to handle both areas. Teams from our congregation have volunteered to put door hangers on doors in the neighboring communities telling them “who we are” and asking “what do you want from a local church”. Project “Door Hanger” is using QR code technology for the survey efforts.

~Open House(s) – The final priority is planning a couple of “Open Houses” to allow the community to stop by during non-church service hours, i.e. Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Presently we are looking for some volunteers to lead that effort.

The transition team has done an excellent job of initiating the key actions to help us be successful in our new neighborhood. We are basically starting a new church, an opportunity for all of us to prove what Christians need to be, be a part of this, and help us do God’s Work!



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Free Senior Luncheon May 17th @ 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 May 10th***



You're invited to participate in Minooka's

## Spring GARAGE SALES

**Thursday - Saturday  
May 11th, 12th, & 13th**

Sign up by May 5th at the Minooka Village Hall  
\$3 to have your address on the map  
Maps available for pickup on  
May 10th after 1:00 PM

Garage Sale Map will be available at [Minooka.com](http://Minooka.com)  
Ace Hardware, Casey's, Post Office, Village Hall

## Memorial Day Parade

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

Lineup at 9:00 AM at Mission Bible Church  
412 N. Wabena Ave, Minooka, IL. 60447

PARADE STARTS AT 10:00 AM  
ending at Veterans Park with  
Memorial Service immediately following

Sponsored by:  
The American Legion Post #1188  
If you would like to be in the Parade,  
please contact Jeff Alexander (815) 822-5171

### 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 21st.*

*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 11th.***

*Class of*

# 2023

## May 27th & 28th Memorial Weekend Services

# MEMORIAL DAY

### REMEMBER AND HONOR

**On Memorial Day weekend we will honor MUMC service men & women as well as our veterans. Please join us!**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

*The Finances of the Church are still strong. The savings of utilities and other building costs are allowing us to get ahead in the General Fund. The Red Door Loan is now a part of our monthly costs, as our growth occurs this cost should be absorbed easily into our budget. Used chairs were recently purchased from the Grace Bible Church which closed in Shorewood. These chairs are not perfect but will suffice as we open. Finances are certainly tight in all actions with Ridge Road being our highest priority. We ask all "Givers" to be generous at this time to close this gap in the Ridge Road fund. Finance would also like to thank those who are giving in ways that aren't being counted, covering payments on some items that are not noticed by some but matter to all of us, thank you.*


*~Finance Committee & Marlin Hartman (Church Council Chair)*

## SPECIAL DAYS SPECIAL PEOPLE May

<p>1 John McGrath 5 Thomas McGrath 6 Noah Hinds 8 Mia McCammon 9 Christine Yenser 10 Anita Reiss 12 Keane Brockman 12 Dale Nave 12 Jeff Spencer 14 Adrienne Hartman 15 Samuel McComas 17 Zachary Beitler</p>	<p>17 Ethan Noe 18 Jeanette Harris 18 Karen Larson 19 Tred Gunderson 20 Neva Morris 21 Jolyn Lamping 22 Marian Gaba 23 Larry Korelc 27 George Coley 28 Doug Lockwood 30 Kayli Jones 30 Jayme McGehee</p>	 <p>4 Jay &amp; Karen Hinds 12 Johnny &amp; Kim Allgaeuer 14 Glen &amp; Sydney Yunker 18 John &amp; Kim Nave 19 Pastor Sarah &amp; Rev. Caleb Hong</p>
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### May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	3 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	4 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off campus)	5	6 <b>Communion</b> 5:00 p.m. Worship
<b>7 Communion &amp; Confirmation Sunday</b> 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship 	8 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Circle	9 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	10 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners 6:00 p.m. Out-reach Meeting	11 6:30 p.m. SPRC 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off campus)	12	13 5:00 p.m. Worship
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Combined Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 	15	16 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 7:00 p.m. Finance Mtg.	17 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	18 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off campus)	19	<b>20 Graduation Recognition</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:00 p.m. Worship 
<b>21 Graduation Recognition</b> 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Worship 	22 7:00 p.m. Book Group	23 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk 7:00 p.m. Church Council	24 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners	25 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Off campus)	26	27 9:00 a.m. LLPB 5:00 p.m. Worship
28 11:30 a.m. Worship	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> 	30 12:00 p.m. Faithtalk	31 5:00 p.m. Prayer Partners			



## GROUPS, BIBLE & BOOK STUDY

<b><u>MAY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS</u></b>	
<b>May 6th</b> LAY READER	<b>Communion</b> Karen Gaba
<b>May 7th</b> LAY READER USHER(S) & GREETERS	<b>Communion</b> Confirmands Volunteers Needed
<b>May 13th</b> LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>*May 14th @ 9 AM</b> LAY READER USHER(S) & GREETERS	<b>Combined Worship</b> Kim Nave Volunteers Needed
<b>May 20th</b> LAY READER	Karen Gaba
<b>May 21st</b> LAY READER USHER(S) & GREETERS	Marlin Hartman Volunteers Needed
<b>May 27th</b> LAY READER	Chris Vause
<b>May 28th</b> LAY READER USHER(S) & GREETERS	Mari Kirsch Volunteers Needed
<b>*Please note that combined worship with CUMC will be on Mother's Day, May 14th.</b>	

	<b>Bible Study</b> This small group studies "Gospel of John (N.T. Wright)" <i>Meets off campus. Contact Pastor Sarah or the office.</i>	Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.
	<b>Book Group</b> - book selection for May is <i>The Paris Library</i> by Janet Skeslien Charles. <i>Meet in the choir room 119.</i>	Monday, May 22nd @ 7 PM
	<b>Faithtalk</b> Women's Bible study <i>Meet in the choir room 119.</i>	Tuesday @ Noon
	<b>Lord's Ladies Prayer Breakfast</b> <i>Meet in the fellowship hall.</i>	Saturday, May 27th @ 9 a.m.
	<b>Men's Prayer Breakfast</b> Enjoy a great time of fellowship and good food with other Christian men. <i>Meet in the fellowship hall.</i>	Saturday, May 20th @ 7:30 a.m.
	<b>Prayer Partners - prayer meeting</b> <i>Come pray for your needs/ concerns.</i>	Wednesday @ 5 PM
	<b>Afternoon Circle UWF</b> <i>The meeting will be held at the home of Roslyn K. this month. Contact the office, Karen P. or Ruth S. for more details</i>	Monday, May 8th @ <b>1:30 p.m.</b> <b>(Time Change)</b>

*May Communion*

**May 6th @ 5 p.m. &**

**May 7th @ 11:30 a.m.**

**Confirmation Sunday**

(Combined worship with CUMC will be on 5/14)




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.

June 2023 news is due into the office no later than **Monday, May 15th.**  
If you have any questions or articles you would like in our next issue, please contact the office at [815.467.2322](tel:815.467.2322) or [mumc2322@gmail.com](mailto:mumc2322@gmail.com).





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.

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***  
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:**

Chuck  
 (Marguerite Stelling)  
 Cindy  
 (Mary Ray)  
 Joy Courtright  
 Sylvia Courtright  
 Cubby  
 (Marlin Hartman)  
 Gus DeGuzman  
 Larry Flatness  
 (Gail Flatness)  
 Brad & Val Gunderson  
 Jeff Harris  
 Ron Herath

**Prayer Needs Healing & Recovery:**

Jude  
 (Karen Pubentz)  
 Tianna Juley  
 Margie  
 (Cyndi Campbell)  
 May  
 (Mindy Closen)  
 Joyce O'Brien  
 Amy Pease  
 Toni Sallse  
 Bob Stelling  
 Julie Thompson  
 Marie Webb  
 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.**



**Minooka United Methodist Church**  
**PO Box 819 (Mailing Address)**  
**Minooka, IL 60447**  
**815-467-2322**  
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**Facebook: Minooka United Methodist Church**