February 2012 Mustard Seed

Musings from Mary

Volume 43 Issue 2

Why Have Faith in God?

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:16-17 NRSV

People of faith could easily be accused of taking one thing for granted. We tend to assume that everyone knows that faith in God and faith practice is actually important. Well, it turns out that many people in this country, can't answer a pretty basic question, "Why have faith in God?" Yet, if we don't have an answer to that question, why get up on Sunday mornings to worship, why bother struggling to read the Bible, why take time to pray, why contribute our money and time to the work of the church?

There is no way to answer the question in one page, but here are a few thoughts to get your ideas flowing. Why have faith in God?

- Because either we are <u>all</u> related to God as creator, or we are <u>all not</u> related to God as creator. It has nothing to do with whether we individually believe God exists or not. We can choose what we believe, but that doesn't change what's actually true.
- Because while some will say that they can't believe because we haven't "scientifically proven that God exists," we should remember that we haven't scientifically proven that God doesn't exist either. We actually have plenty of experiential proof that God is real. People across the ages have testified, even at the cost of their lives, that they have encountered God personally. Their experiences and changed lives, and our experiences and changed lives, stand as an impressive body of evidence.
- Because ignoring the God that created us for relationship is a dangerous practice. Christians believe that it's dangerous with respect to what happens at death, but also that it's dangerous with respect to our daily. Living without faith leaves us needing to fulfill our deep need for love through the temporary things of the world, while God is the source of infinite, unending, unconditional love. Living without faith leaves us trying to figure out our own paths through life, while God is more than willing to guide us into fruitful work that nurtures us individually and helps the world. Living without faith leaves us relying on ourselves, while faith puts our trust in God who is much larger and wiser than all of humanity put together.
- Because the experience of those who follow God is uniformly good. That is to say, there isn't a witness that says that they had faith and God steered them wrong. Faith in God improves lives. That's not to say that all organized religion is good, for there are many examples of church movements that weren't actually following God, but following God intentionally leads to good things.
- Because if you really seek God, you will find God and find yourself in a place of faith that is certain beyond what the world could ever prove.

There's a lot more that could and probably should be said but this is a start at a basic answer. I invite you to consider these answers and then consider how you would answer this question if asked by someone who does not believe. Why do you have faith in God? Stay tuned, there are more important faith questions to come in the next few months as we seek to grow in our faith.

In Christ Pastor Mary

Registration for the Spring Soccer Sunday program will be held on Sunday, Feb. 19th from 1-3 p.m. in the Church Annex. This is a program for all Children that will entering Kindergarten in the fall through 5th grade. The soccer season will start on Sunday, April 15, 2012. Volunteers are still needed to help out with this program that is not only a positive program sponsor by Minooka United Methodist Church but also a program the community will be proud of as well. Please contact John Randich at 815-685-5318 for any questions or to volunteer.

Minooka United Methodist Church

205 West Church Street

Minooka, IL 60447

Worship Schedule

9:00 & 10:45 am Sunday Service

Sunday School

10:30 am Junior & Senior High

10:45 am Preschool - adult

Church Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday

8:30am - 3:30 pm

Friday

8:30 - 12:00 pm

Church Fax: 815-467-8210

Church e-mail:
mumc2322@aol.com

Website:

minookaumc.com

Pastor

Mary Zajac

Home: 815-467-2949

pastormaryz@sbcglobal.net

Deacon

Sharon Rice

umc_ce@yahoo.com

February 5	6pm Inquirers Class
	7pm Launch Team
February 12th	Scout Recognition
	New Members Sunday
February 19	Children's Sunday School Choir
	1-3pm Spring Soccer Sunday registration
February 26	Youth Sunday

Methodist approach to Stewardship (by Clayton Smith)

John Wesley urged those in connection with him to "Earn all you can and save all you can, so that you can give all you can." He modeled modest living and sacrificial giving. Wesley made sure those early classes of "Methodists" took weekly offerings to help others in need. Today, we United Methodists join others to help all of God's children…whenever and wherever we can. Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes when the crowd grew hungry. Through our congregation, we are the heart, spirit and hands of God's outreaching love. Life grows here through the joy of generosity.

Opportunity to serve:

Do numbers, facts and figures interest you as much as they do me? Sometimes Chris (my husband) gives me a hard time about how I like to calculate percentages of things. If you are a numbers person, the finance committee could use your talents! Karen takes care of the weekly offerings and Johanna takes care of paying the bills. We could use a couple extra people on the committee to help with decision making and taking meeting minutes. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Please contact me to discuss the possibility of the Financial Resourcing Committee.

Sue White, Financial Resourcing Chair

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22nd at 7:00 pm

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

After the hectic November and December, January seemed rather quiet in the pantry. We are still seeing new families each month, which is sad. Maybe this will be the year things begin to improve for those in need.

Our plans to add Will and Kendall County residents is still a work in progress. We have a couple of new leads to check out. I have faith if it is meant to be we will find those who need us.

I want to add a special Thank You to my committee who filled in for me during my absence. Melissa Fletcher got her chance to work the pantry and meet clients. Cindy White kept everything running smoothly.

Bless you for all the donations. We appreciate every item we receive.

Jane Carhart and your Helping Hands Food Pantry Committee

FEBRUARY

MEETING SCHEDULE

AT A GLANCE

7	7pm	Praise Team
	7:30pm	Chair meeting
14	6pm	Council on Youth
		Caring Ministries
		Evangelism
		Worship
	6:30pm	Preschool Board
	7pm	Praise Team
21	**6pm**	Food Pantry
		Trustees
	6:30pm	Building Co.
	7pm	Praise Team
		Finance
	8pm	Christian Ed

DAYBREAK

Through the tender mercy of our God, the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who wait in darkness. ~Luke 1:78

The donations from our congregation have been outstanding! Thank you for continuing to make a difference! The current needs include:

Seasonal clothing items for men, women & children
Men's & Women's deodorant
Jeans for men, women & children
Razors and shaving cream
Sunscreen/Bug Spray
Women's underwear
Hair care products for African-Americans
Body wash & lotion
Baby wipes & diapers
Combs & brushes

These items may be placed in the collection box outside the fellowship hall.
Thank you to Pam Dilday's team for preparing and serving lunch at Daybreak on New Year's Day.
Thanks also to all our regular volunteers for their service.
May God bless you richly, and may you in turn bless others.

Chris White, 2012 Daybreak Coordinator

<u>Valentines Party - All Adults Welcomed</u>

Date: Saturday, February 4

Time: 6 p.m. – Church Annex

Cost: $5.00 per person covers meat and drinks

Bring a side dish or dessert

Sign-up sheet in back of church

Bring a wrapped WHITE ELEPHANT gift that you would LOVE to get rid of! (church appropriate)

It will be fun – please come – see Maria Larabee or call her with questions.

UMW UPCOMING EVENTS

At our February meetings meeting, we will be making cards for the women at the Dwight Correctional Facility.

REMEMBER YOUR SECRET PAL THIS VALENTINE'S DAY !!!!!

At the March 12th we will be making shorts and dresses for children in Africa. T he 11:00 am time group will be cutting and pinning. The 7:00 pm group will be doing the sewing.

Any ladies that would like to help with this mission project and if you have a sewing machine that we can use, please contact me. We will be meeting in the Annex for these meetings. It will be a wonderful time of fellowship and mission work.

PLEASE JOIN US ON March 12th in the morning or in the evening

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Lay Leader

What Valentine Can I Give Him?

What can I give to Jesus
On this special Valentine's Day?
How can I tell Him I'll love Him,
And follow Him, come what may?

How can I show I need Him?
Should I send a red heart, with lace?
How can I thank Him enough
For his sacrifice, love and grace?

What Valentine can I give Him,
My adoration to impart?
I'll give to Him what He wants most;
I'll yield to Him my heart.

By Joanna Fuchs

This Valentine's Day make God your Valentine and show Him how much love is in your heart.

Kim Nave, Lay Leader

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our Average attendance in December 2011:	171
December 2011Offering:	$20,156
December 2011Ridge Road Development Fund:	$400

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Late in June last year, an All Church meeting met with the purpose of securing the congregation's interest in moving forward with a collaborative venture with the Joliet YMCA. The joint venture would house both the Y and Minooka United Methodist Church on Ridge Road. This vote followed many small group meetings, "Checkpoint meetings" to discuss options for the future building structure for this congregation. 74% approved the venture and as a result, an affirmative vote also allowed the Building Committee to evaluate the possibility of hiring a Capital Campaign fund raising group.

After that meeting, the Building Committee met with the Y to advise them of the good news and the Y is also working on their next steps which includes their own Capital Campaign.

After interviewing three Fund Appeal/Capital Campaign groups, The James Company was chosen to assist MUMC with a 2012 Capital Campaign. The James Company is the same group that assisted the church in its successful campaign to purchase the Ridge Road property several years ago. The Campaign will start in late April and end with Commitment Sunday on May 20. Givers will be asked to make a three year commitment. An evaluation will be conducted after that initial campaign as it is anticipated that this will be the first campaign with subsequent campaign(s) to follow to secure funds needed to build a building for the next generations.

Don Schultz has visited with the Building committee learning about the project and is now assisting in providing resources and guidance that only an expert can bring. Jim Satorius and Karen Pubentz will lead the fund appeal and some of the needed volunteers have accepted positions and will start training in early March. More volunteers are needed and if you are interested, contact Jim or Karen.

For more information about the James Company: www.James.company.com

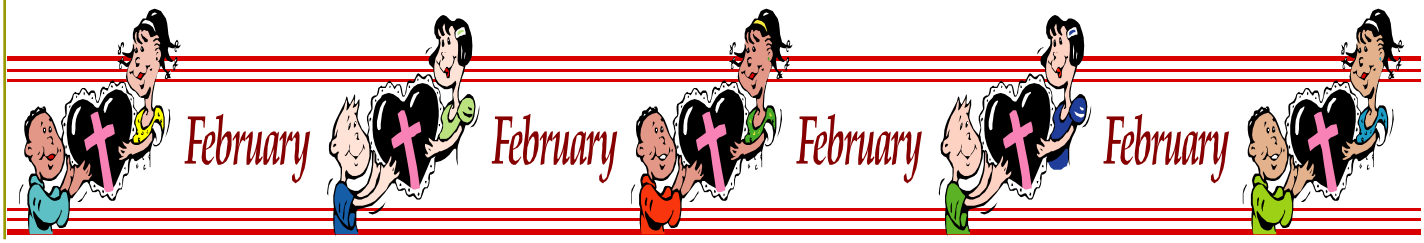
Sunday School Theme Week - Sunday, February 19th is crazy Sock day. Show your spirit and earn an opportunity to attend a special party at the end of the year.

Children's Choir - The Children will sing on Sunday, February 19th in the 9:00am service. Grades 2-5 will meet in the Sanctuary at 8:00am to practice. Pre-K through 1st should be at church no later than 8:45. Children will sit with their parents during the service. We will sing during Children's time.

Have you found your way through the Bible yet? - 2nd and 3rd graders have until the last day of Sunday School (May 2012) to find their way and earn a prize.....

VBS 2012 July 15-20th. The Trek to Nazareth begins...we are looking for volunteers to help us prepare for VBS in the next couple of months. We are also looking for family leaders and market place volunteers who can help us during VBS. Please consider helping us with this wonderful opportunity to reach out to the children of our church and the community in which we live and serve.
Do you sew?.....Would you be willing to make sashes for the VBS kids. We are looking for a few ladies to help us out. It's a very simple design and all material will be provided for you. Please see Nicole Bishop if you are interested.....

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, or if you feel called to join the Christian Education team, please contact Nicole Bishop at Rudancin2@yahoo.com



AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT PRISON MINISTRY

Pastor Mary will be participating in a prison ministry weekend from February 17-20 as a part of a Kairos Inside ministry team. The team consists of 24 volunteers from many different denominations who spend a retreat weekend with inmates at the Dwight women's correctional facility. This is an exciting ministry that is being increasingly embraced by correctional facilities as they can see a change in their prison environments where inmates are given an opportunity to meet Christ through this in-depth program. It's also an important ministry for all Christians as Jesus lists "visiting the prisoner" as one of the important ministries of the Christian.

There will be 24 people committing time to be in direct ministry at the prison, however, there is also an opportunity for many others to participate. Please consider "visiting the prisoner" in one of the following ways:

Volunteer to be a part of the prayer vigil that lasts for the entire duration of the retreat. We need people to volunteer for 30 minute periods where they will pray for the participants in the retreat and for the success of the weekend. The first pray-er begins at 4:00 pm on Friday, February 17 and the last one completes their work at 4:00 pm on Monday February 20. Please let Pastor Mary know if you are willing to volunteer and what time-slot you will take. If you are a night owl or an early riser we really need your help since this prayer vigil goes all night long!

Provide cookies to be enjoyed by the participants. We can no longer take homemade cookies into the prison, however we can take packages of oatmeal, shortbread, chocolate/vanilla sandwich cookies, and chocolate chip cookies. The restrictions include **no nuts** of any kind and **no frosting or powdered sugar**. Please drop them off at the church office.

Make a donation to support the weekend. Kairos is a non-profit organization that is dependent upon donations. It costs approximately $125 for each person to participate. Donations of any size are appreciated. Checks can be made payable to **KPMI**; please write **Dwight #9** on the memo line.

In addition, the UMW will be writing letters of support to the inmate participants, and the Sunday School students will be engaged in making placemats and posters to decorate the meeting space over the weekend. Thank you!

Kairos
Prison Ministry

FaithTalk @ Work will be Saturday, February 25th at 8:00 am at Grandma's restaurant in Minooka.

FaithTalk:Youth will be Saturday, February 11 and 25th at 10:00 am at McDonald's on Route 6 in Channahon.

FaithTalk

Thank you to all the treat providers for December: Staff Parish, Christian Ed, Kim Nave, Dee Dee Casagrande. All the Christmas spreads were great! It's such a great mission when you treat providers give us the opportunity to gather and visit with each other, have coffee and treats in a relaxed atmosphere.

Please consider signing up for 2012 Fellowship. We had such great 2011 treats and wonderful fellowship due to all of you who so graciously baked, and purchased treats. Thank you to all of you!!!!

Our Valentine's party is Saturday, Feb 4! Please consider joining us. This is not a couple thing, all adults are welcomed! See all the details in the bulletin and in this Mustard Seed.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Blessed New Year from all of us on the Spirit Committee: Adrienne Hartman, Jan Stadt, Kristen Ehteshami-Afshar, Lori Butler, Tammie Patterson and Maria Larabee.

February Men's Prayer Breakfast

Come and enjoy our monthly breakfasts held the

2nd Saturday

of each month in the annex

at 7:30 a.m.

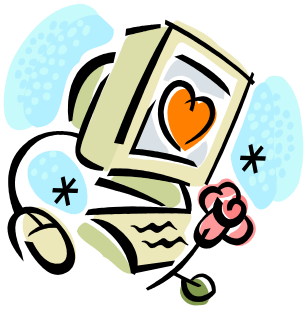
February 11th

All men are invited!

No reservations needed!

Held in the annex.

http://www.minookaumc.com/mustard_seed.htm Visit this link and read and print off the monthly newsletter on line. Past issues back to January of 2011 are available for your viewing. March 2012 news is due into the office on Friday, February 10th. Thanks, Adrienne Hartman



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Carol Lockwood
3 Kelly O'Brien
5 James Kloiber
7 Shari Millard
8 Margaret Lyons
9 Anna Geyer
11 Cindy Gossen
13 Michael Beitler
13 Kaytlyn Harvey
18 Kathy Joerger
19 Rodney Hiser
20 Brenna Johnston
20 Helen Miller
23 Trinity Staley
23 Bob White
24 Rosalynn Ehteshami-Afshar
25 Les Dilday
25 Taylor Simios
26 John Larabee
27 Marlin Hartman
27 Cael Hiser
28 Ross Gunderson
28 Dave Kasmer
28 Coady Thompson
29 Kim Coffman
(Happy Leap Year Birthday KIM!)

I would like to extend a Big Thank You to my secret pal for the generous Christmas gift. The card was so cute, a snowman, my favorite. She always remembers me each month, one way or another. I am anxious to find out who she is, so I can thank her personally. Have a Happy and Healthy New Year. Isn't this fun? Helen Miller

Dear "Secret Pal", thank you so much for all of your gifts that continue to surprise me. I have enjoyed each and every gift and card. Thank you Kim Nave for suggesting this ministry. It's really sweet. Who doesn't like a surprise? Adrienne Hartman

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Eddie & Jeanie Eddy
12 Claude & Karen Crawshaw
15 Charlie & Cristye Brown
23 Danny & Martha Ann Harvey
27 Adam & April Sandoval

Minooka United Methodist Church

205 W. Church Street
Minooka, Illinois 60447

Phone: 815*467*2322
Fax: 815*467*8210
E-mail: mumc2322@aol.com

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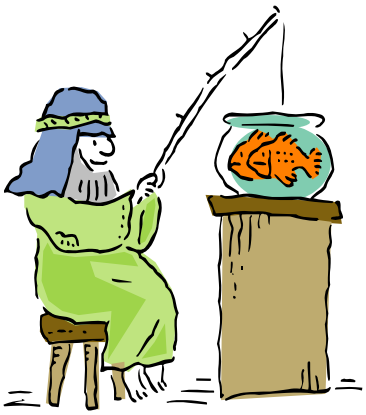
Lenten Fish Fry's

4:00—7:00 p.m.

In the annex

February 24th, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th & April 6th



ASH/2012