



Musings from Mary on Hope for the New Year

He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

Luke 13:18-19 NRSV

As 2012 begins this passage brings me hope. Jesus speaks these words when he is preaching one day on the Sabbath. He has just healed a woman who has been crippled for many years, and as usual he has been criticized for doing it. Then he seems to change the topic and speak about the Kingdom of God which is planted almost invisibly but grows to be a great tree. I think that perhaps he hasn't changed the subject at all; in fact what he is saying is that the healing they have just witnessed is just the beginning sign of the great things to come. God's big works often begin as local miracles that multiply and grow.

This passage brings me hope as I think about the many seeds we have planted in 2011 as a congregation. We've started to work on the capital campaign to build in collaboration with the YMCA, we've defined our mission and vision, we've started to build up interest in a new worship service (possibly on Sunday evenings), we've started to lay out a discipleship growth path that helps people Meet, Know, Grow and Go in Christ, and we've started a small group program called Faithtalk. We have planted a lot of seeds. All of them are so small right now that they may be invisible to many people in the congregation. But all of them are seeds sown in faith, all are being steadily watered, and with God's continued blessing all have potential to grow into great trees that build our congregation, as we seek to be workers for God's Kingdom.

As you look back at 2011, I hope you feel blessed by the distance we have come. As we look forward to 2012, I hope you can feel the excitement that comes with seeing the seeds we have planted sprout and begin to grow. Personally, I can't wait to see what God will produce from our labors!

In Christ,

Pastor Mary



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

Soccer Sunday Preparation has begun and we are still looking for any volunteers that can help out. We will have a seven week season this spring starting in April that will include the following dates: April 15, 22, 29, May 6 and 20, and June 3 and 10 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. All grades K-5 are welcome with the ultimate goal of promoting fellowship, fun, and exercise. Registration forms will be ready soon at the church, in person registration on February 19th from 1-3 p.m. or you can contact John or Nikki Randich at 815-685-5318 or 815-782-7145 for more information or to offer assistance and/or volunteer.



**January
Worship & Sermon Series
Schedule**

| | |
|------------|---|
| January 1 | 10 am Worship service New Years Day |
| January 8 | Deacon Sharon preaching Sunday School resumes 12 pm Removing the Greens |
| January 15 | Start of "When Life Goes Out of Control" Sermon Series 10:45 am Adult Sunday School resumes |
| January 22 | Youth Sunday |
| January 29 | 6pm Inquirers Class |

Meeting God in Christ – Please Mark Your Calendars

Our individual journeys toward faith differ, but at the same time, they are similar. Over time people of faith **Meet** God in Christ, come to **Know** God in Christ, **Grow** in our faith, and **Go** to serve in the world. We may do things in different orders, or find some approaches more meaningful than others, but the destination is the same – becoming deeply committed followers of Christ.

At Minooka United Methodist Church we are developing a pathway that we hope everyone will eventually participate in. Its form is an adult curriculum of small group classes designed to deepen your faith experience and hopefully help you walk the Meet, Know, Grow, Go pathway. We are offering three classes designed to help you **Meet** God in Christ. Those three classes are:

- 10 Bible Stories Everyone Should Know
- 10 More Bible Stories Everyone Should Know
- Getting Acquainted With Jesus

These classes are designed to build knowledge of the Bible as we come to know the God that the Bible reveals. They don't have to be taken in order, but it might be helpful to take them in order if you don't have a lot of Bible background. We've just finished the first offering of 10 Bible Stories, so sorry but that one will be offered last!

Since the New Year is just beginning – this might be a good time to take out the calendar and reserve time to participate. The schedule for these groups in the next six months is tentatively as follows:

- 10 More Bible Stories: Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, January 18-March 21 (except Ash Wed.)
- Get Acquainted with Jesus: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 PM, April 23 – June 18 (except Memorial Day)
- 10 Bible Stories: Not yet scheduled, if you are interested please let Pastor Mary know.

Pastor Mary

DO YOU WANT TO DISCOVER THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF PRAYER?

Please join this DVD based small group study called “When God’s People Pray” by Jim Cymbala. We’ll be meeting during the Sunday school hour in the choir room (downstairs past the youth room) beginning January 15th. During our sessions we will explore the following topics: God’s Heart for Us, The Amazing Power of Prayer, The Word of God and Prayer, and Why Prayer Matters. Through the teachings of Jim Cymbala and our own discussions we hear stories of ordinary people who have received amazing answers to prayer. We will grow in our faith to boldly pray with new confidence. Please join us beginning January 15th or anytime during our journey at 10:45 in the choir room. Melissa Fletcher

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In January we will be baking at both the 11:00am and the 7:00pm meetings. All ladies are welcome to join us for this fun time. These yummy treats will be delivered to the shut ins of our church. If you know of someone that could use a special treat during the long winter months, please let me know.

February, we will be back hard at work behind the sewing machines. We will be making sundresses and shorts for children in Africa. The day group will be cutting and pinning. The night group sewing.

Have a blessed 2012, Kim Nave, UMW President

HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

First I want to thank everyone for their continued support of this mission project. We served 25 families in November.

Our goal to help families from Will and Kendall counties is still a work in progress. It will happen in 2012, we just have not found the resource we need to find the people who need us. Donna Sabo is the person heading this project. If you have any ideas, please let her know.



We delivered 22 Jane Heap Memorial Christmas baskets this year. Almost 100 people received food and gifts at a time when they thought they would not have a Christmas. It was wonderful to witness the generosity of our church and St. Mary's congregations, along with outside food drives and donations from the Girl Scouts, Brownies, Dollinger Farms, Weight Watchers, Lion's Club, Styrolutions, the Minooka Police Department working with the schools and local businesses and private donors. There was a time I didn't know if we would get all that food marked and put away.

Thank you to all who helped get ready for the basket deliveries and for the deliveries themselves. I could not have done it without you.

The "adopt a food item" board will be up by February 1st. I didn't realize how many hours I would be spending in the pantry trying to keep up with the donations and getting the food baskets ready before Christmas. Currently the food pantry is well stocked. I will let everyone know in the weekly bulletin if there is a specific need.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members. My first year of being in charge of the Helping Hands Food Pantry was a learning experience for all of us, but I think we did ok. I look forward to what is ahead for us in 2012.

Jane Carhart, Food Pantry Chairperson



MEETING SCHEDULE

AT A GLANCE

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 3 | No Chair meeting | 17 | 6pm | Food Pantry |
| <u>6:30pm</u> | Building Committee | <u>7pm</u> | | Praise Team |
| <u>7pm</u> | Praise Team | | | Finance |
| 10 | Preschool Board | <u>8pm</u> | | Chr Ed |
| <u>6pm</u> | Council on Youth | | | |
| | Caring Ministries | 24 | <u>7pm</u> | Church Council |
| | Evangelism | | | |
| | Worship | | | |
| <u>7pm</u> | Praise Team | | | |
| | Trustee | | | |
| | Mission | | | |
| <u>8pm</u> | SPRC | | | |

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 When Sue and I pray before dinner, we always pray for the less fortunate, those without adequate food, clothing and shelter. I see our prayers being answered every time I walk by the donation box outside our fellowship hall. I see our prayers being answered when I'm approached with offers of help. Our prayers are answered with the teams from MUMC who faithfully prepare and serve meals at Daybreak. This past month our prayers were answered when Ron & Jan Stadt came through with not one, but two pairs of size 15 shoes. Thanks for filling that need! It was also brought to my attention that our pastor conducted a memorial service for a resident of Daybreak who recently passed away. Thanks, Pastor Mary, for filling that need! I would ask that in 2012 all of us would make it a habit to pray for those less fortunate than ourselves. Not all of us have the means to put a check in the mail or to purchase food or clothing for others. Everyone isn't able to give of his time to go to Daybreak to prepare meals. We are all capable of praying for others, especially for those who have found themselves destitute and homeless.

The current needs at Daybreak include:

Clothing suitable for the season, new socks, new underwear.

Hygiene Products – hair gel, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lotion, tampons, sanitary pads, African American hair products, combs and brushes, fragrance free hygiene products

Baby Items - disposable diapers (size 1-6), baby wipes

Household – laundry soap, white twin size sheets, pillow cases, white twin size thermal blankets, and white bath towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper



These items may be placed in the collection box in the narthex.

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute to this worthwhile ministry.

May God bless you richly, and may you in turn bless others.

Chris White, 2012 Daybreak Coordinator

LAY LEADER

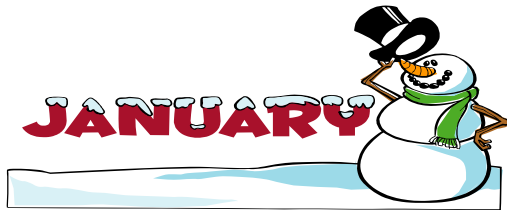
As we look outside and see the snow, we can feel the frigid winter air. It can be hard at this time to see the beauty that winter offers.

Close your eyes take a deep breath and put yourself in a happy place. Now look outside again. Everything looks so clean and white. Maybe you see some children having fun outside or maybe there are some snowflakes on your window. Look how amazing they are. Not one is like the other.

Just like us, God created us all with our own unique look and personality. But there is one thing we all have in common, we are God's children and are here to spread His Word and do His Work.

He gives us the season of winter to slow down. A cold winter day or night is a great time for family time, getting caught up on things we've put off, write a letter or make something special for someone or how about read the GOOD BOOK!! Grab your Bible and cozy up by a fire or under a blanket. Let God's love warm you this winter.

Kim Nave, Lay Leader



Youth Fellowship

It's a new year, and with it brings new discussion topics and new activities to Youth Fellowship! Join us this month as we try to bring warmth to a cold world...

Sunday, Jan. 8—Epiphany Party!

Epiphany celebrates the Wise Men finding the Christ Child; for many countries, *this* is the time of gift giving, so we will have a party and an opportunity to “give some gifts” as well. **BRING 3 THINGS:** **1)** a favorite snack to share at our party, **2)** a “baby item” to give to our food pantry in honor of Jesus (*diapers, formula, wipes, baby lotion/shampoo, etc.*) and **3)** a beautifully wrapped “White Elephant” gift—what’s a “white elephant gift”? Normally something cheap or gaudy; previous white elephant gifts have been a box of crayons, a can of air freshener, a bottle of foot powder...you get the idea. **DO NOT SPEND MORE THAN \$3** on your gift, but at the same time, please do not give anything that’s falling apart. Each youth group will have their own, respective Epiphany Party.

Jr. High: 3-5pm

Sr. High: 5-7pm

JR. HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: “*Man with a Mission*”

Sundays, 3-5pm

Who is this guy named Jesus and why does he matter? Why do so many people go to church to worship him? Why do some people hate him? Why are other people willing to die for him? Why should I care? Ever find yourself wondering this or other questions? We’ll examine this man Jesus through discussion, games, activities, and outreach projects.

SR. HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: “*Come In from the Cold!*”

Sundays, 5-7pm

Ever notice that the more debates and arguments heat up, the colder people seem to be towards one another? During the month of January, we’ll tackle some of these topics, looking at ways in which Christ can guide us into overcoming ignorance, prejudice, and hate. There will also be games, activities, and service opportunities to correlate with our discussions.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GYM DAYS!!!

Sunday, January 22, 4-6pm (ALL youth)

Gym nights are back this winter! On select nights during the months of January, February, and March, we’ll be spending time across the street at the Minooka Preschool Center gym for all sorts of games. Youth from both groups will meet together at the gym for a full TWO HOURS of activities (plus a devotion or two); on these nights, this will be the MAIN youth fellowship activity (no additional Jr. High or Sr. High time on those evenings). So put on your best gym shoes, dig out your sweats, and get ready to burn off some energy!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

| | |
|--|----------|
| Our Average attendance in November 2011: | 145 |
| November 2011 Offering: | \$18,738 |
| November 2011 Ridge Road Development Fund: | \$133 |



God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Cor 9:8

I would like to thank all the committees of the church who diligently worked to get their 2012 budgets stream-lined. It is with pleasure that I can announce that the Finance Committee approved the 2012 budget.

As we start off the New Year let us give thanks to God for giving us "Enough". I am truly humbled by the support that the friends and members of Minooka United Methodist Church give each year. Thus ensuring that we can continue and expand the ministries to the community we serve.

Sue White, Finance Chair

OFFERING ENVELOPES If you have not received your 2012 Offering Envelopes, please pick them up from your mailbox in the Fellowship Hall. If you previously have not had envelopes and would like to have them and receive quarterly statements, please contact Karen Crawshaw 815-467-1674.

If you are a person that pays your bills on the computer by the debit process through your bank, did you know you can have your bank send a check for your offering to Minooka United Methodist Church? You can have the check scheduled to be sent even when you are unable to attend church. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Karen Crawshaw, Financial Secretary 815-467-1674

The 2012 ASP Mission process is officially underway. We already have paid our deposit to ASP for 2012 and enough youth have financially committed with their deposit to have 3 teams once again head for Appalachia. I am anticipating 6-7 adult chaperones to lead this important senior high program. On January 22nd at 11:35 am in the annex, a meeting will be held to judge the interest of adults for selection of chaperones.

Thank you for the support in advance for all you do to make this trip a success for our Church.
Marlin Hartman, ASP Leader

ASP
Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT



A big thank you to all the November Fellowship providers: Jan and Ron Stadt, Carol Holstine and Family, Gail Chase, Adrienne Hartman and Lori Butler. They were great treats!!!

We had a wonderful Ladies Luncheon for "Lunch and Learn". It was a great turnout. The food, fellowship, fun and great door prizes were enjoyed by all the ladies that attended. Thank you to the Spirit Committee members who helped pull it off! A special thank you to John Larabee and Ron Stadt for taking care of the kitchen and clean up. We appreciate all your efforts John and Ron!! Maria Larabee, Chair, Spirit Committee

INQUIRERS CLASS

Have you been sharing our church life, but are not a member? Are you interested in joining our church? Pastor Mary is hosting a series of classes on Sunday, January 29th and February 5th at 6 pm in the evening. New Members Sunday will be February 12th. Please sign the register on Saturday night or Sunday morning and check that you would be interested in joining, or call the church office expressing your desire to join at 815-467-2322.



New Member Class



Start the New Year off right.
Come and enjoy our monthly
breakfasts held the
2nd Saturday
of each month in the annex
at 7:30 a.m.

Our first one for 2012

Is January 14th .

All men are invited!

No reservations needed!

Held in the annex.

FaithTalk @ Work will be Saturday,
January 28th at 8:00 am at Grandma's
restaurant in Minooka.

FaithTalk: Youth will be Saturday, January
14 & 28th at 10:00 am at McDonald's on
Route 6 in Channahon.

FaithTalk

Minooka United Methodist Church
Report of the Lay Leadership Committee 2012

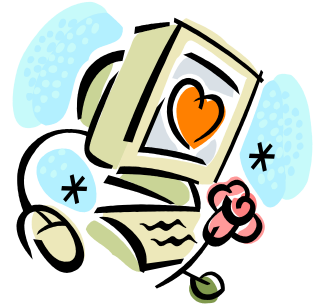
The Church Council

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|--|
| 521-0890 | Dee Dee Casagrande | 2013 | Chairperson |
| 467-6043 | Jim Satorius | 2013 | Vice-Chair |
| 828-5142 | Gail Chase | 2012 | Secretary |
| 467-2322/467-2949h | Mary Zajac | | Pastor/Chr. Nominating Committee |
| 630-699-3892 | Sharon Rice | | Minister of Youth |
| 735-8218 | Johanna Spencer | 2012 | Church Treasurer |
| 467-4657 | Adrienne Hartman | 2012 | Membership Secretary |
| 467-1674 | Karen Crawshaw | 2012 | Financial Secretary |
| 467-2199 | Kim Nave | 2012 | Lay Leader |
| 521-4553 | Steve Coffman | 2014 | Lay Delegate Annual Conf. (2013) |
| 467-6065 | Mari Kirsch | 2012 | Chairperson Evangelism |
| 475-7169 | Maria Larabee | 2012 | Chairperson of Spirit Committee |
| 828-5812 | Cindy White | 2013 | Chairperson of Caring Committee Chairperson of Trustees |
| 467-1674 | Claude Crawshaw | 2012 | Chair of Missions/Social Concerns |
| 467-2961 | Sue White | 2012 | Chairperson of Finance Chairperson of Staff Parish |
| 955-1080 | Sue Feece | 2013 | President of Preschool Board |
| 467-5143 | Pearl Lindley | 2013 | Alt. Lay Member of Annual Conference |
| 467-5182 | Mark Bishop | 2013 | Co- Chairperson of Worship |
| 521-4553 | Steve Coffman | 2013 | Co- Chairperson of Worship |
| 467-5141 | Nicole Bishop | 6/2012 | Chairperson of Ed Committee |
| 521-4553 | Kim Coffman | 6/2012 | Christian Ed Superintendent |
| 467-5673 | Shelley Dailey | 2013 | Chairperson of Memorial Gifts |
| 467-6258 | Guy Carlson | 2013 | Chairperson of Records & History |
| 467-2199 | Kim Nave | 2012 | President United Methodist Women |
| 467-2199 | John Nave | 2012 | Chair of Council on Youth |
| Church Council, at Large Members | | | |
| 467-9042 | Jeff Hanley | 2012 | |



http://www.minookaumc.com/mustard_seed.htm You can visit this link and read and print off the monthly newsletter on line now! Past issues back to January of 2011 are available for your viewing. So, if you are in an area where your newsletter takes weeks to receive, remember on the first of each month you can read the newsletter and get all the updated Minooka UMC news! February 2012 news is due into the office on Tuesday, January 10th.

Thanks, Adrienne Hartman



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Nancy Kirby
- 4 Jessica Satorius
- 5 Jon Murley
- 5 Tim Thompson
- 7 Trevor Spencer
- 11 Patty McGehee
- 12 Ruth Pesack
- 13 Sarah Bartak
- 14 Jeannette Stadt
- 17 Ruth Satorius
- 20 Wade Clausing
- 20 John Randich
- 24 Dean Geyer
- 25 James Ritenour



We would like to thank our church family for the cards, telephone calls and many acts of kindness for our 40th Wedding Anniversary on November 20, 2011. We feel very blessed and thankful.

In Christ, Ray and Pearl Lindley

Dear Church Family, We would like to thank all of you for the outpouring of cards, prayers, love, and support following Westin's injury and recovery. We would especially like to thank Marlin Hartman, Lorain Clausen and Pastor Mary for their uplifting visits to Loyola and the Sr. High Sunday School class for their colorful cards. They decorated the room and made everyone smile in a most difficult time. Our sincere thanks goes out to all of you. May you have a blessed New Year! The Dailey Family

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jack & Jean Cobb
- 2 Pastor Mary & Jim Zajac
- 3 Dale & Carol Lockwood
- 9 David & Tracy Harvey
- 27 Ric & Melody Coop
- 28 Paul & Beth Froidcoeur
- 30 Nick & Sarah Widmer

Many thanks to all who participated in the "MIGRATING FLAMINGOS." The birds have over 25 yards to land in and I expect more to come. I would also like to thank all who have supported our youth program this past year by either donating your time and/or your money to this great ministry.

John Nave, Chair of Council on Youth

Year! The Dailey Family

**Minooka United
Methodist Church**

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