



Musings from Mary

The Biggest Loser

Volume 42 Issue 3

It was a cold and stormy night.... In fact it was the night of the Blizzard of 2011. I happened to be home on a Tuesday night, a rare event for me, and so I decided to flip on the television and see what people might be watching. I turned on that incredible show, *The Biggest Loser*. I have now seen parts of that show three times in my life, and every time I have found myself with a tear running down my cheek. I find it amazing that people can lose so much weight each week. And I find it tragic that often times one of the contestants has to be sent home because their 2-3% of body weight loss just wasn't enough to compete. It's hard to imagine!

The contestants in *The Biggest Loser* wear their addictions and unhealthy habits in full view, especially as they strip down to be weighed for the week. Their stories vary, but it's pretty evident that they have been unable to cope with some aspect of the world on their own. As a result, they come to the show knowing that they truly need those tough personal trainers, an environment that promotes good health, and encouragement from others. The results are unbelievable.

That evening as I was watching the show, I was reminded that Lent would be starting soon. It occurred to me that like *The Biggest Loser*, Lent is about facing our unhealthy habits and addictions head on and admitting that we can't make the necessary changes alone. We need help from our Savior, we need the environment of Lent to encourage us to set things aside and make the necessary changes in our life, and we need support of other faithful people throughout the journey. Most of us don't have to wear our bad habits and addictions in such visible form, but we all have bad habits and addictions that we need to shed in order to usher in new life in Christ.

Ash Wednesday, which is on March 9, 2011, is the first day of Lent this year. We'll be having a worship service at 7:00 pm in which there will be an opportunity to privately and prayerfully commit to depending on Christ to make a change this year. It isn't about competing, or winning, it's about being healthier disciples. I hope you will be able to join us. I hope that you can find a meaningful commitment to living faithfully. And I pray that the results will be unbelievable!





**Minooka United Methodist
Church**

205 West Church Street

Minooka, IL 60447

Weekend Worship Schedule

5:00 pm Saturday Service

9:00 am Sunday Service

10:30 am Senior High Sunday School

10:45 am Sunday School

10:45 am Sunday Service

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

Email:

pastormaryz@sbcglobal.net

Teams *and* COMMITTEES

LENTEN STUDY



LENTEN STUDY BEGINS MARCH 12/13

From the weekend of March 12/13 through the weekend of April 16/17 our Adult Sunday classes will be using a program entitled,

“Becoming a Good Samaritan.”

This is a video-based program designed to help you and excite you about being the hands and feet of Jesus right in our own community. There’s plenty to be done in Jesus’ name. Let’s get to work in ways that can transform the world in Jesus’ name.

The same curriculum will be used at both sessions. Come on Saturdays at 6:00 and stay for the potluck or come on Sundays at 10:45. We hope to see you there!

2010 FUND RAISERS A SUCCESS

The saying goes: "Many hands make light work"...better said: the hard and dedicated work of many has added greatly to the funds at Minooka United Methodist Church and its outreach programs.

In 2010 we had five major events* (and some ongoing projects**) to raise money for the church budget as well as for the ASP trip and the formation of Soccer Sunday---a community outreach program for kids in grades K-5 .

<p><u>*FISH FRIES</u> \$5,915.70----FOR THE GENERAL FUND \$ 855.46----TIPS TO SOCCER SUNDAY Chairperson – Gail Flatness</p>	<p><u>*SPRING BRUNCH</u> \$1,165.75----FOR THE ASP TRIP Chairperson – Maria Larabee</p>
<p><u>*PLANT SALE</u> \$4,350.49----FOR THE ASP TRIP Chairperson – Gail Flatness</p>	<p><u>*TURKEY SUPPER</u> \$3,330.37----FOR THE GENERAL FUND Chairperson – Gail Flatness</p>
<p><u>*UMW BAKE SALE</u> \$ 280.00----FOR THE ASP TRIP</p>	<p><u>**SCRIP (GIFT) CARD SALES</u> \$1,881.03----FOR THE GENERAL FUND</p>
<p><u>**CELL PHONES RECYCLED</u> \$ 170.75----FOR THE GENERAL FUND</p>	<p><u>HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL FUND RAISERS ????</u></p>

The total raised through these projects in 2010 was **\$17,949.55**. As you can see by these figures, the efforts of so many proved to be worthwhile. Thanks to all who contributed in any way.

GREAT LAKES SCRIP (OR GIFT CARD) FUNDRAISER

Some of you may be unfamiliar with the Scrip Fundraiser ongoing project we conduct each week in the Fellowship Hall.

Order blanks are available in the Fellowship Hall. You simply fill it in, write out a check (or pay cash) for the amount due and give it to the Scrip Fundraiser member assigned to collect orders. Your cards will be available during the Fellowship Hour, in the Fellowship Hall, the following weekend. Gift cards are available for as low as \$2.00 and the percentage our church can profit ranges from 2% - 25%. Check out the order blank enclosed.

As you can see, there are lots of merchants in this program. It's a great way to make money for our church....and it won't cost you a thing to do it.....you spend \$25.00.....you get a gift card the next week that is worth \$25.00....and in the meantime, your church receives the profit from the sale.

Example of how this works:

A \$100.00 gift card is ordered. The percentage in parenthesis after the merchant's name is the amount that is credited to our church when the card is ordered. [If 4%, \$4.00 goes directly into our income.] The value of the card you buy is still \$100.00. The company (Great Lakes) providing this service is paid the balance due after we take out the percentage of our profit.

COME ON ~ TRY IT !!!

Funding & Giving: Ways We Give

United Methodists support ministry in a variety of ways, and the opportunities for giving are endless. Whether your giving is through monetary gifts or through gifts of yourself, we are all called to give God our time, talents, and treasures. This month let's think of ways we can expand our giving to God.

Apportioned Funds-The main way we support the ministries of the church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church-wide budget to conferences and local churches.



Special Sundays-The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular ministries. These are referred to as Special Sundays and most include an offering used to fund the work of these programs. (Ex. Peace with Justice Sunday.)

Designated Giving-In addition to supporting conference and general church apportionments, each of us has the opportunity to make gifts to specific ministries. One-hundred percent of your gifts to these designated giving opportunities go to the selected project. (Ex: Ridge Road Property).

Emergency Response-The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the not-for-profit humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church. Founded in 1940, UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster—with open minds and hearts to all people.

Special Appeals-Most disaster relief work and funding takes place through ongoing ministry. UMCOR enters into a disaster at the request of the resident bishop or church partner. The request may be for financial or material resources, technical assistance, volunteers or any combination of resources. Sometimes, however, typical methods of disaster response financing are inadequate. In these situations, special area/conference emergency appeals are issued. A church-wide appeal may be issued. (Ex: Hurricane Katrina)

World Service Specials-Through World Service Special Gifts, local churches and individuals may contribute to approved projects of world service agencies that do not receive advance funding.

Sue White

Financial Resourcing Committee Chairperson





Conduct
yourselves...



so that...

they may

see your



honorable

deeds and

glorify God.



1 Peter 2:12

Response to Our Christian Vows the month of January

Our Average attendance in JANUARY	136
January Offering:	\$25,775
January Ridge Road Development Fund:	\$105

Spirit Committee

The Valentine's Party held on February 5 was a great success! We had a great attendance, wonderful food, and lots of fun. Thank you everyone that attended. The White Elephant gifts were really "special" this year. A very special thanks to those of you who helped plan, set up, and clean up to make this a wonderful event.

Valentine Cards were sent to our college students. It's a nice reminder to them that our church loves and misses them.

Please consider signing up for Sunday Fellowship treats in March. We have an empty month and are asking for volunteers. Everyone really enjoys the treats, juice and coffee.

Thank you to the Fellowship Treat Providers for January: Mari Kirsch, Jan Stadt, Lori Butler, Kristin Ehteshami-Afshar, John and Maria Larabee, Gail Flatness. The treats were great!

The Spirit Committee, Maria Larabee, Chair

**March 13th
Daylight Saving Time
begins**



Time to
Spring Ahead



Minooka UMC

Lenten Fish Fry's

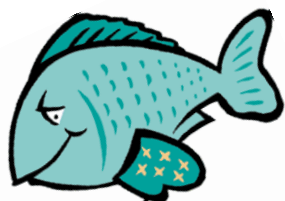
Minooka United Methodist Church

March 11th, 18th & 25th

April 1st, 8th, 15th &

Good Friday April 22nd

Shrimp ~ Cod ~ Walleye



Fish Fry

815-467-2322

For more information.



Fish Fry

Dine In or Carry Out
Serving from 4~7 pm

Minooka United Methodist Church

205 W. Church Street, Minooka

Held in the annex on Massasoit Street directly north of the church.

United Methodist Women News

UMW "SECRET PAL" CLUB

This club is open to all the ladies of the church. It's fun, easy and very inexpensive. All you have to do to join is write down your name, address, birthday (month & day) and your anniversary on a piece of paper. Also include a little information about yourself. Maybe your favorite flower, color or things you like. Give them to me or drop them in my mailbox by March 13th. We will be drawing our "Secret Pals" at the meetings on the 14th. If you can't make it to either the 10:00 am or the 6:30pm meeting NO BIG DEAL. I will mail you your "Secret Pals" name. (Normal meetings times are at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.)

Have fun sending your "Secret Pal" little gifts. The only money requirement is a \$5.00 or under gift on their birthday and Christmas. Remember your "Pal" once a week or once a month, it's up to you. Just don't forget about them. Maybe a card, piece of candy, favorite scripture reading or something in their church mailbox. How about a single flower on the altar in honor of them. There's plenty of things you can do for free. Get creative and remember to have fun. Most important, don't forget to SIGN EVERYTHING "YOUR SECRET PAL". We will re-veil the "Secret Pals" at a party, date to be announced later. You can never have too many pals.

Any questions feel free to contact me at 815-530-6358.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE BULLETIN FOR OUR MOVIE MEETING (being shown in the sanctuary).

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT 10:00 AM OR 6:30 PM
MARCH 14TH FOR OUR NEXT MEETING!!!!!!

Kim Nave, President of UMW





Sunday School Theme Weeks - March 20th - Super Hero. Show your spirit and dress like your favorite Super Hero. See if you can remember any of our Bible Heroes from VBS.....

Children's Choir - All Sunday School students will sing on Sunday March 27th in the 9:00am Service. Grades 2nd-5th will meet at 8:00am to practice in the Sanctuary. Grades Pre-k-1st should be at church by 8:45am. All children will sit with their parents. The children will sing after children's time.

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday April 23rd 10:00am. Color Easter Eggs, hunt for eggs on the church lawn and hear the Easter story. All are Welcome!!! Save the date!!!! Bring a Friend!!!

VBS - EGYPT - July 17th - 22nd. We are now in the process of planning for VBS. We need at least 40 people just to pull it off. Please check your calendar and consider helping us. If you have not already signed up, please do so as soon as possible. There are sign up sheets in the weekly bulletin.

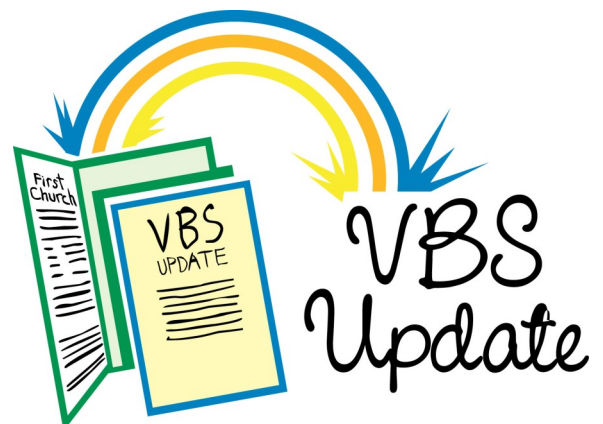
VBS Donations -we are in need of old bed sheets, any size, fitted, flat, and pillow cases

What we need - solids, stripes, plaids or any geometric patterns in any color

What we don't need - floral patterns. children's or character patterns

Please leave donations in box/bag outside CE office and mark VBS

For information regarding Christian Education and any of its events, please contact Nicole Bishop at 815-467-5141 or Rudancin2@yahoo.com.





WE NEED YOU!!!

As our church continues its outreach into the community on our Ridge Road property, we need the entire church's effort to put our best foot forward! M.U.M.C.'s Soccer Sundays will be kicking off on Sunday 4/10/11 and it's not just for the kids!

A lot of preparation has been done, but there is still plenty of work to do. Even if you've never played soccer, we need help:

- * Registering the kids enrolling in Soccer Sundays
- * Organizing/building/preparing equipment
- * Maintaining the fields
- * Coaching/assistant coaching/ being a team parent
- * Directing cars to the appropriate parking arrangements
- * Directing visitors to the appropriate field
- * And many more ways that will show our community what a wonderful church M.U.M.C. is!

Have ideas we haven't thought of yet? Want to sign up to help?

Please contact Eric Johnston at 630-605-5519. THANK YOU!!!

Don't forget to enroll your kids in Soccer Sundays! If you have a child that will be entering K-6th grade in the fall of 2011, they are welcome to participate. The cost is only \$40 and that includes a M.U.M.C. Soccer Sundays jersey and a pair of soccer socks. (The fee is only \$20 if your child is a returning player and doesn't need a new uniform). It is a program that will include devotions, core fundamentals, and soccer games. Invite your friends, neighbors and family! Please pick up a Soccer Sundays information flyer from the church office or sanctuary, or contact Eric Johnston or any member of the Soccer Sundays committee for more information. Fun, Fellowship, and Exercise for the whole Family!

Call Eric Johnston @ 630-605-5519 with any questions

Spring Dates: 4/10, 4/17, 5/1, 5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12, and 6/26 from 1:30-3pm



For those who know me well, I'm always in a loss for words (Ha Ha). Believe it not I was having trouble deciding what topic to use for my article this month. So on the internet super highway I jumped. I typed in the month of March and found out that this month is Women's History Month. (It's October in Canada). One of the suggestions was to pass on a biography of woman who accomplished important goals in there lives. I thought this was a great idea.

Do you have a daughter, niece, granddaughter or other girl in your life? Give her a biography of a woman from the Bible. Here are some suggestions.

Dorcas/Tabitha means gazelle. She's a respectable widow who produced garments for the poor, a model to the community and dedicated her time to good works. This story contains four episodes about what happens after her death. (Acts 9:36-42)

The story of the Samaritan Woman makes a strong statement about the difference a women of faith could make. She meets Jesus at the well, she returns to her town and convinces many people about Jesus. (John 4:1-42).

Mother of John the Baptist. Elizabeth (Eli-sheba), it means either 'God's promise' or 'my God is bountiful/generous'. While expecting her first child, she is visited by her young kinswomen Mary of Nazareth, who is also pregnant. At their meeting, each recognizes that they and their children will be an extraordinary part of God's plan for humanity. (Luke 1:57-80)

Mary of Bethany listened to Jesus talk instead of worrying about menial tasks (Luke 10:38-42). Mary also anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. Jesus defended her actions against Judas' objection (John 12;1-8).

Maybe you have a extraordinary women in your life. Tell her story. Thank her for being who she is. My Mimi, whom I miss very much was an amazing women of faith. If someone needed anything, she never hesitated to help. She changed lives with her kind deeds and I dedicate this article to her.

Kim Nave, Lay Leader

2011 Annual Plant Sale

Our first meeting was held Tuesday, February 15th. The team is ready to get started. We are looking for people who are knowledgeable about plants to help on days that we are potting. These days will typically be on Saturday and Sundays during the month of April.

If you are interested in helping, please call Adrienne Hartman at 815-467-4657.

Thank you.





Thank You!

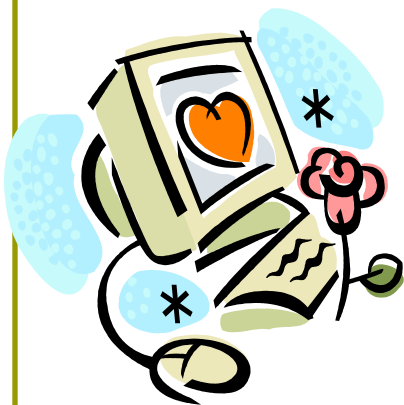
A late “thank you.” In December I had my first “over niter” at the Morris Hospital. It was so nice getting calls, flowers and visits, especially Pastor Mary’s. Thank you to all my friends from MUMC for the phone calls, cards and especially the greetings and hugs on my return. It’s so nice to be back. Love, Bettie Noble

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Adam & Katie Satorius
- 7 Gerald & Joyce O’Brien
- 12 Bob & Cindy White
- 29 Bob & Dorothy Watkins

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kathlene Getsoian
- 3 Gail Bryant
- 3 Gail Chase
- 3 Jim Clausen
- 4 Jim Satorius
- 5 Stephen Coffman
- 5 Bret Nemitz
- 7 Zachary Harvey
- 7 Mari Kirsch
- 7 Suzanne White
- 8 Kristin Ehteshami-Afshar
- 8 David Harvey
- 8 Austin Thompson
- 9 Glenn Erickson
- 13 Kelsey Dilday
- 13 Chuck Miller
- 15 Jim McGehee
- 17 Darlene Thornton
- 18 Hanna Dilday
- 19 Dawson Casagrande
- 20 Audrey Murley
- 21 Chad Cailteux
- 21 Gary Gossen
- 21 Joyce O’Brien
- 22 Craig Nemitz
- 23 John McGrath
- 24 Teri Parrish
- 26 Warren Dailey
- 26 Dawn Nemitz
- 28 Kyle Eddy
- 28 Dick Parrish
- 29 Shelley Boyer-Dailey
- 29 Clara Getsoian
- 29 Marty Zajac



The Mustard Seed is published monthly for the Minooka United Methodist Church. Submissions for the April 2011 issue must be turned in to the office by Thursday, March 10th.

E-mail is preferred, but not required. Please direct any questions to Adrienne Hartman, editor.

mumc2322@aol.com

THANKS

Come and enjoy our monthly breakfasts held the 2nd Saturday of each month in the annex at 7:30 a.m. March 12th All men are invited! No reservations needed! Held in the annex.





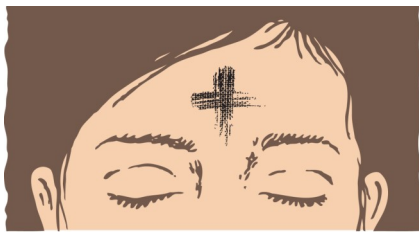
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Ash Wednesday



Fish Fry

