



HILLTOP HERALD-APRIL 2020 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL LIBERTADOR

ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELLED

At this time we do not know when we will be resuming regular activities. If you are not receiving our email updates but have an email address, please send your address to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net. If you need anything at all, please call the church at 608-222-1633 or Pastor Brad at 414-534-8791.

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 22 was UMCOR Sunday. You can still donate online at UMCgiving.org/giveUMCOR or mail your offering check with "UMCOR" on the memo. When we give on UMCOR Sunday, we empower the UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church. Your support makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100 percent of all other contributions to the projects our donors specify, instead of using this money on administrative or fundraising costs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We have extended the deadline for applications for the Czerepinski and Price Scholarships until **Sunday, April 26**. If you need a copy of the application emailed to you, please contact the church office at: secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net.

Seniors, please take advantage of this opportunity.

OUR WEBSITE

Same URL/address with a new look! www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org
We now have a **Giving** tab to make a donation with your credit card.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

*May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. - Psalm 126:5-6*

I saw a devotional meditation the other day that spoke to me about the difficulties we are experiencing and about to experience. The writer described her very first memory. She was only a toddler, and it was a traumatic memory of a time she felt lost and sad and abandoned. It was not what she would choose to have as her earliest memory. But today she is grateful for it. She explains it like this:

The seeds that were planted then—pain, fear, loneliness—rested in the ground for a long time. They grew slowly at first, tender seedlings poking their heads tentatively out of rocky soil. Those seedlings were not as fragile as they seemed. They branched out and revealed themselves as resilience, flexibility, humor, curiosity, faith, compassion.

In other words, the seeds of pain and fear and loneliness that were planted eventually grew and blossomed into some beautiful qualities that have served her well. What's it like for her today?

Half a century later, I can hardly get my arms around the sturdy harvest that has grown from those tough little seeds first watered by the tears of my toddler self. Now I'm coming home bearing the harvest, songs of joy on my lips.

Here is this woman's prayer today, a prayer forged in the crucible of her transformation:

God, you do not cause us to suffer. Instead, you take the suffering we are given and plant it in the soil of your transforming grace and mercy. May we rejoice in the harvest. Amen

I want that to be my prayer and your prayer when this pandemic is over. I want God to plant our pain and suffering in God's transforming grace and mercy so that we are different, better people when we come through this. I want our souls to expand rather than shrink in response to the unprecedented challenges we face.

And I think that will happen, because I know who we are. We are not shrinking violets. We are people who have known God's transforming grace and mercy, and who live out of that, as well as live it out.

I give thanks that we are in this together even while we are in our separate homes and not together. God's word to us now is the same as it has ever been: "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

Pastor Brad

WORSHIP TIMES

**Join us for virtual Worship services. Click the link found on our website:
mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org**

Palm Sunday, April 5 at 10am

We ordered palms, which will be on the bench outside on Friday April 3 until 2pm or Sunday morning. Feel free to pick one up.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7pm

Good Friday, April 10 at 12 noon

Easter Sunday, April 12 at 10am

Flowers have been ordered so we hope to be able to see them during worship. You may pick up your flower after Easter, week days 9am-2pm.

Sunday, April 19 at 10am

Sunday, April 26 at 10am

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Human Welfare Fund

“If one of your brethren becomes poor and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.” Leviticus 25:35

For some members of Monona UMC, the social distancing that is attempting to slow the spread of COVID-19 will seriously impact their incomes. Given the current economic hardships facing many persons and families in our area, your support of the Human Welfare Fund is helping your neighbors in need.

The MUMC Human Welfare Fund is a benevolent fund at our church that characterizes the true goodness of the mind and spirit, the unbiased kindness to do good. It is the expression of agape love (Greek word for unconditional love). MUMC has always been a church of compassion and love because of the gracious giving of its people.

The Human Welfare Fund is one of the ways we minister to those in our church family. Anyone in need of using this fund should contact the office at 608-222-1633.

Please support this Mission. Mark and mail your check or increase your online giving indicating the "Human Welfare Fund".

Thank you for your generous support of this beneficial mission.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The River is currently accepting 18-count egg cartons until further notice. They were out of egg cartons and reached out to Tim Eberle. Tim jumped in and sent a Facebook plea through the neighborhood pages and on the Nextdoor page and received a carload full. He also stopped by the church to pick up the ones left here. Also, The River is NOT accepting clothing until further notice, and the FDA has told them to stop reusing the plastic grocery bags until the COVID-19 virus is no longer an issue, so for now please recycle those (or save them for the backpack meal program). They did request: Low sugar cereals, tuna helper, and 100% juice products. You are welcome to drop off any of these items at church daily from 9am until 2pm. You can put them in the entryway if you don't want to come all the way into the building. We have also been disinfecting the entry doors and other areas often.

SECOND HARVEST NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

<https://www.secondharvestmadison.org>

Volunteers are ESSENTIAL to Second Harvest Foodbank. And, Second Harvest Foodbank is ESSENTIAL to the community. **We are in need of volunteers** to help us fill pre-packed Care Boxes. Volunteer shifts are available throughout the day, 7 days a week.

Care Boxes are filled with healthy foods, and are being distributed to those struggling with hunger through our partner agencies and our mobile pantries throughout our 16 county service area. An average of 2,600 boxes are being distributed per day! We need volunteer support to assist in packing these boxes.

We are committed to keeping our staff and volunteers safe by limiting the number of volunteers during shifts as well as adding new measures to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

GREAT STEPS 4NF WALK POSTPONED

Due to the current restrictions caused by the COVID-19 as to how many people can gather together, the Great Steps 4 NF walk has been postponed until **Saturday, September 12**, and still will be held at the Capitol Brewery. My donation link:

<https://nfmidwest.rallybound.org/walk4nfmadison/TimEberle> will remain functional and individuals can donate using the link.

Also the NF 2020: A Pampered Chef Fundraiser! Hosted by: Tim Eberle has been postponed until **July 26 August 2**. More information will follow about this event.



**Amy Babula & Clyde Drake and their family, upon the death of Amy's mother.

**Shelley & Dennis Wilken and their family, upon the death of Shelly's mother.

Thank You

Dear Mark and MUMC Missions Committee

A heartfelt thanks for the donation of \$800 to cover the remaining months of the Schenk Elementary School Resource Room Snack Pantry for the 2019-2020 School Year!

These funds help students with special needs, and food insecurity issues, get the extra needed support to get them through school days well and able to learn, It is a program much appreciated by the Schenk Staff and Administration,

With Seeds of Peace as the School Adoption Partner for Schenk, this gift helps to fulfill our relational covenant to support the school through human, financial and material resources for the benefit of its students and families.

Thank you for your commitment to sharing God's love in very real ways in our community!

Peace Be With You All,

Rev. Staci Marrese-Wheeler

MUMC

Thank you for the amazing venue to hold our inaugural WWE Expo! We heard many comments that day on what a great space it was. Everyone was sure raving about the yummy food your group provided.

Thanks for helping to make the day a success!

The WWE Expo Planning Committee



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

JAVA JIVE

This past month we have seen a whirlwind of changes in all lives locally and globally with the Covid-19 Virus. Our church made prayerful, thoughtful and careful decisions for the health and well-being of all. All activities are cancelled until further notice. We will continue our Equal Exchange (EEX) Authentic Fair Trade Mission to provide a market place for small farmer co-ops locally and globally (which is also grown sustainably by local farmers!!)

So we will continue as follows:

- 1- Church is open from 9am- 2pm. No shopping lines!!
- 2- Hand sanitizer by coffee cabinet
- 3- Shop in coffee cabinet and directly to right in upper cabinet is Tea and Chocolate Bars
- 4- Place payment in designated envelope in front of plastic box. Checks made out to Monona United Methodist Women, MUMW.

I went to church last week to sort products and "shop". Hardest part, not to go in office and give Kay D. a hug!!

As I went out the door, thought --thankful we don't leave God at church - God's Love and presence goes with us as we go out the door into the world. I miss you folks!

Kay Mackie- a team coordinator of MUMW EEx AFT TEAM MISSION. This is not a fund raiser.

Questions or suggestions always welcome. 608-512-2053

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Due to the critical need for blood, Monona United Methodist Church will continue to host our third blood drive on **Tuesday, May 19, 1:00-6:00pm**. Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information.

Volunteers Needed:

- 2 volunteers at 11:30am to help unload
- 3 volunteers, per shift 12:30 – 6:30pm to help with registration, escort donors and in refreshment area
- 2 volunteers at 6:30pm to help reload

General Donor Information:

- Height/weight requirements
- General good health
- Rapid Pass saves 15 minutes
- Bring donor card or government ID
- Questions on eligibility 1-866-236-3276

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow February 29, 2020

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 24,515	\$ 48,724
General Operating Expenses	23,702	53,554
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 813	\$ (4,830)

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Giving: Privacy or Secrecy

The love of money is the root of all evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. (1 Timothy 6:10)

Rev. Molly Baskette has written an interesting devotional (www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_the_burden_of_money) in which she states that, "Church people often tell me that money is a private matter, but what they really practice with money is secrecy, not privacy."

The problem, according to Pastor Baskette, is that fear, shame and secrecy about money do the work of evil just as much as our love of it. Yes, some things need to be secret: like the recipe for Coca Cola or the identities of spies. However, many of our institutional practices at church become distorted because we, the members, have unhealthy relationships with money.

We may think of the person who loves money as a monumental striver, always trying to get richer, never having enough. But those who love money also may long for more and then feel ashamed of that longing, or they may not balance their checkbook and live in fear of the debt collector (and feel ashamed), or may desire to be generous, but cannot let go (and feel ashamed). We want to keep these things secret.

But, shame is not a healthy relationship with money and secrecy is not a healthy relationship with God or our fellow Christians. The Lenten/Easter season is a good time to recognize our shortcomings, confess them to God, ourselves, and maybe others, and to repent. That is, to try to do things differently in the future.

Many United Methodist churches provide courses on personal finance and getting out of debt. If yours does not, please contact us at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

606 NICHOLS ROAD
MONONA, WI 53716

The HILLTOP HERALD is produced monthly for distribution to the members and friends of Monona United Methodist Church & Iglesia Metodista Unida El Libertador.

Monona UMC Church office 222-1633 (Fax 222-2395)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Homepage www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

Pastor Brad 414-534-8791 – bkvanfossen@gmail.com

Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com

Virtual Worship 10:00am

Iglesia Metodista Unida El Libertador 514-9470

Pastora Estrella Benítez 414-736-9521 (cell)

esbe2013@hotmail.com