

HILLTOP HERALD-DECEMBER 2021 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CHURCH EMERGENT

If you wish to schedule a group or event at the church, please contact Kay for the updated building use guidelines and forms. **We will continue requiring masks be worn for all inside events.**

The office is open and staffed 9am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Pastor Paul is available for pastoral care both virtually and in-person for vaccinated individuals.

2021 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our yearly Church Conference meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 5** right after worship. Each year, every United Methodist Church holds a meeting to review their ministries (past and future), endorse ministry candidates, and set budgets. This is our annual meeting & all are invited to attend.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree Project still needs our help. Simply check out the link to see which gifts are still needed. Please return your unwrapped gift to church by **December 10 or earlier.** https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DA8AE22AB9-2021

Call Kay in the office at 608-222-1633 with any questions. Thanks!!!

OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Each Sunday during Advent, we will vote for the three Christmas Carols that mean the most to us. (We can vote each week!) Then on Sunday, December 26, after all the votes are counted, we will sing our Top Ten Favorite Christmas Carols.

ADVENT STUDY

Continuing **through December 19**, join Pastor Paul in a five week Advent Study discussing Michael Slaughter's book, *Christmas is not Your Birthday*. We will gather after coffee hour each Sunday, around 11:30. (On Sunday December 5th, we will meet following Church Conference.) Copies of the book are available in the church office. The cost of the book is \$8.

Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration.

This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Come Home for Christmas"

As we begin the season of Advent, we look forward to celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. We long for God to come in new ways. Our sense of hope has been challenged by recent events.

On Sunday, November 21st, an SUV plowed into a crowd of people attending the Waukesha Christmas Parade. At least five were killed, forty others injured and an extended community in shock. If attending a Christmas Parade is not safe, what is?

Almost every day, we learn of other acts of violence and shootings that demonstrate a total disregard for human life.

Despite our excellent vaccines and many safety precautions, the pandemic continues, hospitalizations increase and more people die.

Our world is a mess. We need God's hope.

During Advent we do not simply celebrate something that happened a long time ago. We long for God to come and work in new ways in our midst. We wait patiently—and sometimes impatiently—for God's Spirit. Like the biblical prophets and all the characters of the Christmas story, we desperately need hope, now more than ever.

Whether we worship in-person or online, I invite us to Come Home for Christmas where we live with the hope that God will surprise us.

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

Join Us for

"Come Home for Christmas"

November 28 First Sunday of Advent

"The Coming Days" Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 5- Second Sunday of Advent

"The Days are Getting Closer" Malachi 3:1-5

December 12 - Third Sunday of Advent

"Hopeful Words for Our Time" Zephaniah 3:14-20

December 19- Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Waiting for Our Savior" Micah 5:2-5a

December 24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm

"The Light Shines" Luke 2:1-21

December 26 First Sunday after Christmas

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing Sunday

UMC GIVING TUESDAY

Give Love, Joy, Hope and Peace

United Methodists will come together to support vital ministry projects and missionaries around the world on #GivingTuesday, **Tuesday**, **November 30**, as they generously #GiveUMC. Giving through The UMCOR Advance empowers hundreds of dedicated project leaders and missionaries to share the love of Christ in meaningful, life-saving ways. As always, 100% of all giving will support the designated Advance ministry! Visit umcmission.org/GiveLove to donate online and choose a ministry for your donation.

A local project you could support is with the Wisconsin UM Camps. For 2021, we will be raising funds for our summer camp scholarship fund. This fund is utilized to make sure camp is affordable for as many people as possible. We desire that anyone who wants or needs to have time away with a camp experience will have that opportunity regardless of economic status. Please partner with us on November 30th as we work to make sure every child, young adult, adult, and family who wants to come to camp this summer can gather around the campfire with us!

On Giving Tuesday, head to our donor page (https://wiumcamps.campbraingiving.com/) to make a donation and watch our camp Facebook pages for updates on our progress throughout the day!

MISSION OF THE MONTH Monona UMC 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

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 and the community. Anyone in need of using this fund should contact the office at 608-222-1633.

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

Thank you for your generous support of this beneficial mission. The Mission Team

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

Since we are back in the sanctuary to worship weekly, we need to have our volunteers back as well. We have created a Volunteer Sign Up Genius listing with the volunteer jobs needed each week. We would especially like to fill: ushers and fellowship hosts. Please check your schedules and sign on using the link below. You can also send an email to the church office with your requested dates.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DA8AE22AB9-volunteer

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, December 11** at 9:00 am at Monona Gardens Restaurant 6501 Broadway. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- We have the recorded mini-service available for an online Worship experience as well as our in-person worship. Check our website for more information.
- We have a **Giving** tab on our website to make a donation with your credit card or through your checking account.

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be meeting on **Monday, December 13** at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall. Covid precautions will be observed with the regulations in effect on meeting date. We will be having coffee and possibly a snack at this meeting.

We will be singing some Christmas hymns, listen to the Christmas story and address Christmas cards to church members who are shut-in and unable to attend services. We will also address some Christmas cards that will go to residents of the Dane Co. Jail.

Each attendee is asked to being a wrapped Christmas present with a value around \$10. Numbers will be drawn and presents opened in order. Others in attendance have the option to "steal" a present they like from a person who has opened their present. Good for some laughs and competition.

We will be changing our schedule this year. In the past, we have not met during the months June, July and August. In 2022, we will <u>not</u> be meeting during the months of January, February and March. Inclement weather is the reason since we do not want anyone to risk falling on slippery sidewalks or streets.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"What does this church mean to you"

Thank you so much for your support of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Our pledges from Stewardship Sunday have totaled \$139,000 or 56% of budgeted revenue. Your giving makes it possible for the ministries of Monona United Methodist Church to continue to be a light in our community and beyond. Please return your estimate of giving card as soon as possible. If you cannot commit to a set amount for 2022, know that any gift that you can share with the church is much appreciated!

Your Stewardship/Finance Team

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO

- --Fran Lerdahl and her family, upon the death of her husband, Bob, on October 22.
- --Sally & Mark Buffat and their family, upon the death of Sally's father, Oliver Oldham, November 2.
- -- Julie and Rob Larson and their families, upon the death of their mom, Barb, on November 13.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are all facing different kinds of life challenges:

- isolation and loneliness
- anxiety over health
- grief
- juggling work, childcare and schooling responsibilities
- financial strain or job loss
- uncertainty about the future

But you don't have to go through it alone! If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage and be there to offer support. You can find out more by calling Pastor Paul.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

There will be no morning Children's Sunday School on **December 19 and 26, and January 2**. Our regular class schedule will resume on **Sunday, January 9**.

AFGHAN RESETTLEMENT: CALL FOR HOUSING LEADS

Currently, Jewish Social Services has 36 clients who have recently fled Afghanistan. The Resettlement Team has been working hard to ensure that they have access to independent, stable, and comfortable housing in Dane County.

Just this past week, the Team was able to secure permanent housing for a family of 7 and a family of 3. We are still in search of permanent housing for 2 individuals, each seeking efficiency units. In addition, we expect to welcome at least 7 more families to the Dane County Area in the coming weeks. This is all taking place while the Resettlement Team continues to serve populations who come from countries other than Afghanistan.

If anyone has leads on 1 bedroom efficiency units, contact Lauren Bates at lauren@jssmadison.org. If you have leads on any 2 or 3 bedroom apartments, please contact resettlement director Becca Schwartz at becca@jssmadison.org.

Thanks and many blessings.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will start meeting again on **Sunday, December 19** @ 1pm at the home of Jeanette Williams. There will be no book but a play will be read. Please bring a dish to share. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.** There is a list of future meetings and the books to be discussed in the

Narthex. Join this fun and lively group!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION



Friendship Circle - **Wednesday, December 8** at 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall at church. Peggy Traver will be our host.

Faith Circle- Thursday, December 9 at 11:30am at the home of Shirley Robinson for a luncheon. Call Jan Wanek at 395-2433 with any questions.

JAVA JIVE

CONACADO · Dominican Republic Organic Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch Organic Coconut Milk Chocolate Organic Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt

(Adapted from the EX website)

Over the past 23 years, CONACADO has grown from 700 members organized in 3 locations, to over 9,500 members organized in 9 locations with 142 local community associations throughout the Dominican Republic.

Each of the 9 groups or "bloques" has a similar organizational structure: an Assembly of Delegates, with two delegates per association, that meets once a month to report on work plan progress at the community level; a Governing Board that meets once a month to execute the work plan; and an Administrative Committee that meets once a week to follow up on the work plan to make sure it is going as it should.

A General Assembly meets once a year to approve work plans and decide how FAIR TRADE premiums will be used. The co-operative's success in quality improvement and marketing means that 70% of their cacao is sold as high quality fermented beans, primarily to European niche markets: Organic, Biodynamic, and FAIR TRADE.

Today, CONACADO members produce approximately 25% of the cacao exported from the Dominican Republic and the organization has become a powerful alternative for small-scale producers.

Thank you everyone for your continued support!! We couldn't do it without you!!

Jackie Hull 576-7837 Co-coordinator Ex Fair Trade UMW Mission Karelyn Hopkins 577-3185 Co-coordinator Ex Fair Trade UMW Mission

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River is currently accepting 18-count egg cartons until further notice. Also, The River is NOT accepting clothing or household items. If you have items to donate, please check with either Agrace or Boomerang. You are welcome to drop off egg cartons, paper bags, non-perishable food, or personal hygiene items at church.

MADISON AREA JAIL MINISTRY WARM CLOTHING COLLECTION

The jail is in need of warm clothing. Men and women released during the winter months often arrived during warm weather months. Many do not have appropriate clothing for cold weather. The staff has made the following request. They want to make sure they have a supply of warm clothing available for those who may need it.

Sweatshirts and Sweatpants: Neutral Colors: black, gray, navy Men's sizes (small, medium, Large, XL and XXL)

New or gently used warm coats/jackets would also be greatly appreciated. Men's sizes range from small to XXL. Women's coats/ jackets are also needed. Additionally, hats and gloves or mittens are necessities on cold winter days.

There is a collection bin at church.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

We will try to do our best to find any donations that have been postmarked by December 31, 2021 and to credit them to 2021. If you receive your end of the year statement from the church, and believe a particular donation should be for 2021, which wasn't included in that statement, we will be happy to give you an amended statement. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

EASY AUTOMATIC GIVING

Make giving to the church very easy and save the church some time. The automatic transfers are completely safe and secure, and cost you nothing. You control the amount and frequency of the withdrawals, and can cancel any time you like. Transfers done electronically, along with any additional donations you make, will be listed on your normal periodic statement from the church. Just fill out the form that is in the church office.

For those who already have automatic giving and want to change for the new 2022 pledge amount, just fill out a new form. On the form, check the box "Change Donation Amount", put your name, the new amount, the date of the first donation, and finally sign and date the form. For questions or other information, please call the church office at 608-222-1633.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We welcome donations of flowers for our altar on Sundays. If you would like to give flowers on a particular Sunday, please contact the church office or use the volunteer Sign Up Genius link found in this newsletter. Flowers may be dropped off on Fridays during office hours, 9am-2pm or on Sunday mornings. Thanks for brightening up our worship space.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Ring bells this winter to raise money for the critical services of The Salvation Army. With many locations throughout Dane County, there is a location convenient to you.

Register for a shift (or many!) with your family, coworkers, friends, or by yourself. Donations go toward critical programs in Dane County, including emergency women and family shelter, housing programs, community meals, after school programming, and more. Sign up to ring at www.RegisterToRing.com.

FOOT CLINICS/VOLUNTEERS

Did you know that Monona UMC is hosting the NewBridge Foot Clinic in our Fellowship Hall three Tuesdays a month? NewBridge is partnered with Registered Nurse Gail Owens and Nail Technician Susan Hasey to provide foot care for older adults 60+. The cost is \$20 and we ask that you bring two towels. Appointments are required by calling (608) 512-0000.

NewBridge is also looking for a Foot Clinic volunteers to help with their foot clinics. Please contact Joe at NewBridge 608-512-0000- Ext. 2000 for more information.

NEWBRIDGE/MY MEAL MY WAY

The NewBridge meals sites are starting up again with some new options. The East Side/Monona location has lunch at Messiah Lutheran Church at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays and breakfast/lunch at HyVee (East Wash.) from 10am until 1pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. Find more information on their website, including registration info: www.newbridgemadison.org/nutrition

JUST BAKERY

We can still enjoy the wonderful goodies from Just Bakery. Search for "Just Bakery" online to view their many products. You may also call 608-598-0042 to place your order. Due to COVID-19 their store front is no longer open but their products are available for delivery in Dane County for a \$5.00 charge or you may pick up your order curbside on Saturdays (9:00 - 2:00) at 1708 Thierer Rd. Madison.

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD



The Red Cross has its Annual Holiday Blood Drive on **Thursday, December 23** from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm. It will be held in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center. Call for an appointment @ 1-800-RED-CROSS or signup online www.redcrossblood.org.

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Agrace Offers In-Person and Virtual Group Options

In December, Agrace grief support specialists are offering in-person and virtual group grief support options:

- **Family Grief Support Group** meets at the Agrace Grief Support Center every other Tuesday, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dates vary, call (608) 327-7135 for details.
- **Bridges (virtual)** meets online December 8 and 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **COVID-19 Loss Group (virtual)** meets online December 1, 15 and 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. For details, fees or to register, visit <u>Agrace.org/GriefGroups</u> or call (608) 327-7118.

Agrace Seeks Volunteers in Dane County

Agrace is seeking volunteers to be companions to clients at the new Agrace Adult Day Center. Volunteer orientation will take place December 8, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Pre-registration is required.** Call (608) 327-7163 or visit <u>Agrace.org/Volunteer</u> to fill out an application.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR OPTION

We are going to again celebrate the Advent season in a way which will also help the River Food Pantry replenish their food supplies. You will collect a nonperishable food item for every day during Advent and then drop the items at church so they will be transported to the River Food Pantry after Christmas. For example, on December 1, put a box of cereal in your collection box, on December 2 add a jar of peanut butter, and on December 3 a stuffing mix. Drop-off the box the week after Christmas during the church office hours. Check out the listing below. Please let the church office know if you will be participating.



FOR THE LOVE OF GOD'S CREATION

...think about this...

"Nearly 200 countries signed off on a new climate agreement at the COP26 summit in Glascow a few weeks ago. [According to PBS Newshour, here are the big takeaways]:

- 1. Participants of the summit all "agreed to 'phase down' the use of coal, an initial step toward phasing out the use of coal completely. Twenty-three countries specifically, pledged to stop constructing or allowing new coal power plants. More than 40 countries said they would phase out coal power entirely. They also agreed to 'phase out' subsidies for fossil fuels.
- 2. To limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, 'deep reductions' in greenhouse emissions are necessary. **New targets include**:
 - Reducing CO2 emissions by 45% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels
 - Reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 (or so)
- 3. A key agreement on methane emissions the second-largest contributor to climate change was also made. **More than 100 countries pledged to cut methane emissions by 30%,** compared to 2020 levels, by 2030
- 4. Wealthy, developed countries were 'urged' to:
 - ...deliver a long-promised \$100 billion per year in aid to developing nations hit hardest by climate change
 - ...**greatly increase those donations** compared to amounts given in 2019 by 2025
- 5. **More than 140 countries promised to end deforestation by 2030**. Deforestation is a significant contributor of greenhouse gas emissions; when forests are knocked down, the carbon stored by the trees is released into the atmosphere. It also threatens human livelihoods and animal habitats."

[Unfortunately], "There's **no enforcement mechanism** for any of the goals agreed to at COP26 – meaning that countries can't be held accountable for their promises. Many activists and experts doubt that these goals will be enough to limit catastrophic warming, though some acknowledge that the agreement is a step in the right direction. **... But** a signal has been sent that **the era of coal is ending**. And, that matters!"

In summary, said Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, "Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe. It is time to go into emergency mode – or our chance of reaching net-zero will itself be zero."

We are facing a sobering reality. We, the stewards of the earth, are called to help in whatever ways we see possible to prevent a climate catastrophe. (Watch for specific ideas coming in Hilltop Herald in January). During this Christmas season, ponder this: WE ARE HOLDING THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR HANDS! Church & Society, Siv Goulding

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow October 31, 2021

General Fund		<u>Month</u>		Year to Date	
Income	\$	20,269	\$	205,902	
General Operating Expenses		23,179		206,821	
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$	(2,910)	\$	(919)	

STEWARDSHIP SCARCITY OR ABUNDANCE - WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." ~ Matthew 7:7

Pastor John Pavlovitz tells a story about a time when he was a young youth leader and he found himself overly worried about the future. He was sharing his concerns with his pastor, who replied, "John, do you know why a bluebird finds worms? Because that's what it looks for."

John remembers his pastor continuing to tell him that much of what we discover in this life is about the questions we ask, the things we give attention to, and the way we invest our time. The more John was aware of the orientation of his life at any given moment, and the more intentional he was along the way, his pastor counseled, the more John could rest in knowing that he'd eventually end up where he needed to be.

What are you aware of during this Advent and Christmas season? What are you looking for? With global supply chain issues along with the commercialized nature of the holidays, it is easy to fall into a scarcity mindset. However, if we choose to focus on the blessings we have and look to see where God is at work in our lives, in our churches, and communities – we are more likely to experience the joy and peace, not only of the season but that Christ offers all – no matter what time of year.

Rev. Jason Mahnke

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or www.wumf.org

The Life and Ministry of God's People In Monona United Methodist Church **December 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			2-4pm Caregyr support -Zoom 6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 E.L. Bible St-upstairs	2 1:00 Zoom Church / Society 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama-	3 Pastor's Day Off	6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg
5 See schedule below 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Church Conference 12:00 Advent Study	6 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	7 1:00 Staff Meeting	8 1:30 Friendship Cr-Fellowship Hall 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama 6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 E.L. Bible St-upstairs	9 11:30 Faith Cr luncheon 6:30 Zoom SPRC	10 Pastor's Day Off 3-9pm Paper Moon Drama & set building	6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg 9am Men's Group Breakfast- Monona Garden
See schedule below 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Advent Study	13 11am Hilltoppers 6:30 Stephen Ministry	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:30 Staff Mtg 1-3pm Giving Tree Pickup	15 10-11 RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	1:00 Zoom Church / Society	Pastor's Day Off 3-4:30 Girl Scout Troop-Hall	18 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg
See schedule below No kids Sunday School 8:30 Choir/Bells Rehearsal 11:30 Advent Study 1 Read / Meet	20	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Candlelight Worship Service	25 Christmas Day
26 See schedule below Newsletter Ddln No kids Sunday School	27 10:30am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H 6:30 Stephen Ministry	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. Kay Vacation	6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	
	SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 Sunday School for children 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish				NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline December.26 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the January newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 608-222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net	

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

606 NICHOLS ROAD MONONA, WI 53716 NON PROFIT ORG. U S POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 969 MADISON WI

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The HILLTOP HERALD is produced monthly for distribution to the members and friends of Monona United Methodist Church.

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 Paul Johnsen 920-246-2855 pjohnsen58@gmail.com
Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net
Worship 10:00am

DECEMBER 2021



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00pm

Traditional Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – with the Adult Choir.