

HILLTOP HERALD-FEBRUARY 2023 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADULT GAME DAY

Game Day is set for **Friday, February 3**, from 10 a.m. to noon. We play fun games and share lots of laughs. Good food for the soul! All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite game or just come and enjoy. Games for any number of players are great. It's very informal so come as you are.

"HOW JESUS BECAME GOD"

New Adult Sunday School Study, New Sunday School Format - brief videos, followed by short discussions

Starting Sunday February 5th at 11:30am

The Great Courses program <u>(www.TryGreatCourses.com)</u> offers a huge curriculum of many different topics, including some exploring religious questions. Our Adult Sunday School class is offering one of their subjects, *How Jesus Became God*, a series of 24 thirty-minute lectures, presented by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, Professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- ...NO HOMEWORK...
- ...BRING YOUR COFFEE CUP... and ... JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY...
- ...EXPLORING a TOPIC that has MYSTIFIED OUR WORLD for EONS...

MONONA UMC CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Do you know that Monona UMC has a Capital Improvement Fund to help cover the maintenance costs of our church building and grounds? We have had several major projects in 2022: Parking lot patch work/resealing (\$14,950), Wallpaper removal/painting in the women's bathroom (\$1,351), Tree trimming/removal (\$5,725), Sanctuary light bulb replacement (\$2,800), Sanctuary thermostats replacement (\$1,952), and a new Office Copier (\$2,188).

Given the above projects, we are starting the year with only \$1,200 in the fund. Please consider donating to the Capital Improvement Fund in addition to your donation to the General Fund (which pays our on-going expenses). Please identify these donations by writing "Capital Improvement Fund" on your check or envelope. We appreciate your help in replenishing our maintenance fund!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

We have created an online Volunteer Sign Up Genius listing with the volunteer jobs needed for worship each week. We would especially like to fill the ushers position. 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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"The Dark Days of Winter"

A Wisconsin winter always challenges us. We prepare ourselves for cold and snow. We relearn our winter driving skills. We do our best to manage long nights and short days.

Aside from the cold blast that arrived around Christmas, we have not had much of a typical winter. Our granddaughters went sledding once and several days later it rained.

Sarah and I enjoy snowshoeing. Unless we were to drive two or three hours north, there is not enough snow for our favorite outdoor winter activity.

It also seems like we have more than our share of gloomy days, a prolonged winter darkness.

Since we live in Wisconsin, none of this surprises us.

As people of faith, we will experience the winter of our soul. At times the darkness of grief, fear and health concerns can overwhelm us, with no end in sight. Our nights are long and are days are short. We pray for help.

Throughout these winter months, we remember the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. Everywhere he went, he offered a bright light to those who experienced only darkness. Matthew's Gospel reminds us of God's promise, "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light..." (Matthew 4:16) God will guide us through this winter to a spring of life and joy. As much as I look forward to end of winter, I hope that we get at least one good snowstorm!

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

February 5

"Salt and Light" Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

"You Have Heard it Said" Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 "Transfiguration Sunday" "A God Moment" Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

"Enduring Temptation" Matthew 4:1-11

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.

SEEDS OF PEACE BLOOD DRIVE

Please mark your calendars for a local blood drive to be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (4011 Major Ave, Madison) on **Tuesday, February 14** from 1-5:30pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to register.

LENT 2023

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days, not counting Sundays. Lent is an annual observance as we follow Jesus' journey to the Cross. During these days, we are encouraged to sacrifice and pay attention to our faith.



Please join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service** and the imposition of ashes at 6:30 PM on **Wednesday, February 22**.

May God give to us a meaningful Lent!

MISSION OF THE MONTH - UMCOR - UKRAINE SUPPORT

Since the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has acted on behalf of The United Methodist Church to provide aid and assistance. Grants for immediate relief have been given to trusted partners – United Methodist churches in surrounding countries, ecumenical partners and non-governmental organizations – to provide direct aid inside Ukraine as well as help for those who have fled to surrounding countries.

As the conflict continues, UMCOR will be there, faithfully working on your behalf to bring hope and healing to the people of Ukraine.

Donations to UMCOR's Ukraine response so far:

- More than \$24 million USD raised to date from individuals and churches,
- Nearly \$18 million USD in aid/support approved or in process for the people of Ukraine,
 and
- An estimated more than 392,000 Ukrainians helped.

To support this mission, please mark "UMCOR Advance #982450-Ukraine" on your envelope or memo line of your check.

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

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

HILLTOPPERS

We will<u>not</u> be meeting during the months of January, February and March due to the potential of inclement weather.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, February 12** at 2pm to discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig at the home of Doreen Peterson. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are starting to plan for our summer Vacation Bible School and are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping in any way, we will meet on **Sunday, February 19** after worship. We need volunteers of all ages and skills, so don't be shy!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Funds collected will be sent directly to our local food pantry (St. Stephen's). Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on **Sunday**, **February 12**. Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle – will meet **Wednesday, February 8** at 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall at church. Kay Cowing and Jackie Hull will be our hosts.

Faith Circle – will meet **Thursday, February 9** at 1pm at the home of Jan Wanek (618 Jupiter Drive #3016). Call Jan at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

JAVA JIVE -

Adapted from the Equal Exchange Resource Center

*Learn the Story of the Black Farmers Who Grow Equal Exchange Pecans
*Part 1 of 3 parts

When you own the land you farm, you decide what to plant, when to harvest, and which maintenance methods to use. More importantly, you're the one who controls your own livelihood. For Black farmers in the United States, land ownership is tied to freedom. But systematic racial discrimination has pushed many out of agriculture. Equal Exchange's partners at New Communities, who supply our fair trade pecans, know the power of land — and these challenges — firsthand. They farm in southwest Georgia, in one of the poorest parts of the state. Over the organization's fifty year history, these tenacious farmers have experienced more than their share of hardship and prejudice. Yet today, they are still farming and looking to the future.

Shirley Sherrod, Vice President for Development at New Communities Inc., as well as former USDA Georgia State Director for Rural Development, says that coming out of slavery, Black people knew that owning land was important "to help lift the family out of poverty." By 1910, Black people owned more that 14 million acres of land. Black farmers in the South played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement. Their relative wealth meant they could bail protesters out of jail. And, as independent businesspeople, they could take action without worrying about what the boss would think.

But holding on to their acreage and turning a profit has proved to be an uphill battle. Black farmers in America encountered – and still encounter — bias in countless ways, from institutions and from individual neighbors alike. Sherrod told us that farmers she knew weren't able to depend on fair grading for crops like peanuts. Many processors wouldn't work with them and buyers might offer artificially low prices. White dominance at all levels of government in the South meant that Black farmers' interests were not protected. They faced discrimination from the banking system. They had a hard time accessing loans and credit. In consequence, they learned to rely on each other.

New Communities, established in 1969, put cooperative values into action from the start. Shirley Sherrod says that she and the founders realized they needed to build something of their own in order to "use the skills they had to make life better." Her husband, Charles Sherrod (who was also a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) went to Israel with seven others to study the kibbutz model. They then designed New Communities as America's first community land trust, and it was owned and operated by Black farmers. At almost 6,000 acres, it was the largest parcel of land owned by Black people in the whole country.

The farmers there raised hogs and grew staples like peanuts, soy and corn. They were some of the first in the area to cultivate Muscadine grapes. In addition to devoting land to crops, the founders planned for a real community that would someday include villages, industry and schools.

**2nd Part coming in the March Newsletter.

Jackie Hull c 608-576-7847 - Karelyn Hopkins C 608-577-3185

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 Mark Buffat or Pastor Paul.

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Czerepinski Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of a local high school who is a member of Monona UMC. The Price scholarship gives preference to graduating seniors and members of Monona UMC, although others continuing their education may be considered. All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of academics (40%), community service (20%), service to the church (20%) and moral character (20%). The awards are to help with tuition, books and supplies.

The Czerepinski fund was established by the estate of Henry Czerepinski, a member of this congregation. The Price endowed scholarship was established by long-time members, Alton and Roma Price.

Applications, with instructions, can be picked up at the church office or emailed to you. The applications are due back in the church office by **Friday, March 31**.

DANE BUY LOCAL - PIE DAY - MARCH 14



Dane Buy Local is bringing together businesses that bake pies and people who like to eat pies on March 14 for Pie / "Pi" Day. Monona UMC will be the pickup location for these pies. Check out their website (danebuylocal.com) to get more information on how to get the pies and what kinds are available. Support your local Dane County business and celebrate Pi Day!

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

Monona UMC is still collecting egg cartons of all sizes and we have various places to take them.

Paper grocery bags are always in high demand for The River, as are plastic grocery bags. They also will take any non-perishable and shelf stable goods. Some other highly requested items for The River include:

100% juice products low sugar cereals

Tuna Helper and tuna disposable diapers all sizes, (including adult sizes)

THANKS FOR MISSION OFFERINGS DURING 2023

SPECIAL UNITED METHODIST OFFERINGS:

Human Relations Day	\$ 100
UMCOR Sunday	335
World Communion Sunday	50
UM Student Day	100

MISSION OF THE MONTH GIVING:

UMCOR-US Disasters	690
Human Welfare Fund	2,300
UMCOR-Ukraine	2,048
Jewish Social Services	415
Habitat for Humanity	245
Annual Conference Ingathering	500
BriarPatch	655
Agrace Hospitce Care	390
Backpack Meals	395
Porchlight	440
Giving Tree	858
Second Harvest	400

OTHER MISSION GIVING:

UMCOR-US Disaster	1,050
Souper Bowl-Food Pantry	303
Food Forest	25
Additional Jewish Social Services	25
Additional BriarPatch	125
Additional Human Welfare Fund	892
Additional Backpack Meals	1,591
Additional Second Harvest	150
Additional UMCOR-Ukraine	990
Road Home	50

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Volunteers Needed for Adult Day Center

Volunteers are needed to provide companionship to clients at the Agrace Adult Day Center. Agrace will host orientation for new volunteers **Thursday, February 9**, from 1 - 3 p.m. at its Madison campus. Pre-registration is required. To register, call (608) 327-7163 or visit <u>Agrace.org/Volunteer</u> and fill out an application.

Grief Support Group Options

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

- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support** meets February 2 to March 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and February 3 to March 24, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- **Bridges** meets February 1 and 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- **Bridges (virtual)** meets online February 8 and 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.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.

Get Expert Customized Grief Support—by Text

Agrace now offers thoughtful, customized text messages from a service called Help Texts. It's free and you can sign up even if you are also receiving grief support individually or in a group. To sign up or learn more, visit HelpTexts.com/Agrace.

Agrace Adult Day Center Offers Daytime Care

Do you care for or know an older adult who cannot—or chooses not to—stay alone all day? The new Agrace Adult Day Center in Madison gives seniors the reassurance and comfort of having others with them throughout the day. It's especially helpful for people who have dementia or trouble with their memory. It's a welcome break for family caregivers, too. Learn more at (608) 327-7303 or Agrace.org/AdultDayCenter.

...FOR THE LOVE OF COD'S CREATION...

Are you considering an EV?

A few weeks ago, I zoomed into a consumer-oriented webinar entitled **EV 101: How to Get Started with Electric Vehicles**, presented by **PlugInAmerica**, a non-profit supporter-driven advocacy group, providing a voice for plug-in vehicle drivers across the country. (https://pluginamerica.org/)

We know that converting the transportation system from fossil fuels to electricity is essential to addressing climate change. According to the presenter, Rose M. Scotti, there are currently both benefits to EVs, but also snags to negotiate.

Here are **some benefits** to consider:

- On average, the cost of fueling a car with electricity is 60% less than gasoline, roughly the same as paying \$1.16 per gallon of gas.
- EVs have no tailpipe and therefore no emissions. EVs powered by the grid currently produce 54 percent less (lifetime) carbon pollution than gasoline cars.

- EVs have far fewer moving parts than gasoline cars. There's no engine, transmission, spark plugs, valves, fuel tank, tailpipe, distributor, starter, clutch, muffler, or catalytic converter, a lot fewer things to break down and a lot less maintenance needed.
- There are federal tax credit incentives available for the purchase of EVs as well as for charging equipment. States may also offer rebates and sales tax exemptions on purchase or leasing of EVs. See: https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/credits-for-new-clean-vehicles-purchased-in-2023-or-after
- https://pluginamerica.org/why-go-plug-in/state-federal-incentives/

However, if you are interested in driving an EV, you should also know that:

- Most EVs available today will run out of juice before they reach 250 miles.
- Most EV drivers at this point will have to charge their vehicles at home.
- There are several options for home charging:
 - o Level 1 charger, at 120 V, can charge only up to 40 miles overnight.
 - o Level 2 charger, at 240 V, can charge up to 250 miles overnight.
- Different cars require different charging systems.
- Special electricians are needed to install home charging equipment. So far, only few are trained in this field. Where to find a qualified electrician, see: https://plugstar.com/electricians
- Workplace charging is only possible in few instances.
- While Fast Chargers are used at public locations, only few gas stations are currently equipped to charge EVs.
 - o Where to find an EV charging station, see: https://pluginamerica.org/get-equipped/find-an-ev-charging-station/ None are listed for Wisconsin.
- EVs make greatest sense if they are produced and charged with renewable electricity.
- The carbon footprint of EV batteries can be a huge problem. Many are manufactured in countries that run mostly on non-renewable energy sources. In addition, the mining of all the minerals involved in battery production raise both social and environmental concerns.

Today there are more than fifty EV models available, with more than two million Americans driving electric cars. The industry is growing. Maybe we are not ready to make that change yet. But when the day comes, support@pluginamerica or some other non-profit organization might be of help as we consider the many facets of the EV world.

The webinar was hosted by **Interfaith Power and Light** an organization inspiring and mobilizing people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. (https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/)

Church & Society, Siv Goulding

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD'S CREATION

...consider...

Chickpea and Red Pepper Soup with Quinoa

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup quinoa & 1 cup water
- 2T olive oil
- 1 large carrot
- 1 medium onion
- 1 small kohlrabi
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1T smoked paprika
- ¼ tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Pepper
- 1 large yellow pepper
- 1 large red pepper
- 2 cans chickpeas, rinsed
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 1 cup water
- 2 T red-wine vinegar
- Chopped fresh parsley

DIRECTONS

- Rinse quinoa several times in water to remove bitterness.
- Boil quinoa until water is absorbed.
- Heat oil in large heavy bottomed pot.
- Chop onion, carrot, kohlrabi; add to the oil and cook covered stirring occasionally for 6 minutes.
- Chop garlic and add with paprika, salt & pepper to the pot; stir for one minute.
- Add chopped peppers, and cook stirring for 5 minutes.
- Add chickpeas, broth and water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are tender, 5 to 8 minutes.
- Stir in vinegar and cooked quinoa.
- Serve with chopped fresh parsley

Make double portion. Tastes even better on day 2.

Remember

Mother Earth Meals are nourishing plant-based dishes with reduced amounts of meat or dairy products. Cutting down animal products in our diet could free up land space currently used for growing cattle feed, reduce demand for fresh water for animals and feed crops, and diminish the release of methane, a serious greenhouse gas, a byproduct from farm animals' digestive systems.

Siv Goulding, Church & Society (February 2023)

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow December 31, 2022

General Fund		Month	nth Year to Date	
Income	\$	33,111	\$	262,734
General Operating Expenses		22,264		275,575
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	<u>\$</u>	10,847	\$	(12,841)

STEWARDSHIP - SASHA'S GENEROSITY

Scott tells a story about when his church group visited Russia and he met a ten-year-old Russian orphan named Sasha who, for some reason, latched on to him. Sasha took Scott by the arm and led him through the orphanage, showing off his room and the place he ate meals. All the while Sasha's eyes were filled with joy and laughter. In spite of the fact that Scott spoke little Russian, and Sasha spoke no English, they connected. As the church group prepared to depart, Sasha sat beside Scott, pulled a silver ring from his finger, and held it out for Scott to take. His eyes filled with tears and Scott spoke the only Russian word I knew — "Nyet, nyet." (No, no.) This child, who had nothing in the world to call his own except this ring, desperately wanted to give this ring to him. When asked why Sasha wanted to give his only possession away, Sasha responded through an interpreter, "Because I am so thankful Scott came." For Sasha, abundant joy, extreme poverty, and a heart filled with gratitude overflowed in a wealth of generosity.

For many of us who have so much, we want more. We are not thankful for what we have and always look for the "something more." And truth be told, it's never enough. What would happen if, by God's grace, our desire to gain more and have more could be transformed by gratitude into a heartfelt desire to give more? What would happen if in a spirit of gratitude, we spent as much time figuring out ways to give as we spend figuring out how to earn, have, and keep? Can you recall a time when you were truly thankful despite negative circumstances? Can you recall a time when someone who could least afford it gave you a generous gift? What was it like? How did you respond?

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 **February 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTE						
	Newsletter Deadline February 19 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the March newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 608-222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net					
		T	1		T	4
			2-4pm Caregvr support 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama	2 1:00 Zoom Church / Society	Pastor's Day Off 10am Game Day	9am-3pm Revive CPR class- Fellowship Hall
See schedule below 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:15 Worship Team 11:30 Adult Sunday School	6 3-9pm Paper Moon Drama & Set night 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	7 1:00 Staff Mtg 6:30pm Stephen Ministry-Cry Room	8 1:30 Friendship Circle in our Fellowship Hall	9 1:00 Faith Circle at Jan Wanek's	Pastor's Day Off 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	9am Men's Grp Breakfast- Denny's 9:30-11:30am Girl Scouts-F.H.
See schedule below Souper Bowl Collection 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School 2 Read / Meet	3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama 5-7pm Girl Scout Troop	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg 1-5:30pm Blood Drive at Lake Edge Lutheran	15 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall	16 1:00 Zoom Church / Society 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board	Pastor's Day Off 3-4:30 Girl Scout Troop- Hall	9am-3pm Revive CPR class- Fellowship Hall
See schedule below Newsletter Ddln 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School ===================================	20 ======= 27 10:30am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H 5-7pm Girl Scout Troop	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg ===================================	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Worship	23	24 Pastor's Day Off 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	25
	SUNDAY 3 9:00 Sunday 10:00 Worsh 11:00 Fellows	School for ch		1	1	1

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

606 NICHOLS ROAD MONONA, WI 53716

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 608 222-1633 (Fax 608 222-2395); 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 Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com Worship 10:00am

FEBRUARY 2023

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers on the altar Easter Sunday add to the beauty of the day. We have a variety of flowers available for you to purchase. You may take your plant home after the worship service on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Please return this form with a check for your total flowers ordered to the church office by **Sunday, February 19**. **Due to the short time frame, please email the office with your purchase information so we can place your order.** If you have questions call the church office (222-1633).

Lilies \$16.00ea	Azaleas \$36.00ea pink,purple,white	180
Mums/Daisy \$20.00ea yellow,white, lavender	Hydrangeas \$38.00ea pink,blue	
Tulips \$16.00ea red,yellow,pink,white	Daffodils \$16.00ea	
Donor		
In Honor of OR In Memory of		
: <i>y</i> <u></u>	12	