



# HILLTOP HERALD-JANUARY 2022

## 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 and Mark are available for pastoral care both virtually and in-person for vaccinated individuals.

### GIVING TREE/WINTER WISHES THANKS

Wow! You helped make Christmas special for 140 children. Along with the Monona school communities, Monona UMC members and friends provided gifts and funds toward a special meal for 46 families in our community. Thank you so much for your generosity and flexibility with this online process.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS 11:30am

#### **Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God**

by Dallas Willard

We will begin our new book study on **Sunday January 9**. Our plans are to meet as usual at 11:30am after the service. Whether that means in person in the library or by Zoom depends upon the Covid situation. You should purchase your own book.

*"God spoke to me." "The Spirit spoke to my heart." "God revealed the idea to me." Being close to God means communicating with him--telling him what is on our hearts in prayer and hearing and understanding what he is saying to us. It is this second half of our conversation with God that is so important but that can also be so difficult. How do we hear his voice? How can we be sure that what we think we hear is not our own subconscious? What role does the Bible play? What if what God says to us is not clear? The key, says best-selling author Dallas Willard, is to focus not so much on individual actions and decisions as on building our personal relationship with our Creator. In this updated and expanded edition of Willard's beloved book, originally published as *In Search of Guidance*, you'll gain rich spiritual insight into how we can hear God's voice clearly and develop an intimate partnership with him in the work of his kingdom. Including new material from Dallas Willard's teaching at the Renovaré Institute and reformatted to be even easier to read, this classic continues to endure as one of today's best resources for learning to listen closely to God.*

### NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

*The Upper Room* is a great little devotional book to center on a Bible verse and read a short meditation and prayer. The new January/February issue has arrived, and is in the entryway. Feel free to take one. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Friends:  
Happy 2022!

A new year offers hope and anticipation. The old is done and a new has arrived. We get a fresh start and perhaps better days ahead.

We like to celebrate. We may even stay up late (until 11:00 p.m.) and watch the ball drop in New York City!

But a new year does not fix everything. A new year does not remove our grief. It does not make our health concerns go away or mend our broken relationships.

A year ago, we had hoped that the pandemic would end and we would be able to get back to normal. Obviously, that did not happen. We may find ourselves even more consumed with worry and uncertainty. None of our new year's celebrations make that go away.

But in times like these and at the beginning of a new year, Jesus offers hope.

*"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"* (Matthew 6:25)

Jesus offers to take away our worries. Instead of fretting about what we may encounter, Jesus invites us to love, serve and care for each other. After all is not life more than our worries?

I look forward to growing together as a congregation. I wonder what amazing work God will do through us in this new year.  
Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

*Pastor Paul*

### BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

#### **January 2**

"The Wise Man Who Couldn't Sing" Matthew 2:1-12

#### **January 9**

"The Witness of John the Baptist" Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

#### **January 16**

"The Best Wedding Ever" John 2:1-11

#### **January 23**

"Jesus' First Sermon" Luke 4:14-21

#### **January 30**

"The Home Crowd" Luke 4:21-30

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **UMCOR-US DISASTER RELIEF**

On Friday, December 10 a massive storm swept across Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee. There were sixty confirmed tornadoes and a path of destruction longer than two hundred miles.

Homes and small businesses were ripped off their foundations. An Amazon Warehouse, in southern, Illinois, collapsed. Even churches came tumbling down. Ironically during the Advent Season—a season of candles—the Mayfield, Kentucky Candle factory was reduced to rubble and with much of their community demolished.

This devastation was so catastrophic that it will take weeks, if not months or longer, to fully grasp how bad. The confirmed death toll rises each day.

In times like this, we can be proud that our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already on the ground caring for victims and communities in the aftermath of this tragedy. Every dollar we give to UMCOR—down to the last cent—supports those in need. None of this giving is used for administrative, promotion or publicity costs.

Please pray and consider the UMCOR disaster relief response for those in Kentucky and middle America who suffered the extraordinary losses of recent tornadoes. To support this Mission, mark your check or online giving indicating the "UMCOR-US Disaster Relief/901670".

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

### **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER BREAK**

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

### **MUMC MEN'S GROUP**

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, January 8** at 9:00 am at Monona Gardens Restaurant 6501 Broadway. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

### **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

**Sunday January 16**

Your generous gift supports neighborhood outreach and advocacy through Community Developers and UM Voluntary Services, both related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and at-risk teens through Youth Offender Rehabilitation, General Board of Church & Society. This is one of the special offerings of the United Methodist Church. To support this offering, please write "Human Relations Day" on the memo line of your check.

## 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>

## HILLTOPPERS

We will be changing our schedule this year. In the past, we have not met during the months of June, July and August. In 2022, we will not 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.

## OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: [www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://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.

## FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### "What does this church mean to you"

Thank you so much for your support of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. Our pledges so far have totaled \$186,800 or 75% 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

--Mark & Sally Buffat and their family, upon the death of Mark's mother, Isabell, December 18.

--Joy Newman and her family, upon the death of her husband, John, on December 20.

## READ 'EM & MEET



The book club will meet on **Sunday, January 16, 2022** at 2pm to discuss, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins at Lake Edge Lutheran Church. **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** – Will not meet in January.

**Faith Circle- Thursday, January 13** at 1pm in Fellowship Hall at church. Call Jan Wanek at 395-2433 with any questions.

## JAVA JIVE

Adapted from the Equal Exchange website

### Coffee

Since day one back in 1986, Equal Exchange's coffee has focused on farmers first. That means we pay a guaranteed price, offer farmers financing, and form direct and long-standing collaborative relationships. This has allowed us and our partners to grow into amazing democratic businesses, influential in local and regional economies. Our coffee embodies our collective beliefs in sustainability and human dignity.

### Chocolate

The chocolate industry has a long history of exploitation, child labor, poverty wages and lack of transparency. Conventional chocolate companies are perpetuating these issues on a large scale every day. Equal Exchange has built an alternative by committing to transparently source ingredients at fair prices directly in partnership with small farmer co-ops. We aim to put the power back in the hands of farmers and make the world a little bit sweeter.

### Tea

Most teas—even those that are certified as fair trade—come from large plantations that were established under colonialism. Workers on these plantations have little say and are trapped in a system of dependency. That's why we're building a different tea model, one that gives small-scale farmers greater access to the market, affording them more economic power and healthier communities. With your support, we can help tea farmers build their own democratic organizations and reshape the industry.

Again, THANK YOU ALL for your continued support of this very important mission!!

For questions or suggestions contact  
Jackie Hull @ 608-576-7837 or  
Karelyn Hopkins @ 608-577-3185  
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.

## THANK YOU

For Church Members, We love you, thank you for letting us use the space.  
Thank you. You have been a great help! You are rily nice/kind. Ava  
Thank you for letting us use this space. Hannah  
Thank you for letting us do girl scouts here. Sophie  
Thank you. Rosie  
Thank you let letting us use our space. Nyah  
Thank you for the church, and letting us use it.  
Troop 7582

Please accept the enclosed gift as a thank you from the Monona Monday Morning Quilters. We appreciate being able to use your church hall for our Vet Sewing Day on the last Monday of each month. We also want to thank Kay DeBraal for the friendly, welcoming environment she provides and for setting up the room for our sewing day.  
Monona Monday Morning Quilters

## 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.

## 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 1** from 1-5:30pm. Go to [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) to register.

## **LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES ACADEMY**

Cudahy United Methodist Church will be offering a Lay Servant Ministries Academy **March 19 & 20, 2022**. It will run from 9am to 3pm Saturday and 1:30 to 5:30 Sunday.

The Academy will offer 3 classes from the Lay Speaker Program: Polity in the UMC which will be in person or zoom, and Spiritual Gifts, in person only, both on Saturday and History of the UMC in person or zoom on Sunday. We will also have the Introduction class available during the week leading up to the Academy on zoom at times convenient to those persons who need this Introduction class.

The Academy will cost \$30 to take 1 of the Saturday classes and the Sunday class and includes a meal both days. There is an additional cost of \$10 for those taking the Introduction as well.

Direct any questions and register by email at [cudahyclasses@gmail.com](mailto:cudahyclasses@gmail.com) and be sure to include your choice of classes.

## 2022 Committee on Lay Leadership Report

Please take a look at this report, to see if we have listed you in the correct spot. If not, call the church office at 608-222-1633. The blank lines indicate that we are still looking for volunteers. **If you could fill a vacant position, please contact the office.**

As this newsletter goes to press, there have been some meetings already established for January. There may be other committees which will be meeting, but the dates aren't all set yet. If you are on a committee, please watch your email for a meeting notice. Please save this report for reference during the year.

### **Administrative Council:**

Ad Council Chair - *Oversees the leaders of the church in decision making processes that affect the vision, policies, and budget of the local church; encouraged to attend Annual Conference.*

Maribeth Witzel-Behl (2021-2023)

Lay Members to Annual Conference - *Serves as delegate for Monona UMC at Annual Conference sharing our beliefs, and works with others in the Conference.*

Patsy McDonald (2021) \_\_\_\_\_ (2022)

LeeAnn Sinclair (2021) \_\_\_\_\_ (2022)

Alternate: Mark Buffat

Recording Secretary: Anna Siferd

Membership Secretary: Anna Skiles

Treasurer: Phyllis Stertz

Financial Secretary: Barb Pearson

SPRC Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Trustees Chair: John Huston (2021)

Worship Chair: Lori Stewart

Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald

Church & Society: Siv Goulding

Hilltoppers: Elgin & Carol Waugh

UMW: Lynn Hovey

Caring Ministry: Mark Buffat

Missions: \_\_\_\_\_

Reconciling Ministry: Jean Van Dreef

Strategic Planning Task Force: Jim Jacobus



## Committees with 3-year Commitments

Trustees (*Responsible for the supervision, care, maintenance, and protection of the church and other buildings and all personal property contained therein*):

Dick Hayden (2022)	_____ (2023)	Brian Jacobus (2024)
El Libertador (2022)	El Libertador (2023)	Kay Cowing (2024)
Jeff Wiswell (2022)	John Huston-chair (2023)	Mark Miller (2024)
Clyde Drake, custodial advisor	Pastor Paul Johnsen	Pastora Estrella Benitez
AJ Feucht-consultant		

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) (*Acts as a liaison for the paid staff of Monona UMC with the congregation*):

Dorilee Miller (2022)	Forrest Evans (2023)	Polly Brandes-(2024)
Jeff Moore (2022)	_____ (2023)	Elgin Waugh (2024)
Frank Gaylord (2022)	_____ (2023)	_____ (2024)
_____ Youth rep.		

Lay Member to Annual Conference: LeeAnn Sinclair    Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald

Finance (*Monitors church budget and cash flow throughout the year and provides guidance for spending and investing of church funds*):

Jim Jacobus (2022)	Kara Evans (2023)	Dan Medenblik (2024)
Barb Pearson (2022)	Kippy Pearson (2023)	Randy Parvin (2024)
Edmond Throckmorton (2022)	_____ (2023)	_____ (2024)

Treasurer: Phyllis Stertz    Financial Secretary: Barb Pearson  
Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald    Ad Council Chair: Maribeth Witzel-Behl    SPRC Rep: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee Rep: John Huston    Lay Member to Annual Conference: LeeAnn Sinclair

Committee on Lay Leadership (*Identifies, develops, deploys, evaluates, and monitors the Christian spiritual leadership of the congregation*)

Mary Lou Byers (2022)	_____ (2023)	Tim Eberle (2024)
Doreen Peterson (2022)	_____ (2023)	Elgin Waugh (2024)
_____ (2022)	_____ (2023)	Carol Waugh (2024)

Pastor Paul Johnsen (chair)    Patsy McDonald (Lay Leader)

Missions (*Lifts up and interprets the mission outreach of the church on a local and global basis*):

Anna Mae Wilken (2022)	_____ (2023)	_____ (2024)
_____ (2022)	_____ (2023)	_____ (2024)
Doreen Peterson (2022)	_____ (2023)	_____ (2024)

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## Other Committees

Worship Team:

Shirley Robinson	Jeanette Williams	Debbie Munroe
Linda Jackson	Kay Cowing	Lori Stewart – chair

Worship Technology

Rick Siferd                      Forrest Evans                      Linda Jackson                      Mark Miller

Communion Steward: Marcia Hansen

Wedding Coordinators: Julie Larson                      Kay Cowing

Church and Society (*Concerned with contemporary ethical and social justice issues and how Christians can respond to them from the perspective of Christian faith*):

Siv Goulding-chair                      Marilyn Hearden                      LeeAnn Sinclair                      Maribeth Witzel-Behl  
Mark Buffat                      Patsy McDonald                      Karelyn Hopkins

Reconciling Ministry (*Oversees the congregation's efforts toward being an inclusive church*):

Jean Van Dreel-chair                      Jeanna Freeman                      Anna Siferd                      Mark Miller

Caring Ministries Team (*Creates and coordinates the opportunity to provide care, comfort and kindness to our congregational members and friends*):

Pat Jacobus                      Carolyn Taubenheim                      Mark Buffat

Blood Pressure Screenings

Jan Wanek                      Jean Van Dreel                      Peg McDonald                      Dorilee Miller

Wills, Memorials and Estates:

Peg McDonald                      Polly Brandes                      Sally Buffat

Lay Leader (*Functions as the primary representative of the laity of the church as a member of Ad Council, charge conference, finance, committee on lay leadership and SPRC; recommended to serve as Lay Member to Annual Conference*):

Patsy McDonald (2022)

Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF)

Mark Buffat                      LeeAnn Sinclair                      Jim Jacobus                      Patsy McDonald

Funeral Coordinators:

To be determined

Food Pantry Ministries (*Serves as a liaison between Monona UMC and St. Stephen's Food Pantry*):

Barb Helsel                      Jeanette Williams

Adult Education Team (*Dedicated to providing adults with opportunities for spiritual growth through learning, service and fellowship*):

Frank Gaylord (Resource)                      Mark Buffat                      Siv Goulding

Native American CP Rep: Hillary Whitehorse

Hilltoppers: Elgin Waugh Carol Waugh

Camping Coordinator (*Promotes Wisconsin United Methodist Church Camps*):

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UMW: Lynn Hovey

Historians:

Carol Johnson Marilyn Rowin

Children's Ministry Team (*Plans and implements ministry with and for children and their families*) (*meet 4 times/yr to plan Sunday school semesters, Christmas Program and VBS*)

\_\_\_\_\_ – co-chair \_\_\_\_\_ – co-chair Jason Mittag Jeanna Freeman  
Maribeth Witzel-Behl Jennifer Derke Kay DeBraul  
Brian Jacobus Sabrina Jacobus

UMW Fair Trade Equal Exchange Ministry (*Coordinates the Fair Trade coffee mission*)

Jackie Hull-team coordinator, Karelyn Hopkins-team coordinator, Jean Van Dreel, Polly Brandes, Jan Wanek, Kathie Baxter, Peggy Traver, Sally Buffat, Barb Helsel, Marilyn Hearnden, Gail Poser, Deb Munroe, Kay Mackie

Kitchen:

Jean Van Dreel (weekly organize) & Carol Johnson (Supplies)  
Peg McDonald (Refrigerator) Marilyn Hearnden & Gail Poser (twice year Cleaning)  
Gail Poser (Stoves) Marie Siferd (Shopping)

Media & Communications Team: (retooling, relabeling, resources)

Anna Siferd Victoria Greer John Huston Mark Buffat Julie Larson  
Kara Evans Forrest Evans

Welcoming Team

Mark Buffat (team Leader) Polly Brandes Anna Mae Wilken Forrest & Kara Evans

Community Garden Outreach (*Coordinates congregation's on-site community garden*):

Karelyn Hopkins-Plot-Assignments Frank Gaylord Rick Siferd  
John Huston (chair) Pastor Estrella Benitez Mike Fritz/Cindy Bender (community reps)

Office Helpers:

Substitute Secretary: Donna Olson, Jean Van Dreel, Frank Gaylord, Anna Skiles; Lynn Hovey

Newsletters & On Call: Polly Brandes, Carol Johnson, Phyllis Stertz, Anna Mae Wilken, Marie Siferd, Jan Wanek

# FOR THE LOVE OF GOD'S CREATION

## REMEMBER

### ...WE ARE HOLDING THE LIVES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR HANDS...

After the COP 26, the huge climate conference in Glasgow this fall, we were reminded that we, the stewards of the earth, are called, now more than ever before, to help in whatever ways we see possible to prevent a climate catastrophe.

You may already have made some changes to reduce your carbon foot print. The following might give you ideas about what else you could do:

#### 1. Reduce your energy use and switch to renewable energy

- “As energy is primarily generated by the burning of fossil fuels, one of the most important things to do is to reduce energy consumption and to switch to renewable energy sources.
- ...switch, [if you can] your home energy supply to a green energy plan or change to a 100% renewable energy provider... or reduce your dependence on fossil fuels by installing solar panels at your home, buying a solar water heater or using solar powered tech wherever you can (outdoor or portable lighting, mobile phone power banks, etc).
- Reduce energy consumption by installing only LED lights in your house and choosing energy-efficient appliances and heating and cooling solutions.
- Reduce energy consumption by properly insulating your home with appropriate heat trapping or cooling materials that will reduce the amount of energy needed to warm or cool your home.”

#### 2. Change the way you travel

- “Cycle or walk whenever possible, or use an electric bike or scooter.
- Use public transport (bus, tram, train) instead of a private car.
- If you have no choice but to use a car, think about ride-sharing instead of travelling individually.
- If you’re buying a new or second-hand car, opt for more environmentally friendly electric vehicles if you can.
- Restrict your flights substantially and opt for direct flights whenever possible.”

#### 3. Change what you eat

- “One of the best things you can do for our planet is to substantially increase the number of fruits and vegetables you eat.
- Eating a healthy and balanced diet with a larger proportion and a wide variety of plant-based foods, only buying meat and fish from sustainable sources, and not wasting food, all help to protect our planet. Check out our **Planet-friendly diet guide** (<https://planetbaseddiets.panda.org/>) for more information!”

#### 4. Change how much you buy and who you buy from

- “Reduce your consumption overall.
- Choose recycled products and remember to recycle things you no longer need.
- Support companies who have strong sustainable values and practices.
- Lobby your pension fund and your bank to ‘go green’ and not support any fossil fuel investments and to increase their sustainable values and practices – or move your savings into ‘green’ funds.”

#### 5. Campaign and vote!

- “Become a climate warrior and join local climate marches and support petitions that call for more sustainable practices.
- Ask your company, landlord, school, university and/or city to make the change to renewable energy, support energy-saving campaigns, and make it easier to walk, bike, and use public transportation.
- Vote for public officials who support ambitious climate change action and increasing sustainability, like increasing nature-based solutions, protecting nature and scaling up renewable energy.”

#### 6. Share these ideas with your family and friends!!!

**<https://explore.panda.org/climate/how-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint>**

*Church & Society, Siv Goulding*

# \$ Financial Report \$

## Cash Flow November 30, 2021

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 20,490	\$ 226,392
General Operating Expenses	19,400	226,221
<b>Net Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ 1,090</b>	<b>\$ 171</b>

## STEWARDSHIP

### SCARCITY OR ABUNDANCE - WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

A few years ago, I read a fun book by A.J. Jacobs called *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible*. It's important to note that Jacobs, a journalist and author, is Jewish and agnostic. For one year, he tried to follow every biblical "rule" as literally as possible. This includes well-known rules like "Love your neighbor" and the Ten Commandments, as well as lesser-known commands to stone adulterers (which he does by throwing little pebbles at a rather cranky man he meets in a park who brags to Jacobs about an affair he is involved in). Jacobs also decided to follow the biblical instruction to tithe, deciding to give away 10 percent of his income.

After convincing his wife to join him, Jacobs gave the donations away to several charities electronically. He describes his experience this way, "The giving was painful. I mean, 10 percent? That would have an impact on our lives. Vacations would need to be scaled back; new furniture would have to wait. It was huge. When I pressed 'send' on the donations, my palms got wet, my heart rate spiked."

In giving, Jacobs felt the fear that is common to all of us. The fear of not having enough. However, that wasn't all he experienced. He continues:

"It was a pain mixed with pleasure. When the confirmation email pinged in, I felt good. There's a haunting line from the movie *Chariots of Fire*. It's spoken by Ian Charleson, who plays a deeply religious sprinter in the 1924 Olympics. He says: 'When I run, I feel his pleasure.' And as I gave away money, I think I might have felt God's pleasure. Which is odd. Because I'm agnostic. I don't know if there's a God or not, but still I've felt some high sense of purpose. It was like a cozy ember that started at the back of my neck and slowly spread its warmth through my skull. I felt like I was doing something I should have done all my life."

Ultimately, Jacobs' generosity changed him. I wonder, how our relationship with God and our lives might be vivified because of our giving?

Rev. Jason Mahnke

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or [www.wumf.org](http://www.wumf.org)

# The Life and Ministry of God's People In Monona United Methodist Church

## January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline January 23</b> Information arriving after the above date may not be in the February newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 608-222-2395 or email to <a href="mailto:secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net">secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net</a></p>						<p><b>1</b> 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg</p>
<p><b>2</b> <u>See schedule below</u>  <b>No kids Sunday School</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b> 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop</p>	<p><b>4</b> 1:00 Staff Meeting 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama</p>	<p><b>5</b> 2-4pm Caregivr support  6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 E.L. Bible St-upstairs</p>	<p><b>6</b> 1:00 Zoom Church / Society  6:30 Trustees</p>	<p><b>7</b> Pastor's Day Off  3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg 9am Men's Grp Breakfast-Monona Garden  Memorial Service for John Newman 11am Visitation 1pm Service</p>
<p><b>9</b> <u>See schedule below</u> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>10</b> 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop  6:30 Stephen Ministry</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H.  1:00 Staff Mtg</p>	<p><b>12</b> 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30 Zoom SPRC 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs</p>	<p><b>13</b> 1:00 Faith Cr-Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>14</b> Pastor's Day Off  3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg</p>
<p><b>16</b> <u>See schedule below</u> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School 2 Read / Meet</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg  6:30 Finance</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall  6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs</p>	<p><b>20</b> 1:00 Zoom Church / Society</p>	<p><b>21</b> Pastor's Day Off  3-4:30 Girl Scout Troop-Hall</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg</p>
<p><b>23</b> <u>See schedule below</u> Newsletter Ddln 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School ----- <b>30</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School</p>	<p><b>24</b> 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop  ----- <b>31</b> 10:30am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg  6:30 Ad Council</p>	<p><b>26</b> 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off  3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg  2pm Memorial Service for John Risch Jr</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u></b>            9:00 Sunday School for children            10:00 Worship            11:00 Fellowship            1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish</p>						

## **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.

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Worship 10:00am

### **JANUARY 2022**

## **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.