



HILLTOP HERALD-JANUARY 2023

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADULT GAME DAY

Our Game Day continues! Join our growing good times and fellowship on **Friday, January 13 at 10 A.M. to noon** in Fellowship Hall. Bring a family favorite game to teach us. Games for any number of players are especially fun. Hope you can join us! --Kay Cowing

GIVING TREE/FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM THANKS

Wow! You helped make Christmas and the whole year special for families in the Monona school community by providing 83 gift cards. The schools will be able to help families throughout the year with a gift card for groceries, supplies and gas. Thank you so much for your generosity and flexibility with this new donation process.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Sunday January 15

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.

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD

Our newly approved committee structure, the Accountable Leadership Board, will start work soon. Watch for more information to come.

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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

We have a Volunteer Sign Up Genius listing with the volunteer jobs needed 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 you're your requested dates.

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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Happy New Year!”

As we begin 2023, we have high hopes. We trust that God will be with us. We crave a good year!

And yet, we have had several challenging years which include a lingering pandemic, a humanitarian crisis at our border and Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. We cannot ignore these devastations and human pain. We know we can do so much better.

I want to share this prayer I received from LeeAnn Sinclair.

A Blessing as You Journey into The New Year from Lydia Wright

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you and may your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness can never be put out.

May you be blessed with the companions on the journey, friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart, daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you.

Amen.

Pastor Paul

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

“Share the Joy”

Thank you so much for your support of the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Our pledges so far have totaled \$205,000 or 82% of budgeted revenue. Your giving makes it possible for the ministries of Monona UMC 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 2023, know that any gift that you can share with the church is much appreciated!

Your Stewardship/Finance Team

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES

10:00AM SERVICE

January 8

Robin Kelby our District Lay Leader, will preach on Matthew 19:1-15. Robin will also offer reflections on the work of the District's Disaffiliation Task Force.

January 15

"Come and See"

Pastor Paul will preach on John 1: 35-42.

They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

January 22

"Calling Disciples"

Pastor Paul will focus on Matthew 4:12-23.

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

January 29

"Blessings"

Pastor Paul will preach on Matthew's version of the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

MISSION OF THE MONTH

ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S RECYCLE THE WARMTH

Our mission in January will support the annual *Recycle the Warmth* Blanket Drive. St. Vincent de Paul is an organization committed to helping neighbors in need without regard to religion, race, or ethnic background. This drive helps provide blankets and bedding throughout the year to all those who seek help. We need your help in making this possible.

The drive will take place the weekend of **January 27-29**. You may purchase new blankets or donate your gently-used blankets and bedding to any of the St. Vinny's Thrift Stores in the Madison area. Blankets are also available to purchase at the St. Vinny's Thrift Stores.

You may also donate funds to purchase new bedding. Please mark your check or offering envelope with "Blanket Drive."

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

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO

Maribeth Witzel Behl & Michael Behl and their family, upon the death of Maribeth's mother, Bev Witzel.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, January 8, 2023** at 2pm to discuss, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom at Lake Edge Lutheran Church. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, January 14** at 9:00 am at Denny's on Broadway in Monona. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

HILLTOPPERS

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

HELP WITH PAPER MOON DRAMA

Paper Moon Drama group is starting up their next session and we need to have a church member hang out at church when they are using our building. Our Bishop and the United Methodist Church is requiring Methodist Churches to only host groups that have 2 adult leaders in attendance when there are children in the group.

Monona UMC has hosted the Paper Moon Drama Group for several years and in order for them to continue their after school activities, they need an additional adult in the church building when they are here. Are you available from 3pm - 5:30pm to hang out at church on the days listed below? You will not be expected to participate in the activities and may be able to get some reading or hand-crafts done while you are here. We will also be asking our volunteers to do a background check with our Trak-1 company.

If this is something that you would be willing to do, please email the church office (secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net). Below are the dates that they need to use the church:

Session for Annie:

Friday January 6
Wednesday January 11
Tuesday January 17
Monday January 23
Thursday January 26
Wednesday February 1
Monday February 6
Monday February 13

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.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle – Will not meet in January.

Faith Circle will meet **Thursday, January 12** at 1pm in Fellowship Hall at the home of Shirley Robinson. Call Jan Wanek at 395-2433 with any questions.

JAVA JIVE

Adapted from the Equal Exchange website

Every January, people resolve to do better in the New Year: eat right, exercise more, save for retirement.

But there's one other resolution United Methodists and their congregations can add to that list—buy fair trade.

“Fair trade is one of the many ways United Methodists can engage in using our consumerism in a socially just way,” she said.

UMCOR has been encouraging churches to buy fair trade since 2000. The agency has partnered with Equal Exchange, which specializes in fairly traded coffees, teas, chocolates and cocoa, olive oil and almonds.

Originally founded in 1940 in response to displaced and vulnerable populations in the wake of World War II, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a ministry of The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries. Our goal is to assist the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity.

While other companies and a growing number of retail stores sell fairly traded products, UMCOR partnerships take the guesswork out of buying fair trade.

For every purchase United Methodists make through UMCOR's partners, UMCOR receives a contribution that goes toward its sustainable agriculture and development program, which supports small farmers in Africa.

EX/Fair Trade coordinators
Jackie Hull C 608-576-7837
Karelyn Hopkins. C 607-577-3185

THANK YOU

The Monona Monday Morning Quilters are pleased to present the enclosed checks as a thank you for allowing us to use your hall as a sewing space. We appreciate the ability to gather as a group, sew, talk and enjoy friendship in a warm and inviting setting. We would like to thank Kay DeBaal for setting up the room, providing ironing and cutting stations, and welcoming us to the church.

Monona Monday Morning Quilters

ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CPR, AED AND FIRST AID CLASSES

Monona UMC is hosting CPR, AED and First Aid classes and you are invited to attend a class for free. Please contact the church office if you are interested. There will be portion completed on your computer and an in-person portion. The dates included are: January 21, February 4 and 18, March 4 and 23.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

We will try to do our best to find any donations that have been postmarked by December 31, 2022 and to credit them to 2022. If you receive your end of the year statement from the church, and believe a particular donation should be for 2022, 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. 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 in the church office.

HILLTOPPERS

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

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.

ACHIEVE ABILITIES WANTS ALUMINUM CANS

AchieveAbilities supports individuals with disabilities who crush cans for recycling as a way to earn income. They would appreciate donations of empty aluminum cans to the bin outside their office at 124 Owen Rd (next to the Monona Post Office). For more information contact Jeff at 608-719-7941 or achieveabilities.net.

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD'S CREATION CONSIDER YOUR CHOICE OF RESOLUTIONS FOR 2023

A new year is upon us, and maybe you are wondering what big issues the world will face this time around. Over the past year, the climate crisis has moved onto center stage, and it is **the issue** that overshadows every other issue in this world. Individually our lifestyles have a profound impact on the planet. According to research from the United Nations,

[T]wo-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to private households...the electricity we use, the food we eat, the way we travel, and the things we buy, all contribute to a person's carbon footprint...

Greenhouse gas emissions per person vary greatly among countries. In the United States of America, emissions in 2020... were 14.6 tons of CO₂ equivalent per person – more than double the global average of 6.3 tons, and six times the 2.4 tons per person in India. To preserve a livable climate, the average emission per person per year will need to drop to around 2 to 2.5 tons of CO₂ by 2030.

Changing our lifestyles is something we all can do. Listed below are ten categories that will help you evaluate how to reduce your own individual contributions toward the warming of our planet. (<https://www.un.org/en/actnow/>)

<p>Save energy at home <i>Much of our electricity and heat are powered by coal, oil and gas. Use less energy by lowering your heating and cooling, switching to LED light bulbs and energy-efficient electric appliances, washing your laundry with cold water, or hanging things to dry instead of using a dryer. Improving your home's energy efficiency, through better insulation or replacing your oil or gas furnace with an electric heat pump can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 900 kilograms of CO₂ per year.</i></p>	<p>Reduce, reuse, repair, recycle <i>Electronics, clothes, and other items we buy cause carbon emissions at each point in production, from the extraction of raw materials to manufacturing and transporting goods to market. To protect our climate, buy fewer things, shop second-hand, repair what you can, and recycle. Every kilogram of textiles produced generates about 17 kilograms of CO₂. Buying fewer new clothes – and other consumer goods – can reduce your carbon footprint and also cut down on waste.</i></p>
<p>Walk, bike, or take public transport <i>The world's roadways are clogged with vehicles, most of them burning diesel or gasoline. Walking or riding a bike instead of driving will reduce greenhouse gas emissions -- and help your health and fitness. For longer distances, consider taking a train or bus. And carpool whenever possible. Living car-free can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 2 tons of CO₂ per year compared to a lifestyle using a car.</i></p>	<p>Change your home's source of energy <i>Ask your utility company if your home energy comes from oil, coal or gas. If possible, see if you can switch to renewable sources such as wind or solar. Or install solar panels on your roof to generate energy for your home. Switching your home from oil, gas or coal-powered energy to renewable sources of energy, such as wind or solar, can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 1.5 tons of CO₂ per year.</i></p>

<p>Eat more vegetables <i>Eating more vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, and less meat and dairy, can significantly lower your environmental impact. Producing plant-based foods generally results in fewer greenhouse gas emissions and requires less energy, land, and water. Switching from a mixed to a vegetarian diet can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 500 kilograms of CO₂ per year (or up to 900 kilograms for a vegan diet).</i></p>	<p>Consider your travel <i>Airplanes burn large amounts of fossil fuels, producing significant greenhouse gas emissions. That makes taking fewer flights one of the fastest ways to reduce your environmental impact. When you can, meet virtually, take a train, or skip that long-distance trip altogether. Taking one less long-haul return flight can reduce your carbon footprint by up to almost 2 tons of CO₂.</i></p>
<p>Switch to an electric vehicle <i>If you plan to buy a car, consider going electric, with more and cheaper models coming on the market. In many countries, electric cars help reduce air pollution and cause significantly fewer greenhouse gas emissions than gas or diesel-powered vehicles. But many electric cars still run on electricity produced from fossil fuels, and the batteries and engines require rare minerals which often come with high environmental and social costs. Switching from a gasoline or diesel-powered car to an electric vehicle can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 2 tons of CO₂ per year. A hybrid vehicle can save you up to 700 kilograms of CO₂ per year.</i></p>	<p>Make your money count <i>Everything we spend money on affects the planet. You have the power to choose which goods and services you support. To reduce your environmental impact, choose products from companies who use resources responsibly and are committed to cutting their gas emissions and waste. If you have money that is being invested for you, through a pension fund for instance, it may be supporting fossil fuels or deforestation. Making sure your savings are invested in environmentally sustainable businesses can greatly reduce your carbon footprint.</i></p>
<p>Throw away less food <i>When you throw food away, you're also wasting the resources and energy that were used to grow, produce, package, and transport it. And when food is rotting in a landfill, it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. So, use what you buy and compost any leftovers. Cutting your food waste can reduce your carbon footprint by up to 300 kilograms of CO₂ per year.</i></p>	<p>Speak Up <i>Speak up and get others to join in taking action. It's one of the quickest and most effective ways to make a difference. Talk to your neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family. Let business owners know you support bold changes. Appeal to local and world leaders to act now. Climate action is a task for all of us. And it concerns all of us. No one can do it all alone – but we can do it together. Explore ideas here.</i></p>

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow November 30, 2022

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 17,989	\$ 229,623
General Operating Expenses	28,383	253,310
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (10,394)	\$ (23,687)

STEWARDSHIP - I LIKE FLOORMATS

This story is from “I Like Giving” by Brad Formsma. His book and corresponding website, www.ilikegiving.com, are full of stories and videos about the power of generosity.

It is hard to characterize my brother-in-law, James. He’s not a guy who draws a lot of attention to himself, and he’s not a guy with great wealth. In fact, James is, well, quite average, but when it comes to generosity, James is one of the most above-average people I’ve ever met.

For instance, if James needed to borrow your car, he would likely return it with a full tank of fuel or maybe a new set of tires. Or maybe it would have been detailed. And unless you happened to notice, he wouldn’t draw any attention to it.

Which is exactly what happened with the floor mats in our Honda Accord. They were worn-out. I mean, they’re floor mats. They are one of those things you think about replacing when you vacuum the car and say to yourself, “Wow, these look terrible. I need to replace them.” You finish vacuuming, put the mats back, and never give them another thought until the next time you clean your car.

However, this particular time I did notice them. They were new. I immediately asked my wife if she’d bought the new car mats. She said she thought I had. Immediately we knew it was James. I could not think of when he might have done it. I went back in the house, called him, and asked if he was responsible. As I suspected, he was.

“When did you put new mats in the car?” I asked since we hadn’t seen him in weeks. “About three months ago,” he sheepishly replied.

I couldn’t believe I’d been so unobservant, but I wasn’t the least bit surprised by James thoughtful act of generosity. It’s a lifestyle with him. I truly can’t think of anything he enjoys doing more than giving, and I can’t think of anyone who has more fun finding unique ways to give. I mean, who would ever think of replacing someone’s floor mats?

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

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE						
<p>Newsletter Deadline January 22 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 secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net</p>						
1 <u>See schedule below</u> No Sunday School	2 Office Closed	3 1:00 Staff Meeting	4 2-4pm Caregivr support 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	5 1:00 Zoom Church / Society	6 Pastor's Day Off 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	7 9:30-11:30am Girl Scouts
8 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 2:00 Read 'Em & Meet	9 5-7pm Girl Scouts	10 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg	11 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	12 1:00 Faith Cr-at Shirley R.	13 Pastor's Day Off 10am Game Day	14 9am Men's Grp Breakfast-Denny's
15 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal	16	17 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	18 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall	19 1:00 Zoom Church / Society	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 9am-3pm Revive CPR class-upstairs 9:30-11:30am Girl Scouts
22 <u>See schedule below</u> Newsletter Ddln 8:30 Choir Rehearsal ----- 29 8:30 Choir Rehearsal	23 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama 5:30-7pm Girl Scouts ----- 30 10am-2pm Monona Quilters-F.H	24 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg ----- 31 1:00 Staff	25	26 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	27 Pastor's Day Off 3-4:30 Girl Scouts-Hall	28
<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 9:00 Sunday School for children 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish						

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 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
Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com
Worship 10:00am

JANUARY 2023

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.