



# **HILLTOP HERALD-JULY 2020 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL LIBERTADOR**

## **ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELLED**

At this time we do not know when we will be resuming regular activities. If you are not receiving our email updates but have an email address, please send your address to [secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net). If you need anything at all, please call the church at 608-222-1633 or Pastor Brad at 414-534-8791. We have cloth face masks available in the entryway to pick up if you are in need of one or they can be mailed.

## **PASTOR BRAD VACATION**

Pastor Brad will be on vacation on the first two Sundays of July--**July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>**. At the suggestion of our Worship Committee co-chairs, he has contacted another local United Methodist Church that is willing to share their virtual worship experience with us.

So on those two Sundays we will join the virtual worship service of First United Methodist Church of Madison at 9:00 AM. The link to the livestream worship can be found on their website: [fumc.org](http://fumc.org). On July 5<sup>th</sup> our District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Carlson, will be preaching. On July 12<sup>th</sup> Rev. Dr. Mark Fowler, lead pastor of First UMC, will be the preacher.

Dr. Fowler was very gracious and welcoming to us when we made these arrangements, and we appreciate the opportunity to worship with the congregation of First UMC.

During Pastor Brad's well-deserved vacation, July 1-14, if you have a need for pastoral care, Mark Buffat is available to help (608-335-5063).

## **REOPENING OUR CHURCH**

The Reopening Committee is meeting regularly to work on what needs to be done to reopen the Church. Things being discussed include how to conduct a worship service, cleaning processes, requirements for entering the building for worship or meetings, and how to implement contact tracing. A survey was sent out to get the pulse of our congregation to understand how ready everyone is to return to in-person worship and willingness to accept precautions (mask wearing, temperature taking) before entering the building.

There is an extensive amount of work to be done before a comprehensive plan can be approved by the Ad Council. As always, the committee will be making decisions based on what science is telling us. Given this, we expect to continue online worship services only, through the month of July.

Carrie Dillon, Ad Council Chair

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
<sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
<sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Shaking mountains, roaring waters, nations in an uproar. That's a description of what it sometimes feels like to be living through these times, isn't it?

No wonder the psalmist exclaims "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." This is what we need to hear. This is the assurance we need in a time of instability.

We need the reminder that "God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved," that "God will help it when the morning comes."

It's precisely *because* God is our refuge, strength, and help in our time of trouble that "we will not fear." *Therefore* we will not fear. Because the Lord of hosts is with us, and the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The fear is real. Its sources are several. We don't deny that we feel it. But we refuse to yield the driver's seat of our life to it. We refuse to take the bait when fear-mongers use "dog whistle" rhetoric to appeal to our fears and insecurities. We know better. And we are less susceptible because God is our refuge, strength, and help.

This morning I heard our district superintendent say that during these days it is especially important for him to "Be still and know that God is God," to take time to read scripture and be quiet with God.

I think verse 10 is telling us that the way we know this—that “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge”—is by getting still so we will experience again that God is God, even in the midst of these unsettling days of a global pandemic, an anti-racism movement, and a presidential campaign season.

There’s an awful lot happening right now, it’s true. But in the midst of it all, God is still our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

I pray that you may be experiencing the truth of this psalm in your own life. Together and with God’s help we will make it through whatever comes next. Who knows what good things God is working to bring out of these challenging events or how God will do that? But wouldn’t it be wonderful if God found a way to somehow make use of us in accomplishing them?

Prayers, peace, and health,

*Pastor Brad*

## WORSHIP TIMES

Join us for virtual Worship services on Sunday mornings **July 19 and 26** at 10am. Click the link found on our website: [mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org)

**July 5 and 12**, please click the link found on First UMC website: [fumc.org](http://fumc.org) to join their 9:00am worship service.

## HOW CAN THE CHURCH SUPPORT YOU?

As a small group leader or committee chair, how can the church support your wish to communicate with your fellow members? The church has a Zoom account that can be shared to allow get-togethers lasting longer than 40 minutes. Our Adult Sunday School class is “gathering” on Sunday mornings after worship. You are welcome to join the group. Contact the office to find out how to join.

Are you in need of food, financial or emotional assistance? We have our Human Welfare Fund available for anything you may need and people willing to pick up items for you. Pastor Brad and Mark are available by phone and could probably do a Zoom gathering also if you would like face-to-face contact.

Have you filled out your census, or done your taxes, or could you use assistance with these areas? We have people willing to help in any way that we can.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you consider yourself to be technology savvy? Are you familiar with using Zoom, YouTube, or Facebook? We are looking for a few individuals to provide "Tech Support" to members of MUMC who might be struggling with using many of the online tools that are available to us for meetings or worship services. This would involve reaching out by phone to those who have questions about how to 'get connected'. If you are interested, please email the church office to sign up ([secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net)).

**JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH:  
Annual Conference Ingathering Support  
Northcott Neighborhood House**

Northcott Neighborhood House is a multipurpose community center created by the United Methodist Church in 1961. The church provides education, employment opportunities and basic necessities to youth, families and senior citizens in the Milwaukee area. The goal is to lift the spirit of the whole community through the mission:

- To empower families to meet their survival needs and provide good parenting to their children
- To provide a safe place for youth as well as recreational and skill-building activities—after school, on Saturdays, and in the summer
- To provide the neighborhood with space, activities, and the opportunity to engage in community building and crime prevention.

Please consider helping this agency continue the Annual Conference’s work in this community. Please mark your check, envelope, or electronic giving “Ingathering – Northcott Neighborhood House”

Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team

**OUR WEBSITE**

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

**NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE**

The *Upper Room* is a great little devotional book that you can use for daily reading. The new July – August 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.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

This year the Price and Czerepinski Scholarships have been awarded to Denzel Bailey, Daniel Grady and Lindsey Medenblik. Congratulations!

**WEEDS**

If you are looking for a reason to go outside and enjoy the summer weather, stop by the church and pick some weeds that are already growing in the sidewalk and patio cracks. Rest on the bench for a while and check out the beautiful daisies blooming in the garden. Take a walk through the garden and see what has started growing.

## PLEASE HELP OUR NEW RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Due to the critical need for blood, Monona United Methodist Church will host the August Seeds of Peace blood drive on **Tuesday, August 18, 1:00-6:00pm**. Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information. We are also looking for some extra fans to help move the sanctuary air conditioning into Fellowship Hall. If you have one that you could lend the church, please contact the office.

### **Please know that The Red Cross has implemented additional precautions to ensure the safety of donors and staff, including:**

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors *before* entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
- Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
- Increasing enhanced disinfecting of surfaces and equipment.
- Donations are only with appointments and no guests allowed (e.g. children).
- **Donors are asked to wear their own face mask.**

### **More Volunteers Needed:**

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

### **General Donor Information:**

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

## RIVER FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The River is currently accepting 18-count egg cartons until further notice. Also, The River is NOT accepting clothing or household items until further notice. If you have items to donate, please check with either Agrace or Boomerang. The FDA has told them to stop reusing the plastic grocery bags until the COVID-19 virus is no longer an issue, so for now please recycle those (or save them for the backpack meal program). You are welcome to drop off egg cartons, paper bags, non-perishable food, or personal hygiene items at church daily from 9am until 2pm. You can put them in the entryway if you don't want to come all the way into the building. We have also been disinfecting the entry doors and other surfaces often. Tim Eberle said that you could drop items off at his home by his garage door.

## JAVA JIVE

As we continue in these unprecedented times of the Coronavirus pandemic, you folks continue in your commitment to The Authentic Fair Trade Mission for God's people and planet. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Equal Exchange is reworking how they can operate in these times and protect their workers in their coop and stay strong in this rapidly consolidating market by large corporations and keep their small farmer's products strong in the market. The virus is playing havoc locally and globally and especially with EEX farmer partners in the global south.

Your purchases are helping these farmers and their families stay on their farms. And build community. And their farming methods are gentle to our planet. And we enjoy excellent products. And EEX sends 15 cents of every pound we sell to UMCOR small farmer relief mission. Someone said it is a Win-Win Mission!! Thanks be to God we can be a part of it.

We will continue to operate as we have done:

- 1- church is open from 9 a.m. -2 p.m.
- 2- hand sanitizer by cabinet
- 3- shop display area and cabinets
- 4- place cash in container/ envelope, checks made out to MUMW

Will have more catalogs soon on table and take one and if see something we do not carry and would like; I would be glad to order. Share catalog with a friend or neighbor! We have several folks purchase who are not members. They like the mission and the products!

Thanks for sowing seeds of Justice- Equality - Sustainability with your purchases. YOU make a positive difference in God's World!

Kay Mackie, a team co-ordination for UMW AFT Mission, Tel-608-512-2053

## SUMMER CAMP

Wisconsin United Methodist Camp staff are assembling weekly resources for families all summer! Content includes Children's Time videos, activity sheets to get families outside and engaged with each other, and live-stream campfire services. The program is hosted by Pine Lake United Methodist Camp and Lake Lucern Camp and Retreat Center on their Facebook pages. Content is also available through a Google folder <https://wisconsin-email.brtapp.com/!wNXKgNT18qlzKq8liX7CtoJRa4UQTffssoxN+f6WoWHycj7RrJ4hN4ND6B+c-FXtw>.

## MONONA MUNCHIES

Monona Munchies is a free weekday summer lunch program for any children and family who would like lunch. They will now be working from Monona UMC as their home base. They will prep lunches in our kitchen, 11am to 1pm daily and hand out sack lunches in our parking lot. If you're interested in volunteering for Monona Munchies (either by grocery shopping or by making lunches), please use this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ABAF2BA57-monona3>.

Pick up lunches Monday thru Friday from 11:45am until 12:15pm, rain or shine. No reservations needed. It is scheduled to run through **July 17**, but may continue into August if needed.

## SECOND HARVEST NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

<https://www.secondharvestmadison.org>

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

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

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



In the United States, there is over \$1 trillion in unpaid and unpayable medical debt. Medical debt is a burden that holds millions back from being able to live a life with meaning and purpose - it can stop educational pursuits, or switching careers, or even from being able to put good food on the table or a safe place to live. And in this time of pandemic, those debts are only rising.

In response, Peace UMC in Brookfield, in partnership with Wauwatosas Ave. UMC in Wauwatosas, Zao MKE and New Berlin: Our Lord's, are campaigning with [RIP Medical Debt](#). RIP Medical Debt uses donations to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios that have gone through collection agencies for months or years. Using third-party credit data providers, it targets debt incurred by people facing financial hardship, and then forgives it for pennies on the dollar.

Their goal is to raise \$13,800 by the end of August, which will forgive over \$1.3 million in medical debt specifically in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, which means that for every dollar raised, \$100 of medical debt is forgiven. Thanks to a generous grant from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, they now have a matching grant up to \$10,000, doubling each dollar you give! This doubling means that for every dollar given to the campaign, \$200 in medical debt will be cleared, freeing thousands of people from burdensome medical debts. If the \$13,800 campaign goal is exceeded, the extra funds will go to erase medical debt across the state of Wisconsin.

In a Pentecost season where United Methodists everywhere are searching for the Holy Spirit to bring inspiration and understanding to communities all over the world, this is a tangible way to change the lives of thousands in our communities. If you would like to donate, click [here](#), and for more information about how to become a partner church, reach out to Rev. Allie Scott at [rev.allie.scott@gmail.com](mailto:rev.allie.scott@gmail.com).



# \$ Financial Report \$

## Cash Flow May 31, 2020

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 25,219	\$ 132,504
General Operating Expenses	20,270	115,845
<b>Net Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ 4,949</b>	<b>\$ 16,659</b>

### A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE - THE ONLY CONSTANT IN LIFE IS CHANGE

*No woman/man steps into the same river twice. For it is not the same river and she/he is not the same woman/man. –Heraclitus of Ephesus (c. 500 BC)*

What will church be like after the pandemic? We should plan for it to be different. The Israelites returned from exile to rebuild the temple, as well as their religion. However, neither was the same as it had been.

Around the same time, the Greek philosopher Heraclitus noted that, “The only constant in life is change.” No one can step into the same church twice, especially post-Covid-19. In the post-Covid-19 church:

**Worship will be online.** Most churches find that the number of links to online worship is greater than their average attendance before the epidemic. Who would go back to serving fewer people? Therefore, we will have in-person and online services. However, we will need new ways of reaching out to people who may not live nearby.

**Buildings will be less important.** We spend a quarter to a third of our budgets on physical properties. That will likely change, though slowly.

**Time will be less important.** Many churches record their worship and people can watch anytime. No more will our churches be able to ignore those who work, travel, or spend time with family on Sunday mornings.

**How you support the church will change as well.** You may not be present, but God will still be working through the church. Thus, your giving will have to be digital (funds transfer, online giving, etc.).

**How we relate to the community will change.** We will have to be more adaptable to changing circumstances. For example, right now a famine is starting. As food grows scarce, rising prices thrust many families into famine-like circumstances. How will our church help feed others, not just at home, but around the world?

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or [wumf@wumf.org](mailto:wumf@wumf.org)

**MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

606 NICHOLS ROAD  
MONONA, WI 53716

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

**Monona UMC Church office 222-1633** (Fax 222-2395); Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Homepage [www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org)

Pastor Brad 414-534-8791 – [bkvanfossen@gmail.com](mailto:bkvanfossen@gmail.com)

Kay – [secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net)

Mark – [markbmumc@gmail.com](mailto:markbmumc@gmail.com)

Virtual Worship 10:00am

**Iglesia Metodista Unida El Libertador 514-9470**

Pastora Estrella Benítez 414-736-9521 (cell)

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