



HILLTOP HERALD-MARCH 2020 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL LIBERTADOR

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

The Wisconsin Delegation to General & Jurisdictional Conferences has scheduled informational sessions throughout the Wisconsin Annual Conference in the coming months. The purpose of these gatherings is to provide information and answer questions on what is coming before the General Conference in May and Jurisdictional Conference in July. These sessions are open to all whom are interested. You are welcome to go to any session that is convenient and would work into your schedule best.

South West District

March 8, 2:15 p.m. Schmidt Woodland Hills, 1400 W Seminary St, Richland Center 53582

March 21, 1:15 p.m. Sun Prairie UMC, 702 North St, Sun Prairie 53590



SPRING FORWARD

On **Sunday, March 8**, Daylight Saving Time begins. Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 22 is UMCOR Sunday. When we give on UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), we empower the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church. Our giving lays the foundation to help the most vulnerable in their darkest days. We believe that all people have God-given worth and dignity — without regard to race, religion or gender. Your support makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100 percent of all other contributions to the projects our donors specify, instead of using this money on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR's specialized ministries - responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees - all bring hope, support and aid to people who need to be surrounded by the love of Christ.

EASTER BREAKFAST OR EXPANDED FELLOWSHIP

We are considering changing our Easter breakfast tradition. Last year we served only 40 people for Easter breakfast and made about \$200. Is breakfast still wanted or maybe an expanded fellowship time would be better? We would like to have 5 people sign up in the church office to discuss and organize this. This can be a fun church-community building event if everyone gets involved. **Easter is April 12.**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

A couple of weeks ago I announced my retirement as of the end of this calendar year. You have said so many kind things to me in response, and I appreciate that so much. I want you to know that most of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) recently took a training seminar about how to transition to a new pastor. So rest assured, already at this early stage we are preparing well for the change. Did I mention that, apart from the training, we already have a highly capable SPRC?

On a different note, I hope you will be present in worship for our new sermon series for Lent—**“Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story.”** The story of the last week of Jesus’ life is a dramatic one that we usually rush through during Holy Week right before Easter. This year we are slowing things down to look at one event of that week during each Sunday of Lent. By “freeze-framing” these moments in Jesus’ last week, we hope to put ourselves in the picture, and so enter the passion of Jesus ourselves. We hope to “frame” our own lives in a way that we can see what really matters.

But there’s a scheduling quirk in this. Because we are taking the week’s events in the order in which they happened, we will hear about the story of the Triumphal Entry on March 1st (the first Sunday of Lent), and we will cover the Garden of Gethsemane story on April 20th (Passion/Palm Sunday). That may feel a little weird on Passion/Palm Sunday, so be forewarned! (We will still be celebrating with palms on Palm Sunday.)

A final note I want to mention is something our District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Carlson, said a while back that I shared with our Administrative Council recently. He was talking about living through challenging times in our denomination, and noted how disruption (conflict and/or tragedy) has the capacity to de-rail us and get us off track. You can think of examples from your own life, but Scott cited his experiences of living through a divorce and the death of a child. The 2019 Special General Conference of our denomination and what will happen at the General Conference this May is another kind of disruption that has the capacity to de-rail us.

But these disruptions are not new. The ancient Jewish people who had been conquered, taken captive, uprooted from their homeland, and exiled in Babylon felt thrown off track by these events, as well. And yet, in the midst of those events God came to them with a word transmitted through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁰ The Lord proclaims: When Babylon’s seventy years are up, I will come and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. ¹² When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. ¹³ When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

Please read verse eleven again, as many times as needed until you hear God speaking this to you in particular. Hear it in the midst of the disruptions going on in your personal life, as well as in our denomination and in our own congregation due to the announcement of my retirement.

Because, yes, disruption has the capacity to de-rail us. But it also has the capacity to help us refocus and be reinvigorated. And this is especially true when we pay attention to God's promise of a future filled with hope. D.S. Carlson likes to end his emails with the sign-off, "In the hope Jesus gives us." I think that's a great way to frame the future God has for us.

In Christ,

Pastor Brad



*Join Us for
WORSHIP*

SCRIPTURES & SERMON THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

Lent Series - "Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story"

March 1 – Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11

Entering the Passion of Jesus – "The Parade: Risking Reputation"

March 8 – Psalm 121; Mark 11:15-19

Entering the Passion of Jesus – "The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger"

March 15– Psalm 95; Matthew 22:15-22

Entering the Passion of Jesus – "The Teaching: Risking Challenge"

March 22– Psalm 23; Mark 14:3-9

Entering the Passion of Jesus – "The First Dinner: Risking Rejection"

March 29– 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-16

Entering the Passion of Jesus – "The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends"

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Our next Blood Pressure Screening will be **Sunday, March 8**, 9:30-10:00 am in the Cry Room. These screenings are staffed by medical volunteers from the congregation. Keep Healthy - have your blood pressure checked!!



HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers will be meeting on **Monday, March 9** at 11am at Monona Garden restaurant at the corner of Bridge Rd. and Broadway in Monona. The program will be presented by A.J. Feucht about his time leading a contingent of scientists who were sent to Afghanistan by the US Army to help the local citizens improve their life thru better agriculture, improved water situations, and other technology information to improve the life of the average Afghanistan citizen. Those that wish can stay at noon and order lunch off the menu.

MARCH MISSION OFFERINGS

Goodman Community Center

The Goodman Community Center (GCC) is here for the whole community. People from all walks of life and all ages come for programs and services that make their lives — and our community — stronger. Whether people come take a class, use the food pantry, host a party, drop off children, all are welcome here.

Goodman started as the Atwood Community Center at 2425 Atwood Avenue and has served the community as a full-service center since 1943. It was affiliated with the newly formed United Neighborhood Centers until 1999 when it became an independent non-profit.

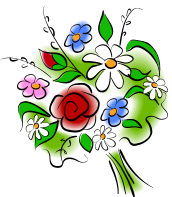
In 2008, a new building was opened at 149 Waubesa Street and took a new name — the Goodman Community Center. While the Center continues to love a sense of place on the near east side, programs and services now reach throughout Dane County.

GCC is the largest neighborhood center in Madison. It currently houses a preschool, 4-year-old kindergarten, afterschool programs for all ages (including countywide Girls Inc.), an alternative high school, an older adult program, food pantry, fitness center. We also rent our rooms out to individuals, private corporations and community groups on a daily basis.

Since opening the new building in 2008, GCC has served around 25,000 people each year through our programs, services and facility rentals. We estimate that we have touched more than 200,000 lives since our founding in 1954.

Please consider supporting this wonderful organization that works to strengthen our community in many ways. Please mark your check or envelope “Goodman Community Center.”

Thank you and many blessings.
The Mission Team



FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2020 flower calendar is on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. You can also sign up on the volunteer signup sheet in front of the office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



There are so many different ways that you can serve Monona UMC. Check out the signup sheet on the table in fellowship hall to find openings.

- The **January-May 2020 liturgist** schedule is online:
<http://bit.ly/33JYrfA>
- The **January-May 2020 altar flower signup** is online also.
<http://bit.ly/2Z6fxFS>



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are laypeople from the congregation trained by Stephen Leaders to provide one-on-one Christ/God-centered care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers do not function as therapists or counselors. They are regular church members with a compassionate heart who've been equipped with the skills to listen, encourage, and offer nonjudgmental support when someone is in need. The idea behind Stephen Ministry is that ordinary humans can learn to give care to those who are suffering and through this process, God is able to provide cure. Trainees study listening skills, feelings, the difference between aggressiveness and assertiveness, crisis theory, and much more. By accepting and caring for a care receiver no matter the circumstances, listening and facilitating the care receiver exploring his/her feelings, perceptions, thoughts, fears, and praying for and with him/her, eventually God's healing occurs.

A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week at a time at a location that is convenient to both parties. Stephen Ministry stresses confidentiality to the T. The identity of the care receiver is kept strictly confidential. Many people would prefer to not have it known that they need support. If a care receiver would choose to share that he/she has a Stephen Minister, the Stephen Minister would not confirm that this is true, even if it indeed is true. Further, nothing that is shared in one-on-one conversation between care receiver and Stephen Minister can be divulged to others. That means not sharing information with family members, church friends, even the pastor unless the care receiver is at imminent risk for inflicting harm to self or others. For more information please contact either one of our Stephen Leaders, Mark Buffat (608-335-5063) or Frank Gaylord (608-443-6361).

NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

The *Upper Room* is a great little devotional book that you can use for daily reading. The new March-April issue has arrived and is in the Narthex information center. Feel free to take one home.



READ 'EM & MEET BOOK CLUB

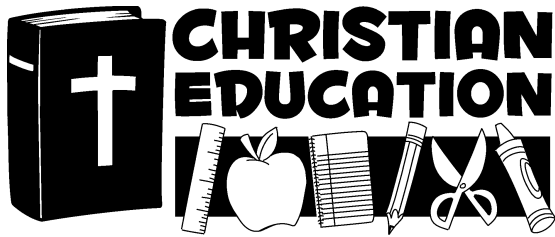
The Read 'Em and Meet Book Club will meet on **Sunday, March 15** at 2pm, at the home of Yvonne Jackson. We will discuss, *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

Monona United Methodist Church's Men's Group will meet for breakfast and fellowship at Monona Gardens Family Restaurant, at the corner of Broadway and Bridge Rd, on **Saturday March 21** at 9am. All men are welcome.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING THANKS

On Sunday, February 2, we collected \$266 for St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity. The grocery cart is also available for your food donations.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our morning children's Sunday school starts at 9am and goes until 9:50am. There are classes for preschool through Confirmation age children and youth. We also have a time for music instruction for the elementary grades.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The discussion of Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus by Jim Wallis at 8:30am on Sunday mornings, through **March 22**.

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 members, Alton and Roma Price.

Applications, with instructions, can be picked up at the church office. The applications are due back in the church office by **Tuesday, March 31**.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME!

Watch for the Girl Scouts from our congregation selling cookies in order to earn money for their troops and the Badgerland Council.

SUMMER CAMPS

WIUMCamps is pleased to announce that Summer Camp 2020 is open for registration! Summer camp can be a powerful place...our youth and families develop life-long friends, enjoy outdoor adventures, all while having time to reflect, renew and find their true identity in Christ. Invite a friend. Our camps are open to all. Register online at www.WIUMCamps.org/summer-camps. Also Monona UMC provides a camp scholarship for families.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

The Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation is pleased to announce that scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and current undergraduate students attending vocational/technical, two-year or four-year higher education programs. Scholarships are available for general studies as well as seminary and ministry careers.

All applicants must be a member of a Wisconsin United Methodist Church. Recipients are selected based upon academics, leadership and involvement in church, school and community life.

Additional information can be found at www.wumf.org/scholarship-program or contact the Foundation at 888-903-9863. The deadline for application for the majority of these scholarships is April 1.

ELECTION - April 7, 2020

Christian citizens have a responsibility to make political and ethical judgements in light of their faith and to participate in the public lives of their communities – from the local neighborhoods to the national scene. In preparation we need to know how to think carefully, engage wisely and vote with integrity.

Members of the UMW Reading Circle highly recommend the book *Public Faith In Action* by Miroslav Volf & Ryan McAnnally-Linz. There is a copy available in the UMW library located in our narthex and 2 copies in our public library system.



--Polly Brandes and her family, upon the death of her sister.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

MUMC has a fundraising opportunity in operating one of the concessions at the Kohl Center or at Camp Randal Stadium. Potential proceeds would be \$1,400 per football game or \$550 per game at the Kohl Center. Camp Randal stands require 10 to 15 people. Kohl Center stands require 5 to 6 people, usually weeknights. Volunteers would need to arrive a couple hours before the game and are usually leave a half hour after the game ends. There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship for you to indicate your interest in this opportunity.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Quilters - Meet **Mondays** at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We also meet on **Monday March 16 at 10:30am** with the Monona Quilters.

Friendship Circle – **Tuesday, March 3** at 6:45pm at the home of Carla Fears.

Yarncrafters – Meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1pm (**March 10 & 24**) as well as with the RSVP group “Monona Knit ‘N Stitch” on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, **March 18**, from 10:00 until 11:30am. All are welcome. For more information contact Polly (222-6709) or Marjorie (222-4243).

Executive Meeting - No meeting in March.

Faith Circle- Thursday, March 12 at 1pm at the home of Jan Wanek.

Reading Circle – Thursday, March 26 at 1:30pm. Watch for details on the location. The book to be discussed is *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography – The Faith of the 20th Century’s Most Influential Woman* by Harold Ivan Smith. We welcome new women to our circle!

UMW MUG AND MUFFIN-MARCH 7

Hot coffee/tea and fresh muffins will be served at the “Mug and Muffin” event, **Saturday, March 7** starting at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring your favorite mug and join in fellowship followed by a program by Joy Schmidt from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Madison, entitled *Dementia Care at Home: Delaying need for Placement*.

JAVA JIVE

WHERE DO EEX PROFITS GO?

This is interesting information found on Equal Exchange’s web site that I felt was well worth sharing with all of you folks .

Will do their short answer:

For every \$ EEx receives through product sales. Typically 97 to 98 cents goes back out through:

§ Coffee , tea, chocolate etc purchases from over 75 farmer co-ops around the world including US.

§ debt payments for building and equipment.

§ payroll

§ shipping

§ taxes

§ the basic expenses born by every importer, manufacture or wholesaler.

Of the remaining 2-3 cents:

§ 10% is donated to non-profits or mission driven co-ops advancing Fair Trade.

§ 35% is divided equally amongst the worker owners regardless of rank or seniority.

§ remaining 55% gets reinvested in the company to enable to keep growing and connect more farmers with more consumers.

They are an organization of 70 million in sales a year and 120 workers.

And what does this mean?

EEx practices an organizational structure that strives to achieve long lasting relationships with their community of farmers, staff, investors and customers.

They encourage us to also request this information of other companies we may support with our dollars.

Also EEx sends 15 cents for every pound sold by United Methodist congregations to UMCOR for Small farmer fund each year. There are 94 Methodist churches in US who participate in this mission, \$9,000 was sent last year. We are 4th in sales of the 94 churches.

We will be selling products on **March 29**. Suggestions always welcome.

Thanks for your continued support of this MUMW mission. This is not a fund raiser.

Kay Mackie a Team Coordinator

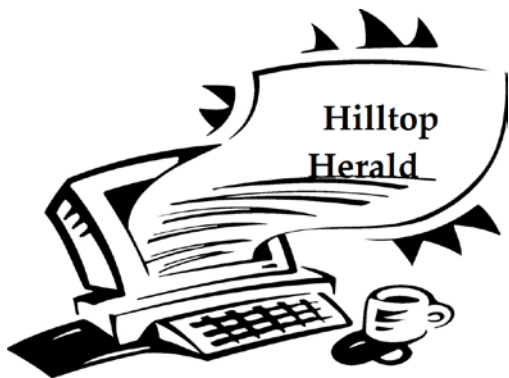
THANK YOU BAKERS AND BUYERS!

The people at MUMC are generous indeed! UMW realized \$202 from the bake sale on Sunday February 9, in spite of the snowy weather. We are very grateful for all those that baked and those that purchased goods. You might already know that our United Methodist Women's group supports mission projects worldwide with an annual pledge of \$1850. Proceeds from our fundraisers and members' pledges allow us to make that contribution to the District. Thank you very much for your generosity.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Same URL/address with a new look! www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

We now have a **Giving** tab to make a donation with your credit card. The site is a work in progress so if you see something that should be changed, please let us know.



ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Our church website has a copy of the monthly newsletter.

www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

REFLECTIONS ON *CHRIST IN CRISIS*

There is a certain God irony in the fact that as we begin the season of Lent, the adult Sunday school class in our church will be winding up its study of ***Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*** by Jim Wallis. Here are some reflections on what we have read and discussed over the past two months.

Wallis, the founding editor and president of ***Sojourners*** magazine, asks his readers to go deep into their understanding of the Bible and to look at who Jesus Christ was and what He was trying to accomplish in His ministry. Jesus was attempting to show the people of His time how to bring about the kingdom of God on earth. God had sent other prophets to the Jewish people, before, but this time God sent His son with a message of love, hope, and justice. Jesus had a clear, convicting message about how they should act, if they wanted to claim that indeed they were God's people.

An original signer of the Reclaiming Jesus Confession of Faith, Wallis explores eight major themes that are embedded in the words and actions of the three short years of Jesus's ministry as recorded in the Gospels. The themes encompass these three critical questions (in addition to other significant ideas to ponder): What does it mean to be created in the image of God? What is our individual responsibility for the common good? Was Jesus a revolutionary?

If all of humankind was created in God's image, then what does that mean in terms of how we should treat one another? If each human being is precious in God's sight, then we must indeed love, and respect, our neighbors as ourselves. Those neighbors will include strangers who are both alike and very different from us: the poor, the homeless, the physically or mentally challenged; those from other racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, or political groups; or people who may actually frighten us because they are so different from us and our peers. If we truly believe that we all are God's children, then we cannot disparage, abuse, or oppress one another.

Our responsibility to the common good includes not only how we treat one another, but how we care for the earth that God expects us to steward. We are not owners of the earth, but rather the earth and its inhabitants were put into our care for us to wisely oversee, not exploit. Sadly, for generations, people have taken the earth's environmental and economic resources only for their own benefit and have given little reverence to the welfare of the earth and those who dwell here. Jesus's message that the least shall be first indicates that only in serving one another will we be brought into God's kingdom. Therefore, we must deeply care for one another and for the place where we all live.

And finally to the question 'was Jesus a revolutionary'? Wallis would answer, 'You bet!' Because He was clearing out the money changers in the temple, and associating with people considered unclean, and calling out the Sadducees and Pharisees catching them in their own deceptions, and speaking truth to power, Jesus was put to death. He was considered a threat to the power structure of His time which included the emissaries of the Roman Empire and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. His message of God's kingdom challenged their authority and would bring about the end to their comfortable, lucrative rule if He were not stopped.

Wallis's book reminds us that God's kingdom is a kingdom of justice and mercy, and that God is still asking us to build the kingdom here on earth. Jesus brought that message to the world over 2000 years ago and continues to reveal the same message to us today. If we confess that we are Christians, we must hear and live into God's vision for His kingdom. Just as in Jesus's day when Jewish leaders preserved the letter of the law over how God truly desired for people to live, so today Wallis says we see scripture misconstrued to support what people want rather than to clarify what God wants. Creating a just and loving world requires that we reclaim Jesus and strive to bring God's kingdom on earth--as God has been asking us to do from the beginning.

LeeAnn Sinclair

O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6: 8

JUST BAKERY

Just Bakery (a Madison-area Urban Ministry Program) will sell bakery items **Sunday, April 5.**

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monona United Methodist Church will host our second blood drive on **Tuesday, May 19, 1:00-6:00pm.** Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information.

Volunteers Needed:

- 2 volunteers at 11:30am to help unload
- 3 volunteers, per shift 12:30 – 6:30pm to help with registration, escort donors and in refreshment area
- 2 volunteers at 6:30pm to help reload
- Homemade baked goods are always welcome

General Donor Information:

- At least 17 years old (16 with parental permission)
- Height/weight requirements (at least 110 lbs. based on height)
- General good health
- Plan for about an hour
- Rapid Pass on the day of donation saves 15 minutes
- Bring donor card or government ID
- Power Red donation: type O, B- and A-
- Questions on eligibility 1-866-236-3276



**American
Red Cross**

THANKS FOR MISSION OFFERINGS DURING 2019

SPECIAL UNITED METHODIST OFFERINGS:

Human Relations Day	\$	80
UMCOR Sunday		538
Golden Cross Sunday		261
Peace with Justice		247
Native American Ministries		132
World Communion Sunday		136
UM Student Day		80

MUMC MISSION GIVING:

Human Welfare Fund		2,913
UMCOR-Global Migration		158
Tuscan Samaritans		248
Heifer International		812
Ingathering		100
Liberian School		205
Habitat for Humanity		348
River Food Pantry		290
Jewish Social Services		75
Porchlight		475
Agrace Hospicecare		147
UM Children Services		100
Road Home		50
Critical Mission Fund		50
Souper Bowl Sunday-St Stephen's		200
School Supplies		20
UNICEF		49
Giving Tree		635
UMCOR-Hurricane Relief		340
UMCOR		260
Human Welfare Fund-other		1,406
Spring UMC-fire		20

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Agrace Seeks Volunteers in Dane County

Agrace HospiceCare is seeking volunteers across Dane County to visit with hospice patients or help in roles without patient contact. Volunteer orientation will take place at Agrace's Madison campus **March 16, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** and **March 30, from noon to 2 p.m.** Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7163 or visit agrace.org/volunteer to fill out an application.

Grief Support Groups

In March, four programs will be offered at the Agrace Grief Support Center, 2906 Marketplace Drive, Fitchburg. For details, fees or to register, visit agrace.org/griefgroups or call 327-7118.

- **Bridges Grief Support Group** for adults meets Wednesdays, alternating by week between morning and evening sessions. No pre-registration is needed.
- **Journey Through Grief Support Group** for adults meets Thursdays, March 12 to April 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Register by February 24.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group** meets Mondays, March 9 to April 13, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register by February 24.
- **Family Grief Support Program** is for families with children aged 5 to 18. Meets every other week (dates vary), from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; dinner is included. Call (608) 327-7135 for details.



\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow January 31, 2020

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 24,209	\$ 24,209
General Operating Expenses	29,852	29,852
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (5,643)	\$ (5,643)

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

When Propensity meets Capacity

To give away money is an easy matter and within anyone's power, but to decide to whom to give it, how much to give, when to give, and to give for the right motive and in the right way, is neither in everyone's power nor an easy matter. Hence, it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble. Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book II, Chapter 9

Recently a church asked me to help determine their congregation's capacity for giving. Here is my simple answer: any congregation's capacity to give is at least 10% (the tithe) of its annual income.

I usually estimate a church's congregation-wide annual income as the median income within a 5-mile radius of the church times the number of giving units in the church. (So that I do not inadvertently overestimate congregational income, I usually work with 90 percent of this number.)

Ten percent of total congregational income is the tithe and is our best scripturally based estimate of congregational capacity to give. God proposed the tithe as a target for giving **to support the church** with other charitable giving to be over and above that amount. (Our denomination's stance is that "tithing is the minimum goal of giving" (Book of Discipline ¶630.5e) and "God's standard of giving" (¶304.1c)).

In Wisconsin, our actual giving averages 2.9%. We are spending much of God's share on ourselves. How much could our churches accomplish if we tithed and had more than three times as much in giving?

In my talks with United Methodists around the state, I hear a lot of anxiety about the state of our churches, often because they are experiencing budget shortfalls. What they often propose is cutting more costs or getting new people to pay for the church.

Yet, we could reverse the trajectory of United Methodism by simply giving what God has asked us to give. That is the revitalization we need.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
888-903-9863; wumf@wumf.org

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

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 El Libertador - Worship in Spanish						
1 <u>See schedule above</u> Easter Flower order Deadline 8:30 Adults – Christ in Crisis 11:15 Church & Society	2 Pastors' Day Off 1:00 Quilters 4-8pm Music lessons-Cry Room	3 9:30 Staff Mtg 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 6:30 Stephen Min. Training-St Stephens church 6:45 Friendship Circle	4 7:15-9:15am Hall in use 2-4pm Library/use 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 7-8pm Confirmation	5 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Adult Choir	6	7 6-7:30am El Libertador Prayer Vg 10am UMW Mug & Muffin
8 <u>See schedule above</u> Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30 Adults – Christ in Crisis 9:30-10 Blood Pressure Screen 11:15 Strategic Planning Com.	9 Pastors' Day Off 11am Hilltoppers Monona Garden 1:00 Quilters 4-8pm Music lessons-Cry Rm 6:30 Girl Sc-hall 6:30 Stephen Ministry -library	10 9:30 Staff Meeting 1pm Yarncrafters 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 6:30 Finance 6:30 Stephen Min. Training-St Stephens church	11 7:15-9:15am Hall in use 7-8pm Confirmation & Mentors	12 1:00 Faith Circle 2:30 Lay Leadership 3-5:30 Paper Moon- upstairs 6:00 SPRC 6:00 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	13 8:30-10am Hall in use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	14 6-7:30am El Libertador Prayer Vg
15 <u>See schedule above</u> 8:30 Adults – Christ in Crisis 2:00 Read 'Em & Meet	16 Pastors' Day Off 10:30 Quilters & Monona Quilters 4-8pm Music lessons-Cry Room	17 9:30 Staff Meeting 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 5:30-9pm Paper Moon set prep 6:30 Stephen Min. Training-St Stephens church	18 7:15-9:15am Hall in use 10 -11:30am Knit 'N Stitch-Hall 1-3:30 NewBridge Foot clinic Hall 1-2:30 Circuit-Sun Prairie UMC 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 7-8 Confirmation 8pm Reconciling	19 6:00 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	20	21 6-7:30am El Libertador Prayer Vg 9am Men's Group-Breakfast
22 <u>See schedule above</u> Newsletter Deadline UMCOR Sunday 8:30 Adults – Christ in Crisis 11:15 Missions 11:15 Caring Ministry	23 Pastors' Day Off 1:00 Quilters 4-8pm Music lessons-Cry Rm 6:30 Girl Scouts-Hall 6:30 Stephen Ministry -library	24 9:30 Staff Mtg 1pm Yarncrafters 3-5:30 Paper Moon-hall 6:30 Ad Council 6:30 Stephen Min. Training-St Stephens church	25 7:15-9:15am Hall in use 1-3:30 NewBridge Foot clinic Hall 7-8pm Confirmation	26 8:30 Newsletter Helpers 1:30 Reading Cr 6:00 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	27 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	28 6-7:30am El Libertador Prayer Vg
29 <u>See schedule above</u> Coffee Sales 8:30 Adults-new class	30 Pastors' Day Off 1:00 Quilters 4-8pm Music lessons-Cry Rm	31 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:30 Stephen Min. Training-St Stephens church	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> Newsletter Deadline is March 22. Information arriving after the above date may not be in the April newsletter. Remember you can FAX your article to 222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net .			

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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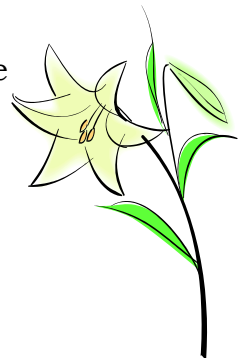
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Spanish Worship 5:00pm

MARCH 2020

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 12.



Please return this form with a check for your total flowers ordered to the church office by **Sunday, March 1**. You may choose the color of certain flowers. If you have questions call the church office (222-1633).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lilies \$15.00ea | <input type="checkbox"/> Azaleas \$30.00ea
<input type="checkbox"/> pink, <input type="checkbox"/> purple, <input type="checkbox"/> white |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mums/Daisy \$15.00ea
<input type="checkbox"/> yellow, <input type="checkbox"/> white, <input type="checkbox"/> lavender | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrangeas \$35.00ea
<input type="checkbox"/> pink, <input type="checkbox"/> blue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tulips \$15.00ea
<input type="checkbox"/> red, <input type="checkbox"/> yellow, <input type="checkbox"/> pink, <input type="checkbox"/> white | <input type="checkbox"/> Daffodils \$15.00ea |

Donor _____

In Honor of _____
OR

In Memory of _____