



HILLTOP HERALD-MARCH 2023 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A GAME DAY INVITATION

All are invited to join the Game Day fun on **Friday, March 3** from 10 a.m. to noon. We gather in the Fellowship Hall and there are even light snacks! We play easy, fun games with lots of good fellowship. Take a break from everyday life and join us if you can!

FOUR - WEEK LENTEN STUDY

Don't Look Back by William Willimon

Hope and help for pastors and congregations who are asking, *What now? And What's next?*

Pastor Paul is going to offer a four week Lenten study starting on **Sunday, March 5** at 11:30am. Please let Siv Goulding or the church office know if you want to participate so books can be ordered. Available both in paperback and kindle.

The current class, *How Jesus Became God*, it will pick up again on **April 16**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are starting to plan for a summer Vacation Bible School and are looking for volunteers. If you are interest in helping in any way, please contact the church office. We need volunteers of all ages and skills, so don't be shy! Our next meeting is **Sunday March 19** after worship.

FREE COVID-19 VACCINES

Monona United Methodist Church is hosting free Covid-19 and flu vaccines on **Friday March 10** (3-8pm). No appointments are needed and no ID or insurance is required. Everyone 6 months and older is welcome with those under 18 needing a parent or guardian present.

THINKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

The Fall Bazaar gives us an opportunity to create art and crafted items for sale while raising funds for various causes. Just wondering if several persons might be willing to brainstorm some ideas to identify specific saleable items that might be most appealing to our visitors that day. This is a one-time idea session seeking your creative opinions. No on-going commitment required. Please see Kay Cowing or there's a sign-up sheet on the table by the office. Date to be determined.

SPRING FORWARD

On **Sunday, March 12**, Daylight Saving Time begins. Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

President Jimmy Carter (the 39th President of the United States) entered hospice care last weekend at his home in Plains, Georgia. Since leaving the presidency in 1981, he continued his life of service. In 2002 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He championed human rights world-wide and committed much of his time to Habitat for Humanity, participating in the building of over 4,000 homes. At 98, he is the longest living former president of the United States.

In February of 2006, Sarah and I drove through Plains, Georgia. We spent several hours at the Carter Presidential site. Then we learned that President Carter was teaching Sunday School the next morning at his Maranatha Baptist Church. We spent the night at a stately, old hotel in downtown Plains.

When we arrived at the Maranatha Baptist Church the next morning, we noticed secret service agents standing at the entrance. As we waited in line, one of the agents pulled Sarah aside and patted her down. One of the other agents, took one look at me and told me to go inside. Sarah followed soon after.

As you might expect, the small sanctuary was quite full. President Carter began his class by asking, "Where are y'all from? When it was my turn, I said Green Bay." He asked, "Green Bay, Wisconsin?" I said, "yes."

During his class, President Carter discussed the importance of both faith and science in his own life. He argued that they work together and are not in conflict. As a Bachelor of Science graduate from the Naval Academy and a former peanut farmer, science had always mattered to him.

After worship service, we waited in line outside to have our picture taken with the Carters. I am not sure how much Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter enjoyed doing this Sunday after Sunday, but they recognized how important it was for those who made the trip to Plains and the Maranatha Baptist Church.

I will remember President Carter for his kindness, grace and his commitment to all of God's people.

Pastor Paul



BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

March 5 – The Second Sunday in Lent

“Jesus and Nicodemus” John 3:1 -17

March 12 – The Third Sunday in Lent

“Jesus and the Samaritan Woman” John 4:5-42

March 19 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Jesus and a Blind Man” John 9:1-41

March 26 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Jesus and Lazarus” John 11:1-45

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 entryway. Feel free to take one home. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

MEET THE AUTHOR!

Ruth Conniff, author of *Milked*, will share a PowerPoint presentation based on her research for the book. She'll have books available for purchase at the event.

Friday, March 3, at St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Dr., Monona

6:00 pm snacks and fellowship

6:30 pm presentation

From *Milked*: "In the Midwest, Mexican workers have become critically important to the survival of rural areas and small towns -- and to the individual farmers who rely on their work... These stories offer a rich and fascinating account of how 2 crises -- the record-breaking rate of farm bankruptcies in the Upper Midwest, and the contentious politics around immigration -- are changing the landscape of rural America."

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, March 12** at 2pm to discuss, *Educated* by Tara Westover at Lake Edge Lutheran Church. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

HILLTOPPERS

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Monona UMC Human Welfare Fund

“If one of your brethren becomes poor and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.”
Leviticus 25:35

Given the current economic hardships facing many persons and families in our area, your support of the Human Welfare Fund is helping your neighbors in need.

The MUMC Human Welfare Fund is a benevolent fund at our church that characterizes the true goodness of the mind and spirit, the unbiased kindness to do good. It is the expression of agape love (Greek word for unconditional love). MUMC has always been a church of compassion and love because of the gracious giving of its people.

The Human Welfare Fund is one of the ways we minister to those in our church family and the community. Anyone in need of using this fund should contact the office at 608-222-1633.

Please support this Mission. Mark your check or online giving indicating the "Human Welfare Fund".

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

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 19 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.

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.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

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

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

- 100% juice products
- low sugar cereals
- Tuna Helper and tuna
- disposable diapers all sizes, (including adult sizes)

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

We have created an online Volunteer Sign Up Genius listing with the volunteer jobs needed for worship each week. We would especially like to fill the Ushers position. Please check your schedules and sign on using the link below. You can also send an email to the church office with your requested dates.

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



MONONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle - Wednesday, March 8 at 1:30pm in Julie Whitehorse's home. To car pool, please meet in the church parking lot at 1pm.

Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, March 9** at 1pm at Jan Wanek's home. Call Jan Wanek at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

MUMW EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWS

Thanks to all who returned a UMW survey last fall. The Executive Board met in February to go over the results and is excited to announce our first gathering since the pandemic.

We will meet for a Spring Brunch on **Saturday, May 6 at 10am** in our Fellowship Hall. This is a chance to share in fellowship time and talk about our path forward.

The Board has decided to retain the name Monona United Methodist Women and be independent of the district and national organizations of United Women in Faith.

We hope to see you all on Saturday May 6.

JAVA JIVE -

Adapted from the Equal Exchange Resource Center.

Learn The Story of the Farmers Who Grow Equal Exchange Pecans

**Part 2-

The Office of Economic Opportunity promised New Communities money and gave them a planning grant. But protests from white neighbors convinced the governor at the time, Lester Maddox, to veto federal money that might benefit their project. The local opposition they faced was constant. Once, Shirley Sherrod says, someone sabotaged their liquid fertilizer delivery, and they didn't find out until the crops came up.

The farmers persevered. By the early '70s, they were selling watermelons to Safeway. But in the middle of the decade, drought hit the area. Like many of their white neighbors, New Communities applied to the Farmer's Home Administration for an emergency loan. Sherrod remembers someone at the agency telling them straight out: "You'll get one here over my dead body."

Unlike the applications of other farmers, theirs was denied. Multiple years with continuing drought was too much, and by 1985, New Communities was in foreclosure. The new owner used digging equipment to push all existing buildings into giant holes, as if he wanted to get rid of every trace of what New Communities had built.

Sherrod turned her energy to working on the problem of Black land loss and on organizing agricultural cooperatives for Georgia farmers. She worked through supply chain challenges to help Black growers sell pecans to Ben & Jerry's and watermelons to Northern grocery stores via Red Tomato, a company run by Michael Rozyne, one of the original founders of Equal Exchange.

The farmers had to learn new cultivation skills to grow smaller seedless melons. On the day the five tractor trailers arrived to transport the first shipment, Sherrod found it almost too stressful to watch the pick-up. The farmers didn't have a loading dock and were hauling fruit from the field. But they got the trucks loaded and made that project work.

New Communities' owners weren't the only ones who had lost their land. In 1920, there were 925,000 Black-owned farms in the US, but by 1975, only 45,000 remained. Today, just 1% of rural land is owned by Black Americans. Black land loss is a recent phenomenon; much of it happened within the span of memory of people alive today. Sherrod identified the USDA as the main culprit.

In 1997, Black farmers filed a class action suit against the USDA, *Pigford v. Glickman*. They alleged that the agency's allocation of farm loans and aid between 1981 and 1996 was unfair. The USDA admitted to having discriminated against Black farmers and settled, agreeing to a payout of \$1.2 billion in the first phase and over a billion in the second phase. "I was so busy helping farmers gather the information they needed for their claims to go to the lawyer," Sherrod says. "I almost forgot about our loss." New Communities filed its own claim in 1999. The hearings, appeals and reviews went on for a full decade. Finally, in 2009, New Communities was awarded \$12 million.

***3rd Part coming in April Newsletter

Jackie Hull c 608-576-7847

Karelyn Hopkins C 608-577-3185

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our 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.

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: March 11, and 23.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



**American
Red Cross**

Monona United Methodist Church will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, May 16, 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
- 2 volunteers, per shift 12:30 – 6:30pm

General Donor Information:

- At least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), General good health
- 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

AGRACE HOSPIECE CARE

Volunteers in Dane County

Agrace is seeking volunteers across Dane County to support its Madison-area thrift stores or visit with clients at the new Agrace Adult Day Center. Volunteer orientation will take place at Agrace's Madison campus March 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Pre-registration is required.** Call (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer to fill out an application.

Opportunities for Grief Support

In March, Agrace grief support specialists are offering one-on-one grief support and professionally led grief support groups to *anyone*, even if the person who died did not have hospice care:

- **Journey Through Grief** meets Wednesdays, March 1 to April 5, from 1 - 3 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- **Bridges (in-person)** meets March 1 and 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- **Bridges (virtual)** meets March 8 and 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. For details, fees or to register, visit Agrace.org/GriefGroups / (608) 327-7118.

Adult Day Center Offers Daytime Care

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

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

...try this...

Frittata with Kale and Sweet Potatoes

<p>Ingredients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch pieces• 10 large eggs• 1 Tbs. Dijon mustard• 1 tsp. apple cider vinegar• Salt as needed• Pepper as needed• 2 Tbs. olive oil• 1 medium onion, diced• 6 large curly kale leaves, ribs removed, leaves torn into 2-inch pieces• 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese	<p>Directions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preheat oven to 400°F.2. Place sweet potato pieces in medium microwave-safe bowl. Add 1/2 cup water, cover, and microwave on high power 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain.3. Meanwhile, whisk together eggs, mustard, and vinegar; season with salt and pepper, if desired.4. Add oil to a medium skillet, and place over medium-high heat. Add onion, and sauté 3 minutes, or until onion begins to soften. Add kale, and cook 2 minutes, or until kale is wilted but still bright green. Add sweet potato, and toss to blend.5. Spray 9x5 inch oven proof glass dish with PAM, and arrange vegetables evenly over the bottom of the dish.6. Carefully pour egg mixture over top of vegetables.7. Bake in oven for 30 minutes, approximately, until frittata is set in center.8. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and let sit for a few minutes until the cheese has melted. <p>Serve with your most favorite bread.</p>
<p>Remember</p> <p><i>Mother Earth Meals are nourishing plant-based dishes with reduced amounts of meat or dairy products.</i></p> <p><i>Cutting down animal products in our diet could free up land space currently used for growing cattle feed, reduce demand for fresh water for animals and feed crops, and diminish the release of methane, a serious greenhouse gas, a byproduct from farm animals' digestive systems.</i></p>	

Church & Society, Siv Goulding

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow January 31, 2023

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 38,298	\$ 38,298
General Operating Expenses	25,064	25,064
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	<u>\$ 13,234</u>	<u>\$ 13,234</u>

STEWARDSHIP - WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT?

“He who loves money will not be satisfied with money . . .” Ecclesiastes 5:10

Many people will say that they want more money. But, the truth is that’s not what people really want. As far as I know, we still cannot eat money, make clothes from it, or build a house with it. If we were stranded on a deserted island, it would be practically useless to us.

No one really wants money. Instead, they want what they think it will provide for them. For some people, more, nicer, newer stuff; others want the sense of security or power they think it provides.

I would argue that, until we understand what motivates our desire for money, we won’t be at peace in our relationship with it.

This Lenten season, I would encourage you to take time to figure out your money motivation by taking this Money Motivation Quiz (<http://storage.cloversites.com/impactcounselingandguidancecenter/documents/Money%20Motivation%20Quiz.pdf>).

As it notes, none of the motivations are inherently good or bad, but each does have a “dark side”. More than just allowing us to lean into the positive parts of our motivation and avoid the dark side, knowing that people may have different motivations regarding money than we do, will help us when we deal with money in our relationships.

Ultimately, we believe that loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves is our greatest priority. It is always easier to do so when we know ourselves well.

Rev. Jason Mahnke

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or www.wumf.org

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MONONA, WI 53716

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The HILLTOP HERALD is produced monthly for distribution to the members and friends of Monona United Methodist Church.

Monona UMC Church office 608-222-1633 (Fax 608-222-2395);

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Pastor Paul Johnsen 920-246-2855 pjohnsen58@gmail.com

Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com

Worship 10:00am

MARCH 2023

DANE BUY LOCAL - PIE DAY MARCH 14



Dane Buy Local is bringing together businesses that bake pies and people who like to eat pies on March 14 for Pie “Pi” Day. Monona UMC will be the pickup location for these pies. Check out their website (danebuylocal.com) to get more information on how to get the pies and what kinds are available. **Order your pie March 2 – 9.**

Support your local Dane County business and celebrate Pi Day!

Pick up your pies on **Tuesday March 14, 6-9am or 4-6pm at Monona UMC.**