



HILLTOP HERALD-MAY 2021 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CHURCH EMERGENT

While we will continue to worship virtually and place limits on in-person gatherings, we are drafting policies and procedures for ways that we CAN gather safely in small groups. Throughout the pandemic we have been able to keep our office open and staffed and have accommodated a few requests for building use such as the Foot Clinic and Music Makers.

The church office remains open 9am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Pastor Laura and Mark Buffat are available for pastoral care. We have **cloth face masks available** in our entryway to pick up if you are in need of one.

NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

The *Upper Room* is a great little devotional book that you can use for daily reading. The new May-June 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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monona United Methodist Church will host our blood drive on **Tuesday, May 18, 1:00-6:00pm**. Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information.

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

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors *before* entering a drive.
- 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.**

Volunteers Needed:

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

General Donor Information:

- 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



**American
Red Cross**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Practice, Practice, Practice"

What are the practices in my everyday life that mark me as a person of faith? What does a practicing Christian look like?

These were questions that confronted me when I took a class in Judaism taught by local Madison rabbis. We had just explored a variety of daily living practices within Judaism, including clothing, meal preparation and food choices, Sabbath keeping, prayers, language, etc. I wondered what my own life and tradition might offer in kind – and I have to admit I was left feeling a bit of holy envy for the embedded nature and richness of meaning I found in my spiritual neighbors.

When I shared my observation to a rabbi friend, she commented that there are plenty of cultural Jews – those whose ancestry and culture is Jewish, but who do not regularly practice any religious tradition. The practice, in large part, is a matter of survival, a way of navigating spaces where you are often an ethnic and spiritual minority. They are practices that ground a person in a particular identity that names them as beloved and valuable when the outside world often sends the opposite messages.

A recent PBS special demonstrated how the Black church in America evolved to serve a similar purpose within the African American community, lifting up the faithful and declaring that "Black Lives Matter" long before that phrase took on its current meaning in the cultural battle on community policing.

Craig Dykstra in his book *Growing in the Life of Faith* identifies fourteen practices that appear consistently throughout the Christian tradition and that are particularly significant for Christians today. Briefly, they include:

1. Worshipping God together—praising God, giving thanks for God's creative and redemptive work in the world, hearing God's word preached, and receiving the sacraments given to us in Christ
2. Telling the Christian story to one another—reading and hearing the Scriptures and also the stories of the church's experience through its history
3. Interpreting together the Scriptures and history of the church's experience, particularly in relation to their meaning for our own lives in the world
4. Praying—together and by ourselves, not only in formal services of worship but in all times and places
5. Confessing our sin to one another, and forgiving and becoming reconciled with one another
6. Tolerating one another's failures and encouraging one another in the work each must do and the vocation each must live
7. Carrying out specific faithful acts of service and witness together
8. Giving generously of one's means and receiving gratefully gifts others have to give
9. Suffering with and for one another and all whom Jesus showed us to be our neighbors
10. Providing hospitality and care, not only to one another but to strangers and even enemies
11. Listening and talking attentively to one another about our particular experiences in life
12. Struggling together to become conscious of and to understand the nature of the context in which we live

13. Criticizing and resisting all those powers and patterns (both within the church and in the world as a whole) that destroy human beings, corrode human community, and injure God's creation
14. Working together to maintain and create social structures and institutions that will sustain life in the world in ways that accord with God's will

Looking at the list, I suspect we can all recognize each of them in various points along our faith journeys, perhaps with more or less emphasis at times. As we emerge from this time of pandemic, I wonder if a list like this might be useful for helping us, as individuals and collectively as a community of faith, process and prioritize the choices we have in this moment. I know this list gives me much to ponder as I think about how I will choose to invest my time, energy, resources, and freedom of movement in my daily living post-pandemic. I would love to hear your thoughts on creating new patterns and practices in your lives as well.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Laura

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM ONLINE SERVICE

May 2 - Acts 8:26-40

“Philip and the Ethiopian”

May 9 - Excerpts from Creation in Genesis

“Mother Earth Sunday”

May 16 – Acts 1:1-11, 15-17, 21-26

“Ascension Sunday”

May 23 - - Acts 2:1-21

“Pentecost”

May 30 - “Memorial Day”

On this Peace & Justice Sunday, we will have a special pre-recorded worship service created by the WI Annual Conference

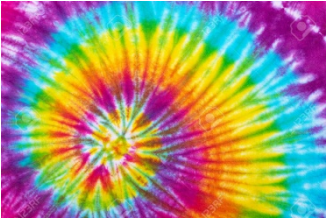
OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- Join us for virtual Worship services on Sunday mornings at 10am by clicking the link on the front page of our website.
- We have a **Giving** tab on our website to make a donation with your credit card or through your checking account.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We welcome donations of flower for our altar on Sundays. If you would like to give flowers on a particular Sunday, please contact the church office. They may be dropped off on Fridays during office hours, 9am-2pm. Thanks for brightening up our worship space.



FAMILY FUN DAY @ CHURCH

...TIE-DYE...CRAFTS... and MORE...

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021, 2:00-4:00 pm

This month, our FAMILY DAY activity will have a COLORFUL, PENTECOST vibe! Bring your own T-shirts, socks, pillowcases, facemasks, or anything that is 100% cotton to tie-dye! We will have a variety of colorful crafts to help decorate the church AND for you to take home for Pentecost Sunday (which is Sunday May 23rd!). Fun for ALL ages. This event will be OUTDOORS. Masks and distancing are required. To volunteer, please contact Pastor Laura at: pastorlauramumc@gmail.com

BREAKTHROUGH SUMMIT-#2

Continuing the conversation...

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021, 9:30am-12:00pm on ZOOM: Link coming soon!



Our first Breakthrough Summit on February 27 helped us explore WHY we are the church and allowed us to begin to create action plans to be the church together in both familiar and new ways. This time, we extend the conversation, and specifically look at the reasons to reclaim our religious traditions as a source of new life and hope for the future. To give you a taste for what we will talk about, please watch this TED Talk by Rabbi Sharon Brous...**It's Time to Reclaim Religion**



HILLTOPPERS



The Hilltoppers group will meet on **Monday, May 10 at 11 AM** in Fellowship Hall at church. We will be observing the guidelines for masks and social distancing. There will be no food at this meeting.

Our program will be presented by Andrea Miller, an employee of Hy-Vee and the topic will be: **Learn about Plant-Based Eating**

Andrea will help you learn the basics of plant-based eating, including how meat and dairy can fit. Plus, get shopping tips and product recommendations to help add more nutrition to your cart.

This topic is being promoted by the Church & Society committee of our church. The program should last for about an hour.

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER FOR MAY

Resurrected Christ, in a world full of death, help us to turn toward your promise of new life. We ask that you give us the courage to speak boldly, to name our questions and fears, to seek your voice, and be moved to acts of justice and reconciliation. Send your Spirit to break through our lives, our church, and our community with new ideas, new hope, and the future you desire for us. Break through anything that might hold us back and use your church, gathered or scattered, for unimagined new purposes. AMEN

MISSION OF THE MONTH

2021 Annual Conference Ingathering

Wisconsin Annual Conference 2021 will be held virtually on **June 18-19, 2021**

Monona UMC Mission Team is asking support for the Midwest Mission.

Since opening for ministry in 2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways through the distribution of education, health, micro business, and disaster relief supplies, meeting basic human needs around the world and around the corner. A "hands-on" mission experience is provided to those who serve at Midwest Mission and the work of these missionaries sends hope and the love of God to all those receiving the supplies.

Mission

Hearts and hands transforming the resources of God's people into humanitarian relief.

Distributions

Midwest Mission distributes its kits, resources, and supplies after receiving a request. Supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion. Midwest Mission connects with local aid organizations by providing items that are received that do not meet kit requirements.

Midwest Mission is one of ten cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. Midwest Mission distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States. Midwest Mission also partners with Christians in Mission, Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse, and the US Southern Command.

Why Donate?

Donations are particularly important to Midwest Mission because we operate completely through God's generous people like YOU that make individual donations. Midwest Mission is funded 100% by those donations & operates with no indebtedness. They only purchase supplies or make campus upgrades when funds are available.

Cash donations are the most efficient form of assistance. For every \$1 donated, \$6.33 in education, health, micro business, and disaster relief supplies are sent to support those in need. Unlike in kind donations, cash involves no transportation costs or shipping delays.

Please mark your checks or on-line donations "Annual Conference Ingathering"
Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team



YARD SIGNS

We received our yard signs that say Together Online. You are welcome to purchase one for \$13 to display in your yard. Please contact the church office to get your sign.



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS 11:30am
THROUGH MAY 30, 2021**

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!!

The Time Is Now, by Sister Joan Chittister. Pairing scriptural insights with narratives of the truth-tellers that came before us, Sister Joan offers a compelling vision for readers to combat complacency and to propel ourselves toward creating a world of justice, freedom, peace, and empowerment. This is spirituality in action; this is practical and powerful activism for our times.

The class meets by Zoom on Sundays from 11:30am to 1:00pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89930275276?pwd=Nmk1a0IweVhLUmZHWGxzWmJSZVNwUT09>

Meeting ID: 899 3027 5276

Passcode: 576235

SUBSTITUTE OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The SPRC is looking for some volunteers to learn the secretary job so that Kay can have more regular vacations. Computer skills and availability during daytime hours is needed. You will be trained. Please contact the church office if this is something you could help with.

REQUEST FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers to support the financial health of our Church by completing our Church's annual financial audit. It has been more than a year since we have had this completed, so this is another important project for our Church. For more information about this opportunity, please feel free to reach out any Finance Committee member or directly to Dan DeBaal, Phyllis Stertz or our Church Secretary. This opportunity will require reasonable computer skills and a comfort dealing with numbers. Please prayerfully consider supporting our Church by volunteering.

BOOKS IN THE ENTRY

We have some books from our library and previous Adult Sunday School classes that you are welcome to take, read and return. The UMW book shelf is also available to check out a book.

THANK YOU

Thank You to “bakers and buyers” who contributed to the recent Bake Sale. A profit of \$157 will be sent to the United Methodist Women Global Mission for women, youth and children.

JAVA JIVE

PALESTINIAN MEDJOOL DATES

We have purchased this item (I believe for the first time). Here's a little history and a recipe.

STORY

Our Medjool dates are grown by a 12-member farmer cooperative in Jericho. Water shortages in the area forced farmers to seek out crops that needed less water to grow. Medjool dates not only require less water but can grow using the slightly salty water that sits under reservoirs of fresh water. The dates are processed in a modern PARC packaging plant, where they are inspected for quality, cleaned, sorted, graded and then packaged.

PARC

The Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) is a nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable economic development with 41 farmer cooperatives in the West Bank. PARC provides farmers with technical assistance, processing facilities, quality testing, and exporting services. It helps to improve water supply and infrastructure, critical in the West Bank. PARC also provides social services for women, children, and families.

This project is important to EE because our mission is to assist small farmers who reap few of the benefits of the agricultural products that they grow. Palestinians, in particular, have limited ways to support themselves given the occupation.

~~~~~

### **Date Almond Truffles-**

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups Equal Exchange Medjool Dates pitted
- 4 tbsp almond butter
- 4 tbsp cocoa
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- 1-2 tbsp almond milk optional only if date paste is too stiff
- Dash cardamom optional
- ½ cup almonds ground
- coconut and/or cocoa powder for rolling truffles

#### Instructions

Grind the almonds until fine in a food processor, empty into a bowl and set aside. Now grind the pitted dates, almond butter, cocoa powder, and spices in a food processor, until a smooth paste forms. Add a tbsp at a time of almond milk if the paste is too stiff. Grease hands with olive oil to prevent sticking, and roll the date almond paste into about 20 two inch balls. Roll the truffles into the ground almonds. For variation you can also roll the truffles into coconut, or additional cocoa powder, depending on flavor preference.

~~~~~

Please remember to use hand sanitizer often!!! Church hours 9am-2pm, Monday-Friday

Thank you ALL so much for your continued support of EE/Fair Trade Products! 🍌

Jackie Hull
A team member for the UMW-AFT Mission

ANTI-RACIST ACTIONS: EDUCATE, DONATE, AFFILIATE

As we wrap up our eight-week series of deep conversations about dismantling racism, we are seeking ways we can work together to build Beloved Community. How do we lean into allyship?

Nehemiah, Madison's Center for Urban Leadership Development, suggests that would-be allies:

1. Educate themselves about racial injustice
2. Donate funds supporting racial justice initiatives led by People of Color
3. Affiliate in meaningful partnerships with others who are working to eradicate racial injustice

Educate - If you weren't able to participate in our Thursday night discussions, you can find the video links and resource links on the Church & Society page of our church website. Here are a few suggested resources:

- Bishop Hee-Soo Jung's Bible Study "Together In Christ,"
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- Be intentional about diversifying the authors you read
- Listen to the Black Like Me podcast hosted by Rev. Dr. Alex Gee (named Wisconsin's Favorite Podcast for 2020 by the Wisconsin Podcast Association)
- Watch Bryan Stevenson's presentation "The Power of Proximity" on YouTube

Donate - Contribute funding to organizations led by People of Color working to address the disparities in our community. A few suggestions to look into:

- Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development
- Urban League of Greater Madison
- Boys & Girls Club of Dane County

Affiliate - Get into proximity with others working toward racial justice and, as Bishop Jung mentions in the Bible Study, "expand your circle." Here are a few local organizations with opportunities for volunteers:

- Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center
- East Madison Community Center
- Urban League of Greater Madison - Schools of Hope Tutoring Program

MADISON INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY MARKETPLACE

Looking for jewelry, antiques, collectibles, crafts or produce?

Then check out the Madison Speedway Marketplace, an open-air market at Madison International Speedway, 122 Sunrise Rd. The event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, May 8**.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Madison Speedway Marketplace Facebook page at facebook.com/Madison-Speedway-Marketplace-1787765824815102

Sabrina Jacobus will be showing Pampered Chef items for sale that day. Come out and support some local small businesses.

VOTING RIGHTS

Our United Methodist Social Principles state, “The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens” (United Methodist Social Principles, ¶164.B).

This past fall, we put up yard signs at our church to encourage full participation in the democratic process of voting. Since then, proposed changes to Wisconsin voting laws could make it more difficult to exercise the right to vote, particularly for people with disabilities, the elderly, and communities of color.

Since the November election, at least 361 bills restricting access to the ballot have been introduced in 47 states, including at least 10 bills in Wisconsin. For an overview of some of the legislative proposals in Wisconsin, visit <https://interfaithvotewi.org/voter-suppression-bills>. Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement (an initiative of The Wisconsin Council of Churches and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice) also offers tips for contacting your legislators.

You can also stay informed about these initiatives by following the Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign on Facebook and Instagram.

WALK 4NF YOUR WAY MADISON, WI 2021

The walk will be virtual again this year on **May 15, 2021**. NF is a genetic disorder of the nervous system that causes tumors to form on the nerves in the body. Tim Eberle will “walk” even though he is no longer the coordinator. Here is the link to his page for individuals that would like to donate on line:

<https://nfmidwest.rallybound.org/walk4nfmadison/TimEberle>

Once on the page click on the donate link. For those uncomfortable donating on line can follow these instructions:

Send a check to NF Midwest, 473 Dunham Rd., Suite 3, St. Charles, IL 60174 and in the memo add “Eberle/Tim”.

For those interested in donating please do so before Saturday May 15. Many thanks in advance for your generosity! Please remember that no gift is too small.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River is currently accepting 18-count egg cartons until further notice. Also, The River is NOT accepting clothing or household items. If you have items to donate, please check with either Agrace or Boomerang. You are welcome to drop off egg cartons, paper bags, non-perishable food, or personal hygiene items at church daily from 9am until 2pm.

JUST BAKERY

We can still enjoy the wonderful goodies from Just Bakery. Search for “Just Bakery” online to view their many products. You may call 608-598-0420 to place your order. Due to COVID-19 their store front is no longer open but their products are available for delivery in Dane County for a \$5.00 charge or you may pick up your order curbside on Saturdays (9:00 - 2:00) at 1708 Thierer Rd. Madison.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow March 31, 2021

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 18,394	\$ 75,050
General Operating Expenses	18,561	60,606
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (167)	\$ 14,444

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

CHANGE: NOTHING STAYS THE SAME

“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” ~

In the Bulb there is a Flower, Natalie Sleeth, UMH # 707

There is nothing like a crisis to help us to reset priorities. With Covid-19 we have witnessed job layoffs, deaths, social and economic upheavals, and health emergencies. Despite our natural resistance to change, we are learning new ways to live. On account of Covid 19, what personal priorities have you reset?

Toilet paper. Seriously. Will we ever take lowly “TP” for granted again? Toilet paper is just one of the countless everyday blessings that the pain of COVID-19 has taught us to savor – along with worshiping beside loved ones, going to work, getting paid, shopping, going to the movies, and on and on. (What’s on your list?)

We are not just individuals; we are brothers and sisters in Christ. As a follower of Jesus, what priorities have you rearrange? How will the Holy Spirit guide us to a “new normal” of holy living as both disciples and community that will be different – and better – than what we have known?

May the “new normal” find us better stewards of our lives -- less greedy, less self-focused, less preoccupied with silly things, and more centered in Christ, more loving to our neighbor, more generous, more hopeful, and more tolerant.

Rev. Krystal Goodger,
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or 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.

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 Laura Crow 608-616-2325 pastorlauramumc@gmail.com

Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com

Virtual Worship 10:00am