

HILLTOP HERALD-MAY 2022 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE EVOLVING CHURCH

We have resumed worshipping in our sanctuary. We will continue to be cautious including wearing masks and social distancing. We encourage anyone with health issues or safety concerns to remain home and join in our virtual worship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

If you wish to schedule a group or event at the church, inside or outside, please contact Kay for the updated building use guidelines and forms. The office is open and staffed 9am-2pm, Monday through Friday. Pastor Paul and Mark are available for pastoral care both virtually and in-person for vaccinated individuals.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Join us on **Sunday May 15** to welcome our newest Confirmation students into the church membership. Ryan Derke, Mike Maskel and Soren Patrick will be received into membership.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 1 thru 3, 6:30-8:00pm

We are still looking for volunteers for our summer Vacation Bible School. 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, May 1** after worship.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monona United Methodist Church will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, May 17, 1:00-6:00pm**. Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information.



Volunteers Needed:

- 2 volunteers at 12:15pm 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

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Facebook Technology"

Facebook has become an extremely popular social media platform. With one click, Facebook users can share their photos, thoughts and opinions with their Facebook friends and potentially with a world-wide audience. During Putin's invasion of Ukraine, for example, Facebook users have published images, personal stories and other information documenting the human carnage.

For all its benefits, this technology comes with significant costs. Some take advantage of Facebook to spread false information and downright lies with little or no consequences.

Aware of these issues, I carefully participate on Facebook. Recently, I have received several "friend requests" (people wanting to be my Facebook friend) from individuals who were already my friend and had recently died. Most likely their accounts have been hacked with someone attempting to profit from their identity. Despite my conviction that there is more to life than we can see, I know, for certain, that Facebook does not have the technology to connect us with those who have passed from this world to the next.

Still, during this "Season of Easter," we celebrate God's victory over death. God raised Jesus from the dead and promises us resurrection and new life. Through our prayers, our service and our willingness to love one another, we stay connected to God and to each other. God's power is far more significant than anything Facebook has to offer.

May we continue to celebrate this Season of Easter.

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

May 1 - The Third Sunday of Easter

"Breakfast at the Beach"

Pastor Paul will preach on John 21:1-19. Communion will be served.

May 8 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home

"Jesus, the Good Shepherd"

Pastor Paul will preach on John 10 where Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice."

May 15 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday, Celebrate as Ryan Derke, Mike Maskel and Soren Patrick confirm their faith.

May 22 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter Earth Day Worship

May 29 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

On Memorial Day Weekend we will worship outside in our patio area (weather permitting).



PASTOR PAUL AWAY

Pastor Paul will be attending a continuing education workshop **Monday, May 13 through Sunday, May 20**. If you have a pastoral need, please contact Mark Buffat (608-335-5063).

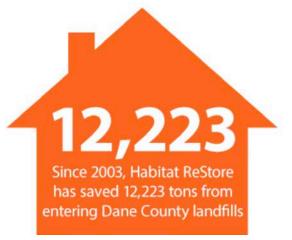
MISSION OF THE MONTH Habitat for Humanity

Your donation today builds so much more than four walls and a roof – it creates a brighter economic future for low-income families right here in Dane County. With permanent, safe and affordable housing, families can devote more resources to healthcare, parenting, education and beyond. Your investment is building a stronger Dane County, one family at a time.

At Habitat for Humanity, we work to put God's love into action every day. In fact, it's our mission statement. Here in Dane County we are driven to put faith into action by creating pathways to affordable homeownership and neighborhood revitalization. Whether you pray, give, volunteer or advocate, let's work together and provide local families with a springboard to secure bright, stable futures.

Habitat has an open-door policy: All who desire to be a part of our work are welcome, regardless of religious preference or background. We build with people in need regardless of race or religion and we welcome volunteers and supporters from all faiths.





Please consider donating to a great cause. Please mark your check, or electronic giving "Habitat."

Your mission team member, Karelyn



CHURCH-WIDE WORK DAY SATURDAY JUNE 11 9:00am until 12 Noon

Join us in sprucing up the inside of our church building on **Saturday June 11** at 9am. There will a variety of tasks to complete, including washing windows, dusting, vacuuming, touch up painting

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, May 14** at 9:00 am at Monona Garden Restaurant 6501 Broadway. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, May 15** at 2pm to discuss, *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder at the home of Mary Neuman. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

CASSEROLE MINISTRY

There is nothing quite like a hot homemade casserole to warm the home and soul during these chilly overcast days. Please reach out to me if you know of a need within our church family or in your community. Also, it is time to restock our freezer with casseroles. While preparing a meal at home please consider making extra food. Place the meal in nonreturnable containers (tin or plasticware) and mark each container "Casserole Ministry" along with a note describing the meal, the date made, and any special cooking instructions. You can drop them off at church during office hours, placing them in the kitchen freezer. Or contact me if you'd prefer to be on a standby contact list for making meals as needs arise.

Mark Buffat Caring Coordinator 608-222-1633

SUMMER CAMPS

WIUMCamps is pleased to announce that Summer Camp 2022 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 <u>www.WIUMCamps.org</u>. Also Monona UMC provides a camp scholarship for families.

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be meeting later than normal in May due to scheduling conflicts of our speaker. The meeting will be on **Thursday May 19** at 11 AM in fellowship hall. Our speaker will be Ann Waidelich who will be presenting narrative, pictures and postcards of downtown Madison in the 1940's. Photos that will be shown were taken by Angus McVicar, a well-known local photographer of those days.

Elgin will recruit someone to make coffee for us. Individually wrapped snacks will be welcome so bring some for your own use, or extras for the group.



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UNITED METHODIST WOMEN) INFORMATION

Friendship Circle – will meet on Wednesday, May 11 at 1:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, May 12** at 11:30am at the Olive Garden for lunch. Call Jan Wanek at 608-395-2433 with any questions.



JAVA JIVE

Adapted from the EX Website

Often the terms "fair trade" or "direct trade" are no more than marketing tools which don't actually represent an alternative supply chain. Equal Exchange is too often confused in people's minds with the sea of ethically sourced/fair trade/B Corp products and companies shouting out their commitments in the crowded market environment.

All goods that we humans consume come from supply chains; most are conventional and corporate. But if Citizen-Consumers can learn the difference between genuine alternatives and impostors we can communicate it to others which creates a better future for small farmers and artisans, for the planet, and for human rights and democracy.

The COVID crisis has disrupted and exposed the risks of conventional corporate supply chains.

Whether we are talking cars, phones, food, masks, or tests for coronavirus, there have been spectacular failures of our major supply chains. This is directly due to the rules of a system that aims to lower cost, minimize risk, monopolize networks, and prioritize commodity economic relations. Low-cost global supply chains seemed to work until they failed spectacularly.

As we are seeing in live time, this global commodity chain system when broken is hard to repair. Largeness, slowness, bureaucracy, greed, incompetence, and market gyrations, have become the defining characteristics of the prevailing supply chain. It is important to remember that the reason for the creation of these global supply chains was not to lower prices for consumers, improve the lives of workers, or increase sustainability despite the use of that language. These chains were primarily built to benefit investors. And although the investors include many citizens, the controlling group of investors is the ultrawealthy.

The good news is Equal Exchange and other Alternative Trade Organizations (ATO's) offer radically different versions of supply economics. We are integrating human relationships and community networks and food systems into our daily economics.

At its core, Equal Exchange is about paying above-market prices directly to small farmers. So we are in complete violation of one of the fundamental rules of the conventional corporate market. We do not pay more for everything we buy – transportation services, storage space, packaging materials – but on the key items produced by farmers, we are always breaking the 'lower cost' rule.

And because we are now at a scale at which we compete and operate effectively, it is hard to fully understand how important and different our work is. But on coffee, cocoa, tea, bananas, nuts, and everything else, Equal Exchange offers upfront money in the form of pre-harvest financing, pays much higher prices, and fosters long-term reliable trading partnerships with small farmers and their organizations.

Paying above market price is already a risk for Equal Exchange. And putting cash upfront is another risk. But the highest risk we take is working with new and emerging groups and helping them learn how to collect, process, and export products for the first several years. This is the most pioneering work that ATO's like Equal Exchange, MarketPlace: Handwork of India, Ten Thousand Villages, and SERRV have done for many networks.

When we as consumers buy from Starbucks, Peet's, Dunkin Donuts, or other commodified brands, we don't hear that we are supporting massive-scale corporate networks.

In contrast, Equal Exchange's model is very different. We are much smaller than the multinational brands mentioned above, yet large enough to exist in the global economy.

Beyond Equal Exchange US, we have an ecosystem of allied alternative traders including Oke USA which focuses on fresh produce, namely bananas and avocados. The worker-owners at La Siembra in Canada sell chocolate and other products under the Camino brand. And worker-owners in the UK sell coffee, chocolate, and other products under the brand Equal Exchange UK.

But the market environment is getting harder. Global corporations try to simultaneously pay their investors more and grow, which usually happens through mergers and acquisitions. The global network is growing faster than ever but the growth is being accumulated by just a few big players.

Equal Exchange tries to simultaneously pay farmers more and grow in this increasingly monopolized market. For us, growth has been happening more so through cooperative integration and mergers, motivated by solidarity in the increasingly difficult market environment.

You, as Citizen-Consumers of Equal Exchange, are all part of this environment. We need strong Citizen-Consumers to use their purchasing dollars to support our alternative trade model and to help us build and strengthen our network through participation, learning, and consumer-to-consumer organizing so that we can continue to develop and propagate our model.

To build a better food system that respects farmers and meets the expectations of caring consumers, we need to go deeper. We will not find like-minded organizations by their corporate claims and marketing. We need to look underneath the hood and in most cases, there will be little there. The true allies will most likely pass two tests: an openness to alternative and shared economic structures and a genuine lived culture of solidarity and democracy.

Coordinators:

Jackie Hull C 608-576-7837 Karelyn Hopkins C 608-577-3185

Thank You All for supporting EX! We are making a difference! Please let us know your thoughts or suggestions.

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

The Adult Sunday School class will take a break and start again in September. Watch for information on an informal gathering during the summer.





As the summer approaches and our regular music ensembles take a well-deserved break, we welcome and encourage your ideas/plans for providing special music to enhance our services. We have a process in place to assure music appropriateness, schedule availability, and supportive logistics are in place. Please submit your ideas via a form that is available in the church office and our Committee will take it from that point. We will use this process year around as there are always times when our regular ensembles are not available. Thank you again for your ideas to enhance the music ministry of MUMC.

Worship Committee

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.



THANK YOU

To the people of Monona United Methodist Church,

Thank you for all you do to enable the Parkinson's Caregiver Support Group to meet-virtually and in person.

It is an important ministry to the greater community and we are very grateful and, as you know, Siv is a "treasure."

Appreciatively, Susan

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.



OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- We have the recorded mini-service available for an online Worship experience as well as our in-person worship. Check our website for more information.
- We have a **Giving** tab on our website to make a donation with your credit card or through your checking account.

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.

FUNDRAISING WALK FOR NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

After 2 years of being a virtual event, Walk 4 NF, a fund raising walk to benefit Neurofibromatosis (NF) will return as an in person event in Madison.

It will be held on **Saturday May 21** at Capitol Brewery, unlike the previous 10 events, I am stepping down as the lead volunteer, and will be taking a back seat to the planning of this year's event.

I will however still be attempting to fund raise, I have set my goal for this year at \$1,000. This is a very personal cause to me as my daughter and I both have this condition.

Please consider helping me achieve my goal. You can access my donation page through this link:

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

If you are not comfortable donating on line you can donate by check.

Thank You for your consideration

Tim Eberle

Our last in person event in 2019, had about 220 participants and raised about \$25,000

UPCOMING MOTHER EARTH EVENTS

OUR HOME



Sunday May 15, Kids Planting Event 8:15 – 9:45 am in Veggie Garden

- o Building of Insect Inns
- Story: The Legend of The Three Sisters
 - Three Sisters Planting
 - Goodie Bags with Earth
 Friendly snacks

Sunday May 22, Mother Earth Service 10:00am

To Honor Our Mother Earth

Sermon Topic:
To Love and Protect

Where: Monona United Methodist Church 616 Nichols Road, Monona 608-222-1633

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

Here's a recipe for the good of Mother Earth and to enjoy for brunch or light lunch. Twenty-one grams of protein to boot!

SESAME-GINGER OATS WITH MUSHROOMS AND CHARRED GREEN ONIONS

1 C. reduced-sodium chicken broth or water

½ C. steel-cut oats, quinoa, or barley

2 tsp. toasted sesame oil

1 C. assorted mushrooms, chopped or sliced

1 tsp. minced fresh ginger or powdered ginger to taste

2 green onions, cut in 1" pieces

1 tsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce

Crushed red pepper to taste

- 1. Boil broth in small saucepan. Stir in oats/quinoa/barley. Reduce heat to medium-low. Stir occasionally and cook uncovered for 20 30 minutes until thickened and creamy.
- 2. Meanwhile, heat 1 tsp. oil in an 8-inch skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms and ginger. Stir 3 4 minutes until tender. Transfer to a bowl. Add remaining oil to the skillet with heat at medium-high. Add green onions and char 1 2 minutes. Remove from heat.
- 3. Stir mushrooms into oats. Top with soy sauce, green onions and crushed red pepper. Makes 1 serving.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow March 31, 2022

General Fund		<u>Month</u>		Year to Date	
Income	\$	20,289	\$	72,132	
General Operating Expenses		22,884		69,391	
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$	(2,595)	\$	2,741	

STEWARDSHIP - GOOD

"Life is good." You may disagree, but "Life is Good" is a registered and trademarked expression by the "Life is Good" people for whom, life is good. The "Life is Good" logo is a stick figure named Jake who wears a black beret, beatnik sunglasses, and flashes a giant grin. Jake is often posed in any number of activities that bring simple pleasures to life — hiking, surfing, flying a kite, walking the dog.



Life is good?

"Life is Good" started inauspiciously as brothers Bert and John Jacobs hawked homemade novelty T-shirts in the Boston streets and door-to-door through the college dorms. They were literally living in their van down by the river. They found their key to success when they printed 48 shirts of Jake over the saying, "Life is Good" for a 1994 street fair in Cambridge. The shirts sold out by noon. People were crazy for the simple and sunny philosophy. So much so, that the sincere and optimistic slogan has grown into an \$80 million-a-year merchandise line sold by 5,000 distributors in 14 countries.

One key to the success of "Life is Good" merchandise lies in the interpretation of those who own the products. Someone wearing the kayaking Jake shirt announces both his hobby and the simple pleasure that makes his life good. But cancer sufferers and survivors have also flocked to the merchandise line due to its simple, clear worldview. "Life is Good" is the hopeful battle cry of the cancer afflicted and the celebration song of cancer survivors.

There's an implicit sense of truthfulness to the slogan which preserves its widespread appeal. The Jacobses are quick to note the humility of the assertion — life isn't perfect or great, but it's good. They know there's plenty of bad in the world but find it better to focus on what's good. John claims that the slogan is an affirmation of the here and now. "Don't determine that you're going to be happy when you get the new car or the big promotion or when you meet that special person. You can decide that you're going to be happy today."

In the church, we have a similar saying, but I don't think that it's trademarked. "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good." This is more than an observation, however. Among other things, it's a promise that our good God is with us and is active in our lives when we are struggling and in the valleys of life and when our hearts are full of the many blessings we have received and we are filled with joy.

Yes, life may be good, but if it is, it's because "God is good . . . all the time."

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

The Life and Ministry of God's People In Monona United Methodist Church May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
NEWSLETTER	R DEADLINE				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Newsletter Deadline May 22 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the May newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 608-222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net							
1 See schedule below 11:15 VBS Meet 2-4pm Earth Day Planting	2 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	3 1:00 Staff Mtg	2-4pm Caregivr Support 6:30 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	5 Mark Vacation 1:00 Zoom Church / Society 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30 Trustees- on Zoom	6 Pastor's Day Off Mark Vacation 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama	7 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg	
8 See schedule below Mother's Day 8:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg 7:00 Stephen Ministry-Zoom	11 1:30Friendship Circle - hall 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30 Confirmation Practice 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	1:00 Faith Cr 6:30 SPRC- Zoom	Pastor's Day Off 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama	6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg 9am Garden Work Day 9am Men's Grp Breakfast- Monona Garden	
See schedule below Confirmation Sunday 8:15-9:45 Kids Planting 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 2pm Read / Meet	16 Pastor Paul training thru May 20	17 1-6pm Blood Drive-MUMC 6:30 Finance- Zoom	18 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	11am Hilltoppers 1:00 Zoom Church / Society	3-9pmPaper Moon Drama, includes set build 3-4:30pm Girl Scout Troop- Upstairs	6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg 11am-5pm Hall/kitchen/ patio in use	
Newsletter Ddln 10:00 Earth Day Worship 2-4pm Earth Day Planting	23 10am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop 7:00 Stephen Ministry-Zoom	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg 6:30 Ad Council- Zoom	25 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama 6:30-8:00 El Libertador Bible Study-upstairs	26 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama	Pastor's Day Off	28 6-7:30am E.L. Prayer Vg	
29 10:00 Outdoor Worship No children's Sunday School	30 Memorial Day Office closed	9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg					
•	SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 Sunday School for children 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish			**In	a *	***	

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

606 NICHOLS ROAD MONONA, WI 53716

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Monona UMC Church office 222-1633 (Fax 222-2395);
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Homepage www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org
Pastor Paul Johnsen 920-246-2855 pjohnsen58@gmail.com
Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net
Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com
Worship 10:00am

MAY 2022

WI FOOD FOREST PARTNERS WITH MONONA UMC!

"Connecting communities through food forests." That's the mission of Wisconsin Food Forest. This non-profit helps design, create, guide, instruct, and plant edible trees, shrubs, herbs, flowers, and ground cover.

A small section of Monona UMC's community garden area has been accessed and selected as a perfect site for such a project! Here's what we've selected for our food forest: two European pear trees, a Tart Cherry tree, a Juneberry shrub, a hand full of Black, Pink, White, and Red Currents, two Honeyberries, six Asparagus, a bunch of edible flowers (Nasturtiums, Johnny-Jump-Ups, Borage, and Calendula) and several perennial herbs (Chives, Oregano, Thyme, Sage).

Come helps us grow this community outreach project!

Grab your garden gloves and come dig, plant, and mulch with us!

Sunday, May 1st and May 22nd from 2 to 4 PM

Learn more about this innovative and inspiring organization at https://www.wisconsinfoodforests.com/

To join the fun, contact Mark Buffat at markbmumc@gmail.com or 608-335-5063.



