



HILLTOP HERALD-APRIL 2021 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE CHURCH EMERGENT

While we will continue to worship virtually and place limits on in-person gatherings, we are beginning to draft 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 Dane County Public Health dashboard continues to show improved numbers for the containment of the virus and vaccine accessibility is also improving. This month you will see a few new small gatherings being offered – a Holy Saturday Prayer Walk and Bake Sale on April 3, a Hilltoppers program on April 12, and an Earth Day outdoor event April 24. These are first steps that will allow us to practice using our building again with masks and distancing.

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

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.

REQUEST FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is looking for two volunteers to support the financial health of our Church. We are currently in search of someone to take over the Financial Secretary position from Anna Skiles. Anna has served our Church in this position for a number of years and is now ready to turn it over to another Church member. For more information about this opportunity, please feel free to reach out to any Finance Committee member or directly to Anna Skiles or our Church Secretary. Secondly, the Finance Committee is looking for a volunteer to complete 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. Both opportunity's will require reasonable computer skills and a comfort dealing with numbers. Please prayerfully consider supporting our Church by volunteering for one of these opportunities.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Halftime"

We are at the midpoint of my time with you. In many ways it feels as if I have just arrived, so acknowledging the next transition seems premature. Yet, here we are.

At this place in our journey together, I am reminded of (yet another) influential book titled "Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance" by Bob Buford. Making the obvious analogy to a sporting event, Buford names three parts of our lives: the First Half, Halftime, and the Second Half.

In the first part of our adult lives we are focused on "achieving, gaining, learning, earning." We are busy with creating our homes and communities, raising kids, and building our careers, often trying to achieve whatever we define as "success" in our personal and professional lives. The first half is noisy, busy, almost frenetic. It is not that we do not want to listen for that still, small voice. It's just that we never seem to have time to do it. Ask any grandparent about the difference between parenting and grandparenting!

The second half of our adult lives, when the pressure to achieve lets up a bit, seems to be the time when people begin to do something about the faith they have developed. It is riskier because it has to do with living beyond the immediate demands of what is "urgent" and focusing our energies instead on what is most "important." It involves investing our gifts in service to others — and receiving the personal joy that comes as a result of that spending.

Halftime is the often overlooked that liminal space that exists between the two. Good coaches know the value of halftime. More than a brief rest, the team huddle that happens in a locker room is where critical gameplan decisions are reinforced or adapted in order to finish well. It is a time to "take stock, listen and learn." In the book, Buford offers a two-page "Half Time Drill" with questions designed to help people approach this midlife moment with intentionality and direction.

The Christian church in America is in the midst of a midlife moment. This is not new news. The model of church engagement and organization from the 1940's – 50's – 60's has not worked for almost two generations. Church membership and attendance has been in decline for decades and the recent pandemic has brought this reality into sharp focus for all to see.

It is halftime. The conversations we are having with one another and the decisions we are making to reinforce or adapt our model for how we are the church together as we emerge from the pandemic are critical for how well we can represent Christ's love and hope in our "second half."

In 2020, MUMC began praying a "Breakthrough Prayer" inviting God's wisdom and guidance. In February, we had our first "Breakthrough Summit" asking the question, "WHY are we the church?" Ad Council is planning a second summit for late May to continue our conversation about what God has placed on our hearts in this time. In July, you will receive a new pastor and continue this journey of faith, growth, and transformation.

It is such an exciting time to be the church, to see and feel the movement of the Holy Spirit in this place! I am grateful to be able to walk this path with you.

Grace and peace, *Pastor Laura*

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM ONLINE SERVICE

April 4 - Mark 16:1-8; "Easter Sunday"

April 11 - John 20:19-31; "Peace Be with You"

April 18 - "We Aren't Finished Yet"; This will be a special service honoring the 7th anniversary of MUMC becoming a Reconciling congregation

April 25 - John 10:11-18, Psalm 23; "Sheep and Shepherds"

HOLY WEEK AT MUMC...

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday Worship @ 10:00am via Zoom & YouTube. This service will feature a Virtual Palm Parade and a telling of the Palm Sunday story from some of MUMC's youth.

Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday. "At-Home" Liturgy & Materials are available for pick up at church! Bags are available for ALL at the entrance to the church -stop in pick up yours while they last!

Friday, April 2 - Ecumenical Good Friday Worship @ 1:00pm via Zoom. Pastors from Lake Edge UCC, Plymouth UCC, St. Stephens Episcopal Church and MUMC will co-lead a "mini-tenebrae" service with reflections on four symbols of Good Friday: a basin of water, a crown of thorns, the cross, and a shroud. All are welcome to join the service at 12:30 for fellowship prior to the service. We will leave in silence at the end of our time of remembrance.

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85103066894?pwd=U0IzUU1qZFVib1hIZFNkeGlJalZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0306 6894,

Passcode: 556702

Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday Fair Trade & Bake Sale @ 9:00am-11:00am. Members of our United Methodist Women will have pre-packaged baked goods to pick up for a donation and Fair Trade items will be available for purchase. If the weather cooperates, tables will be set up outside. This is a great opportunity to stop by and visit while practicing social distancing and wearing masks!

Saturday, April 3 - Prayer Walk from Monona UMC @ 10:00am. We will pray with our feet for the promise of renewal that comes with Jesus' Resurrection. Weather permitting, we will gather outside the church at 10:00am.

- Begin with a blessing by Pastor Laura and Pastora Estrella from El Libertador
- Participants will be given a map and a prayer card. You are free to travel in any direction from the church so we can avoid bunching up together and cover as much real estate as possible. Your prayer card will give instructions on specific petitions to pray as you walk
- Return to the church after about 20-30 minutes and receive a small token of the day to take home
- We will also have sidewalk chalk for anyone who wishes to draw or write prayers at the church or on the sidewalk as they walk

Sunday, April 4 - Easter Worship @ 10:00am via Zoom & YouTube. We will celebrate Christ's Resurrection in a virtual service of worship and Communion. All are encouraged to gather bread and cup for this sacramental meal.

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER FOR EASTER

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 like Mary Magdelene and to name our questions and fears like Thomas. 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

CARING COORDINATOR COLUMN

Spring has sprung! Teachers are being immunized! Younger kiddos are returning to school buildings (with safety protocols)! Many teachers, school staff, kids, and parents are relieved, excited, and enjoying the in-person interactions! Sandra Rivera, Social worker, at Nuestro Mundo Community School (NMCS) says that “recess is now my favorite time of the school day!” These days, much of her time in the classroom is still via zoom from her office. However, while supervising kiddos during recess she gets to be with small groups outside on the playground! Sandra is such a caring and compassionate woman who absolutely loves working with kids and parents, supporting and guiding them.

My conversation with Sandra this week focused on when and how we might restart the backpack meal snack bag program at NMCS. At present, we plan to restart in mid-April. I also asked her how we, MUMC, can help support the kids and families of NMCS that are experiencing the most significant food and housing insecurities. As you might guess, several challenges were identified, examined, and discussed with creative ideas bantered around. Yes, this whole endeavor remains a moving target and will require pivots and adjustment, often on the fly. I will keep you posted. Sandra again expressed how much NMCS appreciates MUMC. Please contact me if you'd like to be added to the NMCS volunteer list. We'll need help shopping, unpacking, sorting, assembling meal bags, and delivering them to the school.

Caring & Coordinating, Mark Buffat

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be starting in person meetings again on our regular meeting dates on the 2nd Monday of the month. On **Monday April 12**, we will be meeting in Fellowship Hall at 11AM. Please observe mask and social distancing guidelines. We will not have food this month. We will talk about food in the future during our meeting.

Our program will be presented by A.J. Feucht about his time with the US Army in Afghanistan. He was in charge of a humanitarian mission the Army sponsored to help the citizens of Afghanistan make life easier and better for themselves.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Generally the programs are attended by elderly persons as they are retired and can get away during daytime hours. But anyone who is able is welcome to attend.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin

Since 1986 Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin has put more than 100 million meals on the tables of our neighbors who are facing hunger in southwestern Wisconsin. Second Harvest works together with hundreds of local hunger-relief charities to provide the peace-of-mind people get when they know they have enough food, but because of the pandemic, there is a projected 40% increase in the number of food insecure people in southwestern Wisconsin. That is where you come in! They need your help to meet the needs of thousands of our neighbors as the COVID19 pandemic continues.

What does Second Harvest do? They exist to end hunger in southwestern Wisconsin.

Each day Second Harvest:

- Stores over a million pounds of food.
- Sorts and inspects food, with volunteers, for safe distribution to individuals facing hunger.
- Fuel trucks and semis that pickup food from industry and retail donors deliver it safely to the Foodbank or partner agencies.
- Mobilize the public to give food, funds, time, and voice to hunger-relief.
- Employ dedicated staff who give hope to so many each day.

What can you do?

Please consider supporting Second Harvest Foodbank during this time of great need for many families by indicating on your mail-in check or online contribution "Second harvest Foodbank".

Or, sign up for a Care Box Assembly volunteer shift available at 3 services locations - Second Harvest Foodbank, the Alliant Energy Center, and satellite Second Harvest building in Stoughton! Together, we can end hunger.

To make sure we do our part to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, volunteers who help package the Care Boxes do so in large open spaces that have been setup to accommodate appropriate social distancing. For everyone's health and safety, you must sign up in advance and wear a face mask while volunteering. They are not able to welcome walk-in volunteers.

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 reserve your sign.

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.

CONTINUING OUR CONVERSATION ON ANTI-RACISM...

Church & Society invites you to continue with the 8-week Anti-Racism VIDEO series on **Thursday nights at 7:00pm**. Each week we will watch and discuss together a short video so you don't have to make time to read and prep ahead of time! If you DO want to prep ahead, we also offer additional resources each week to dive deeper into some of the ideas raised. One of the resources each week for personal reflection is a link to a Lenten study on Beloved Community created by UMC Bishop, Rev. Dr. Hee-Soo Jung. We hope that you are able to engage with these resources and join our Thursday evening discussions.

Zoom link for this 8-week series... Topic: Anti-Racism Video Series (8 weeks)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84241547699?pwd=cGRPQlI5cnBqdHIzSk1YUHRycENNdz09>
Meeting ID: 842 4154 7699 passcode: 157403

Week Four - April 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSsoVjTgYJ0> (7:24)

Additional Resources:

- Personal Reflection -- Together in Christ session four,
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- Local perspective -- Dr. Gee reflects on race conversations,
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKmSr1QAptw&feature=emb_logo

Week Five - April 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BCScklTfs0> (First Half of 19:28)

Additional Resources:

- Personal Reflection -- Together in Christ session five,
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- UMC Council of Bishops Statement,
<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/cob+statement+on+racism+-+june+8+final.pdf>

Week Six - April 15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BCScklTfs0> (Second Half of 19:28)

Additional Resources:

- Personal Reflection -- Together in Christ session six,
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- Called to Witness, Care, and Act,
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/called-to-witness-care-and-act-a-message-for-laity-in-the-umc>
- No Justice, No Peace Devotion,
<https://gcsr.w.wordpress.com/2020/06/05/no-justice-no-peace/>

Week Seven - April 22

The Spiritual Work of Overcoming Racism (The Upper Room)

- Imagining a New Way of Being,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loZfWG9Lwyc&list=PL78jVaSiftMme5utg3w8KVcE9eRYxw3yu&index=12> (2:26)

- Are We Under Attack,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uvbtqdzRhU&list=PL78jVaSiftMme5utg3w8KVcE9eRYxw3yu&index=8>
(4:20)
- Embrace the Truth,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbBaUrEnlrQ&list=PL78jVaSiftMme5utg3w8KVcE9eRYxw3yu&index=3>
(3:59)

Additional Resources:

- Personal Reflection -- Together in Christ session seven,
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- Reaching In, Reaching Up, Reaching Out,
<https://www.upperroom.org/news/1188>
- Additional Upper Room Videos - Love Gets Me Through,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG9fDPIM6Ww>
- Additional Upper Room Videos - Don't Let Fear Have You,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h28XdP3f7gc>

Week Eight – April 29

The Spiritual Work of Overcoming Racism (The Upper Room)

- Grow Where You're Planted,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucsLReqeY8A&list=PL78jVaSiftMme5utg3w8KVcE9eRYxw3yu&index=14> (4:24)
- Finding Our Way Home,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsbS3xU0RR8&list=PL78jVaSiftMme5utg3w8KVcE9eRYxw3yu&index=11>
(4:21)

Additional Resources:

- Personal Reflection -- Together in Christ session eight,
<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/websites/www/together+in+christ+lenten+study.pdf>
- Additional Upper Room Videos - I Lean In,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjGXsNrX12A>
- Additional Upper Room Videos - The Use of My Hands,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otccQJpM9Lo&t=35s>

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.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS 11:30am
APRIL 11 THROUGH MAY 23, 2021

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!!

The Time Is Now, by Sister Joan Chittister, a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice and fervent proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment, draws on the wisdom of prophets, both ancient and modern, to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us.

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.

For the weary, the cranky, and the fearful, this energizing message invites us to participate in a vision for a world greater than the one we find ourselves in today. This is spirituality in action; this is practical and powerful activism for our times.

Participants should purchase their own books. 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

Praise for *The Time Is Now*

“For decades Chittister has been a prolific author and advocate for women and social justice inside and outside the realm of the Catholic Church.

Here she shares her perspective on the current state of equity, social justice, and the environment and calls on all Christians to explore the traits of prophets, many of which they can find within themselves . . . offering motivation as well as ways to accomplish change.”—

Booklist

“A series of short essays to encourage and refresh the spirit of activists . . . applicable to both progressive and conservative Christians. Will appeal to spiritual readers seeking an encouraging book for social justice advocacy.”—*Library Journal* (starred review)



SAVE THE DATE
EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING

Church and Society Team is planning a Tree Planting on **Saturday April 24**. We invite children and families to save the date for a fun outside activity to help beautify the church grounds. Watch for more details to come.

JAVA JIVE

The Equal Exchange Coffee Journey: FROM Small Farmers >>>> TO Their Co-ops >>>> TO Equal Exchange >>>> TO Your Cup

The Conventional Coffee Journey: FROM Small Farmers >> TO the middle man >> TO the processor/exporter >> TO a U.S. broker >> TO a food distributor >> TO a coffee company >> TO your cup

Equal Exchange has worked with small farmer organizations since their founding in 1986, beginning with a co-op in Nicaragua, and now sourcing from over 40 small-scale farmers worldwide. Equal Exchange collaborates with thousands of churches, temples and communities of faith around the United States and the world.

The UMCOR Coffee Project, started in 2002 is a collaboration between Equal Exchange and the United Methodist Committee on Relief to involve more Methodist communities and individuals in supporting small farmers worldwide to bring you high-quality coffee, tea and cocoa products — Always Paying Farmers Fairly!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who supports this mission with your purchases of Authentic Fair Trade products!

As always this is NOT a fundraiser!

The church is open from 9:00-2:00 M-F for your shopping convenience. Please put your money in the can on the table or in the cupboard to the left of the table in the plastic bin. There is an envelope right in the front of this bin. And don't forget there is cheese in the refrigerator in the kitchen!

Please remember to use hand sanitizer often!! Thank you!!

Blessings to all!!

Jackie Hull - a Team Coordinator of Monona UMW/AFT Mission Project



...LET'S CELEBRATE MOTHERHOOD IN A SPECIAL WAY...

on Mother's Day, May 9, 2021

Motherhood is an ancient concept, that existed way before Adam and Eve ever walked on the earth. While the Bible tells us that God is the creator of all of life, early peoples understood that all life was brought forth from the earth. Is it so strange then that people came to think of the earth as Mother Earth and showed their love and respect for her and all of her off-spring in numerous ways?

From our Wednesday evening zoom get-togethers, we know there is a lot of love for Mother Earth in our congregation. So, this coming Mother's Day we would like to celebrate motherhood in an extra-ordinary way by celebrating our Mother Earth.

We are asking those of you who are passionate photographers to share your images of the wonders of nature with the congregation during that service. We are especially looking for nature photos that make us think of the earth as mother of all of God's creation. If you have stories to go with your photos, please include these as well.

We are eager to get started on this project, so please start sending your photos to Siv Goulding at jspf Goulding@gmail.com. If you have questions, call at 608-839-3512.

Church & Society

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monona United Methodist Church will host our second blood drive on **Tuesday, May 18, 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

General Donor Information:

- At least 17 years old (16 with parental permission)
- 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**

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RIVER FOOD PANTRY AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

It's easy to get the terms confused. Food banks and food pantries are both nonprofit organizations but each plays a different role in the fight against hunger.

Food banks solicit, receive, inventory and store food donations. Donations come from a variety of places, including restaurants, retailers, grocery stores and individuals. After initially being stored in a warehouse, bulk quantities of food are donated or sold at a discounted rate to hunger-relief organizations, including homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and food pantries like The River Food Pantry.

A food pantry's mission is to feed food-insecure residents within a specific area. Whereas a food bank acts as the supplier, a food pantry serves as the distribution center, ensuring that food gets directly to those who need it. Food pantries purchase food and receive donations from not only food banks, but also food and grocery manufacturers, restaurants, retailers and food drives. To feed more people and help eliminate waste, every week The River also recovers food that would otherwise go to waste from local food retailers.

Food banks are usually self-governing and distribute food to their client organizations once a month or once a week. Many community food pantries are sponsored by local churches or through community partnerships. However, The River is self-governed and allows people to receive groceries once a week via curbside pickup or delivery, and curbside meals up to four times a week. As a community-funded organization, The River relies on support from individuals, foundations, businesses, faith communities, and service groups.

Usually clients pick up supplies by visiting the food pantry in person, but pantries have developed additional ways of reaching their clients. Some offer direct delivery services to residents who may be home bound or have limited access to transportation. The River Food Pantry's mobile programs include River Delivers, MUNCH Mobile Lunch and Food Bridge. We also offer a curbside meal program. There are many ways you can contribute, through food, funds, or offering your time as a volunteer.

ABOUT THE RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River Food Pantry, serving over 1,000 diverse households each week, is South Central Wisconsin's busiest food pantry. Our services include free groceries for curbside pickup or delivery, freshly prepared to-go meals, and mobile lunches for children and families in low-income neighborhoods. More than just a food pantry, we build community by offering opportunities to serve, donate, and collaborate. We also partner with local organizations to minimize food waste and improve access to reliable sources of food. Since opening in 2006, our vision is to achieve a fully nourished community.

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.

AGRACE TRIFT STORES NEED VOLUNTEER CASHIERS

Volunteers are needed to help Agrace’s thrift stores stay open. The stores generate funds to support programs for Agrace patients and families. If you want to do something meaningful and fun during the pandemic, please consider volunteering as a cashier at any of their Madison or Janesville locations. For details call (608) 327-7163 or email volunteer@agrace.org.

AGRACE OFFERS VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

This spring, three professionally led Agrace grief support group series will meet virtually (accessible with a tablet, computer or smartphone). For details, fees or to register, visit Agrace.org/GriefGroups or call (608) 327-7118.

- **Bridges Support Group** for adults meets every other Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is required.
- **Journey Through Grief** for adults meets Thursdays, March 18 to April 22, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required.
- **Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group** for adults meets Wednesdays, April 21 through May 26, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow February 28, 2021

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 23,831	\$ 56,656
General Operating Expenses	21,430	42,045
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 2,401	\$ 14,611

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE
LIGHT: THERE IS A LIGHT AHEAD.

“The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.” ~Proverbs 4:18, NLT

How is your Lent going? Does it feel long, dark, and empty? Lent can feel that way when we give up fun activities or foods that we like. This year in particular, we are also still dealing with the pandemic. Closed or limited occupancy to our favorite places, the need to stay away from people, and the illness and death rates all increase the feeling of darkness. But is that it? Is that all there is?

There is light ahead. Literally there is light ahead when you look at when the sun sets in the next few weeks. The sun set at 7:37p.m. at the end of March. It will set in April at 8:30p.m. May: 9:17p.m. June: 9:34p.m. There are brighter days ahead.

There is light ahead. On a dark morning, the women will come to the tomb just to find it empty. Christ arose! Christ arose!

There is light ahead. The virus will be beaten down. Our communities will open up. We will be able to see and hug our families again. Our church will open up again. But what will be left of our church? What have we given to the church to sustain it during this long haul? How have we given of our time, talents, and treasures over the last few months... and how will we give for Easter and the next few months to make sure we can continue our church’s mission and ministry?

Be the light now so it can burn brighter later!

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