



HILLTOP HERALD-APRIL 2024 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*You are invited to contemplate
the truth behind 'We the People'
... the three most misunderstood words in US history...*



Ted Talk by Mark Charles
Discussion facilitated by William Colby

Friday, April 05, 2024
at Monona United Methodist Church
Light refreshments at 6pm; program follows at 6:30.

This event is co-sponsored by St Stephen's Lutheran Church & Monona United Methodist Church



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Mark Charles is a speaker, writer, and consultant. The son of an American woman of Dutch heritage and a Navajo man, Mark teaches the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and Christendom in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. In 2012, He is the co-author of the book, *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*.

William Colby is a retired professor, teaching American History/Native American History for 35 years at Madison Area Technical College.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Easter!”

This Sunday, March 31st, is Easter. “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!”

Easter is considered a movable Christian Feast with dates that vary from year to year. Last year we celebrated Easter on April 9th. Next year Easter arrives on April 20th.

Easter is observed on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. In some faith traditions, this is referred to as the “Paschal Full Moon,” connecting the full moon to the Jewish observance of Passover. The scientific community calls it the “Worm Full Moon,” the final full moon of winter. The planting and growing season is upon us.

Since Easter is relatively early this year, many stores had Chocolate Bunnies and Peeps available alongside their Valentine hearts.

Regardless of when Easter arrives, it is our best day of the year. God defeats the power of death once and for all. As followers of Jesus, we discover that there is more to this life than what we can see and experience. When Jesus was crucified, his first followers thought that they had lost everything.

But then, beginning on Easter, they began to see the power of God in an entirely new way. They came alive. Their faith blossomed. Death no longer was the last word.

Come and celebrate with us this Sunday. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us. (After all, we will need to wait a year and three weeks before we celebrate Easter Sunday again.)

“Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!”

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES

10:00AM SERVICE

April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter

“Doubting Thomas” John 20:19-31

April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter

“Jesus Offers Peace” Luke 24: 36b-48

April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Earth Day & Native American Commemoration Service

April 28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

“Bearing Fruit” John 15:1-8



Join Us for
WORSHIP

UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 United Methodist General Conference will be held **April 23 - May 3, 2024**, in Charlotte, NC. The last General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, MN in 2020, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024

You can get more information about General Conference on the official website:
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Accountable Leadership Board (ALB) is exploring its leadership role in the congregation using Kay Kotan's book *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World* and with input from a leadership video provided by our district superintendent, Amanda Stein. As a result of this study, the ALB will begin to craft revised vision and mission statements and goals for Monona UMC. Please talk with any of the Board members if you have input for this work.

Ladies, you will notice a new paper dispenser in the women's restroom. Please give us feedback on how you like it.

Keep your ears open for new and on-going ministry opportunities in our church:

- Planting the rain garden (Mark Buffat)
- Planning for a 'clothes pantry' (Deb Jorstad)
- Donating volunteer time and supplies to Babies and Beyond (Julie Whitehorse)
- Hosting and serving at our community dinners (Pastor Paul)

Accountable Leadership Board Members: Louise Belk, Kay Cowing, A. J. Feucht, John Huston, Carol Jacobson, Dorilee Kopp-Miller, Deb Monroe, LeeAnn Sinclair, and Phyllis Stertz.

GAME DAY

All are invited to join the Game Day fun on **Friday, April 5** 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!

HILLTOPPERS

Hilltoppers will meet on **Monday, April 8** at 11:00am in Fellowship Hall. We will be treated to a Quilt Trunk show presented by our own Kay DeBraal and Anna Mae Wilken. Come enjoy the beauty of their work.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

On **Sunday, April 14**, United Methodists celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday, a Special Sunday, with an offering. Our gifts provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminaries, strengthen and develop Native American outreach at the annual conference level.

EARTH DAY & NATIVE AMERICAN COMMEMORATION SERVICE

SUNDAY APRIL 21

Our goal for the service is to honor God's awesome Creation, express our love for the beauty of the Earth, by highlighting Native wisdom for living in the balance with the earth and honoring Native Americans for their commitment to the Creation.

Church and Society Team

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



**American
Red Cross**

Monona United Methodist Church will host a blood drive on **Wednesday, May 15, 1:00-6:00pm**. Blood donors and volunteers are needed. Please contact the church office for more information.

Volunteers Needed:

- 2 volunteers 12:30 – 3:30pm shift
- 2 volunteers 3:30 – 6:30pm shift

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Porchlight Solutions to Homelessness

Porchlight is the largest non-profit provider of affordable housing in Madison, with 350 units across 26 sites, ranging from single room occupancy units to family units with 1-4 bedrooms. Porchlight provides emergency shelter, outreach services, eviction prevention, employment services, recovery support, and affordable transitional and permanent housing to over 8,000 people annually. Porchlight housing serves low-income men, women, and children, and has programs that focus on the unique needs of Veterans and individuals with mental illness.

Porchlight Products is a paid employment-training program that works with disabled and formerly homeless individuals who have struggled to return to or remain in a mainstream employment setting. We employ an often-marginalized group to help them develop a sense of purpose, accomplishment, and satisfaction in their lives that contributes to their stability and independence. Trainees learn basic job skills such as proper hygiene and time management, as well as the skills to take raw ingredients and turn them into quality food products. These products are then available at local stores and on the menus of area restaurants.

For more information check out their website: porchlightinc.org. To support this mission, please mark your offering envelope or check, "Porchlight".

Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, April 13** at 9:00 am at Tully's II on corner of Monona Drive and Broadway. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

HARPIST SPECIAL MUSIC

On **Sunday, April 28** we will welcome Cathy Clewett, a local harpist, who will share her talents during our worship service.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Life, at times, can be filled with disappointments or difficult decisions, or challenging situations that leave us feeling overwhelmed. We need not face these tough times alone. A Stephen Minister is ready to walk along with you. To find out more or to request a Stephen Minister, speak with Pastor Paul or Mark Buffat (608) 335-5063.

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>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's time to start planning for our summer Vacation Bible School and would love to see volunteers join us. If you are interest in helping in any way, please contact the church office. We need volunteers of all ages and skills. Our first meeting is **Sunday, April 28** after worship.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, April 14** at 2pm to discuss, *Our Mission Hearts* by Celeste Ng at the home of Jeanette Williams. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER

It's that time of year again: time for the NF Fundraiser with Pampered Chef. The fundraiser starts **Sunday April 14th closes on 21st**. You can also order before fundraiser starts on FaceBook.

Thank you, Sabrina Jacobus

www.pamperedchef.com/party/nf2024



MONONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle - Wednesday, April 10, meet at 1:30pm at church in the fellowship hall. Linda Diers will share a program and be our host.

Faith Circle will meet on **Thursday, April 11** at 1pm at the home of Jan Wanek (618 Jupiter Dr. #3016, Madison). Call Jan at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

MUMW SPRING POTLUCK SALAD LUNCHEON

The Monona United Methodist Women invite all the women of the church to a Spring Potluck Salad Luncheon on **Tuesday, May 7 at 11:30am** in our Fellowship Hall. We are planning a program so watch for more information.

JAVA JIVE

Annual Chocolate Impact (data from 2021)

1,453 tons: organic & fairly traded cacao, sugar, vanilla purchased for Equal Exchange.

\$2,886,602: Paid to Farmer Co-ops with more than 70% of purchases paid up-front before the harvest.

We work with 20,000+ Small scale farmers in 16 co-ops and 7 countries.

Long term partnerships between Co-ops and Equal Exchange, average 11 years.

We visit our partners, with whom we've established personal relationships. They are smallholder farmers who are proud of their work and want to sell organic cacao, sugar, and vanilla for delicious chocolate through a fair system.

Equal Exchange products have full traceability back to our farmer cooperative partners. We guarantee a minimum price to the cooperatives and pay higher prices for the work that goes into organic cocoa production.

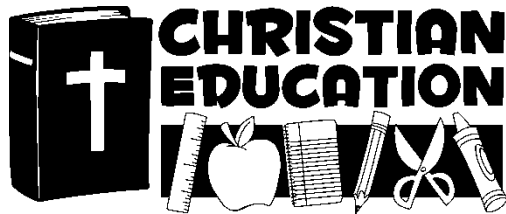
Additionally, the advance credit our partners receive helps them weather the ups and downs of the market, improve their farming practices, and plan for their families' futures.

Chocolate shouldn't be cheap. It should be fairly produced, and delicious!
(Adapted from the Equal Exchange Website)

As always.....thank you for your continued support of this important mission!

Questions/suggestions are always welcome!

Fair Trade Coordinators:
Jackie Hull 608-576-7837
Karelyn Hopkins 608-577-3185



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION

Our Children's Sunday School program meets Sundays at 9:00am until 9:50am in Fellowship Hall.

Our Confirmation class, made up of eighth and ninth graders, meets Sundays at 9:00am until 9:30am in Pastor Paul's office.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

WIUMCamps is pleased to announce that Summer Camp 2024 is open for registration! Summer camp can be a powerful place...our youth and families develop life-long friends, enjoy outdoor adventures, all while having time to reflect, renew and find their true identity in Christ.

Invite a friend. Our camps are open to all. Register online at www.WIUMCamps.org. Also Monona UMC provides a camp scholarship for families. There are also additional scholarships available through the Camping office.

ADULT EDUCATION

There will be no Adult Sunday school for the time being. Siv Goulding is taking a much needed break from teaching. If you would like to organize a class, please contact the church office.

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: **April 13 and 20.**

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.

THE CROSSING'S ANNUAL GALA

You are invited to The Crossing's Annual Gala on **Friday, April 19!** We are excited to announce a guest performance by The *Hannah Jon Taylor Artet* of Cafe CODA - Madison at this year's event, along with guest speaker Reverend Jen Bloesch, student speakers, a fun food truck dinner, and more!

For more information about this event or to purchase tickets, you can visit www.TheCrossingUW.org/GALA, or e-mail our Administrator, Andi, at office@crossingministries.org.

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 checking account. To make donating easier, use our QR Code.



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:

- *Tuna Helper & tuna
- *Low-sugar cereals
- *Low-sodium canned vegetables
- *No sugar-added canned fruit
- *100% juice products, Pasta, Rice
- *Personal hygiene items, including disposable diapers all sizes, (including adult sizes)

MOTHER EARTH & HO CHUNK... REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2024

*We return thanks to our mother,
the earth, which sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams
which supply us with water.
We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines
for the cure of our diseases.
We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters,
the beans and squashes, which give us life.
We return thanks to the bushes and trees,
which provide us with fruit.
We return thanks to the wind,
which, moving the air, has banished diseases.
We return thanks to the moon and the stars,
which have given us their light when the sun was gone.
We return thanks to our grandfather He-no,
that he has protected his grandchildren from witches and reptiles,
and has given us his rain.
We return thanks to the sun,
that he has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.
Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit,
in whom is embodied all goodness,
and who directs all things for the good of his children.*



Iroquois Prayer

SOLAR PANELS UPDATE

The final electrical work was completed so we are one step closer to being solar powered! Thanks to all who helped with this project!

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Volunteers Needed in Dane County

Volunteers are needed to assist customers and operate the cash register at the Doc Rock Café located inside the Agrace Madison campus or make companionship visits to local Agrace hospice patients in patients' homes, nursing homes or assisted living centers.

Schedules are flexible, and free training is provided. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Agrace at (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer to apply online.

Grief Support Group Options

In April, Agrace is offering several professionally led, in-person and virtual (accessible with a tablet, computer, or smartphone) grief support options.

- **Bridges** meets April 3 and 17, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- **Bridges (virtual)** meets April 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., via Zoom.
- **Young Adult** meets April 11, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. There is no fee for these programs if a participant's family member was in hospice care in the past 12 months; fees for others can be lowered or waived, if needed. **Pre-registration is required for all groups.** For details, fees or to register, email griefsupport@agrace.org or call (608) 327-7110.

Agrace Adult Day Center

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.



FROM THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

As our social justice work moves forward in 2024, we are focusing on two themes in particular this year: Care of Creation and First Nation Peoples, especially in Madison and Monona.

We are coordinating two events in April that encompass these themes:

- At our Just Friday collaboration with St. Stephens Lutheran Church on **Friday, April 5**, we will host a discussion at our church of a TED talk by Mark Charles, a Navajo teacher, author and activist, who will give us insight into the meaning of the first three words in the Preamble to our Constitution, which are “We the People.”
- On **Sunday, April 21**, we will offer a special worship service which will incorporate these two themes together as we recognize both Earth Day and Native American Sunday, which is celebrated annually by the United Methodist Church. The Whitehorse family, who are members of the Ho Chunk nation and of our congregation, will present the message that morning.

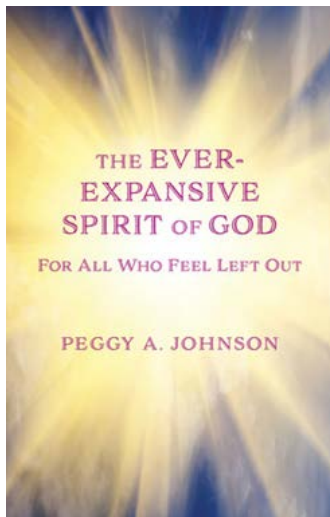
Rain garden update: Flowers from Plant Dane for the rain garden have been chosen and will be picked up on **Saturday, May 19** when we will begin planting the garden. Thanks to all for your generous donations. We also will be able to accept flowers from your gardens to fill in this space.

Over the summer and into the fall, we plan to share additional videos, have book discussions, and perhaps enjoy a trip to view nearby mounds and historical sites of the Ho-Chunk people as we continue examining the First Nation Peoples theme in greater depth. We hope you will look forward to the various opportunities we will have as a congregation to increase our understanding of this critical issue.

In early October, we will shift from our thematic focus in anticipation of the upcoming election and once again offer a presentation about the importance of voting, using the values of our United Methodist faith to guide us.

Please join us in 2024 for an eye-opening uncovering of our history and heritage as Christians and as Wisconsinites who care for all of God’s creation.

Church and Society Work Area



YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK DISCUSSION

Trinity UMC's book discussion group, "Where's the Faith," would like to invite all members and friends of Monona UMC to join us for a discussion of the book, "**The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out**," by Peggy Johnson.

Dr. Amanda Stein, South West District Superintendent of the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC, will lead the discussion. Dr. Stein was a first alternate DePagter to the Special General Conference of 2019 and has been a strong advocate for full inclusion of the LGBTQIA community into the life of the church, leading Trinity to become part of the Reconciling Ministry Network in 2007.

The program will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2024** at **11:00 am** in Fellowship Hall at **Trinity UMC, 1123 Vilas Avenue**. The hall is wheel-chair accessible. **Free** parking in church lot; please enter on the **west** side of the building. A light lunch will be provided afterward. Gluten-free options provided.

Please **RSVP** to Chris Wagner at cwagnerz@yahoo.com or 608-658-2272 by April 23rd if you can join us.

Description from back cover of book: **Perhaps sexual orientation and gender identity** are the most controversial of all the issues in family life today, and nowhere is it causing more tension and division than inside faith communities of all faiths and denominations. Into this fray comes Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to share her own remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry... Committed to complete transparency, Bishop Johnson tells of her call to become a bishop; her marriage of now forty-four years to her best friend and fellow ordained minister; their life together with their two adult children; and the "precious secret" that is revealed to her in 2010. Bishop Johnson... explores her deepest thoughts, fears, sorrows, triumphs, and mistakes. "The debates around same-gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and what it means to keep in a covenantal relationship with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions is at the center of this book," she says. "I engaged in many other ministries during my tenure as bishop, but I am laser-focused here on this one topic. It is a personal story, full of honest reflections on my journey as a Christian, a minister of the Gospel, and a leader in the church.

Copies of the book may be obtained from Acta Publications (order online at <https://actapublications.com/9780878467241>) or by calling Acta at 800-397-2282 for \$19.95 plus shipping or from Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Ever-Expansive-Spirit-God-Hope-Feel/dp/087946724X> (\$18.98) or order from your favorite local bookstore.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow February 29, 2024

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 23,132	\$ 48,958
General Operating Expenses	23,314	50,111
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (182)	\$ (1,153)

STEWARDSHIP NEWS - GENEROUS WORDS

Our world is becoming increasingly visual. That means it is important for our newsletters to adapt to help share the message of generosity effectively. Several times a year, rather than sharing a written story about generosity, I will share a video.

<https://vimeo.com/798817132>

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

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline April 21 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 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	2 11:00 Staff Mtg 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama - hall	3 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2-4pm Caregivr Support 5:30pm Girl Scouts	4	5 Pastor's Day Off 10am Game Day 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use Just Friday at MUMC 6:00pm Gather 6:30pm Program	6 Mark vacation thru April 10
7 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:45 Choir Rehearsal	8 11am Hilltoppers-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-9pm Paper Moon Drama set 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	9 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 2:30 Church & Society-hall	10 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1:30 Friendship Circle in the fellowship hall	11 1:00 Faith Circle	12 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room	13 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR - Fellowship Hall 9am Men's Breakfast Tully's II 10am-12pm El Libertador group
14 <u>See schedule below</u> Native American Ministr. Sunday 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 2pm Read 'Em & Meet	15 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	16 Pastor Paul in meeting all day 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	17 10-11:30am RSVP Knit/ Stitch-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30pm Girl Scouts	18 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board	19 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-4:30pm Girl Scout Troop-Hall	20 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR-Fellowship Hall 10am-12pm Girl Scouts 10am-12pm El Libertador group
21 <u>S21 schedule below</u> Newsletter Ddln Earth Day Service 8:45 Choir Rehearsal	22 8am-4pm CPR Instructors class-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	23 UMC General Conference thru May 3 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	24 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	25 5:30pm Community Meal-	26 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room	27
28 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11am VBS Planning Meeting	29 10am-2pm Monona Quilters-F.H 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	30 11:00 Staff Mtg				
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 Sunday School for children and Confirmation Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish						



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 608-222-1633

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

Kirstin - kirstinroblemezzo@gmail.com

Worship 10:00am

APRIL 2024

COMMUNITY - WIDE MEAL

Our next Community Meal is on **Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall

The menu will feature grilled chicken fillet sandwiches with a veggy burger option. We want to give our neighbors an opportunity to spend time together and get to know each other. We encourage our regular participants to attend. All are welcome.



Community Meal