



HILLTOP HERALD-AUGUST 2024 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS JULY 18, 2024

It was wonderful to welcome Pastor Yohan to our meeting this month. He is eager and excited to begin his new ministry with our congregation.

Updates:

- In the next month we anticipate installing a new taller and narrower work island in the kitchen.
- The tree limb that fell on our property is not a hazard and will be appropriately removed.

In Process:

We are gathering information on **audio visual** equipment that will allow us to livestream and to provide visual **support for our worship services**. Live services will be recorded, as well, for later access.

John Huston and Kirstin Roble will be working on developing a “new look” to our **media presence**. A strong media presence is a vital avenue to reach current members and to stimulate interest in our congregation by newcomers.

We continue to explore the streamlining of our church administration and ministry structures within the **Accountable Leadership Board framework**. This is a learning process for us all which will require on-going study and training. In this leadership model, ministry teams will function in collaboration with the pastor, and with the ALB, when needed. We believe that a misunderstanding of the role of ministry occurred as we began this new structure, and our ministry teams need to be revitalized. Part of the work ahead of us will be to re-establish our current (and future) ministry teams and clarify their roles.

At **upcoming table talks** during fellowship and through announcements, we will be presenting more information to the congregation about how we each can be involved to make our church more vital in our community. Our Break-through Prayer reminds us that we are seeking God’s leading into the new life that he has for our church.

Please talk with any of the members of the current ALB if you have suggestions or questions. God’s promises await us!

Accountable Leadership Board

Louise Belk, Kay Cowing, A. J. Feucht, Carol Jacobson, John Huston, Dorilee Kopp-Miller, Deb Munroe, LeeAnn Sinclair, Phyllis Stertz, Pastor Yohan Hong

PASTOR'S COLUMN

This is my first column for the Monona UMC newsletter. It has been four weeks since my family and I moved from North Alabama to Wisconsin. For the first two weeks, I felt overwhelmed by all the unpacking, cleaning, and organizing in my new home in Brooklyn.

Wisconsin is a different world. New landscapes, new surroundings, new people with different accents, different styles of food, and different cultures made me feel surreal. The back roads are filled with corn and beans, cows and horses. Welcome to America's Dairy State? Am I really in Wisconsin?

We decided to try some new things around our area. We went to the farmer's market Saturday morning and also tried the Wednesday music festival around the Capitol building in Madison. In the past two weeks, my family attended two retreats in Chicago (Mid-Western Korean Clergy Caucus Family Retreat) and at Pine Lake Retreat Center (new pastors' orientation to the Wisconsin Conference).

In Chicago, I met other Korean pastors and their families serving in Wisconsin and the Midwestern area. My daughter Esther was thrilled and super excited to hang out with other Korean youth because she had never had this kind of time before. It was so meaningful for her to embrace her ethnic identity and better understand who she is through this fellowship. At Pine Lake, the orientation for new pastors in Wisconsin was helpful for me to understand, learn, and prepare for my new ministry in the Wisconsin Conference. We also had a campus tour of the University of Wisconsin Madison and took a boat ride on Monona Lake because of someone's hospitality to my family. Monona Lake is beautiful, and the capitol building is phenomenal inside and out. The city of Madison is vibrant and diverse. The city of Monona looks clean and well organized.

As of July 24, I have had two Sunday worship services, one ALB meeting, two staff meetings, and several meetings with different people to get to know them better with pure love and curiosity. I began to hear the real stories of the people and learn about this church better. But I realize that I need to slow it down and be patient enough to allow people to walk at their own pace in the process to adjust to their new pastor. I need to learn how to walk alongside them and try one thing at a time without being overwhelmed or overwhelming others.

Someone's email awakened me to realize why God has sent me into this church, that is, to renew and revitalize God's people at His church. As a matter fact, God never sent me out to the church where I found relaxation and comfort. Instead, God always sent me to a church where people's hearts were broken, anxious, and troubled. Surprisingly, whenever I left the church after several years of serving, people told me that they didn't believe their church would be able to revive, but God did it through me.

I felt humbled and honored to hear that. I pray and hope that God will do the same thing or much greater things to Monona UMC while I am serving here. I will continue to dream of God-sized dreams for this church, and desire to love all of you with God-sized love. I don't want my life to be mediocre. Instead, I want my life to be on fire for God's glory and bear more fruits within me and in my ministry. My prayer is that I will always surrender to God, trust in God's promises no matter what happens, and find my security in God who lavishes in love and grace. Would you please pray for me, love me, invite me, and allow me to be a part of your life? Would you please walk and work together to make this great church greater? I can't wait to see what God has in store for me and for God's church. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Yohan

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Agape Ranch

Agape Ranch exists to encourage children to experience the healing power of God's love through animals, land and people. It is a 501 (c) (3) Nonprofit Organization. 100% of Donations go directly towards Agape Ranch. The founders are Leslie and Mark Johnson. You can find more information on their website: agaperanchwi.com

Vision Statement

Agape ranch exists to provide a safe and positive experience for children and families to learn about the hope of Jesus in an authentic rural environment. This is accomplished by inviting children to come just as they are. The leaders will work to pair kids with activities that will move them towards hope and personal growth. With the goal of relational investment in mind a variety of activities will be offered, including: caring for, working with and riding horses, interacting with other Ranch animals, gardening and crafts. These activities are designed to build intentional one-on-one relationships with each child.

Our Story

The foundation of Agape Ranch finds its roots in Leslie's deep love for horses. Leslie stayed connected to the horse world until she and Mark began their family. With Mark playing hockey for 11 years in the NHL and 2 years in Europe, they found themselves moving frequently. It was during these times that Leslie and Mark began to explore their understanding of God. While Mark was playing for the New Jersey Devils, one of his teammates shared about God and his love for us through Christ. Ironically, their foundation of faith was laid during their time with the Devils.

Leslie had experienced a lifetime of the amazing effects that horses can have on a soul, and this idea deeply resonated with her and Mark. They felt called to make a positive impact on young lives in their community through a similar approach.

Despite the doubting voices echoing concerns of age, finances, and qualifications, they are trusting that God is powerful and can do more than we can ask or imagine. In a world full of hurt and harm, they have been given the opportunity to create a place of hope and healing. They've initiated a Capital Campaign to fund the construction of the necessary barn and indoor facilities, setting the stage for the beginning of their ministry.

Our prayer is that we will be able to partner alongside others that believe in the mission of Agape Ranch through financial support and volunteering. Together we believe that with God's grace, we can truly make a transformative impact on the lives He guides to our ranch.

To support this mission, please mark your offering envelope or check, "Agape Ranch".

Thank you, The Mission Team

SCRIPTURE FOR AUGUST

Psalm 23:1-6 will be the scripture focus for August.



GAME DAY

Join us on **Friday, August 2** at 10am in Fellowship Hall for some fun and games. All are welcome.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONVOCATION

Saturday, August 3, 9am-3pm

Monroe WUMC, 2227 4th St, Monroe, 53566

There is so much to learn, share, and celebrate in our churches and the denomination and we invite you – lay, clergy, friend, or member to join in the celebration!

Speakers:

- Rev. Ran Yoo: Understanding Your Community with Contextualization Toolkit
- Rev. Jeffrey Meyer: Working with Your Church Membership Rolls
- Rev. Cathy Christman: Accountable Leadership Board – Is it for Us?

Please contact Pastor Yohan for more information. (pastor.yohan.hong@gmail.com)

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

AUGUST 5-7, 6-8pm

As we finalize our plans, we would love to see other 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.

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, August 10** at 9:00 am at Tully's II on corner of Monona Drive and Broadway. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be meeting on **Monday, August 12** at 11 AM in fellowship hall at the church. Please join us for awesome program by A.J. Feucht. A.J. will explain the history of our flag and the meanings behind flag protocols.

SEEDS OF PEACE BLOOD DRIVE

Lake Edge Lutheran Church (4032 Monona Drive, Madison, parking lot off Hegg St.) is holding a blood drive on **Tuesday, August 20** from 1-6pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to register (enter sponsor code: EastMadisonSofP). American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage Please support this critical need.

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 Yohan or Mark Buffat (608) 335-5063.

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website:

www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- We are changing our online worship experience so check our website or newsletter for more information as we figure it all out.
- We have a **Giving** tab on our website to make a donation with your credit card or through your checking account. To make donating easier, use our QR Code.



SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP



During the summer, 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

EXTRA PRODUCE TO SHARE?

When gardens start providing abundance in August, our gardeners have a tradition of bringing extra produce to share on Sunday mornings. We place our extra on the first table in the Fellowship Hall. All kinds of produce are welcome. Don't be shy about taking if you can use some.





UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

JAVA JIVE

HOW WE'RE ABLE TO SECURE CACAO DURING A GLOBAL SHORTAGE

Adapted from the Equal Exchange Website

You have probably seen recent news articles about the unprecedented situation currently happening in the cocoa market. Honestly, this is a situation where no one really knows how or when it will ultimately resolve but we thought we would share some of our thoughts about what is happening and what this means for our farmer partners and chocolate lovers like you.

Given this is the highest the commodity market has ever been for cocoa, we have never experienced such a situation, nor have our partners.

Just like corn, wheat, and soy, cocoa beans are bought and sold on the commodity market. It is subject to the free market swings of supply and demand.

Over 70% of the world's cocoa beans come from West Africa, mainly the Ivory Coast and Ghana, and their most recent main harvest was down significantly due to varying factors including disease and abnormal weather patterns exacerbated by climate change.

While this feels like an acutely current problem, one can argue the problem really stems from historically entrenched challenges in the conventional system such as low market prices and low farmgate prices paid to farmers, leading to a lack of resources and capacity to invest properly in farm maintenance and upkeep.

This situation is incredibly challenging for the farmer cooperatives who collect and sell the beans to the buyers. It can take months to get paid for their contracted beans while a farmer needs to be paid immediately upon selling their cocoa beans to their cooperative.

It's also a huge risk for cooperatives with the high prices combined with market volatility and the potential to be stocked with very high-priced beans when the market drops.

Farmers selling to their cooperatives are able to gain fair trade and organic premiums, but with the rising cacao prices, these premiums are proportionally no longer as significant. However, when the supply of beans is so low, there is increased competition among buyers who want to purchase beans from cooperative members. Due to the high market price, all buyers are paying very high prices.

There is a concern that farmers may sell to a middleman on the street who can pay them faster, conveniently pick up beans, and may not care about quality. The cooperatives are working hard to be able to pay as quickly as they can and reinforce the value the cooperatives provide beyond price, such as post-harvest processing, bean transportation, and community services like reinvestment in infrastructure, schools, and healthcare.

What does this mean for chocolate?

Because high bean prices affect all players in the global market, from aggregators, to exporters, manufacturers, and confectioners, costs are rising for everyone. Consumers will expect to pay more on the shelf for their favorite chocolates or cocoa products.

While a challenging situation, Equal Exchange remains well positioned due to our long-standing relationships with farmer partners and our manufacturing partners.

Despite this current situation, we will need to pass along higher prices to make sure we can continue to provide high-quality chocolate in a way that supports small-scale farmers and cooperatives facing unprecedented times.

Thank you ALL for your continuing support of this mission!!

Jackie Hull---EX coordinator
cell 608-576-7837

Karelyn Hopkins---EX coordinator
cell 608-577-3185

THANK YOU

Thank you for allowing the Harry Whitehorse International Wood Sculpture Festival to use your parking lot during the opening ceremony. We appreciate your sense of community and generosity.

Deb Whitehorse

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.



READ 'EM & MEET

The book club list for next year is in the Narthex information center. Please pick up a list and begin your reading. We will gather next on **Sunday, September 8** at 2:00pm with the book, *The Gown* by Jennifer Robson at the home of Jenny Kinsler. Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.

WEEDS IN THE PATIO

Thank you to all who have kept the weeds under control! All are welcome to stop by the church and pick some weeds that are growing in the sidewalk and patio cracks. Rest on the bench or gather with a few friends at the tables. Take a walk through the garden to see what's growing.

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. 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)

ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CPR, AED AND FIRST AID CLASSES

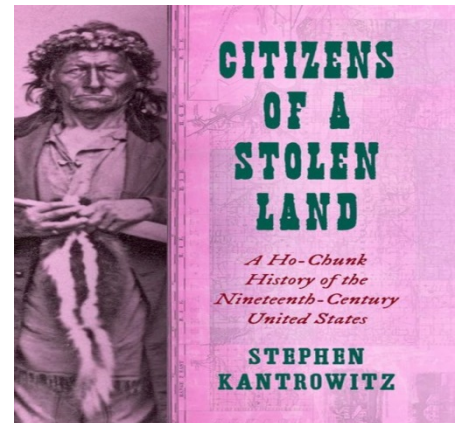
Monona UMC is hosting CPR, AED and First Aid classes and you are invited to attend a class for free. Please contact the church office if you are interested. There will be portion completed on your computer and an in-person portion. The dates included are: August 8 and 21.

SUMMER PATIO DISCUSSION: NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES

On Thursday, August 22 at 1:30pm, we will revisit chapters 1 and 3 of Stephen Kantrowitz's book "Citizens of a Stolen Land" which examines the history of Native Peoples, specifically the Ho-chunk tribe, in Wisconsin.

Dr. Kantrowitz, who spoke at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church last spring, has done in-depth research about the resourcefulness of the Ho-Chunk people as they attempted to retain their lands here.

Again, weather permitting, we will gather on the patio for this discussion, but if it is too hot or raining, we will meet in fellowship hall.



LeeAnn Sinclair, Church & Society



**IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING
ELECTION SEASON, ASK YOURSELF**

How would Jesus vote?

Does my faith inform my ballot/vote?

What kind of world do I want for my children?

How can I protect our planet?

Am I a good steward of creation?

Am I welcoming the stranger?

Am I an ally with the oppressed?


Do I use my voice for justice?

Do I stand against racism?

Information about a fall 2024 forum, "VOTING YOUR FAITH VALUES" coming soon.

Church & Society

OUR COMMITMENT AND JOURNEY TO CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

<p>For many years, our church has had an unwritten covenant to be a "green church" as a way to express our respect and reverence for God's creation and to preserve it. To help us establish this identity, we have put these opportunities into place:</p>			
<p>Hosted and led environmentally focused events for adults and children</p>	<p>Designed and led Peace with Justice and Earth Day worship services</p>	<p>Used china and silverware at social events rather than paper and plastic</p>	<p>Advocated for preparing/ eating plant-based meals, providing recipes</p>
<p>Written climate justice articles for our newsletter</p> <p>Explored the miracle of the water cycle, bringing life to all creatures great and small on God's green earth</p>			<p>Offered gardeners plots in a community garden</p> <p>Signed up for renewable energy with MG&E</p> <p>Installed LED lighting throughout the building</p>
<p>Outfitted our south side roof with solar panels, now able to share our unused renewable energy with MG&E</p>	<p>Planted a 60 x 10-foot rain garden to prevent flooding and reduce toxic run-off from our property</p>	<p>Established a food forest with help from the Wisconsin Food Forests Project in Madison</p>	<p>Highlighted how to appropriately recycle plastics, including water bottles</p>
<p>Guided by the United Methodist Social Principles, we have been establishing our identity as a church that has made a commitment to care for God's creation in what may be small, but are nevertheless determined, ways. We believe that small steps matter and can lead us to larger ones.</p> <p>One of our hopes is that the community of Monona will recognize our congregation's commitment to creation care, will celebrate these small steps with us, and may even join us in some of this work.</p> <p>Prior to elections, we advocate voting for candidates who share the Christian values that are important to us including care for Creation.</p>			
			<p>CH&SOC</p>



HELP NEEDED TO MAKE RICE MEALS

Saturday, September 7 join together with people from churches all over to make a difference on one special day of work!

We will be making Rice Meals for Midwest Mission Distribution Center. These meals are sent all over the world to provide a nutritious solution in times of great need. You can help with assembling these meals in an assembly line (There are some roles available for users of wheelchairs or who need to be seated, most jobs are standing). We want to get as many churches and individuals as possible involved, you will be welcomed, involved, learn about missions and make a difference!

Our goal is to make 3,000 bags in one day, for a total of 18,000 meals.

Three shifts available:

A: 9am-12pm; B: 12:15-1:45pm; C: 2-5 pm.

Ages 6 and up are welcome to serve (young children need to serve with an adult).

Hosted by Sugar River UMC, 415 W. Verona Ave., Verona WI

Co-sponsored by People’s UMC, Oregon, WI

Volunteering: We need 4-8 table leaders, and up to 48 people per shift, as well as help cleaning up at 5 pm.

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49ABAB23AB9-50296857-midwest> or scan the QR code below.

Funding: Each meal bag costs \$2. That means our goal is to raise \$6,000 for the project. We have already received generous donations to cover everything but the materials. We are asking you to do a special offering at your church, ask your missions committee for money, collect donations from friends, or bring a donation yourself. You can donate directly using the link, or bring checks/cash the day of the event. The more money we collect, the more meals we can build! Donation link: <https://onrealm.org/sugarriverumc/-/form/give/now>

You’re invited to bring snacks to share, coffee and juice will be provided.

If you have other questions, you can contact us at sradmin@sugarriverumc.org or 608-845-5855.

Volunteer Sign Up



Donation Link



\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow June 30, 2024

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 22,945	\$ 143,560
General Operating Expenses	23,849	154,706
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (904)	\$ (11,146)
General Fund Balance June 30 2024		<u>\$ 63,104</u>

STEWARDSHIP - "Empathy is on the Rise Among Young Americans"

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." ~Romans 12:15

A study led by the Lily Family School of Philanthropy finds that empathy is increasing among young Americans since 2008, almost rising to levels similar to the highs of the 1970s. Late Millennials and emerging Gen Zs are showing increases in empathy, as compared with earlier generations, countering negative stereotypes about today's youth.

This study, which is an updating of a similar study conducted in 2011, underscores that empathy is not predetermined; it is a fluid trait that can grow or shrink, depending on one's experiences.

Here are some key findings from the study:

- **Changes in empathy over time in young Americans move in cycles and can go up and down.** Both taking (cognitive empathy) and empathic concern (emotional empathy) increased between 2008 and 2018.
- **Economic variables don't play a major role in empathy changes in U.S. youth—either to promote or impair empathy.**
- **Changing interpersonal dynamics might play a larger role in these empathy fluctuations.** Empathy was higher during times of loneliness. The study's author noted that when young people see loneliness and other difficulties around them, they may reach out with care and empathy. It's also possible that their own experiences of loneliness may increase their hunger for social connection.

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

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline August 25 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the September newsletter. Remember, you can email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net						
				1 Mark gone thru August 4	2 10am Game Day 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	3
4 <u>See schedule below</u> 11:00 Worship/ Music Meeting 6:30-8:30pm Fellowship Hall in use	5 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 6-8pm Vacation Bible School at MUMC	6 11:00 Staff Mtg 6-8pm Vacation Bible School at MUMC	7 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2-4pm Caregivr Support 6-8pm Vacation Bible School at MUMC	8 Sabrina vacation thru August 12 2:15-6pm Revive CPR class-fellowship hall	9 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	10 9am Men's Grp Breakfast-Tully's II
11 <u>See schedule below</u> 6:30-8:30pm Fellowship Hall in use	12 Pastor's Day Off 11am Hilltoppers-Fellowship Hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	13 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	14 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	15 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board	16 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	17
18 <u>See schedule below</u> 6:30-8:30pm Fellowship Hall in use	19 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	20 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 1-6pm Blood Drive Lake Edge Lutheran	21 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2:15-6pm Revive CPR class-fellowship hall	22 1:30pm Citizens of a Stolen Land book discussion 5:30pm Community-Wide Picnic	23 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room	24 10:30am-3pm Fellowship Hall in use
25 <u>See schedule below</u> Newsletter Deadline	26 Pastor's Day Off 10am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	27 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	28 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	29	30 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	31

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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 Yohan Hong (pastor.yohan.hong@gmail.com)

Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com

Kirstin - kirstinroblemezzo@gmail.com

Worship 10:00am

AUGUST 2024



Community Meal

COMMUNITY - WIDE PICNIC

Our next Community Meal is on **Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m.** will celebrate the end of summer. The main menu will feature hot dogs, side dishes and root beer floats as well as delicious desserts. There will also be options for anyone with dietary preferences or restrictions. We encourage our regular participants to attend. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY PICNIC

If you are available to help with setup, serving or cleanup for our Community Meal, please call or text Frank Gaylord at 608-443-6361. Any time you can give us will be truly appreciated.