



HILLTOP HERALD-DECEMBER 2022

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT STUDY

Beginning on **Sunday, November 27 at 11:30am**, join Pastor Paul in a four week Advent Study using Adam Hamilton's new book, *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*. There are a couple extra books, so please join us. The book will cost \$14.

ADULT GAME DAY

Our next Game Day will be on **Friday, December 2**. Come as you are to rebuild connections and have some fun together playing some games.

The fun starts on at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games to share.

Kay Cowing

CHANGES TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

We are contemplating changing our Newsletter to a weekly Hilltop Herald. The kinks haven't been worked out yet so if you have suggestions or comments, please contact Kay in the office, secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net.

2022 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our yearly Church Conference meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 11** right after worship. Each year, every United Methodist Church holds a meeting to review their ministries (past and future), endorse ministry candidates, and set budgets. This is our annual meeting & all are invited to attend.

UMC GIVING TUESDAY

Give Love, Joy, Hope and Peace

United Methodists will come together to support vital ministry projects and missionaries around the world on #GivingTuesday, **Tuesday, November 29**, as they generously #GiveUMC. Giving through The UMCOR Advance empowers hundreds of dedicated project leaders and missionaries to share the love of Christ in meaningful, life-saving ways. As always, 100% of all giving will support the designated Advance ministry! Visit umcmmission.org/GiveLove to donate online and choose a ministry for your donation.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

There will be no morning Children's Sunday School on **December 18 and 25, and January 1**. Our regular class schedule will resume on **Sunday, January 8**.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

The Accountable Leadership Board

At our annual Church Conference on Sunday, December 11th, we will consider changing our church leadership model to an Accountable Leadership Board. This new model will combine our current Administrative Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees and Finance. Forty-two other United Methodist congregations in Wisconsin have adopted this model.

There are three primary reasons for this change.

1. **Efficiency:** The traditional administrative structure often results in repeating the same discussion multiple times. It often takes months before a decision is made.
2. **Using Limited Resources:** Here at Monona UMC financial, staffing, volunteer and other resources are limited. The Accountable Leadership Board needs the authority and responsibility to focus on these resources toward accomplishing the mission and vision of our congregation.
3. **Accountability:** Church administrative and program committees have the best intentions in making decisions to enhance the effectiveness of the church. However, churches often create many ministries that do not move the church towards intended results. The Accountable Leadership Board calls all aspects of the church ministry to focus on mission, vision, core values and strategic result-based goals.

The new Accountable Leadership Board model gives us an opportunity to be more responsive to our changing world. One benefit is that it allows a variety of ministry teams to engage in various projects and respond to new ideas quickly while continuing to care for the overall ministry of the church.

This is an exciting time for Monona UMC!

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

“The Spirit of the Lord” Isaiah 11:1-10

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.”

December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

“Isaiah’s Christmas List” Isaiah 35:1-10

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.”

December 18 – 4th Sunday of Advent

“Final Preparations” Isaiah 7:10-16

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

December 22 – Christmas Eve for Travelers

“Finally!” Isaiah 9:2-7

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.”

December 24 – Christmas Eve

“It’s Time” Luke 2: 1-7

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

December 25 – Christmas Morning

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

Christmas morning fellowship in our Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Paul will share a Christmas story.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Second Harvest Food Bank

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. Our work at Second Harvest brings food to our shared community. It is through partnerships and collaboration that we are able to meet the nutritional needs of our neighbors facing hunger. Additionally, as part of the food system, we are able to reduce waste by connecting with food-related businesses and farmers.

- **Food Acquisition and Storage**

Each year we acquire and store millions of pounds of food from a variety of sources including local and regional farmers, food manufacturers, and grocers which allows us to reduce food waste and provide nutritious food to our community. We have a commitment to sourcing as much nutritious food as we can.

- **Food Distribution**

Through our powerful network of over 300 partner agencies and programs, we distribute more than 20 million pounds of food throughout 16 southwestern Wisconsin counties every year.

- **FoodShare Outreach**

FoodShare is a federally funded program. Our team of FoodShare Outreach Specialists provides assistance to the community with applying for this benefit. FoodShare helps stretch your budget by depositing money on a debit-like card once per month to help buy groceries.

What can you do?

Please consider supporting Second Harvest Foodbank during this time of great need for many families by indicating “Second Harvest” on your check or online contribution.

Or reach out to the Volunteer Services Coordinator at volunteers@shfbmadison.org to volunteer! Together, we can end hunger.

Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Ring bells to raise money for the critical services of The Salvation Army. With many locations throughout Dane County, there is a location convenient to you.

Register for a shift (or many!) with your family, coworkers, friends, or by yourself. Donations go toward critical programs in Dane County, including emergency women and family shelter, housing programs, community meals, after school programming, and more. Sign up to ring at www.RegisterToRing.com.

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be meeting on **Monday, December 12** at Tully's II at 6401 Monona Dr. at 11:30 AM. We have a room reserved for our meeting.

The meeting will consist of attendees signing Christmas cards for the shut-ins for church members and others who may have been attending. We will not be doing the Christmas present exchange that we had been doing in past years.

Then we will have our holiday meal at noon. Time for fellowship and exchanging Christmas greetings and good wishes. The meeting is open to any that would like to attend.

The Hilltoppers group will not be meeting for the months of January, February and March due to possible winter storms affecting travel and slippery conditions for the senior attendees.

READ 'EM & MEET



The book club will meet on **Sunday, December 11** @ 1pm at the home of Jeanette Williams. There will be no book but you will read a play together. Please bring a dish to share. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.** Join this fun and lively group!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

We have 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>



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Faith Circle- Thursday, December 8 at 11am at Olive Garden-East for a Christmas lunch. Call Jan Wanek at 395-2433 with any questions.

Friendship Circle - Friday, December 16 at 11am at the home of Jeanette Williams.

JAVA JIVE

Ben & Jerry's

Adapted from the Equal Exchange Website.

Ben & Jerry's supports Fair Trade because it is a worldwide movement working to ensure that small-scale farmers in developing nations can make it in the ultra-competitive global marketplace.

We source Fair trade-certified ingredients like chocolate, coffee, bananas, sugar and vanilla.

In 2017 alone Ben & Jerry's paid \$3.4 million in Fair trade Premium to small-scale farmers around the world.

We also source Fair trade sugar from a variety of small-scale farmers, including those in the Belize Sugar Farmers' Association. In Belize, up to 85% of the population in some rural parts depend on the sugar industry, making Fair trade Premium investment projects so important. For example, newly implemented alternative pest management practices helped save the Association's sugar crop, while drastically reducing the need for harmful pesticides.

And we also source from cocoa growers in Côte d'Ivoire, which produces about 40% of the world's cocoa. With the \$1.5 million in premiums, cocoa growers have installed solar panels, built a new medical clinic, and invested in rural schools and scholarships for children.

Though most of the world's vanilla is grown in Madagascar, many farmers there are struggling to make a living. When farms fail, communities often follow. Sustainable Fair trade prices help end this cycle. In 2017, they paid \$22,000 in Fair trade Premium, that's on top of the Minimum Price that they pay. The co-ops decided to spend this money rehabilitating a health center, repairing a school and building an office.

Since 2010, Ben & Jerry's has sourced over 300,000 pounds of coffee from Mexico. Coffee Fairtrade Premium funds have benefitted more than 1,400 farmers and their families through the construction of a medical center, libraries, schools and the production of 400 tons of compost!

Fair trade is about making sure people get their fair share of the pie. The whole concept of Fair trade goes to the heart of our values and the sense of right and wrong. Nobody wants to buy something that was made by exploiting somebody else.

Jerry Greenfield, Ben & Jerry's Co-Founder

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of Fair Trade products!!!
Any ideas for changes or improvements are always welcome!!

EX/Fair Trade coordinators

Jackie Hull C 608-576-7837

Karelyn Hopkins. C 607-577-3185

HILLTOPPER MEETING REPORT

Our speaker for the November 14 meeting was Melanie Askay from the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change

Dane County is a special place. We are home to numerous innovative biotech companies as well as hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails on 12,000 acres of public land. Although our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are significant, we know we can eliminate those emissions. After all, in addition to 500,000 people and 55,000 cows, we have a world-class university, hundreds of thousands of people who are concerned about climate change, and Dane County's leadership that is committed to meaningful action on climate change.

When we reduce our emissions we create opportunities for a stronger, more prosperous Dane County. By reducing waste and embracing clean energy we can:

- Increase the County's commitment to **equity and justice**
- Deliver **economic benefits** to all parties
- Improve **health and wellness** of all residents
- Increase our ability to **adapt and be resilient** to a changing climate
- **Bridge the rural and urban divide**, creating solutions that work for everyone in the county
- Enhance our natural environments, delivering **ecosystem benefits**

Seventy percent of emissions in Dane County come from transportation and housing. They want to increase the use of clean energy. They also want to see more forestation, meaning planting more trees and making canopies which will grow into large trees which help provide cooling.

Dane Co. hopes to have their facilities carbon-neutral by 2030. That means they reduce carbon emissions to the same amount as is being created from other sources.

For the individual who can install solar panels on their home or other buildings, the average payback is 10 to 15 years. This means that the energy dollar savings they see will, in 10-15 years, be large enough that it will pay for the cost of purchasing and installing the solar panels.

COVID PROCEDURES

Our COVID Task Force continues to encourage the wearing of masks inside our building, though masks are longer required. We are worshipping in our sanctuary and will continue social distancing. If we are at a higher risk for getting seriously ill from COVID, the CDC recommends that we continue to wear a high-quality mask while indoors in a public place. Our virtual worship service is available as well. 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.

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- We have the recorded sermon 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.

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

We will try to do our best to find any donations that have been postmarked by December 31, 2022 and to credit them to 2022. If you receive your end of the year statement from the church, and believe a particular donation should be for 2022, which wasn't included in that statement, we will be happy to give you an amended statement. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

EASY AUTOMATIC GIVING

Make giving to the church very easy and save the church some time. The automatic transfers are completely safe and secure, and cost you nothing. You control the amount and frequency of the withdrawals, and can cancel any time you like. Transfers done electronically, along with any additional donations you make, will be listed on your normal periodic statement from the church. Just fill out the form that is in the church office.

For those who already have automatic giving and want to change for the new 2023 pledge amount, just fill out a new form. On the form, check the box "Change Donation Amount", put your name, the new amount, the date of the first donation, and finally sign and date the form. For questions or other information, please call the church office at 608-222-1633.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Monona UMC is a Stephen Ministry church. You can find out more by calling Mark Buffat or Pastor Paul.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River is currently getting most of the eggs already in cartons and only need egg cartons on a limited basis. Monona UMC is still collecting all sizes, as we still have a few alternatives 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:

- 100% juice products
- low sugar cereals
- Tuna Helper and tuna
- disposable diapers all sizes, (including adult sizes)

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD

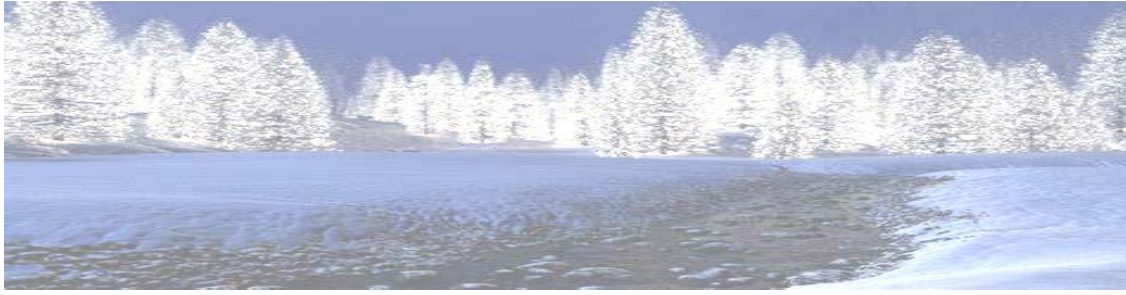
The American Red Cross has its Annual Holiday Blood Drive on **Friday, December 23** from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm. It will be held in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center. Call for an appointment @ 1-800-RED-CROSS or signup online www.redcrossblood.org.



**American
Red Cross**

A Christmas Prayer

By Ilia Delio, OSF. December 20, 2021. christogenesis.org/a-Christmas-prayer/



O God, during this Christmas season, help us see Your light
– radiating in the tiniest grain of sand, in the fungi that grows beneath our feet,
in the wildflowers and trees, – and in every living creature.

For You are love, and love is the energy that ignites and enkindles.
To live in Your love is to realize that darkness is simply differing
– degrees of light, and light pervades our universe!

Dispel our fears, O God, and awaken the hope that lies within us,
for justice, for peace, for unity, for a sustainable earth, knowing that with You,
all things are possible, and that living in You all fear surrenders to joy.

As we celebrate Your birth, O God, – help us to know that it is our birth as well.
Help us to know that without us, you have no place to dwell, to call ‘home.’
Without us, You cannot come to birth,
and if You cannot be born in us, then what do we live for?

Help us to see that, like You, we are undergoing the pangs of new birth,
– like You, we are not finished.
Our work together, You and I, O God, is to become whole and complete,
You in me and I in You.

Christmas is the feast of the whole person,
– the whole creation, – the whole cosmos, celebrating the wonder of new birth.
The universe is Theotokos, – God-bearing.
Everything alive is seeking You, – longing for You.

Christmas is the celebration of love:
In love with love and through love,
You and me and all fragile creatures – are being born
– into a new future together, a new reality.
This new reality is the Christ; the humanity of Jesus is our humanity.

Awaken in me the truth of Christmas: You and I are bound together in love.
Together, You and I and all creation, we are the Christ;
and only through us can your dream for the earth be realized.
Joy to the future fullness of love!

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow
October 31, 2022

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 19,741	\$ 211,634
General Operating Expenses	22,419	224,928
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (2,678)	\$ (13,294)

STEWARDSHIP - GIVING BREAKS THE TEMPTATION OF GREED

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind.”

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7a)

Are you 70-1/2 or older?

Or do you know someone 70-1/2 or older?

If you are, what ministries are you most passionate about?

Don't pass up the chance to make a special gift this year!

Don and Sandi always wanted to see a youth minister in place at their church. When they learned they could make a distribution directly to their church from their Traditional IRA to provide the seed money to start this ministry, they decided to tithe their IRA. A few other members of their church joined them in this effort, and now the youth ministry position is funded for the next five years.

The IRA Rollover is a special giving option that is only available to persons 70-1/2 and older. Call your IRA administrator today and request to have your Required Minimum Distribution for 2022 (or a gift of your choice up to a maximum of \$100,000) sent directly to your local church (or other charity). This gift will benefit the ministry you have designated and will NOT be included in your gross income for tax purposes.

What types of IRAs qualify? Only Traditional and Roth IRAs qualify.

Where can I make Qualified Charitable Distributions from my IRA? Only to qualified public charities. All United Methodist Churches and United Methodist Ministries are qualified public charities: UMCOR, any of our Health and Welfare Ministries, UM Camps, or Advance Specials. You may make an outright gift or make a gift that establishes a permanent endowment fund. Ask the church office for a sample letter.

For more information contact us at:

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
750 Windsor Street #305
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-0620
888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

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

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3-5:30 Paper Mn 5:30-8:30pm Middle School Paper Moon Drama Sanctuary	2 Pastor's Day Off 10:00am Game Day-Fellowship Hall 3-5:30 Paper Mn 5:30-9pm Middle School Paper Moon Drama Sanctuary	3 9:30-11:30 Girl Scouts 12-5pm Middle School Paper Moon Drama Sanctuary
4 <u>See schedule below</u> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:15 SPRC 11:30 Advent Study	5 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	6 1:00 Staff Meeting	7 2-4pm Caregvr support group 3-9pm Paper Moon & Set prep	8 11am Faith Circle at Olive Garden East	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 9am Men's Group Breakfast- Denny's
11 <u>See schedule below</u> 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11am Church Conference 11:30 Advent Study 1 Read / Meet	12 11:30am Hilltoppers at Tully's II 5-7 pm Girl Scouts	13 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg	14	15	16 Pastor's Day Off 11am Friendship Cr-at Jeanette's 3-4:30 Girl Scout Troop	17
18 <u>See schedule below</u> 4th Sunday of Advent No kids Sunday school 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Advent Study	19	20 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 1:00 Staff Mtg	21 10-11 RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 6:30 St Stephen's Lutheran Longest Night Worship	22 5pm Christmas Eve-Travelers Worship	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 Christmas Eve 7pm Worship
25 <u>See schedule below</u> Christmas Day 10am Casual Worship No Sunday School	26 Office Closed	27 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 1:00 Staff Meeting	28	29	30 Pastor's Day Off	

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Sunday School for children
 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 (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

DECEMBER 2022



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 22, 5:00pm Christmas Eve for Travelers will be our traditional candlelight service two days early. This is designed for our members and friends who want to worship at Monona United Methodist Church but will be gone or not will available on Christmas Eve. Paul and Sarah Johnsen's grand-nephew will be baptized.

December 24, 7:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service with the Adult Choir

December 25, 10:00am Christmas Morning, a Christmas Story and Fellowship in our Fellowship Hall.