



HILLTOP HERALD-FEBRUARY 2024 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADULT GAME DAY

Game Day is set for **Friday, February 2**, from 10 a.m. to noon. We play fun games and share lots of laughs. Good food for the soul! All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite game or just come and enjoy. Games for any number of players are great. It's very informal so come as you are.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL MUSIC

Shirley Robinson will direct a multi-generational choir who will provide special music on **Sunday, February 18**. Practice will be held at 9:15am that Sunday. Children and adults, as well as members and non-members, are welcome to join the group.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 11:30am

We are studying ***Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*** by Rachel Held Evans.

*If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author **Rachel Held Evans** found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too.*

We meet in the church library or the Wesley Room, depending on the number of people who attend the class. We **buy our own books**. There are plenty of low cost used books available on the market. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** *Siv Goulding*

JUST FRIDAY PRESENTATION

Friday, February 2, 6:00 p.m. (snacks), 6:30pm presentation in Agape Room at St Stephen's Lutheran Church (5700 Pheasant Hill Rd.)

Stephen Kantrowitz is Plaenert-Bascom and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of History at UW Madison. His presentation is titled: "Citizens of a Stolen Land — a Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States."

This history of Ho-Chunk sovereignty and citizenship offers a bracing new perspective on citizenship's perils and promises, the way the broader nineteenth century conflict between "free soil" and slaveholding expansion shaped Indigenous life, and the continuing impact of Native people's struggles and claims on U.S. politics and society. Don't miss it!

PASTOR'S COLUMN

When I publicly announced my decision to retire in June, Bishop Jung, our District Superintendent, Amanda Stein and the Wisconsin Cabinet began the process of identifying your next pastor.

Every bishop and cabinet do this differently. Generally, they acknowledge all of the “open congregations”—those in need a pastor. Then they make a list of all pastors who are available to serve those congregations. This list includes pastors serving other congregations, those in ministries beyond the local church, those graduating from seminary, other credentialed candidates and those transferring from other annual conferences or from other denominations.

This year there may be an ample supply of transfer pastors available. Many annual conferences—especially in the south—were hit hard by disaffiliations. There may be United Methodist pastors willing to move away from their home conference. A team from Wisconsin has been given the task of recruiting these individuals to come to Wisconsin Conference. Consider this our United Methodist version of the college sports transfer portal!

I have been part of this appointment process for forty years. I have been amazed by how the Holy Spirit guides the appointment of pastors. I know that when the bishop, district superintendent and local congregation work together there are good results most of the time. I am confident that Monona will get a talented pastor to serve this congregation.

Please pray for Bishop Jung, Amanda Stein and our Accountable Leadership Board in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Pastor Paul

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

February 4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – Communion Sunday

“Prayer” Mark 1:29-39

February 11 Transfiguration Sunday

“A Mountain-Top Experience” Mark 2:2-9

February 14 Ash Wednesday

12:00 Noon Worship Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18 First Sunday in Lent

“Temptation” Mark 1:9-15

February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

“Taking Up the Cross” Mark 8:27-38



Join Us for
WORSHIP



LENT 2024

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days, not counting Sundays. Lent is an annual observance as we follow Jesus' journey to the Cross. During these days, we are encouraged to sacrifice and pay attention to our faith.

Please join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service** and the imposition of ashes at 12:00 PM on **Wednesday, February 14.**

May God give to us a meaningful Lent!

MISSION OF THE MONTH - RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River Food Pantry is South Central Wisconsin's busiest food pantry. Services include free groceries and freshly prepared meals for pickup or delivery, online grocery orders, mobile meals, and emergency food lockers. The River also redistributes rescued food and resources to local partners to increase access while minimizing waste. Since 2006, The River has grown to serve over 2,500 people every week in pursuit of its vision: *a fully nourished community.*

In 2023, The River served 17,100 people in 7,167 households, with 2,531 new families who registered for the first time. Approximately 34% of those served by The River are children and 8% are seniors.

Monona UMC is still collecting egg cartons of all sizes and we have various places to take them. We especially thank Tim Eberle for dropping off collected items to the River.

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 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)

Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team

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.

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>

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

HILLTOPPERS

We will not be meeting during the months of January, February and March due to the potential of inclement weather.

Elgin is planning on stepping down as leader due to age and some other ailments so volunteers are needed to carry on this group. He is also treasurer so will be looking for someone to do that job also.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Funds collected will be sent directly to our local food pantry (St. Stephen's). Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on **Sunday, February 11**. Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday.

SEEDS OF PEACE BLOOD DRIVE

Please mark your calendars for a local blood drive to be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (4011 Major Ave, Madison) on **Tuesday, February 6** from 1-5:30pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to register.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

No Friendship Circle gathering in **February**.

Faith Circle – will meet **Thursday, February 8** at 1pm at the home of Shirley Robinson (5202 Winnequah Rd.). Read Chapter 4 in our study book. Call Jan at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

UMW BAKE SALE

The United Methodist Women are hosting a Bake Sale on **Sunday February 11**. All church members are welcome to provide baked goods for the sale. Proceeds will be donated to the River Food Pantry, our February Mission of the Month. Please bring in items Sunday morning packaged for sale, identifying ingredients, like nuts.

JAVA JIVE

Impacting Climate Change with Equal Exchange Products

Our congregation supports Equal Exchange for many important reasons, including its focus on sustainable, organic agriculture. When we purchase Equal Exchange fairly traded food products, we're assisting producers in co-ops who use regenerative, organic agricultural methods. Their crops are free of fossil fuel-based fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides, which pollute the environment and expose the farmers themselves to toxic chemicals. Rather than clearing fields and forcing crop exposure to full sun, co-op farmers plant assorted trees on their plots using a method called "shade-grown" farming.

These biodiverse areas encourage native bird, amphibian, fish, and insect populations to thrive. As a result, their coffee, tea, and cacao trees are stronger and more resistant to disease and pests. The co-ops use techniques such as natural composting and mulching to conserve water and keep it cleaner. These combined agricultural practices assist producers in helping the environment rather than harming it.

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned U.S.-based cooperative of about 100 employees which sources organically grown coffee, cacao, tea, nuts, fruit, and other products from over 40 farmer cooperatives in 20 countries. An important component of its fair trade model is supporting sustainable agricultural methods which help to work against climate change.

As always, thank you for your continued support! It means everything to so many families around the world!!

Fair Trade Mission Coordinators:

Jackie Hull 608-576-7837

Karelyn Hopkins 608-577-3185

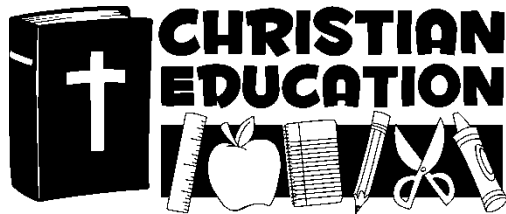
Questions, thoughts, ideas are always welcome!

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO

--Marilyn Rowin and her family, upon the death of her son, Steven, on December 23.

--The family and friends of Evie Ellefson, who passed away December 25.

--Judy & Dave Pierce and their family, upon the death of Judy's brother, Jim Howery



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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Czerepinski Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior of a local high school who is a member of Monona UMC. The Price scholarship gives preference to graduating seniors and members of Monona UMC, although others continuing their education may be considered. All applicants will be evaluated on the basis of academics (40%), community service (20%), service to the church (20%) and moral character (20%). The awards are to help with tuition, books and supplies.

The Czerepinski fund was established by the estate of Henry Czerepinski, a member of this congregation. The Price endowed scholarship was established by long-time members, Alton and Roma Price.

Applications, with instructions, can be picked up at the church office or emailed to you. The applications are due back in the church office by **Sunday, March 31**.

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club canceled their January gathering and will next meet on **Sunday, February 11** at 2pm to discuss both the January book and the February Book at the home of Jan Zadra, *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are in the process of creating a new in-house church directory with phone/ address listing. Please make sure your family information is updated with the church office.

Please sign up if you would like the printed version of the directory. There is a sheet on the table in fellowship hall. We will send the access to the online version to your email addresses.



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, speak with Pastor Paul or Mark Buffat (608) 335-5063.

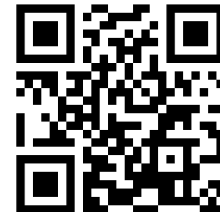
ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP BOARD WORKSHOP

Monona UMC's Accountable Leadership Board has been invited to attend a workshop called **Rejuvenate the Nominations Process** on **March 9 or 16**. The speaker is Rev. Chris Snyder of the Missouri Annual Conference, who has done some exciting work in the area of nominations/leadership development in the last couple of years. Please pray for our team as they work for our congregation.

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.



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 next dates include February 3, 10 and 24.**

FINANCIAL ADVISOR OFFERS HELP

As we begin a new year, we have an opportunity to review what is important to us. I know that many of you have your own financial advisors and investment strategies. But for those of you who have concerns about your investments or simply would like a second opinion, I have an option for you.

Mel Miller, who attends worship here, is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a retired investment banker. He has a long track record of helping individuals and families. Mel is offering his services to members of this congregation, free of charge. He is not interested in selling anything or recruiting new clients. He simply wants to help.

Changes in life can happen quickly and sometimes we find ourselves uncertain about our financial future. Mel Miller is willing to offer his guidance.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please talk with Pastor Paul or call the church office.

THANKS FOR MISSION OFFERINGS DURING 2023

SPECIAL UNITED METHODIST OFFERINGS:

Human Relations Day	\$ 70
UMCOR Sunday	440
Native American Sunday	25
UM Student Day	85
Peace with Justice Sunday	200

MISSION OF THE MONTH GIVING:

St Vincent dePaul Recycle the Warmth	375
UMCOR-Ukraine	1,530
Human Welfare Fund	1,170
Habitat for Humanity	195
Annual Conference Ingathering	515
Second Harvest	565
Ronald McDonald House	615
Babies & Beyond	695
The Crossing	515
Goodman Center-household/personal	1,275
Giving Tree	730
NAMI	838

OTHER MISSION GIVING:

UMCOR-US Disaster: floods/tornado/fire	1,895
UMCOR-Turkey/Syria	50
Souper Bowl-Food Pantry	200
Monona Fire Relief	980
Clean Lakes Alliance	237
River Food Pantry	100
UMCOR-undesignated	100
Backpack Meals	1,380
Road Home	100

...FOR THE LOVE OF COD'S CREATION...
try this vegetarian recipe



AFRICAN SWEET POTATO STEW WITH RED BEANS

From the MUMC 2010 cookbook by Joyce Morrison

<p>2 tsp. olive oil 1 ½ c. chopped onion 1 garlic clove minced 4 c. peeled & cubed sweet potato (about 2 sweet potatoes) 1 ½ c. cooked small red beans (14 oz. can) 1 ½ c. vegetable broth 1 c. chopped red bell pepper ½ c. water 2 tsp. peeled & grated fresh ginger</p>	<p>½ tsp. salt, optional 1 tsp. ground cumin ¼ to ½ tsp. black pepper 1 – 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes, drained 1 – 4.5 oz. can chopped green chilies, drained 3 T. creamy peanut butter 3 T. chopped dry roasted peanuts 6 lime wedges (brightens flavor, do not omit)</p>
<p>Heat oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion and garlic, cover and cook 5 minutes or until tender. Place onion mixture in a 5 quart slow cooker. Add sweet potatoes and next 10 ingredients, through chilies. Cover and cook on low 8 hours or until vegetables are tender. Spoon 1 cup of cooking liquid into a small bowl. Add peanut butter and stir well with whisk. Stir peanut butter mixture into stew. Top with peanuts and serve with lime wedges. 6 servings (serving size 1 1/3 cup of stew, 1 1/3 tsp. peanuts and 1 lime wedge.)</p>	

REMEMBER

Mother Earth Meals are nourishing plant-based dishes with reduced amounts of meat or dairy products. Cutting down animal products in our diet could free up land space currently used for growing cattle feed, reduce demand for fresh water for animals and feed crops, and diminish the release of methane, a serious greenhouse gas, a byproduct from farm animals' digestive systems.

Siv Goulding, Church & Society

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow December 31, 2023

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 30,392	\$ 281,978
General Operating Expenses	21,106	275,662
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 9,286	\$ 6,316

STEWARDSHIP - PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Believe it or not, even though Christmas feels like it is just behind us, Lent is about to begin (Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year). In the church, Lent is a period of 40 days (not including Sundays) during which we re-examine our lives and our faith practices as we prepare for the coming of Easter. The practice of re-examination and recommitment dates to the very beginning of the church as new members prepared to be baptized on Easter Sunday. We may ask ourselves, however, **why is the observation of Lent important to us today?**

The reality of the situation is, if we don't take the time to re-examine what's important to us and practice the basics of faith, we run the risk of forgetting who we are, where we've come from, and what God has done in our lives. Every professional sports team gathers before the season begins and focuses on many of the things the players have done since they were small children. In baseball, they field ground balls (and coincidentally, Spring Training also begins on February 14 for many teams this year). In football, they go over tackling and blocking. In basketball they dribble and pass. These are adults who are the best players in the world, and yet their coaches start them off at the very beginning every year. Only the teams who've mastered the basics have a chance of contending for a championship.

As Lent approaches let's be encouraged to get back to the basics of faith. Come to worship regularly. Take time to become a part of a study group to grow in your faith together. Pray daily. Give generously both your time and your money. The basics aren't just for the young or inexperienced in faith. They are for everyone — from the youngest child to the champions of faith who've been an inspiration to us. Let's take time to refocus on the basics as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus.

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

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline February 25 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the March newsletter. Remember, you can email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net				1	2 Pastor's Day Off 10am Game Day 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 6:30 Just Friday at St Stephen's	3 9am-3pm Revive CPR class- Fellowship Hall
4 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School	5 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-9pm Paper Moon Drama & Set night 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	6 11:00 Staff Mtg 1-5:30pm Blood Drive at St Luke's Episcopal	7 Kay Vacation 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2-4pm Caregvr support 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama 5:30pm Girl Scouts	8 1:00 Faith Circle at Shirley's	9 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 8:30-3pm CPR Instructors class-hall 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room	10 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- Fellowship Hall 9am Men's Grp Breakfast-Denny's
11 <u>See schedule below</u> Souper Bowl Collection UMW Bake Sale 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School 2 Read / Meet	12 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	13 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 2:30 Church & Society-hall	14 Ash Wednesday 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 12pm Worship 3-5:30pm Paper Moon Drama	15 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board	16 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-4:30 Girl Scout Troop-Hall	17 10am-12pm Girl Scouts-F.H.
18 <u>See schedule below</u> 9:15 Multi-Generational Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School	19 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	20 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	21 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	22	23 Pastor's Day Off 8:30-3pm CPR Instructors class-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room	24 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- Fellowship Hall
25 Newsletter Deadline 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School	26 10:30am-3pm Monona Quilters-F.H 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	27 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	28 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	29 5:30pm Community Meal- fellowship hall		
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

FEBRUARY 2024

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers on the altar Easter Sunday add to the beauty of the day. We have a variety of flowers available for you to purchase. You may take your plant home after the worship service on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Please return this form with a check for your total flowers ordered to the church office by **Sunday, February 18. Due to the short time frame, please email the office (secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net) with your purchase information so we can place your order.** If you have questions call the church office (608-222-1633).

Lilies \$20.00ea

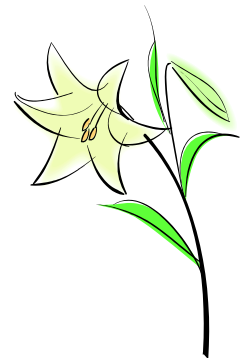
Azaleas \$50.00ea
 pink, purple, white

Mums/Daisy \$20.00ea
 yellow, white, lavender

Hydrangeas \$44.00ea
 pink, blue

Tulips \$16.00ea
 red, yellow, pink, white

Daffodils \$16.00ea



Donor _____

In Honor of _____

OR

In Memory of _____