



HILLTOP HERALD-JANUARY 2021

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL LIBERTADOR

WELCOME PASTOR LAURA

On behalf of the SPRC, It is our pleasure to introduce you to Interim Pastor Laura Crow. Pastor Laura will take over for Pastor Brad effective 1 January 2021. We provided our survey feedback and Pastor Laura was a great match for us. The SPRC had numerous conversations with District Superintendent Scott Carlson regarding our best path forward with an out of cycle pastoral change. Pastor Laura will be with us until this summer at which time we will be back into the traditional transition cycle that will provide us with more pastor options for a permanent placement. I am confident that Pastor Laura will be a great spiritual leader for MUMC during this period. We will do our best to make more personal introductions the safest way we can during these trying times. Please welcome Pastor Laura to the MUMC community!

Tune in to our worship service on January 3 when Pastor Laura will lead her first worship service at Monona UMC. The SPRC Team

NO IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

We will not be meeting for worship or group activities for the time being. The church office is open 9am – 2pm. Pastor Laura and Mark Buffat are available for pastoral care by phone. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you are in need of anything. We have **cloth face masks** available in the entryway to pick up if you are in need of one. If you would like me to mail you a mask, please let the church office know (608-222-1633, secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net).

PASTOR'S COLUMN

"These Interim Times"

Warm greetings to all! I am Laura Crow, your new interim pastor beginning January 1, 2021. I am writing this newsletter article on December 21, the Winter Solstice here in the Northern hemisphere, and the thought of days once again growing longer as we journey toward springtime brings me joy. I am not a fan of the cold darkness of winter, but I do appreciate how this restful time is necessary for the flourishing of life as we know it. And as a plant scientist for nearly 20 years, I know that dormancy is not at all as lifeless as it appears, but is a time of strategic and essential cellular activity. So, too, is this "in-between" time in the life of Monona UMC.

As a church, you are still saying goodbye to Pastor Brad. I, too, give thanks for his ministry here with you these last 6½ years, for the seeds he has planted, the Good News nurtured, and the faith that has blossomed. Change can be difficult, uncomfortable, and sometimes messy. There is a natural tendency to play it safe and keep everything the same. Over the next six months we will work together to push back against those tendencies, to open ourselves to the work of God's Spirit in our midst.

And this is work that you have already begun! I was thrilled to see the “Breakthrough Prayer” that you have been using. Praying these words of radical openness and purpose takes great faith. I commend you for the boldness of this action. It is a perfect segue for our work together.

The primary task of the interim time is to prepare the congregation to welcome a new settled pastor. It is an opportunity for the congregation to re-ground itself in the gospel story unbound by the personality, style, and traditions of the former pastor. It is a time to listen for where God is calling the church into this new chapter, to pay attention to growing edges and seeds that perhaps had lain dormant for some time but now are showing signs of awakening. It is not necessary to reinvent the church but to think strategically and look for fresh ways to articulate what is already present. It is a time to remember that we are **Christ’s** church, individually and collectively, and to reorient ourselves through prayer and discernment.

In this season, we strengthen the leadership infrastructure and systems for communication, decision making, and conflict management. It is time to plow up the ground under any behaviors or norms that might prevent a new pastor from entering well. We do the work of John the Baptist, making the crooked straight and the smoothing out the landscape to make a way forward together under new leadership.

This time together is a chance to experiment and to have a little fun pushing at the edges of what is possible in how we live out our calling as Christ’s resurrected body, the church, in our community and world. One of our first experiments will be how we create relationships with one another in a pandemic. As we have all seen, old rules and norms for hospitality that have served for so long no longer fit our current reality. However we are able to connect, I am very much looking forward to walking with you through this time of transition.

Pastor Laura

PASTOR LAURA'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: pastorlauramumc@gmail.com

Office phone: 608-222-1633

Cell phone: 608-616-2325

Do you have a committee or other church group meeting scheduled for January? Please add Pastor Laura to your meeting so she can meet everyone and learn about the life and ministry of MUMC.

Virtual Meet & Greet Sessions: During the month of January, Pastor Laura has designated **Tuesdays from 11:00am-12:00pm** for anyone to “drop in” for a Meet & Greet via Zoom. Stop by, say hello, ask a question, share a fun fact about yourself or your connection to MUMC, and help extend a warm welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367626235?pwd=b2orYWlacWk1eG8wSGlYWW83NEd6UT09>

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER...

Eternal Spirit, as the New Year opens before us, we ask that you use this interim time to break through our lives, our church, and our community with new ideas, new hope, and the future you desire for us. Break through anything that might hold us back and use each of us individually and together for unimagined new purposes. Amen.

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM ONLINE SERVICE

January 3 Matthew 2:1-12
“Epiphany”

January 10 Mark 1:4-11
“You Are My Beloved”

January 17 John 1:43-51
“Calling Disciples”

January 24 A special worship service from the WI Council of Churches celebrating the Week of Christian Unity

January 31 Mark 1:21-28
“Healing a Man with an Unclean Spirit”

NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

The Upper Room is a great little devotional book to center on a Bible verse and read a short meditation and prayer. The new January/February issue has arrived, and is in the entryway. Feel free to take one. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Sunday January 17

Your generous gift supports neighborhood outreach and advocacy through Community Developers and UM Voluntary Services, both related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and at-risk teens through Youth Offender Rehabilitation, General Board of Church & Society. This is one of the special offerings of the United Methodist Church. To support this offering, please write “Human Relations Day” on the memo line of your check.



Live Generously

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE
1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN “LIVE GENEROUSLY”

Thank you so much for your support of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. Our pledges so far have totaled \$186,000 or 75% of budgeted revenue. Your giving makes it possible for the ministries of Monona United Methodist Church to continue to be a light in our community and beyond. Please return your estimate of giving card as soon as possible. If you cannot

commit to a set amount for 2021, know that any gift that you can share with the church is much appreciated!

Your Stewardship Team



YARD SIGNS

We received our yard signs that say Together Online. You are welcome to purchase one for \$13 to display in your yard. Please contact the church office to reserve your sign.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAYS 11:30am

The next book study will start on **January 3** and will be *The Ten Commandments* by Michael Coogan.

This book looks at the origin of the Ten Commandments, what they meant at the time of the Old Testament, and what the actual wording of the Ten Commandments is in the Bible. Coogan wrote the book at least in part because he felt the Ten Commandments have been misrepresented on the monuments erected by conservative Christians.

This book is available from a variety of booksellers and in a variety of formats. If you are interested, please purchase your own book. Contact the church office to get on the Zoom reminder list.

MISSION OF THE MONTH *Monona UMC Human Welfare Fund*

“If one of your brethren becomes poor and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.” Leviticus 25:35

For some members of Monona UMC, the social distancing that is attempting to slow the spread of COVID-19 will seriously impact their incomes. Given the current economic hardships facing many persons and families in our area, your support of the Human Welfare Fund is helping your neighbors in need.

The MUMC Human Welfare Fund is a benevolent fund at our church that characterizes the true goodness of the mind and spirit, the unbiased kindness to do good. It is the expression of agape love (Greek word for unconditional love). MUMC has always been a church of compassion and love because of the gracious giving of its people

The Human Welfare Fund is one of the ways we minister to those in our church family. Anyone in need of using this fund should contact the office at 608-222-1633.

Please support this Mission. Mark and mail your check or increase your online giving indicating the "Human Welfare Fund".

Thank you for your generous support of this beneficial mission.

Be safe.
The Mission Team

MANY THANKS

Thank you so much, SPRC, for the Christmas gift card! Dianne

OUR WEBSITE

Check out our improving website: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

- Join us for virtual Worship services on Sunday mornings at 10am by clicking the link on the front page.
- We have a **Giving** tab on our website to make a donation with your credit card or through your checking account.

BOOKS IN THE ENTRY

We have some books from our library and previous Adult Sunday School classes that you are welcome to take, read and return. The UMW book shelf is also available to check out a book.

JAVA JIVE

Thank you all for all your purchases of Authentic Fair Trade Products for your Christmas gifts plus for your own use. Thank you for that extra effort to come to church to purchase. Small farmers so appreciate your efforts to keep up a market place for their products. They don't have a place at the table of big corporations.

Our WI Heritage Cheese is in stock now. Find it in the refrigerator in kitchen. These 10 small dairy farmers in the Appleton area couldn't exist on low milk price and compete with mega-corp. dairy farms, so they turned their high quality milk into artisan cheese. But they are a small coop business and struggled to access market and then found EEx to provide access to market and found that EEx clients wanted more of that good WI cheese than they could provide when starting up. Thanks for your patience. We wish the Wi Red Barn Co-op well.

There are food products we desire that we cannot purchase grown locally like coffee, tea, olive oil, chocolate, but when we buy with EEX small farmer coops "Globally" we buy "Locally." Maybe a little stretch but you get the idea!! Helpful to God's people and Creation too. Thankful The United Methodist General Conference voted to join with UMCOR in this Mission years ago.

We here at MUMC when we combine with many interdenominational congregations make a huge difference in small farmers' lives and the land .Thanks be to God.

Kay Mackie- a team coordinator of The UMW AFT Mission.

THANKS FOR THE EXTRA CARE

The family of Claire Robinson would like to thank our church family for all your thoughts, prayers, kind words, cards and memorial gifts at the time of his illness and death. A special thanks to Pastor Brad for his end-of-life words and prayers and for officiating our family backyard celebration of life.

GIVING TREE/WINTER WISHES THANKS

Wow! You helped make Christmas special for 165 children. Along with the Monona school communities, Monona UMC members and friends provided gifts and funds toward a special meal for 63 families in our community. Thank you so much for your generosity and flexibility after we changed this to an online activity.

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God every time I remember you. In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy . . . “

Philippians 3:1-4

To everyone at Monona United Methodist Church:

What an incredible privilege it has been for Lou Ann to be a member of this church and for me to be your pastor. It has been an immeasurable honor to have our lives intersect with yours in all the highs and lows of human experience, always surrounded by God's grace and hope. We have loved living in Monona, sharing the beauty of nature, the unique character of Madison, and being part of this vibrant and valued community. We have grown from our times of worship and spending time with all of you, always with a view to how, together, we could embody Christ's spirit as a community of Christian faith.

Thank you so much for the amazing and generous gifts that you gave us: the beautiful quilt that reflects all the Methodist Churches I have served, the matching pillows and tote bag, the memory book with pictures of and notes from many of our members and friends, the overflowing basket of fair trade products, the generous monetary gifts, and all the work that went into placing life-size pictures of parishioners in the pews to make it feel normal here again, despite the pandemic and our switch to virtual worship.

These last nine months I have also received the great gift of seeing people step up to meet the challenges of a global crisis. As the saying goes, “Our building may be closed, but the church is alive!” We have never stopped worshipping or meeting. And I have been truly inspired by how you have continued to look out for others and for one another during this pandemic year. I'd like to thank every member and attender of our church for your ongoing faithfulness and support. I want to thank every volunteer who has made masks, served on committees or positions of leadership, helped with worship, continued meetings over Zoom, and ministered to each other throughout this time. I want to thank everyone on the staff: Kay, Mark, Dianne, Linda, Kay and Clyde. I want to thank the children and young people of our congregation and their parents. I want to thank the relatively recent newcomers who have hung in there with us, and the long-time members whom we miss seeing every week. Together we have continued the important work of being Christ's people wherever God can use us.

Our hopes for this congregation can best be summed up in the prayer we have been praying for many weeks now: *As the waves break on the shores of our beautiful Madison lakes, so break through our lives, our church, and our community with new ideas, new hope, and the future you desire for us, O God. Break through anything that might hold us back and use each of us individually and together for unimagined new purposes.*

Thank you again. We will miss you greatly but will hold you close in our hearts and never forget our time here or the people that make MUMC such a rich, beloved community.

Brad and Lou Ann

END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

We will try to do our best to find any donations that have been postmarked by December 31, 2020 and to credit them to 2020. If you receive your end of the year statement from the church, and believe a particular donation should be for 2020, which wasn't included in that statement, we will be happy to give you an amended statement. Give Anna Skiles a call if that is the case (839-4251).

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 2021 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, call Barb Pearson at 271-2702 or Kay in the church office at 222-1633.

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 2** from 1-6pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to register.

JUST BAKERY

We can still enjoy the wonderful goodies from Just Bakery. Search for "Just Bakery" online to view their many products. You may call 608-598-0420 to place your order. Due to COVID-19 their store front is no longer open but their products are available for delivery in Dane County for a \$5.00 charge or you may pick up your order curbside on Saturdays (9:00 - 2:00) at 1708 Thierer Rd. Madison.

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

The River is currently accepting 18-count egg cartons until further notice. Also, The River is NOT accepting clothing or household items until further notice. If you have items to donate, please check with either Agrace or Boomerang. You are welcome to drop off egg cartons, paper bags, non-perishable food, or personal hygiene items at church daily from 9am until 2pm. You can put them in the entryway if you don't want to come all the way into the building. Tim Eberle said that you could drop items off at his home by his garage door.

AGRACE TRIFT STORES NEED VOLUNTEER CASHIERS

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

IN 2021 "LET'S TALK ABOUT RACISM"

In the spring of 2020, we were shocked and appalled by the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, which are representative of the deaths of too many other people of color before and since. The outcry of 'enough' from thousands of protesters awakened people of faith to the fact that we needed to better understand and respond to systemic racism in our country. This is not an issue that we can deny because we were not alive when slavery was prevalent.

In many ways, we are all complicit in, but often unaware of, the racial injustices that exist in our nation today. At this time, congregations throughout the country have begun to take steps to correct injustices against Black people, and all people of color. We know, however, that many white people are not aware of the challenges Black people face day in and day out, and that we need to educate ourselves so that we can understand both the history and the current reality of racism in our country and in our own communities.

By learning about systemic racism and beginning to understand its existence in our lives, we can deal with it. This year we will initiate an exploration of racism, researching and learning about racial justice issues and sharing our new understandings in honest discussions with one another. As we engage in these intentional "courageous conversations," we hope not only to learn how to change our ingrained cultural behaviors toward people of color and become less fearful and more welcoming and inclusive, but also to advocate for justice for all people in our community.

To provide an overview of systemic racism in our country, we will begin a five-week discussion of the book *Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram Kendi beginning on **Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.** Of the many books on this topic that are currently available, this is one of the most accessible in explaining the history of racism and of how the continuing oppression of black people has been perpetuated in our country in spite of the fact that slavery was legally abolished in 1865.

In the new year, why not resolve to join Church and Society to learn more about racism and how we can respond to it?

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
For generations, the word race has been used by white people to gain and keep power and to separate and silence people of color from the mainstream of our society. Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism and You tells the history of racist ideas in America and inspires hope for an antiracist future in our country. It takes readers on a historical journey, showing why we feel the way we do about race and explaining why the poison of racism lingers.

It also reveals that while racist ideas have been easy to fabricate and spread, they can be named and denounced for what they are. In a gripping and energizing narrative, New York Times best-selling author Jason Reynolds has based this book on Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's scholarly work. Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism and You shines a light on many insidious racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and 'stamp out' racist thinking in their daily lives.

Stamped can be ordered on-line from several distributors in paper copies and for Kindle readers. The Madison Public Library copies currently have a long waiting list. Please secure your own copy of the book.

The book is divided into five sections covering specific time periods in American history, each of which will be covered in weekly discussions on Zoom. Ideas and questions for consideration will be offered prior to each week's gathering.

\$ Financial Report \$

Our Payroll Protection Plan Loan was forgiven in November.

Cash Flow November 30, 2020

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 65,078	\$ 289,352
General Operating Expenses	20,367	243,762
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 44,711	\$ 45,590

2021 Committee on Lay Leadership Report

Please take a look at this report, to see if we have listed you in the correct spot. If not, call the church office at 222-1633. The blank lines indicate that we are still looking for volunteers. **If you could fill a vacant position, please contact the office.**

As this newsletter goes to press, there have been some meetings already established for January. There may be other committees which will be meeting, but the dates aren't all set yet. If you are on a committee, please watch your email for a meeting notice. Please save this report for reference during the year.

Administrative Council:

Ad Council Chair - *Oversees the leaders of the church in decision making processes that affect the vision, policies, and budget of the local church; encouraged to attend Annual Conference.*

Maribeth Witzel-Behl (2021-2023)

Lay Members to Annual Conference - *Serves as delegate for Monona UMC at Annual Conference sharing our beliefs, and works with others in the Conference.*

Patsy McDonald, LeeAnn Sinclair (June 14-15, 2021) Alternate: Mark Buffat

Recording Secretary: Anna Siferd

Membership Secretary: Anna Skiles

Treasurer: Phyllis Stertz

Financial Secretary: Anna Skiles

SPRC Chair: Louise Belk

Finance Chair: Dan DeBaal

Trustees Chair: _____

Worship Chair: Barb Larson & Lori Stewart, co-chairs

Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald

Church & Society: LeeAnn Sinclair

Hilltoppers: Elgin & Carol Waugh

UMW: Lynn Hovey

Children's Ministry: _____

Caring Ministry: Mark Buffat

Missions: Patsy McDonald

Media & Communications Team: _____

Reconciling Ministry: Jean Van Dreef

Strategic Planning Task Force: Kay Cowing

Stewardship: _____

Youth Representative: _____

Teams by Ministry Area

Passionate Worship:

Passionate Worship Chair: Barb Larson and Lori Stewart
Liturgists Coordinator: Sally Buffat
Ushers Coordinator: Anna Mae Wilken
Communion Steward: Marcia Hansen
Acolytes Coordinator: Carol Johnson
Flower Calendar Coordinator: Sally Buffat
Sacristy Coordinator: Jeanette Williams
Marie Siferd (helper), Phyllis Stertz (on call), Rick Siferd (on call), Huston Family

Wedding Coordinators: -Barb Larson -Julie Larson -Kay Cowing

Worship Team:

Shirley Robinson	Jeanette Williams	Debbie Munroe
Carol Johnson (acolyte trainer)	Linda Jackson	Kay Cowing
Barb Larson - co-chair	Lori Stewart – co-chair	

Intentional Faith Development:

Adult Education Team (*Dedicated to providing adults with opportunities for spiritual growth through learning, service and fellowship*):

Frank Gaylord (Resource) Mark Buffat Siv Goulding (as teacher infrequently)

Church and Society (*Concerned with contemporary ethical and social justice issues and how Christians can respond to them from the perspective of Christian faith*):

Siv Goulding Marilyn Hearden LeeAnn Sinclair-chair Maribeth Witzel-Behl
Mark Buffat Patsy McDonald Karelyn Hopkins

Native American CP Rep: Hillary Whitehorse

Hilltoppers: Elgin Waugh Carol Waugh

Camping Coordinator (*Promotes Wisconsin United Methodist Church Camps*):

UMW: Lynn Hovey

Historians:

Carol Johnson Marilyn Rowin

Children's Ministry Team (*Plans and implements ministry with and for children and their families*) (*meet 4 times/yr to plan Sunday school semesters, Christmas Program and VBS*)

_____ – co-chair	_____ – co-chair	Jason Mittag	Jeanna Freeman
Maribeth Witzel-Behl	Jennifer Derke	Kay DeBaal	
Ed McDonald	Brian Jacobus	Sabrina Jacobus	

Risk-Taking Mission:

Caring Ministries Team (Creates and coordinates the opportunity to provide care, comfort and kindness to our congregational members and friends):

Pat Jacobus Carolyn Taubenheim Mark Buffat Mary Jane Smith

Blood Pressure Screenings

Mary Jane Smith Jan Wanek Jean Van Dreel Peg McDonald Dorilee Miller

Missions (Lifts up and interprets the mission outreach of the church on a local and global basis):

Dottie Rodger (2021) Anna Mae Wilken (2022) _____ (2023)
Guy Rodgers (2021) _____ (2022) _____ (2023)
Patsy McDonald-chair (2021) Doreen Peterson (2022) _____ (2023)

Food Pantry Ministries (Serves as a liaison between Monona UMC and St. Stephen’s Food Pantry):

Barb Helsel Jeanette Williams

UMW Fair Trade Equal Exchange Ministry (Coordinates the Fair Trade coffee mission)

Kay Mackie-team coordinator, Jackie Hull, Jean Van Dreel, Polly Brandes, Jan Wanek, Kathie Baxter, Karelyn Hopkins, Peggy Traver, Sally Buffat, Barb Helsel, Marilyn Hearden, Gail Poser, Deb Munroe

Radical Hospitality:

Kitchen:

Jean Van Dreel (weekly organize) & Carol Johnson (Supplies) Peg McDonald (Refrigerator)
Marilyn Hearden & Gail Poser (twice year Cleaning) Gail Poser (Stoves)
Barb Larson & Marie Siferd (Shopping) Mary Lou Byers (Towels)

Funeral Coordinators:

Peggy McDonald Anna Mae Wilken Jan Wanek Gail Poser

Hospitality:

Fellowship Hour Coordinator: _____

Greeters Coordinator: Polly Brandes

Dishwasher Coordinator: _____

Media & Communications Team: (retooling, relabeling, resources)

Anna Siferd Victoria Greer John Huston Mark Buffat Julie Larson
Kara Evans Forrest Evans

Trustees (Responsible for the supervision, care, maintenance, and protection of the church and other buildings and all personal property contained therein):

Oscar Garcia (2021) Dick Hayden (2022) Josh Dietsche (2023)
Oscar Diaz-vice chair (2021) _____ (2022) Carolina Diaz (2023)
_____ (2021) Jeff Wiswell (2022) John Huston (2023)
Clyde Drake, custodial advisor Pastor Laura Crow Pastora Estrella Benitez

Reconciling Ministry (Oversees the congregation’s efforts toward being an inclusive church):

Jean Van Dreel-chair Jeanna Freeman Anna Siferd Mark Miller

Community Garden Outreach (Coordinates congregation’s on-site community garden):

Karelyn Hopkins-Plot-Assignments Frank Gaylord Rick Siferd John Huston (chair)
Pastor Estrella Benitez Mike Fritz/Cindy Bender (community reps)

Extravagant Generosity:

Stewardship (*Assists the church in raising funds for ministry and mission and promotes ongoing stewardship through gifts of talent, time, service and prayer*):

Josh Dietsche (2021) LeeAnn Sinclair (2022) _____ (2023)
Leah Bancroft (2021) Mary Jane Smith (2022) _____ (2023)
_____ (2021) _____ (2022) _____ (2023)

*ad hoc representative members from Finance for fall campaign

Resource Teams:

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) (*Acts as a liaison for the paid staff of Monona UMC with the congregation*): _____ (2023)

Louise Belk (2021-chair) Dorilee Miller (2022) Forrest Evans
Julie Whitehorse (2021) Jeff Moore (2022) _____
Chris Remington (2021) Frank Gaylord (2022) _____
Izzy Behl Youth rep.
Lay Member to Annual Conference: _____ Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald

Wills, Memorials and Estates:

Peg McDonald Polly Brandes Sally Buffat

Finance (*Monitors church budget and cash flow throughout the year and provides guidance for spending and investing of church funds*):

Dan DeBraal-chair (2021) Dan Medenblik (2021) Jim Jacobus (2022) Kara Evans (2023)
Mark Miller (2021) Barb Pearson (2022) Kippy Pearson (2023)
Jason Mittag (2021) Edmond Throckmorton (2022) _____
Treasurer: Phyllis Stertz Financial Secretary: Anna Skiles Lay Leader: Patsy McDonald
Ad Council Chair: Maribeth Witzel-Behl SPRC Rep: _____ Trustee Rep: _____
C&S: LeeAnn Sinclair

Committee on Lay Leadership (*Identifies, develops, deploys, evaluates, and monitors the Christian spiritual leadership of the congregation*) _____ (2023)

Tim Eberle (2021) Carol Waugh (2021) Mary Lou Byers (2022) _____
Elgin Waugh (2021) Doreen Peterson (2022) _____
Susan Katzenmeyer (2021) Mary Jane Smith (2022) _____
New Pastor (chair) Patsy McDonald (Lay Leader)

Lay Leader (*Functions as the primary representative of the laity of the church as a member of Ad Council, charge conference, finance, committee on lay leadership and SPRC; recommended to serve as Lay Member to Annual Conference*):

Patsy McDonald (2021)

Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF)

Mark Buffat LeeAnn Sinclair Kay Cowing-chair Patsy McDonald
Jim Jacobus

Welcoming Team

Mark Buffat (team Leader) Polly Brandes Anna Mae Wilken Forrest & Kara Evans

Office Helpers:

Substitute Secretary: Donna Olson, Jean Van Dreel, Frank Gaylord, Anna Skiles;
Newsletters & On Call: Polly Brandes, Carol Johnson, Phyllis Stertz, Anna Mae Wilken,
Marie Siferd, Barb Larson, Jan Wanek

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE
GIVING: BECAUSE OUR GIVING IS WORSHIP

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Corinthians 9:10-12)

God established a design for worshipping when God revealed to Moses the plan for the Tent of Meeting (aka Tabernacle). Central to that worship was sacrificial giving. God required gifts of animals and grain be brought to the Tabernacle to be sacrificed and offered to God because it was pleasing to God. These gifts were the first fruits of the agricultural work of the people representing a tithe (10%) of their production.

God knew that an institution like Temple worship would require resources to be sustained. We read in the Old Testament that the people's gifts of meat and bread, cooked in a way pleasing to God, directly provided food for the priests, guards, and caretakers of the temple and the spiritual leaders of the tribes. Sharing the fruits of the harvest became the large feasts we read about in Jesus' time.

In the modern Christian church, we maintain this pattern of giving designed by God. Now, people are called to give in a way pleasing to God: first fruits representing 10% of each family's productivity. Though, in modern times, it is money rather than agricultural produce.

These gifts to God, offered and dedicated in our worship services, are used to maintain the institution of the church by supporting its ministry and mission. This includes worship, congregational care, spiritual development, hospitality & outreach, and missions by way of support for clergy and staff, building maintenance and other budgetary items.

What we can conclude from this is that we give first because it is a gift pleasing to God. As a result of our giving to God in worship, we also support all aspects of the important work of the church.

Jim Wells, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, 888-903-9863 or wumf@wumf.org

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

606 NICHOLS ROAD
MONONA, WI 53716

The HILLTOP HERALD is produced monthly for distribution to the members and friends of Monona United Methodist Church & Iglesia Metodista Unida El Libertador.

Monona UMC Church office 222-1633 (Fax 222-2395); Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Homepage www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org

Pastor Laura Crow pastorlauramumc@gmail.com

Kay – secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

Mark – markbmumc@gmail.com

Virtual Worship 10:00am

Iglesia Metodista Unida El Libertador 514-9470

Pastora Estrella Benítez 414-736-9521 (cell)

esbe2013.eb@gmail.com