



HILLTOP HERALD-MAY 2024 MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PASTOR PAUL'S LAST SUNDAY - JUNE 2, 2024

The Accountable Leadership Board of MUMC is in the process of making plans for a celebration to thank Pastor Paul for his service to our congregation as he retires from the ministry. On **Sunday, June 2**, we invite everyone to join us for a barbecue picnic after church. In addition, anyone who would like to contribute to a gift for Paul is welcome to send donations to the address below. Further information regarding plans for that day will be coming soon. Please plan to join together to share in this celebration.

Louise Belk, ALB chair
414 Meadowlark Drive
Madison, WI 53714

GAME DAY

Game Day is on for **Friday, May 3** at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a fun time. We'll decide if we want to continue over the summer or wait to start up again in September. Hope to see you there!

JUST FRIDAY EVENT

Native America: Nature to Nations

Friday, May 3, 6:30pm presentation, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and Monona United Methodist Church will sponsor a PBS Documentary exploring the rich culture and traditions of First Nations people and their contributions to United States culture and constitution.

Please join us for this vital and timely message at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Rd., Monona.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL MUSIC

Shirley Robinson will direct a multi-generational choir who will provide special music on **Sunday, May 5**. 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.

SOLAR UPDATE

As of April 23, the day after Earth Day, we went online with our solar arrays! Watch for more information on an open house and a demonstration of the app which will show the energy we are producing. Thanks to all who helped with this project!

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“General Conference”

The 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church began this week in Charlotte, North Carolina with the theme of “...And Know that I am God.” While there will be a variety of legislative initiatives including a proposed new clergy pension plan, I believe that the most challenging issues will be revising our Social Principals, adoption of a proposed Regionalization plan and moving forward after a significant number of United Methodist congregations disaffiliated.

The 1972 General Conference added the following sentence to The Social Principals: “*Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider the practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God’s grace is available to all.*” This General Conference will try to remove this sentence from the Social Principals and simply state; “We affirm that God’s grace is available to all.” This change could be made with a simple majority vote.

The second issue is more of a challenge (at least from my perspective). The concept of Regionalization proposes that the denomination will remain one, but each region of the world will have its own version of the United Methodist Church. This would allow United Methodists in the United States to become more progressive and United Methodists in Africa to remain conservative. This proposal will require a two thirds vote.

Finally, those who supported the disaffiliation movement but did not leave, want to make it easier for congregations around the world to disaffiliate in the future. I have absolutely no idea of how this will play out.

Each General Conference comes with surprises. I am sure that this General Conference will be no different. The General Conference will conclude on Friday, May 3rd. We will do our best to keep you informed.

Pastor Paul

(If you read this, please text/call Pastor Paul (920) 246-2855, email him at pjohnsen58@gmail.com or tell him at church.)

NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

The *Upper Room* is a great little devotional book that you can use for daily reading. The new May-June 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.

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

May 5 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter \ Confirmation Sunday

“Love One Another” John 15:9-17

May 12 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mother’s Day and Festival of the Christian Home

“Jesus Makes Us One” John 17:6-11

May 19 – Pentecost Sunday

“The Holy Spirit’s Power” Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

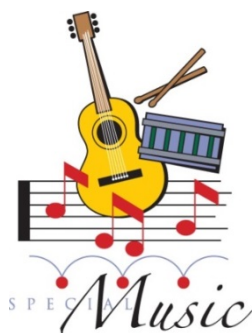
May 26 – Outdoor Patio Worship for Memorial Day Weekend / Trinity Sunday

“The Lord Gives us Strength” Psalm 29



Join Us for
WORSHIP

SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP



As the summer approaches and our Adult Choir takes 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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Wisconsin Annual Conference 2024 In-Gathering

Each year at our Annual Conference gathering churches are asked to donate items for people in need or people suffering from disasters. This year the Conference is working with Midwest Distribution Center to collect items for the Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits.

Midwest Distribution Center distributes the kits locally, nationally and internationally to those in need during times of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion.

Midwest Mission is one of eight cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. Midwest Mission distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States.

Monona UMC will be a collection point for other churches to drop off their items.

We will only collect funds for these kits, so please mark your checks or on-line donations “Ingathering”. Thank you for your generous support of this mission.

The Mission Team

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, May 11** at 9:00 am **here at Monona UMC fellowship hall**. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

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

Volunteers Needed:

- 1 volunteers, 3:30 – 6:30pm

General Donor Information:

- At least 17 years old (16 with parental permission), General good health
- Rapid Pass on the day of donation saves 15 minutes
- Bring donor card or government ID
- Power Red donation: type O, B- and A-
- Questions on eligibility 1-866-236-3276



**American
Red Cross**

READ 'EM & MEET

The book club will meet on **Sunday, May 19** at 2pm to discuss, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus at the home of Mary Neuman. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.**

HILLTOPPERS

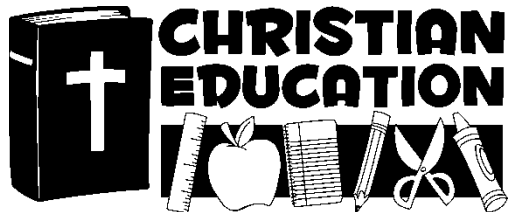
Hilltoppers thank Kay DeBaal and Anna Mae Wilken for the awesome presentation of their quits. It was quite a show.

Hilltoppers will meet again on **Monday May 13** at 11:00 am. The program will be:

Do you know how many species of cranes there are in the world?

Ed McDonald will be the presenter and will talk about the International Crane Foundation and every species of crane throughout the world. Their migration is especially interesting. He will also talk about how some species have come back from being an endangered species. These are fascinating birds.

Some Hilltoppers join for lunch at Tully's after the program. Bring a friend and enjoy the program and fellowship.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION

Our Children's Sunday School program meets Sundays at 9:00am until 9:50am in Fellowship Hall. May 19 will be our last Sunday until summer break.

Our Confirmation class will be confirmed on **Sunday May 5** during our worship service. Come and welcome our newest members.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are continuing to plan for our summer Vacation Bible School and would love to see volunteers join us. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact the church office. We need volunteers of all ages and skills. Our next meeting is **Sunday, May 19** after worship.

SUMMER CAMPS

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



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

ADULT EDUCATION

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

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO

- Jack Storer and his family, upon the death of his wife, Mary, on April 13.
- Carole Podell and her family, upon the death of her husband, Bill, on April 20.

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>



MONONA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle - Wednesday, May 8, meet at 1:30pm at church in the fellowship hall. Julie Whitehorse will coordinate a card making craft activity. The cards will be sold during our fall Holiday Bazaar. All are welcome.

Faith Circle will not meet in May. They will have lunch out on **Thursday, June 13** at 11:30am at the Olive Garden-East Towne. Call Jan Wanek at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

MUMW SPRING POTLUCK SALAD LUNCHEON

The Monona United Methodist Women invite all the women of the church to a Spring Potluck Salad Luncheon on **Tuesday, May 7 at 11:30am** in our Fellowship Hall. Bring any salad to share: main dish, vegetable, or fruit. Our program will be provided by Amy Scarr from Dane County Adult Protective Services. She will share important information about staying safe from scams and fraud. All are welcome!

JAVA JIVE

Adapted from the Equal Exchange Website

"CALLING ALL who want to build a better food system"...

Our coffee has put small farmers first since day one. We pay a guaranteed price, offer pre-harvest financing, and support sustainable agricultural projects. These long-term partnerships continue to bring us the best and sweetest beans.

Most teas—even those that are certified as fair trade—come from large plantations where workers have no voice or power. The small farmers who grow our tea control their own land and livelihoods. Join us in building a farmer led future for the tea industry.

Conventional chocolate has a long history of exploitation, child labor, and poverty wages that still persist today. We have built an alternative by committing to transparently sourced ingredients at fair prices directly in partnership with small farmer co-ops.

You've answered the call.....

We can't thank you enough for your continued purchases of Fair Trade products!

Ideas, questions or suggestions please reach out to either of us.

Jackie Hull 608-576-7837

Karelyn Hopkins 608-577-3185

Fair Trade Coordinators

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: **May 4 and 18.**

STEPHEN MINISTRY



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

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.



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.

FUNDRAISING WALK FOR NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

The Walk 4 NF, a fund raising walk to benefit Neurofibromatosis (NF) will be an in person event in Madison on **Saturday May 11** at Capitol Brewery.

I will fund raise and have set my goal for this year at \$750. This is a very personal cause to me as my daughter and I both have this condition.

Please consider helping me achieve my goal. You can access my donation page through this link:

<https://give.nfmidwest.org/fundraiser/5326867>

If you are not comfortable donating on line you can donate by check.

Thank You for your consideration
Tim Eberle

RIVER FOOD PANTRY

Monona UMC is still collecting egg cartons of all sizes and we have various places to take them.

Paper grocery bags are always in high demand for The River, as are plastic grocery bags. They also will take any non-perishable and shelf stable goods. Some other highly requested items for The River include:

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

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Volunteers Needed in Dane County

Volunteers are needed to assist customers, operate the cash register and sort donations at the Agrace Thrift Stores in Madison, pack donated merchandise in donors' homes, or make companionship visits to local Agrace hospice patients in patients' homes, nursing homes or assisted living centers.

Agrace will host volunteer orientation Tuesday, May 21, from 5 - 9 p.m. at the Agrace campus in Madison. **Pre-registration is required.** To register, call (608) 327-7163 or visit Agrace.org/Volunteer and fill out an application.

Grief Support Group Options

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

- Bridges is for adults grieving the death of any loved one. In May, meetings are May 1 and 15, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Agrace Grief Support Center.
- Bridges (virtual) meets May 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., via Zoom.
- Young Adult is for anyone aged 18 to 30+ years who is grieving the death of a loved one. In May, the group will meet May 9, from 6 - 7:30 p.m., at the Agrace Grief Support Center.

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

Agrace Adult Day Center Offers Daytime Care

Do you care for or know an older adult who cannot—or chooses not to—stay alone all day? The Agrace Adult Day Center in Madison gives seniors the reassurance and comfort of having others with them throughout the day. It's especially helpful for people who have dementia or trouble with their memory, and can be a welcome break for family caregivers, too. Learn more at (608) 327-7303 or Agrace.org/AdultDayCenter.



JUST FRIDAY EVENTS

NATIVE AMERICA

Nature to Nations

May 3; 6:30pm at St. Stephen's 5700 Pheasant Hill Rd., Monona



A PBS Documentary exploring the rich culture and traditions of First Nations people and their contributions to United States culture and constitution.

CO-SPONSORED BY:
ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
&
MONONA UNITED METHODIST

ADMISSION IS FREE. CONTACT: OFFICE@STSTEPHENSMONONA.ORG



NEWS ABOUT THE MUMC RAIN GARDEN PROJECT



If you wonder what happened to the well wishes you dropped along with your spare change into the wishing well a month or two ago, here is some good news. **When we dug into the bottom of the well, we harvested numerous coins and dollar bills and checks enough to purchase 340 tiny perennials for our rain garden.** The plants are still in their early infancy, being nursed by Plant Dane volunteers. **Saturday, May 18**, is the day the baby plants will arrive on our doorstep.

Mark Buffat has arranged for some young volunteers to start planting on May 18. If you would like to participate, **join us for planting starting at 9am until 12 noon.**

Many thanks to all who contributed. Church & Society is thrilled with your interest and your generosity. **Please pray that our journey forward with our rain garden will be a blessing to all.**

Siv Goulding Church & Society

**THE WISHING WELL IS GEARING UP AGAIN,
asking,**

HOW DO YOU EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR MOTHER EARTH?



Maybe you...

- ...plant bulbs in the fall for your yard to erupt into a rainbow of colors in the spring
- ...cannot wait to get out in the woods now, to meet God's amazing wildflowers

once again

- ...avoid using pesticides and herbicides in order to not harm the environment
- ...drive an EV car to reduce your greenhouse gas output
- ...recycle all you can
- ...have put solar panels on your roof
- ...harvest rainwater for the plants in your yard
- ...feed the birds in the winter
- ...grow your own vegetables
- ...thank God for being born human, able to comprehend, at least to some extent,

how awesome life on earth really is

Share how you express your love for Mother Earth with the wishing well, please.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow March 31, 2024

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 28,569	\$ 77,527
General Operating Expenses	24,826	74,937
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	<u>\$ 3,743</u>	<u>\$ 2,590</u>

STEWARDSHIP - PAYING IT FORWARD

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow . . . So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6: 7, 9

According to the Good News Network, 84% of adult Americans agree with the idea that “what goes around comes around.” Therefore, the same number also say that they will go out of their way to “pay it forward” whenever possible.

Respondents reported that they were doing so in a number of ways, including:

- Treating their loved ones to something special (50%)
- Giving generous tips (48%)
- Helping out a neighbor by carrying their groceries or shoveling snow (46%)
- Donating money to organizations or charities (40%)

In addition, almost four in ten said they volunteered their time to help friends or family or supported locally owned business. The average adult engages in five generous acts per week, which adds up to 260 random acts of kindness each year.

Whether it’s to align their cosmic mojo or simply acting out of human nature, those who pay it forward believe these acts have real effects on more than those on the receiving end. Americans feel better about themselves (49%), their life overall (37%), and feel more confident (22%) when they extend kindness to others.

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

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline May 26 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the June newsletter. Remember, you can email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net						
			1 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2-4pm Caregivr Support 3-5:30 Paper Moon Drama-hall 5:30pm Girl Scouts	2	3 Pastor's Day Off 10am Game Day- Hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall Just Friday at St Stephen's 6:00pm Gather 6:30pm Program	4 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class-Upstairs
5 <u>See schedule below</u> Confirmation Sunday 9:15 Multi-Generational choir rehearsal	6 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 6-8pm Girl Scout Troop	7 11:00 Staff Mtg 11:30am UMW Potluck Salad Luncheon fellowship hall	8 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1:30Friendship Circle- 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall	9 9:00 Friendship Circle clean kitchen	10 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall	11 9am Men's Grp Breakfast- at Monona UMC fellowship hall 10am-12pm El Libertador group
12 <u>See schedule below</u> Mother's Day 8:45 Choir Rehearsal	13 11am Hilltoppers-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7pm Girl Scout Troop	14 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 2:30 Church & Society-hall 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall	15 10-11am RSVP Knit/Stitch-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-6pm Blood Drive-MUMC 5:30pm Girl Scouts	16 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board Meeting-fellowship hall	17 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall 3-4:30pm Girl Scout Troop-	18 8:30am-3pm CPR class- hall 9am-12pm Rain Garden planting 10am-12pm El Libertador Grp 10am-12pm Girl Scouts-upstairs
19 8:45 Choir Reh 11am VBS Meet 2pm Read / Meet	20 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-9pm Paper Moon - hall	21 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	22 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall	23 5:30pm Community Meal	24 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Wesley Room	25
26 Newsletter Ddln 10:00 Outdoor Worship No children's Sunday School	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot Clinic F.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg	29 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 3-5:30 Paper Moon - hall	30	31 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	
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

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

MAY 2024

COMMUNITY - WIDE MEAL

Our next Community Meal is on **Thursday, May 23 at 5:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Watch for details on the menu coming soon.

We want to give our neighbors an opportunity to spend time together and get to know each other. We encourage our regular participants to attend. All are welcome.



Community Meal