



HILLTOP HERALD-NOVEMBER 2023

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADULT GAME DAY

Our next Game Day will be on **Friday, November 3**. Come as you are to rebuild connections and have some fun together playing some games.

The fun starts on at 10 AM. We will be in the Cry Room this month. Bring your favorite games to share.

JUST FRIDAY EVENT - GUNS INTO PLOWSHARES

Friday, November 3 at 6:30pm

St Stephen's Lutheran Church (5700 Pheasant Hill Rd, Monona)

Jeff Wild is a retired ELCA pastor and master gardener. His ministry of forging guns into garden tools and leading gun surrenders is in response to gun violence and a part of a growing movement. Join the event at 6:00 for some seasonal snacks before the presentation.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

Remember to change your clocks the evening before **November 5**. "Fall back" one hour.

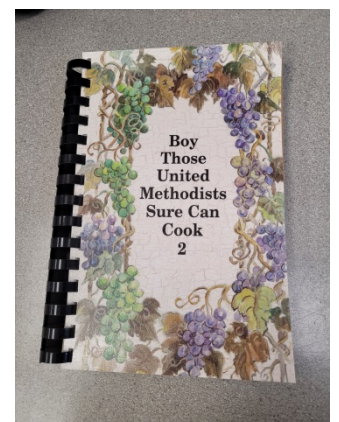
SAINTS DAY TO BE OBSERVED

Sunday, November 5 is All Saints Day, the day the church sets aside to remember those who have died during this past year, especially those from our fellowship and families. During the prayer time, we will read the names aloud as we light a candle for them.

CHURCH COOKBOOK POTLUCK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Join us on Sunday, November 5 for a Church Cookbook Potluck. Monona UMC has produced several church cookbooks and perhaps Bashford UMC has as well. Look through your church cookbooks and find a favorite recipe to share. Feel free to bring a copy of the recipe for all to try at home. We still have a supply of our latest cookbook if you are looking for some inspiration.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

Great Ideas!

Sometimes I have good ideas and sometimes those good ideas do not turn out so well.

Last Friday, I decided to get my snowblower ready for winter. I had to change the oil and the filters and make sure that I could get the snowblower started again. Then I had a bright idea. If I purchased a little oil pump, I could extract the dirty oil without making a mess in my garage.

So, I went to the auto parts store and found an inexpensive oil pump. When I returned home, I put the pump together (yes, I followed the directions). But when I tried to pump out the oil, a small tube from the pump broke off and fell into the oil tank. All of a sudden, I had a much bigger issue. There was no way that I could run the snow blower with that little tube floating in the oil tank.

I inserted a long skinny grabber, but I was not able to retrieve that little plastic tube. My neighborhood small engine mechanic, took one look at it and told me it would be a much bigger job than he was willing tackle.

I will talk to the dealer and see if they can save my fifteen-year-old snow blower. If not, I may be in the market for a replacement this winter.

My good idea did not turn out to be such a good idea. Still, I will not shy away from coming up with good ideas. There are occasions when my good ideas turn out great.

In the early 1950's a group of Methodists had the great idea to start a new congregation—the Monona Methodist Church. The congregation was formed. Over time, they acquired land and constructed a church building.

Their great idea way back in the 1950's continues to change lives and impacts the Monona and Madison area communities today.

This **Sunday, October 29**, we will celebrate our ministry remembering those who had a great idea a long time ago.

Pastor Paul



Join Us for
WORSHIP

BIBLE PASSAGES & THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

November 5 - All Saints Day, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

“Celebrating our Saints”

Matthew 5:1-12

November 12 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

“Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 – Thanksgiving Sunday, 25th Sunday after Pentecost

“Get up, go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

Luke 17:11-19

November 26 – Christ the King Sunday

AJ Feucht is preaching

“God Is Always In Control”

Matthew 25:31-46

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Giving Tree

This month our mission gifts will be supporting The Giving Tree. For many years the Giving Tree project has provided gifts and a holiday dinner for needy families in our community. We have been working with our local schools. After discussions with parents, the schools have decided to make a change in the Giving Tree/Winter Wishes program. They will be handing out gift cards throughout the year as they are needed to support families.

The schools are requesting gift cards of \$15-\$25 to local grocery stores, gas stations, Target and Walmart. The gift cards need to be returned by **Sunday, December 3**.

If you prefer donating funds, you may support this Mission by marking your check or online giving with “The Giving Tree”. Please contact Kay in the office with any questions.

Thank you for your generous support of this beneficial mission.

The Mission Team

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias

The order form to purchase a poinsettia is found in this newsletter. Please return the form to the church office by **November 5** if you would like one.

Advent wreath

We would like to invite your family to help our congregation prepare for Advent by lighting the **Advent wreath** during of the Sunday services. We will provide you the reading and instructions. Please email the church at secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net and let Kay know which date you are available or signup on the sheet in front of the office.

CELEBRATE JOAN'S B-DAY

Joan Hansen is turning 90 and you're invited to her party. Stop by the church on **November 4th from 12pm to 4pm**. Have some food and cake and share some memories. We'll be collecting food pantry items if you care to bring something.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 18

9 am to 3 pm, Fellowship Hall

Proceeds benefit our Community Meal program and solar panels for our church!

Local craft & vendor tables

Equal Exchange & Monona UMC Craft and Bake Sale Tables

We need help in lots of places:

- chili makers/cornbread bakers
- pie and Bake Sale bakers
- setup and clean up helpers
- food servers
- craft makers
- craft table attendants
- promotion

Please bring your crafts for the church table on Sunday November 12. Help is needed for some setup on Friday November 17, 9am-2pm. Use the signup sheet on the table in front of the office. Please contact Julie Whitehorse with questions.

MUMC MEN'S GROUP

All men of the church are invited to the Men's Club breakfast that will take place on **Saturday, November 11** at 9:00 am at Denny's on Broadway in Monona. Come

HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers group will be meeting on **Monday, November 13** at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our program will be presented by our own member, A.J. Feucht, Retired Colonel, US Army. He led a special group of people to Afghanistan in calendar year 2012. There were 58 specialists that accompanied AJ and their specialties were mainly those that the rural residents of Afghanistan would need. Subjects such as agronomy, mainly fertilizers and seeds. hydrology, which is water management, small business management, and other skills which would help the local rural residents improve their life.

He commanded this first mission of its kind, namely the 82nd Agri-Business team. He also served as Strategic Plans Chief for Task Force Hydra, Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, XIII.

It will be a very interesting program.

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.

We will be taking pictures again on **November 5**, before and after church in the room by the church entryway. There is no need to make an appointment--just smile.

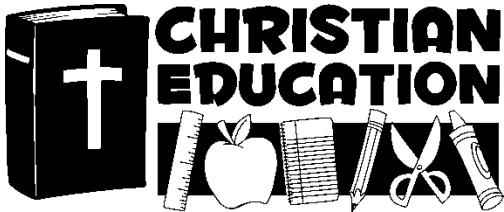
READ 'EM & MEET



The month the book club will meet on **Sunday, November 12 @ 2pm** to discuss, *Wish You Were Here* by Jody Picoult at Lake Edge Lutheran Church with Mary Graper as host. Judy Acheson will provide dessert. **Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.** Join this fun and lively group!

BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up for a Seeds of Peace blood drive to be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (5700 Pheasant Hill Rd, Monona) on **Tuesday, November 21** from 1-6pm. Go to redcrossblood.org to register. Blood donations are always needed, especially near the holidays.



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.

ADULT CLASSES

11:30am, through November 19

We are studying *The Misunderstood Jew*, by Amy-Jill Levine, Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace. Amy-Jill Levine is Jewish. Her interest is Christianity, a religion born and developed in a Jewish land. Our class has studied several of her books already.

We meet in the Cry Room. We buy our own books, but this publication is not recent, so there are plenty of low cost used books available on the market. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

Siv Goulding



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle will have a volunteer shift at Second Harvest Food Bank (2802 Dairy Dr, Madison 53718) filling orders on **Wednesday, November 8** from 12:15 - 3:30 p.m. You do not need to be a member of the Circle to help out. Please let Kay Cowing know if you would like to join us in serving the community that day.

Faith Circle- Thursday, November 9 at 1pm at the home of Shirley Robinson. Please read Chapter 3 in our study book: Signs and Wonders. Call Jan Wanek at 608-395-2433 with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE - ADVENT POTLUCK BRUNCH

On **Saturday December 2**, the United Methodist Women will host an Advent Potluck Brunch starting at 10am. All are welcome. Bring a brunch item (egg or potato casserole, fruit, bread/muffins) for all to share.

Entertainment will be provided by the Wisconsin Dickens Carolers. Our Social Media Manager, Kirstin Roble, is a part of this organization.

JAVA JIVE

Adapted from the Equal Exchange website

ARE FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS REALLY THAT DIFFERENT FROM NON-FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS?

Fair Trade is a way of doing business that aims to keep small-scale farmers an active part of the world marketplace. It's not charity – it's a sustainable and alternative trading model that helps producers make a viable living and stay on their own land while advancing many economic, social and environmental goals. When you buy a fairly traded product from Equal Exchange you know that a stable price was paid to farmers, significantly higher than the fluctuating market price.

By choosing Fair Trade products, you're supporting a business model that is based on dignity and transparency. One without forced child labor, that is not focused on profit-maximizing, at the expense of others in the supply chain! Fair Trade premiums allow farming communities to decide collectively which development projects they want to use the money on, like improving access to clean water and education. Small changes we as consumers can make, regarding what we choose to buy makes a real impact on the quality of the lives of producers and their families.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY I PAY GO?"

Traditional supply chains have many middlemen who take a large percentage, but buying from Equal Exchange, who trades directly with small-scale farmer cooperatives, ensures that the money you spend on coffee and our other products reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow them. In fact, by the time you purchase from Equal Exchange, the farmers have already been paid and received pre-harvest financing so they can pay for expenses when they need the money. A fairly traded product also means that the producer has received a guaranteed minimum price for their harvest, regardless of the highs and lows of the commodities market.

Farmers in the Fair Trade system get additional premiums paid to their cooperatives because they farm organically. These premiums go towards projects that their communities choose to improve. Such as their social, economic and environmental conditions. Access to clean water, education, and healthcare are basic human rights we all deserve and Fair Trade purchases contribute directly toward that advancement.

Your continued support of Fair Trade is life changing!
Thank You!

For questions or comments please call:

Jackie Hull c-608-576-7847 or
Karelyn Hopkins c-608-577-3185

NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE HERE

The Upper Room is a great little devotional book to center on a Bible verse and short meditation and prayer. The new November / December issue has arrived, and is in the narthex. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

OUR SYMPATHY GOES TO

--Dan and Kay DeBraal and their family, upon the death of Dan's father on October 5.
-- The family and friends of Peggy McDonald, who passed away on October 11.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY - WIDE MEAL

Our next Community Meal is on **Thursday, November 30 at 5:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall

The menu will feature pork carnitas tacos and Mexican rice. 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.

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: November 4, 11, 18 and 25.

UM STUDENT DAY, NOVEMBER 26

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together. Please mark your check or offering envelope with "Student Day."

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. To make donating easier, use our QR Code.



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>

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. They also will take any non-perishable and shelf stable goods. Some other highly requested items for The River include:

- low sodium soups
- low sugar cereals, including oatmeal
- Tuna Helper and tuna
- disposable diapers all sizes, (including adult sizes)

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

"Love Beyond Christmas"

Ring bells this fall 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. The kettles will be out officially on **November 10, 2023**.

2023 CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our yearly Church Conference meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 10** 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.

GOODMAN COMMUNITY CENTER THANKSGIVING BASKETS

For the past 35 years, our Thanksgiving Basket Drive has been a tradition, with many long-serving staff, volunteers and their children returning year after year. It takes a village, that's for certain.

Goodman Center has already registered 4,100 families for a Thanksgiving Basket filled with all the groceries needed for a traditional holiday meal! For the last two years, our food pantry has seen an incredible increase in customers. Usage is up 53% from January through August 2023 versus the same time period last year. In a good year, many families can't afford these groceries for a holiday meal, and this year, with everything costing more than ever, more and more families are turning outward for help.

You can help with this mission:

- Donate online at goodmancenter.org
- Volunteers are needed as well. Check out the website for more information.
- Share this information on your social media.
- Donate food directly to Goodman Center. Check out their shopping list on their website at goodmancenter.org/thanksgiving

Providing a holiday meal can provide a small comfort to struggling families during this difficult time.



DID YOU KNOW?

Across much of the United States, waterways are becoming increasingly salty.

Elevated salt levels threaten our fisheries, tourism, economy, quality of life, and the health of our aquatic ecosystems. According to the WI Salt Wise Partnership it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic to native aquatic organisms.



Where does the salt come from?

1. Road Salt

One of the most common ways that salt enters our waterways is from winter salt use on roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. Road salt has been used as a deicer in Wisconsin since the late 1950s because it is cheap, and effective.

2. Water Softeners

Water softeners use special resin beads to remove hard water minerals, such as magnesium and calcium, that otherwise would build up on fixtures and appliances in our homes. Because the resin beads can only capture so many minerals, the softener periodically flushes them with salt water (brine) to remove the minerals from the resin and recharge the system. The resulting saltwater then flows either through sewers to a wastewater treatment plant where the salt passes through the system and enters local rivers and streams, or through a septic system and into groundwater.

What can you do?

1. Ensure your water softener is operating efficiently.

Water softener resin, even with regular re-generation, loses its capacity after 15 to 20 years of use. You might become aware that your coffee maker plugs up, that soap does not lather up like it used to or that dishes or glasses are not spot free after cleaning. Or you might realize an increased re-generation cycle, meaning that more salt than necessary is being used. At that point water softener maintenance would be appropriate. Check out this YouTube video for valuable information before scheduling a professional service call: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfo4sDfP3uU>.

2. Shovel off the snow and ice before salting driveways and sidewalks in the winter and be conservative when salting. Scatter the grains loosely, leave space between them. A cup of salt is enough to clear a 20-foot driveway. Remember that salt is not effective in temps below 15°F. Then it is time to switch to sand. If you hire a private company to help with winter maintenance, encourage them to get certified through **Madison's Winter Salt Certification Program**.

Sources: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stormwater/learn_more/salt.html
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/65746>

Thank you for trying to keep our water safe for everyone.
Church and Society, Patsy & Siv

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow September 30, 2023

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 23,988	\$ 205,459
General Operating Expenses	24,077	203,662
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ (89)	\$ 1,797

STEWARDSHIP - DON'T KEEP SILENT

I started preaching when I was just 18 years old. I was invited by my home pastor to preach, despite my age, because he knew I had a call to the ordained ministry. By the time I was 20, I had preached a whopping three sermons. With my call and this vast amount of experience behind me, I was invited to serve a small, rural congregation in Southeastern Wisconsin as their supply pastor — which basically meant I would visit the members in their homes and preach every Sunday. And so, in November of my junior year of college, I began to preach every Sunday for a congregation of 52 people. As I remember my first year there, I have fond memories of a group of faithful people who had to listen to, probably the worst sermons ever given.

Despite my inexperience, the congregation was very supportive — often offering a tip or an encouraging word. Particularly, I remember one gentleman who came up to me to give me a pat on the back one Sunday morning. After a particularly difficult sermon he said that he truly enjoyed my messages. A little surprised, I responded by simply saying, “Really?” He continued by saying, “Oh yes. You know, you stand up every Sunday and try to tell us about God’s love and grace. But what I really like is the fact that, in the whole year you’ve been preaching, you’ve never mentioned money once.”

Considering that comment, I suppose it could be seen as a bit ironic that my ministry as a part of the Foundation is helping congregations and pastors learn how to comfortably talk about money in relation to our faith (maybe even excitedly). What I’ve discovered, however, is that talking about stewardship is about focusing love and grace. It is about helping people realize all the ways we are blessed by God, that God has given to us abundantly. God has given us so much, in fact, that we have enough to give generously in love for others.

I encourage you to speak about stewardship boldly. Talk about how you have experienced God’s love, grace, and abundance. Share how generosity has transformed your life. Talk about the blessings others have experienced in your church that are made possible by your community’s generosity.

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

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 2-4pm Caregvr support group 5:30 Girl Scouts 6-8pm Middle School Paper Moon Drama	2 6-8pm Middle School Paper Moon Drama	3 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class trainers- fellowship hall. 10:00am Game Day-Cry Room 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 4-8pm Paper Moon M.S.-hall	4 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- upstairs 12-4pm B-day Party Joan Hansen -hall
5 <u>See schedule below</u> All Saints Sunday Poinsettia orders 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:00 Potluck 11:30 Adult Sunday School	6 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 6-8pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary	7 11:00 Staff Meeting 6-8pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary	8 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 12:15-3:30pm Friendship Cr Second Harvest 6-8pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary	9 1:00 Faith Circle at Shirley R's home 6-8pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary	10 Pastor's Day Off 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 1-3pm Mah Jongg-Cry Room 6-8pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary	11 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- upstairs 9am Men's Breakfast- Denny's 10am-12pm Girl Scouts upstairs 12-7pm Paper Moon M.S. sanctuary
12 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School 2 Read / Meet	13 11am Hilltoppers 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7 pm Girl Scouts	14 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 2:30pm Church & Society-hall	15 10-11:30am RSVP Knit/ Stitch-hall 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	16 6:30pm Accountable Leadership Board-hall	17 Pastor's Day Off Bazaar Setup 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	18 9am-3pm Holiday Craft Vendor Bazaar 7am setup 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- upstairs
19 <u>See schedule below</u> 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Adult Sunday School	20 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	21 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 11:00 Staff Mtg 1-6pm Blood Drive-St Stephens church	22 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 8:30am-3pm Revive CPR class- fellowship hall
26 <u>See schedule below</u> Newsletter Deadline	27 10am-2pm Monona Quilters-F.H. 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use 5:30-7 pm Girl Scouts	28 9:30-12:15 NewBridge Foot ClinicF.H. 11:00 Staff Meeting	29 11am Upstairs Narthex in Use	30 5:30pm Community Meal- fellowship hall		

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Sunday School for children/Confirmation
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship
1:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Newsletter Deadline November.26 Information arriving after the above date may not be in the December newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

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

Worship 10:00am

NOVEMBER 2023



POINSETTIAS

You may purchase poinsettias or cyclamen to decorate the sanctuary during Advent and take them home after worship on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. You may also choose the color you would like to purchase.

Please complete the form below and return it to the office by **Sunday, November 5** with your check payable to Monona U.M.C.

Poinsettias in 6½” pot \$17.00 each

Red, White, Pink, Burgundy, Jingle Bells (white stripe in red leaf)

Cyclamen \$13.00 each

Red, White, Pink

From _____

In Honor of _____

Or

In Memory of _____



**ORDER YOUR
Poinsettias**

If you have questions, please contact the church office @ 608-222-1633.

Thank You for Sharing!!!