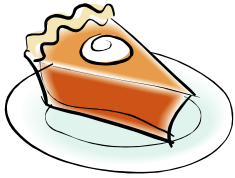




HILLTOP HERALD-SEPTEMBER 2017

MONONA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & IGLESIA METODISTA UNIDA EL LIBERTADOR



END-OF-SUMMER BBQ BASH

Lynn Hovey will be our BBQ Bash coordinator this year. We scheduled this fundraiser for **Friday, September 22** (note change in date from the last newsletter), serving from 4:30 until 7:00pm. It features BBQ, potato salad, beans, homemade pies, ice cream, and beverages. You are encouraged to join in the fun of working alongside your church friends. Watch for the sign-up poster on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. If you would like more information, please contact the church office (222-1633, secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net). We will be raising funds for our new weekend nutrition program partnered with Nuestro Mundo School.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School program begins on **Sunday, September 10**. Thanks to John & Linnea Phillips for coordinating the program again.

We would love to have additional teachers in order to provide flexibility for all volunteers. Prep work for lessons will be minimal. Please contact John & Linnea at linneaphillips@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Just a quick reminder that Sunday School for children starts at 9:00am and goes until 9:50am. The teachers will be dedicated during worship on **September 10**.

THE ROAD HOME

MUMC members volunteer with The Road Home four times yearly at Lake Edge United Church of Christ (4200 Buckeye Rd.). Our next volunteer date is **Friday, September 15**. We are responsible for the evening meal, doing activities with the children from 7:00 to 8:30pm, staying overnight and preparing breakfast on Saturday morning.

The Road Home Dane County serves homeless families with children in collaboration with local faith communities. They are committed to the empowerment and long-term success of families, to serving each family with dignity and respect and to achieving results in helping families improve their lives. They welcome the entire community, in all its diversity, to participate in the pursuit of safe, affordable housing for all. Please contact Karelyn at 577-3185 to help out with this mission.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Friends,

How was your summer? Did you take in the Great Eclipse event as part of it? Or maybe you did some traveling with family or friends. I took some time off and split it between home turf in central Indiana and watching sunsets in Ephraim, WI in Door County. For me the start of September always feels like a turning. The turning of the seasons, returning to school, and in church life resuming a schedule that's more typical of the rest of the year.

Our fall this year includes a book I want to recommend (it's being used for an Adult Education class)—*Wendell Berry and the Given Life* which is about virtues highlighted in the work of a gentleman farmer, poet, novelist, essayist, philosopher whose voice is especially needed in these politically anxious times. Put your name on the order list at the table in front of the office if you'd like a copy.

Also this fall we're planning to begin a food nutrition program that provides a weekend lunch for students at Nuestro Mundo Community School. It will require some volunteer hours on our part, but we hope to partner with other churches through the East Madison Seeds of Peace churches we belong to.

Autumn will bring the start-up of a new Confirmation Class, a larger one than usual (9-10 students), that will meet monthly with mentors and weekly as a class, and also take a few field trips—to a synagogue, the Road Home (homeless ministry) headquarters, and The Crossing ministry on campus where we'll serve a meal and worship with college students.

In addition to teaching confirmation, this fall I will be starting a nine-part sermon series on The Fruit of the Spirit (mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23), those qualities that emerge in us as our lives are tethered to the true vine of Christ and shaped by God's Spirit at work among us and within us. Also in the works is our fall stewardship campaign revolving around the theme "Church Is A Verb." By the way, thank you for your faithful and regular financial stewardship through the summer, whether you were home or away. You probably heard that we oversubscribed our Capital Improvement Campaign for the sanctuary ceiling and driveway resurfacing projects. Thank you for that! The ceiling repair work is scheduled for early October.

Sunday school kicks off on the same day (September 10th) that music will be highlighted in worship. I hope you can be with us that Sunday. And United Methodist Women start a new program year with a Fall Potluck (September 12th). Not to mention our Hand Bell Choir and Adult Choir who begin rehearsals on September 7th. We're blessed with a full complement of bell ringers, and rumor has it that our voice choir will treat us to parts of *The Messiah* this year!

I know it can be a challenging time of year as we make adjustments to our fall schedules for school and work and church. But I'm glad for the time of seeing you on Sundays in the fall when we worship together and God's Spirit reorients my mind and heart for another week of living. It makes a positive difference for me, as I hope it does for you. I believe that God meets together with us when we come together in Christ's name. I realize that's something from beyond us, but I thank you for what you do to help make that happen. See you in church!

In Christ,

Pastor Brad

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF RESPONDS TO HURRICANE HARVEY

Dear Friend of UMCOR,

By now, we have all seen the horrific images of Hurricane Harvey's destructive path through Houston, Southeast Texas, and Southwest Louisiana, producing record-shattering rains and flooding in some communities.

Before Harvey made landfall, UMCOR was working with United Methodist Church conferences to ready resources and volunteers for the relief and recovery efforts.

UMC volunteers from these conferences are UMCOR's feet on the ground, and they are actively responding to this ongoing and developing disaster.

The people of Houston and other affected communities need your help today!

A catastrophe of this size and magnitude will require UMCOR to be there for the long-term as UMC conferences address the urgent needs of those affected. UMCOR will be with them every step of the way.

Please pray for the millions of people affected by this disaster. And make a gift so we can provide the help they need to rebuild their lives.

Blessings,

Catherine G. Earl, MSW,
Director of Disaster Response and U.S. Partnerships

P.S. Your gift today will be immediately put to work through UMCOR to help those who are currently facing crises in their lives. Thank you for your prayers and support.

To help, please make your check out to Monona UMC with "Harvey" in the memo line. If you would like to donate online, please go to umcor.org/donate and reference U.S. Disaster Response Advance #901670.

HELP NEEDED TO PREP FOR SANCTUARY CEILING REPAIR

We are having the sanctuary ceiling repaired during the week of **October 9**. We are looking for volunteers to help remove the pews on **Sunday evening, October 8 at 6:30pm**. We also need help returning the pews to their rows. We are hoping to put some pews back during that week as well as finishing the job on **Saturday, October 14** in the late afternoon. If you can help out, please leave your name in the church office. Also indicate your available dates and times as well as if you are flexible and can be put on an "On-Call" list if we need workers quickly.

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 September / October issue has arrived, and is in the narthex information center.

CARING COORDINATOR COLUMN

On August 17, Seeds of Peace Madison held a fundraiser and community outreach event. It was an evening overflowing with fantastic music, food, pie and fellowship! Donations topped \$2,500! All proceeds help fund weekend nutrition programs at Schenk, Frank Allis and Nuestro Mundo schools. Monona UMC will partner with Nuestro Mundo, just down the block. A huge “thank you!” to Barb Larson and Mary Jane Smith for baking and donating yummy pecan, apple and blueberry pies! The pie auction brought in over \$1,000, many going for \$50 and one, a chocolate cream pie, went for \$105!

Seeds of Peace Madison is a group of progressive faith communities working together to alleviate suffering, injustice and poverty on Madison’s east side. Churches in this group include Monona UMC, Lakeview Moravian, Zion Faith Community, Lake Edge UCC, St. Luke’s Episcopal, Plymouth UCC, and St. Stephen’s Lutheran. Several of these churches joined together to create and successfully implement the school food programs at Schenk and Frank Allis. These outreach programs provide a weekend take-home meal for students who receive free lunch during the school week. This fall we have the opportunity to shadow these programs as we develop the nutrition program at Nuestro Mundo. We need volunteers to help administer, shop, pack and deliver meals. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out with this important new community outreach initiative.

More Than a Farm Stand, Thursdays from 4–7 pm in our parking lot, continues to be a lot of fun and an excellent platform for community engagement. Linnea & John Phillips of Rock Lake Organics sells fresh produce, and we sell freshly popped popcorn, along with Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolates. Stop by if you haven’t already! Runs through October 12.

Caring & coordinating, Mark Buffat

BIBLE PASSAGES & SERMON THEMES 10:00AM SERVICE

September 3 – Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21

“Remember Who You Are”

September 10 – Ephesians 5:18-20; Psalm 95:1-7

“The Gift of Music and Song”

September 17 – Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Fruit of the Spirit, Growth of the Heart

“The fruit of the Spirit is ...love”

September 24 – John 15:9-11. John 16:20-22; Philippians 4:4-7

Fruit of the Spirit, Growth of the Heart

“The fruit of the Spirit is ...joy”



LITURGIST SIGNUP

We are looking for additional liturgists for Sunday morning worship. Why don't you give it a try? We have an online signup so you can compare your calendar to the available dates and follow the link below. Contact the church office if you have questions.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4ea8ac2ea1fd0-liturgists1>

GERMAN CHORAL CONCERT HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

On **Monday evening, October 30**, the German choral group "Charisma" will perform in our sanctuary! Please contact Mark Buffat if you would be willing to host any of the members for a two-night stay, **Monday and Tuesday October 30 & 31**. The group consists of 22 members. More details to follow!



ADULT CHOIR

Do you like to sing? Like hanging out with really nice people? Adult Choir may be for you!! Please join us at our first rehearsal on **Thursday, September 7 at 7:30 PM** and check us out!

We have an amazing season of music ministry planned - including sections of both the Christmas and Easter portions of the "Messiah"! Any questions? Feel free to contact director Linda Jackson at eljay5@sbcglobal.net or 608-698-5303. Looking forward to seeing you and bring a friend!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Liturgists, Ushers, Fellowship hosts, Acolytes, Greeters and Dishwashers are needed every Sunday to make everyone feel welcome at Monona United Methodist Church. Please sign up on the sheet in front of the office.

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Thank you for helping the neighborhood kids get ready for school with supplies. The kids and their families are thrilled.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Habitat for Humanity Dane County

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity builds and rehabilitates simple, decent, affordable homes with the help of partner families. Habitat homes are sold to partner families with a zero percent loan. Homeowners pay monthly mortgage payments to Habitat and then those payments are used to build more Habitat houses. Each family must also attend educational courses on how to maintain a home, landscaping, budgeting, how to be a good neighbor and insurance.

Please join in supporting the goal of making adequate shelter and affordable housing a reality for all. Mark your check or offering envelopes with "Habitat."

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR

The flower calendar is on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to give flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the calendar.

EGG CARTONS NEEDED

The River Food Pantry is in need of egg cartons and plastic grocery bags. You can drop them off directly to them during open hours, or bring them to church and Tim and Sue Eberle will deliver them.

SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDRAISING

As we end our fundraising drive toward our Capital Improvement Fund, we want to extend a huge Thank You to all who helped us exceed our goal. You have donated \$20,794 since the drive started in June. These funds will help us continue to maintain God's house at Monona UMC. Continued donations are always welcome.

FARM STAND AT MONONA UMC THURSDAYS, 4-7PM

Stop by and check out the Farm Stand that Linnea Phillips is hosting from her family's organic farm. We also have our Fair Trade items and popcorn for sale. Contact Linnea at linneaphillips@gmail.com if you would be interested in participating in a farm stand committee or need more information.

If you would like to help with setup and sales of Fair Trade products and Popcorn, please contact the church office (222-1633). We would love to have the church community involved with weekly event.

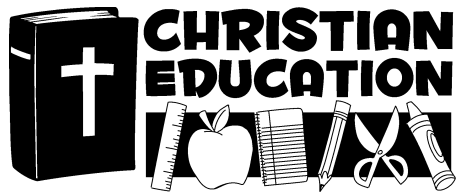
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Our next Blood Pressure Screening will be **Sunday, September 10**, 9:30-10:00am in Pastor Brad's office. The screening is staffed by medical volunteers from the congregation. Keep Healthy - have your blood pressure checked!!

READ 'EM & MEET



The book club will meet on **Sunday, September 10** @ 2pm to discuss, *Learning to Stay*, by Erin Celello at the home of Mary Neuman. Mary will also provide dessert. We will meet at the church parking lot at 1:00pm to share rides. Visitors and new members are always welcome to attend.



FALL ADULT EDUCATION CLASS TO FOCUS ON WENDELL BERRY

In this crazy time when so much of what we think is good and right is plainly disregarded, a person like Wendell Berry might help us focus once again on values we as Christians would want our society to follow. In his book *Wendell Berry and the Given Life*, author Ragan Sutterfield examines the image Berry, whom he views as a sort of spiritual leader, through his novels, essays, and poetry, has sketched of what human life, lived as God might desire, potentially would look like.

The Adult Sunday School will start on **September 17** at 8:30am. On this day we will view together and discuss the 40 minute YouTube video of an interview by Bill Moyers with Wendell Berry, focusing on his Hopes for Humanity. This introduction to Wendell Berry might enable those who are unsure about participating in the entire study to sense their interest.

Please sign up in office if you wish to view the video and also if you want us to order the study book for you. The study will meet in the Church Library on Sunday mornings, 8:30-9:30 am, through **December 17 (no class on November 26)**. The cost of the book will be \$15.

3rd GRADE BIBLE GIFT

On **Sunday, September 17** our third grade Sunday school members will be presented with Bibles. This ceremony will take place during the 10am worship service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU

Thank you to all who attended our Vacation Bible School. Thank you to the Volunteers making dinner in the toasty kitchen, acting out the Bible story, playing the beach ball, "potato" and parachute games, doing the crafts, teaching us new songs and those just filling in where needed! We couldn't have done it without all of you!

CROP WALK

The Madison area CROP Hunger Walk event will be held on **Sunday, October 15**. We invite you to be a participant and/or a sponsor for this event, which assists both local and global efforts to prevent poverty and hunger. The Confirmation class will be participating in the CROP Walk, so help them out when they approach you with their sponsor sheets.

There will be both a 1 Mile and 3 Mile route. Also to make this walk more family fun friendly, they have added Jugglers, Ice Cream, a Photo Stop, and an indoor Bouncy House. Contact the church office for more information.



HILLTOPPERS

The Hilltoppers will be meeting on **Monday, September 11** at 11 AM at the Monona Garden restaurant. We will meet for an hour and then those that want can stay and order lunch off the menu. The program will be presented by Becky Halstead who went on a spiritual pilgrimage to South Korea with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and other clergy and lay persons. Their travels were primarily in the Dongbu area with whom we have a sister relationship. The trip lasted for 2 weeks. (Note: Becky has power point presentation, but needs to borrow a laptop computer to be able to show the pictures.....anyone who has one that she can use, please give me a call. Elgin.)

FOOD PANTRY

Next time you are shopping, add a couple things to your cart for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry. Donations of food, personal items, paper products, baby food and diapers are all gratefully received.

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST

Join the men of Monona UMC for fellowship and breakfast at Monona Garden Family Restaurant (6501 Bridge Rd) on **Saturday, September 16 at 8:00 am.**

OPEN HOUSE FOR ANNA MAE WILKEN

Please join with her family and friends to celebrate Anna Mae's 80th birthday on **Saturday September 16**. The Open House is from 1pm to 4pm in the church fellowship hall so stop by and share your well-wishes.

FEED THE CROSSING STUDENTS

Students at The Crossing, the UW Madison campus ministry, are appreciative of the **free** Sunday evening meals they enjoy following their worship service. This year we have taken responsibility for the meal on **Sunday, October 22**, and need some help. We need people to provide the meal, including casseroles, bags of salad, bread, and bars; please sign up on the clipboard in front of the office. We will need a vegan option and a gluten-free option again this year. The food would need to be at our church by 3:45pm that day. The Confirmation students will be taking the meal to the Crossing but anyone is welcome to go along.

JUST BAKERY

Just Bakery (a Madison-area Urban Ministry Program) will sell bakery items **Sunday, October 1**. Contact The Madison-area Urban Ministry at 256-0906 if you would like to order something in advance that they will bring that day.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN INFORMATION

Friendship Circle – will meet on **Tuesday, September 5** at 6:45pm at Marilyn Hearden’s home. Julie Larson will present our program. She facilitates a program at Oakhill Correctional Institution called “Windows to Work.” Please join us for an informative and pleasant evening.

Quilters and Yarncrafters– Mondays at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall, except Labor Day. Quilters focus on making baptism quilts for infants, as well as youth quilts for DAIS and lap quilts for others. Knitters and crocheters of all ability levels are welcome! If you are a beginner we will be happy to provide yarn and needles/hooks to help you learn! For more information call Marjorie Kaukl at 222-4243 or Polly Brandes at 222-6709.

Faith Circle - Thursday, September 14 at 1pm at the home of Hazel Estervig.

Reading Circle – Thursday, September 28 at 1:30pm at the home of Siv Goulding. The book selection is: January First: A Child's Descent into Madness and Her Father's Struggle to Save Her by Michael Schofield. New members are encouraged to come.

Executive Committee –will meet **Monday, October 9** at 1:30pm in the church library.

UMW FALL POTLUCK

Fall kick-off event for UMW is planned for **Tuesday, September 12**, 6:15 in Fellowship Hall. A Potluck supper, conversation and sharing followed by a program by Brigadier General Joane Mathews who is the Assistant Adjutant General for Readiness and Training for the Wisconsin Army National Guard. There is no charge and you need not be a member to attend. Invite a friend to join you or come alone, either way you will be warmly welcomed. (Bring an item or two for the Food Pantry Cart; it would be a great way to start our UMW Fall season).

JAVA JIVE

Coffee -- Chocolate: Two essential items in our diet! May I also add Zucchini, grown by our local "small farmers", the Phillips Family and available at our Farm Stand Thursday evenings. What does the Phillips' small farm have to do with our Equal Exchange Coffee & Chocolate?

1. Equal Exchange Products are also available at the Farm Stand.
2. All products are from small farmers.
3. Zucchini pairs well with our Equal Exchange Chocolate Chips in Chocolate Chip Brownies.



Your purchase of these top quality products benefits small farmers plus tastes terrific! Equal Exchange Products sale on Sunday morning resumes on **September 24, 2017**. There just might be "samples" to try!

Thanks for your support. Jean Van Dreel, a team coordinator of AFT Mission of MUMW.



Goes to Julie & Greg Whitehorse and their family, after the loss of Julie’s step-father, Bill Terry, on July 28 and Greg’s sister, Lisa, on July 30.

CLIMATE JUSTICE #6

Climate Injustice: Human Consequences

***“...Man did not create the web of life, but he is a strand in it.
Whatever man does to the web, he does to himself.”***

Chief Seattle: Prayer to the Four Directions

This month, for a brief time and the first since 1979, we experienced a historical total eclipse of our life-giving energy source, the sun. This can give us pause to reflect on changes in ourselves, the world geopolitical status and humanity's diversities with its successes and failures over the past 38 years.

The “web of life” requiring ecologic balance is under assault as we struggle with the wise use of the sun's gifts to use in sustaining the diversity of plant, animal and humanity and its existence on Mother Earth.

If we accept the well-supported evidence that the greenhouse gas effect is contributing to climate change, we must seriously recognize the human consequences generated by increasing global temperatures and weather extremes. Unfortunately, it is human nature that we do not always react to a problem situation until it affects us personally. Fortunately, digital communication provides audiovisual impact and reality to events and disasters worldwide. We can recognize that extremes in weather can result in devastating mudslides in Sierra Leone and drought in Somalia can make more than 500,000 people refugees in their own country since November of 2016 (New York Times, 8/20/17). These among multiple disasters worldwide make it obvious that marginalized persons and underdeveloped areas of the planet suffer most secondary to their limited ability and resources available to respond to disasters of any origin.

It is an irony to have so much poverty amid areas with a wealth of natural resources. With private property, natural resources become currency. Water, soil, sand, clean air as well as the human genome, ancestral culture, justice, ethics even life and death become commodities owned by a small segment of the world population and subject to colonization, exploitation and plunder. Sustainable development must include growth in the health and well-being of all persons and the rest of nature in communities within their respective habitat.

Though the developed world seems able to cope with many of the effects of climate change, it is becoming increasingly personal to those who cannot “migrate” away from disaster, poor air quality or food and shelter insecurity in our own country.

As we view and contemplate with wonder and amazement the eclipse, let it not eclipse our cognizance that the energy of our sun does not give us free passage on Spaceship Earth. We have the knowledge, wisdom and God-given power to set the ship back on the right course and not be resigned to spinning out of control.

MUMC Adult Study Group



ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Our church website has a copy of the current month's newsletter. If you misplace your paper copy, you can go there to read it: www.mononaunitedmethodistchurch.org.

BASIC LAY SERVANT CLASS

Dates Sundays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29

Time: 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Place: Concordia UMC (Galena Street entrance), 585 5th St., Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Teacher/Facilitator: Pastor Doris Simpson

Theme: Basic Lay Servant Ministry

This is an introduction to the lay servant ministries of speaking, caring and leading.

Prerequisites: This course is open to anyone interested in becoming a Local Lay Servant. To receive credit as a Local Lay Servant, a student must be an active member of a United Methodist Church.

Prescribed/Suggested Text: Materials will be sent to you two weeks prior to the first class along with homework to prepare for the first session.

Registration: The registration fee is \$25 and can be paid on the first day of class. Checks can be made out to Concordia UMC. To register or if you have questions, call 608.643.8822 or send an email to: pastor@concordiaumc.org

AGRACE HOSPICECARE

Orientation for Prospective Volunteers

In September, Agrace will offer orientation for people interested in volunteering to brighten the lives of people with serious illnesses. The orientation sessions are **Thursday, September 7** from 5-9 pm, and **Monday, September 18**, from 1-5 pm, at Agrace's Madison campus. Before they attend orientation, prospective volunteers will complete an application and an interview process with Agrace's Volunteer Services staff to identify the volunteer's skills and interests. Call (608) 327-7163 to register.

Grief Support Groups

Agrace has a new location for its Madison-area grief support groups. Beginning in September, Agrace will offer five grief support groups at the Agrace Grief Support Center at 2906 Marketplace Drive, Fitchburg.

· Bridges Grief Support Group

Bridges is for adults who are grieving a death. It meets every other Wednesday all year, and no pre-registration is needed.

- o Meets September 6, 2017, and every other Wednesday thereafter, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- o Cost is \$10 per session. If needed, this fee can be lowered or waived. There is no fee for family members of people who received hospice care in the past 12 months.

· Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group

A six-week grief support group series for adults who are grieving the death of a spouse or partner.

- o Mondays, September 11 – October 16; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- o Cost is \$50 for the series. If needed, this fee can be lowered or waived. There is no fee for family members of people who received hospice care in the past 12 months.

· Journey Through Grief Support Group

A six-week grief support group series for adults who are grieving a death. Pre-registration is required.

- o Mondays, September 11 – October 16, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- o Thursdays, September 28 – November 2, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- o Cost is \$50 for the series. If needed, this fee can be lowered or waived. There is no fee for family members of people who received hospice care in the past 12 months.

- o For information about registration or fees for any of the above groups, call Jody (608) 327-7118 or send an online inquiry from agrace.org/griefgroups.

· Family Grief Support Program

Family Grief Support Program is for families with children aged 5 to 18. It meets every other Tuesday for 90 minutes, all year long. Pre-registration is required.

- o The program begins September 12, 2017 and meets every other Tuesday, thereafter, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner is included.

- o Cost \$20 per session/family. If needed, this fee can be lowered or waived. There is no fee for family members of people who received hospice care in the past 12 months.

- o For information about registration, fees or future meeting dates, call Jessie (608) 327-7135 or send an online inquiry form from agrace.org/griefgroups.

For information about one-on-one grief support, call the Agrace Grief Support Center at (608) 327-7110.



Women's Retreat - "Miracles Happen" September 29-30, 2017, Pine Lake

All women of Monona UMC — please join in a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship in a peaceful woodland setting beside Pine Lake in Westfield, Wisconsin. Gather at the Sharon Rader Retreat Center any time after 3pm on Friday. Starting at 6:30pm, we'll have a simple meal and our evening program around the fireplace. Saturday will be filled with events, but there'll also be free time to explore the area. The canoes will be out until noon! Departure

time is 3pm. Accommodations will be two per room (some rooms can fit three). All linens and meals will be provided.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Roommate Request: _____

Name & Phone for Emergency Contact: _____

I need a ride. I can drive and can take people along in my vehicle.

I have enclosed \$50 for my registration fee.

Please make checks payable to **Monona UMC** with **Women's Retreat** on the memo line.

Please return forms to the church office by Sunday, September 17, 2017.

\$ Financial Report \$

Cash Flow July 31, 2017

General Fund	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$ 18,958	\$ 166,288
General Operating Expenses	18,498	163,185
Net Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 460	\$ 3,103

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE
The Joy of Giving & The Purity of the Gift

¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12)

In my experience, we are pretty casual in our churches about ensuring whether our gifts are acceptable. We write a check, drop it in the plate or even send it to the office. Alternatively, our gift is sent directly by electronic funds transfer from our bank account to the church’s account. But is the gift acceptable to God, and how can we ensure that it is acceptable?

During worship, the collected tithes and offerings are usually taken to the altar at which time the congregation sings a doxology (literally word of praise) and the pastor says a prayer. Hopefully, in this way, we are asking God to bless our gifts. If God blesses them, then they are acceptable (pure, sacred, clean, holy) to God.

(Unfortunately, in many of our worship services, we give our offering of gifts to God very short shrift. I attended a service of worship recently in which we skipped the doxology because we were running short on time.)

In the Scripture above, Paul gives a very different slant on what is acceptable. He says, the gift is acceptable if the giver is eager to give. I certainly would want to continue to praise God and ask God’s blessing on my gifts during worship, but I can ensure their acceptability by giving them with joy in my heart.

Interestingly, Paul also indicates in this passage that acceptability of our gifts is proportional, that is, “according to what we have.” The widow’s two small coins (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4) are as acceptable as the large sums given by the rich because her gift was proportionally greater, indeed it was all she had.

Jim Wells

Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation

1-888-903-9863, wumf@wumf.org

The Life and Ministry of God's People In Monona United Methodist Church September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					2 9am English	3 4-6pm El Libertador Music practice-sanctuary
3 10:00 Worship 5:00 El Libertador Worship in Spanish	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:45 Friendship Circle	6 7:15-9:15am Fellowship Hall in use 2-4pm Library in use 6:30 El Libertador	7 4-7pm Farm Stand 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Trustees 7:30 Adult Choir	8 Kay vacation 9am English	9 10am-12 Seeds of Peace meeting at MUMC 4-6pm El Libertador Music practice-sanctuary
10 <u>See schedule below</u> Rally Day – Sunday School Starts 9:30 Blood Pressure 11:15 Church & Society 2pm Read 'Em & Meet	11 Pastors' Day Off 11:00 Hilltoppers Monona Garden 1:00 Quilters/Yarncrafters	12 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:15 UMW Fall Meeting, Potluck & Program	13 7:15-9:15am Fellowship Hall in use 12pm Pastors-School for Ministry, Green Lake 6:30 El Libertador	14 Pastors-School for Ministry, Green Lake 1:00 Faith Cr 4-7pm Farm Stand 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 SPRC 7:30 Adult Choir	15 9am English 5:00 Road Home Volunteer Night	16 8am Men's Group Breakfast out 1-4pm Open House for Anna Mae Wilken's 80 th B-day
17 <u>See schedule below</u> 10:00 3 rd Grade Bibles	18 Pastors' Day Off 1:00 Quilters/Yarncrafters	19 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:10-7:45pm Confirmation to Road Home Tour 6:30 Let's Talk About It	20 7:15-9:15am Fellowship Hall in use 12:30 Circuit-Sun Prairie UMC 6:30 El Libertador 7:30 Movie-Look & See Marcus Theater	21 4-7pm Farm Stand 6:00 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	22 9am English 4:30-7pm BBQ Bash	23 4-6pm El Libertador Music practice-sanctuary
24 <u>See schedule below</u> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Coffee Sales	25 Pastors' Day Off 1:00 Quilters/Yarncrafters	26 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 Ad Council	27 7:15-9:15am Fellowship Hall in use 6:30 El Libertador 7-8pm Confirmation with Mentor	28 9am Newsletter Helpers 1:30 Reading Cr. 4-7pm Farm Stand 6:00 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	29 9am English 3pm Women's Retreat-Pine Lake	30 Women's Retreat-Pine Lake until 3pm 4-6pm El Libertador Music practice-sanctuary

SUNDAY SCHEDULE (starting September 10)

9:00 Sunday School for children
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship
4:00 El Libertador - Bible Study in Spanish
5:00 El Libertador - Worship in Spanish

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Newsletter Deadline September 24. Information arriving after the above date may not be in the October newsletter. Remember, you can FAX your article to 222-2395 or email to secretarymumc@sbcglobal.net

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

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Pastora Estrella – esbe2013@hotmail.com
Spanish Worship 5:00pm

SEPTEMBER 2017

END-OF-SUMMER BBQ BASH



Friday, September 22, 2017
4:30 - 7:00 pm

MEAL DEAL \$10.00; \$9.00 for Seniors and Kids 12 and under

**BBQ, Beans, Potato Salad, Chips, Carrots,
Homemade Pie with Ice Cream, Lemonade or Coffee**

A la carte items are also available.

