



Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church

Dear CUMC Family and Friends,

As we receive April with the joy of Easter and step into the refreshing embrace of spring, I am reminded of the message of renewal and hope that this season brings to us. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ not only signifies the triumph of light over darkness but also serves as a powerful reminder of the endless possibilities that come with new beginnings.

In the post-Easter season, we are called to reflect on the transformative power of faith and the promises of God's unending grace. Just as nature awakens from its winter drowsing still present in the snow days we are having, we can also see it is bursting forth with vibrant colors and new life, on sunny days, and green grass, so too we are invited to awaken our spirits, and embrace the opportunities for growth and renewal that surround us.

This season of spring is a time of planting seeds, both metaphorically and literally. We plant seeds of kindness, compassion, and love in the lives of those around us, nurturing them with care and watchful attention. Remember that care sometimes comes as harsh, but it is needed for a better result or to avoid further disasters. Just as a gardener prunes and tends their garden, we are called to cultivate our faith through prayer, study, and acts of service, allowing it to blossom and bear fruit in abundance.

As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties of life – health, kids embarking on finals, youth preparing to go to college, looking for a job, searching for clients, parents facing empty nests, aging parents, losing loved ones, and others, let us hold fast to the hope that springs eternal from our faith in God. Let us trust in His providence and guidance, knowing that He is with us every step of the way. May this season of new beginnings fill our hearts with gratitude, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose as we continue our journey of faith together glorifying the Lord in all we do. Hosana he is alive! Indeed, he is alive when you let him be seen through you.

In the weeks ahead, I encourage you to participate actively in our church's ministries and outreach efforts. Joining our studies, fellowship, volunteering your time and talents, or reaching out to those in need, let us continue to be instruments of God's love and grace in the world.

Join me to celebrate our Sister Eleanor Laydon who celebrates her hundredth birthday on April 6. Send her a birthday card and look for a blast email with information about it.

May the blessings of this post-Easter season fill your lives with abundant joy and peace. Remember, dear friends, that we serve a risen Savior whose love knows no bounds. Let us walk in faith, embracing each new day with hope and expectation, for the best is yet to come for you, for us, and for our beloved Church. Hold on in Christ the Risen Lord.

Yours in Christ's service,
Pastor Lourdes Magalhães



A circular inset image showing several pink tulips with green leaves.

Easter Offering

Each year the Mission Outreach Committee selects one or two mission projects to receive the donations that come in on Easter Sunday. This year we have selected the **UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery fund**, which will benefit those in **Ukraine**, and the **Whitewater Community Space Project**.

We have supported the UMCOR project in the past and in various ways, but the Community Space project is new, so here is a brief description of it.

The UMC in Whitewater is very involved in the **Community Space Project**. Community Space provides support to immigrants who come to the Whitewater area, most of whom are from Venezuela or Nicaragua. More than 1,000

immigrants have come to the Whitewater area in the past year or so. They are hard-working people who get jobs, work hard, and put their children in school. Yet having left everything behind in their old homes, they have many needs.

Community Space helps these people get established. It helps pay for medical needs and utilities. It has a food pantry and clothing area to provide for those who need help. Many of the immigrants need bedding, linens, pillows, etc., and Community Space helps to provide those items for them.

One-half of our Easter Offering will be donated to the Community Space Project, and one-half to help those in Ukraine. You can be an important part of providing for those in need by donating generously on Easter Sunday.

Mission Outreach Committee

A horizontal strip image showing a dense field of colorful tulips in shades of yellow, pink, and red.

Second Quarter Coin Offering

A circular inset image showing a young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a pink shirt and blue overalls, sitting on a paved surface and drawing with chalk.

The second quarter Coin Offering will be donated to the Northcott Neighborhood House Summer Camp Scholarship Program. You might notice that the first quarter Coin Offering also went to this project. Because the donations to the Coin Offering have dropped to such a small level, we decided to collect for this project for six months rather than for the normal three-month period.

The donation that we provide to Northcott will allow a number of young people to attend the summer camp on scholarship, and will allow them to attend when they otherwise could not have done so.

When getting ready for church on Sunday mornings, please remember to collect your loose coins and drop them in the offering.



Let's Celebrate!

Let's celebrate Ellie Laydon's 100th birthday with a **birthday card shower!** Ellie's birthday is April 6. Please send your cards and wishes to:

Ellie Laydon
303 Spring Street
Grafton, WI 53024

Happy Birthday, Ellie!



Women of Faith

In April, Women of Faith will meet twice. First, on Monday, April 8, they will convene in the CUMC Community Room at 1:15 p.m. to discuss chapters 13 and 14 in *A Message of Hope from the Angels*. As this amazing book study is nearing its conclusion, it is time to choose a new book for next fall. The group is open to suggestions and recommendations.

The second April meet-up will be on Monday, April 22, at 9:30 a.m., for BYO coffee. CUMC women and friends are invited to join the informal fellowship in the CUMC fireplace area. Questions and R.S.V.P.'s go to Barbara Ridgely.



Save the Date!

Last year CUMC held a Brat Fry at the Sendik's Store in Grafton. We will do so again this year on Saturday, July 20 and Saturday, July 7. The proceeds will go to support Ozaukee Family Services and the Ozaukee Food Alliance.

Members of the Mission Outreach Committee will be reaching out to a few of you to help cook and serve on these days. So if you are available, please consider joining us. You will hear more about this as the dates get nearer.

Thank you!



Care Connectors

Our Care Connectors group will be meeting on Monday, April 15th at 1:30PM. We will continue our discussion on self-care focusing on when it is OK to be selfish and ways Jesus modeled self-centeredness.

Care Connectors continue to serve our home-bound and limited mobility members by arranging communion, home visits, or calls. If you know of someone who needs a connection to care, please let Pastor Lourdes know.

*Ellyn Wagner
Care Connection Team*

Patience



Waiting is a part of life, but, thankfully, we do not have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. And He is in control and knows what is best for us.

Even though His people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because we are created in God's image, we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can lean on the Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience when we encounter difficult circumstances in our lives.

It can be difficult to find patience while you are waiting for something important – or even something that is not so important. At its core, patience is about trust: trusting people to follow through...trusting that a process will run smoothly...and, most of all, trusting that God has our best in mind and that God's timing is better than our own.

Thankfully, as we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit is helping us grow and transform to become more like Him. This transformation includes growing in our ability to trust that God will be with us while we wait. As we follow Jesus and trust God, we will grow in patience.

As we start our month in Children Ministries talking about patience, we will think about the times when it is most difficult to wait. When we can anticipate the moments when patience might be tricky, we can prepare and be ready to wait. We will kick off the month with a patience proverb found in Proverbs 14:29. "Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are." When it comes to waiting, we have a choice. We can either lose our patience and get upset, or we can choose to keep our cool and think about what we can learn through our waiting.

We will face times when we have a choice between what is good and what is best. We might rush to get the good because we do not want to keep waiting for what is best. Yet it is in those moments when we might miss out on something really great. God has something amazing planned for us if we learn to have the patience to wait for it.

Waiting may be hard, but God's Holy Spirit can help us. We cannot avoid having to wait, but we can choose how we respond. A good way to discover patience is to think about what is true about God: God loves us and knows what is best for us. He cares for us and is always with us. We can trust God no matter what.

APRIL COMMUNITY KIDS AND PRETEENS

Theme: Patience – waiting until later for what you want now.

Memory Verse:

Wait for the Lord.

Be strong and don't lose hope.

Wait for the Lord.

Psalms 27:14, NIV

April 7

Bible Story: A Patience Proverb

Scripture: Proverbs 14:29

Bottom Line: Waiting can make you wise.

April 14

Bible Story: Esau's Impatience

Scripture: Genesis 25:24-34

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

April 21

Bible Story: Golden Calf

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-35

Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what is true.

April 28

Bible Story: Simeon Waits for the Messiah

Scripture: Luke 2:25-35

Bottom Line: God is with you while you wait.

*Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Joseph and His Brothers

Forgiveness

Forgiving others can be tough. It can also be difficult to ask God for forgiveness for something you did. We have all been there. But the good news is, experiencing God's forgiveness enables us to forgive others.

When someone does something wrong to you, you have choices for how to respond.

You could choose to ignore what they said or did. This might seem like a good decision, but you never get the chance to deal with your emotions. When you hold onto something that hurts, it can eat away at you.

You could choose to try to get revenge. You could do to them exactly what they did to you. Or you could do something even worse. I think we all know that this is not the wisest choice.

Or you could choose forgiveness, a much better choice than the first two. You could choose to forgive the person for what they said or did. Forgiveness allows you to give the whole situation to God and let Him help to fix the broken relationship. Even if you choose to end the friendship or relationship, God can work in you to heal your pain.

Forgiveness is always the best option. More than that, it is a command from Jesus. Matthew 18 retells a conversation that took place between Jesus and his disciples. "Peter came up to the Lord and asked, 'How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?' Jesus answered, 'Not just seven times, but 77 times!'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

This month in Student Ministries we continue our journey through the life of Joseph. We learn all about the jealousy his brothers felt toward him, their betrayal against him born from their jealousy, and Joseph's ultimate forgiveness. This is a story of hardship and sadness that was healed by love and forgiveness. We can learn a lot from Joseph's devotion to God. When he could have turned away from his brothers, he chose forgiveness. When he could have sought revenge, he chose forgiveness. He did not give in to the jealousy and betrayal. He chose God.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Men's Discussion Group

takes on

Two Books



The Thursday Morning Men's Discussion group began discussing a new book on Easter week: *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* by Jean-Yves Leloup. Perhaps no figure in biblical scholarship has been the subject of more controversy and debate than Mary Magdalene. Although she is discussed in the gospels of Philip, Thomas, Peter, and in the collection of writings known as the Gnostic gospels that were rejected by the early Christian church, there is no better insight into this mysterious and influential woman than Mary's own gospel.

There are several books with this title but this one by Jean-Yves Leloup stands out because of his knowledge of apocryphal and Coptic writings, and of eastern philosophies. Leloup is a French theologian and Orthodox Christian priest. He has published a number of translations of Coptic and gnostic writings. What emerges from this important source text and commentary is a new and perhaps more accurate depiction of Mary Magdalene as the "apostle of apostles," the one who first truly believed the nature of Christ. The gospel text and the spiritual interpretation by Leloup together reveal unique teachings of Mary that emphasize the eminence of the divine feminine and an abiding love of nature over the dualistic and ascetic interpretations of Christianity presented elsewhere.

The book about Mary Magdalene is appropriate for the season. But it is short so the men chose another that is appropriate for our times: *Not in It to Win It: Why Choosing Sides Sidelines The Church* by Andy Stanley. Is it possible to disagree politically and love unconditionally? The reaction of evangelicals to political and cultural shifts in recent years revealed what they value most. Lurking beneath our Bible-laced rhetoric, faith claims, books, commentaries in the media, and sermons are a relentless drive to *WIN!*

But the church is not here to win. By every human measure, our Savior lost. He lost on and with a purpose. And we are in it for something else entirely. That something else is what this book is about. The author, Andy Stanley is an acclaimed televangelist, author, and founder and senior pastor of North Point Ministries in Alpharetta, GA. In this book Andy will help us discover how to take a stand the right way, how to view politics through the lens of faith, and how the life of Jesus and his teaching applies to modern-day challenges in a fresh way.

Jesus never asked his followers to agree on everything. But he did call his followers to obey a new command: to love others in the same way he has loved us. Instead of asserting our rights or fighting for power, we need to begin asking ourselves: what does love require of me?

We invite all men to join on Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at PJ Piper's in downtown Cedarburg. There is lots of room at our table; come and enjoy a breakfast or just coffee as we discuss our books and enjoy each other's company.



Transitioning to Facility Care



Our care connectors met on March 18 with a representative from Village Pointe Commons. Amy Jacobson is the community relations manager for this living facility and she answered many questions about transitioning from being at home to facility care.

One valuable piece of advice she offered was to not wait until an “emergent” issue with decision making. For instance, if a person falls and needs to be in facility care, it is better to have a plan in place rather than having to scramble to make arrangements. Take time with family to have these sensitive, difficult conversations well in advance of issues.

Our group asked what kinds of care we as a church can offer in helping people make smooth transitions. She encouraged us to have our congregation members moving to assisted living to join in the community activities there to meet people and ease the sadness of not being in one's own home. To alleviate isolation

and loneliness, visits are so important. Many facilities in our area will now accept beloved pets as long as they can be care for properly and that can ease transitions.

As you can imagine, the terminology and choices of facility care can be overwhelming. Tours are available at all institutions, and she said that is a good place to start. Designated family members can help with the burden of paperwork, too, but assistance is available with the ADRC of Ozaukee County. As of right now, Village Pointe requires two years of living at the facility before Medicaid is accepted. Planning for financial housing costs is critical since care can run close to \$10,000 per month. ADRC can help navigate estimating costs. Plans for couples should include if one is in a care facility what expenses will the other partner incur living at home.

Many of the group shared their own personal experiences which helps us know we are not alone in this time of decision making. We thanked Amy for her time and guidance. She shared that Village Pointe will be having a seminar on “Living with Dementia” coming in May (see the flyer in this newsletter).



Rummage Sale

It is time to clean out those closets, garages, and storage units as we are getting ready for our annual church rummage sale once again this year!

Are you looking for a way to get involved? A way in which you can develop closer fellowship with several other church members. This is the committee for you!

Our annual rummage sale is as much about relationships and community as it is about fundraising. And there are many opportunities that fit just about any interest or time commitment, so please consider joining us.

Stay tuned for more rummage sale news in the upcoming weeks! Please contact Jaime at jaimestibor@gmail.com with any questions.

CUMC All Church Rummage Sale

Friday, August 23, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

AND

Saturday, August 24, 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Jaime Stibor



The Cedarburg Children's Theatre

presents

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The Children's Theater is at it again filling our halls with laughter and energy as they prepare and rehearse for their adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

Based on the beloved Ronald Dahl tale, owner and producer of the Children's Theater, Beth Albright, will work her magic to adapt the story to suit her talented actors. Her humor and love for the children in the theater come through in her renditions of the popular stories

she showcases on the stage. It is truly all about the kids in these performances and you do not want to miss it!

Showtimes:

Friday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Get your tickets today!



Save the Date! Vacation Bible School

We are getting ready to *Start the Party* as we plan for this year's amazing Vacation Bible School! This year the kids will be having a huge party together because we are celebrating the good news about Jesus.

God sent Jesus to be our Savior, and when we put our faith in Jesus, we get to have a relationship with Him that will last forever. Friends, this is good news. We have the very best reason to celebrate because of what Jesus has done for us. And guess what? Jesus came for every...single...one...of us.

So, be sure to save the date because the party will be here before you know it!

**Monday, July 15, 2024 through
Thursday, July 18, 2024
2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life, you can be a part of the party too! Contact me at stevies@cedarburgcumc.org if you would like to volunteer. We sure would love to have you join us during this fulfilled week as we share the love of God with one another!

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Happy Birthday to You!



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|----------|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| April 4 | Mark Sheets | April 11 | Mary Hundertmark |
| April 5 | Matthew Blodgett | April 15 | Michael Cordio |
| April 6 | Timothy Grams Eleanor Laydon Carole Tiedemann Chris Shewczyk | April 18 | Alia Reuter Phyllis Widstrand |
| April 7 | Alexander Peterson Jonah Swarthout | April 21 | Joe Johnson |
| April 8 | Jill Vanderspool Elizabeth Kelly | April 24 | Joann Jacobs |
| April 9 | Dee Gergens Ellie Wilmeth | April 25 | Sally Hader Maxine Curler |
| April 10 | Mark Westphal | April 27 | James Blodgett |
| | | April 30 | Kamren Westphal |

Not on the Birthday List? Please contact the CUMC office.



Meta House Lunch Program

CUMC continues to support the women receiving treatment and counseling at Meta House by making lunches for the women each month. The staff of Meta House has been very grateful, and they report that the women really appreciate our support of them as they work to get free from addiction.

Each month we spend approximately \$100 to buy food for this program. So far, this has been almost entirely funded by members of the Mission Outreach Committee buying food and paying for it out of their own pockets. While the Mission Outreach Committee does have a modest amount of money available in our budget, if we use that for this mission, it takes away from other missions that we try to support.

Because this is a CUMC mission, and not just a Mission Outreach project, those of us on the Committee ask that you consider making a donation to this project. You can donate by cash or check, and just indicate that it is to go to the Meta House Lunch project. Thank you for considering this.

Finally, thank you to all of you who have put your hands to work by making the lunches. Upcoming dates are April 21, May 5, and June 16. As always, we will meet in the kitchen immediately after Sunday morning worship.



**FREE TO
ATTEND!**

DEMENTIALive[®]

A WOW EXPERIENCE

**MAY 13
9 AM – 12 PM**

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A Look Inside Dementia

Experience life with dementia firsthand. Dementia Live[®] participants will gain a heightened awareness of the challenges faced by those who live with dementia. Walk away with new tools and techniques to improve your communication and care.

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RSVP by May 8 for a 30-minute time slot to Amy at 262-894-5394 or email ajacobson@capricommunities.com



**101 Walnut Circle,
Grafton, WI 53024**

**VILLAGE POINTE
COMMONS**
a capri community

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
OZAUKEE COUNTY



Home **Helpers[®]**
Home Care





Cedarburg **Community** United Methodist Church

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd.

P. O. Box 617 Cedarburg, WI 53012

Return Service Requested

Monthly Newsletter of Community United Methodist Church

Please worship with us on Sunday mornings, either in-person or online at cedarburgcumc.org
Memorial Day Through Labor Day | 9:00 a.m.

After Labor Day | 10:15 a.m. (Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.)

Pastor | Pastor Lourdes Magalhães | PastorLourdes@CedarburgCUMC.org

Church Office | 262 • 377 • 3832 |

Hours | Memorial Day Through Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

After Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012

www.CedarburgCUMC.org

"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"