



## Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church

### Dear Siblings in Christ,

**A**s we step into the new year, let us embrace the blessings of hope, and the renewal it all brings. January marks the beginning of a journey filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. Let us walk together, supporting and uplifting one another in all we do.

Opportunities for involvement include: Sunday Worship Service at 10:15 am, Sunday School for adults and children at 9 am, weekly programs such as Women of Faith, Men's Study Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month – Connect with Us through prayer and game night, Mission Outreach, and many opportunities to serve in your beloved CUMC.

I invite you to make 2024 the year of prayer and the year of holistic healing – mind, body, and soul!

Starting January 8th, every Monday from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, I will be praying for our joys, concerns, programs, and other needs. There will be a box available for you to insert your petitions and joys.

Prayer is the fuel taking you to God's throne. All are invited to join and stay as long as you wish. You may walk in, pray, and leave if you cannot stay the full hour. You don't need to sign up.

#### *Can I pray in my house?*

Of course, you can, but when we pray and intercede together, our prayer strengthens us more and more.

#### *I don't know how to pray.*

Don't worry, you can write and read your prayer, just say what is in your heart, read a prayer from a book, or just pray in your mind. Practice strengthens us, strengthens our church, and strengthens our community.

I invite you to make room for Jesus in your 2024 calendar by stepping in and filling the volunteer opportunities this church offers you. From Greeters, Ushers, Education (Adults, Youth, Children), Trustees (caring for the building), Mission Outreach (caring for those facing social justice struggles). Those interested in becoming followers of Jesus, and want to find out more

about what we offer, schedule a time to talk with me. I will be delighted to have a conversation with you.

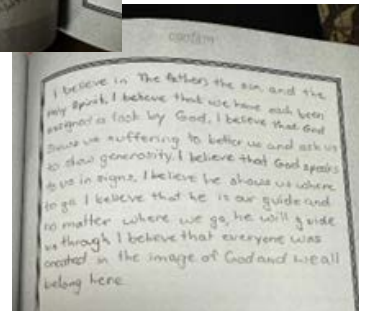
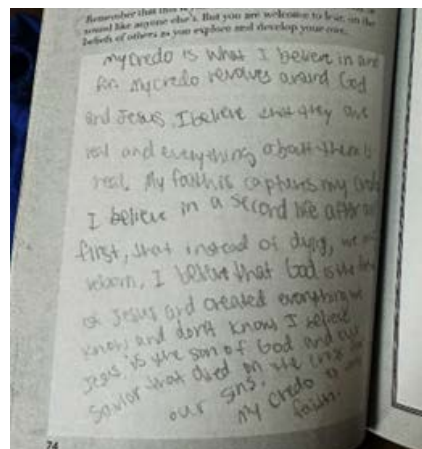
Make this house of worship a priority in your life, and in your calendar, offering all you can to support it with the gifts the Lord has given you.

John 10:10 says: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full."

CUMC is praying and working in the hopes you live life to the full. Give yourself a chance to step in as a volunteer so we share the challenges and blessings! Let's make this church a place that brings hope, faith, and love to you and our community!

Being part of the Confirmation class is a journey through the Bible, faith, the history of the United Methodist Church, and a hint of other religions.

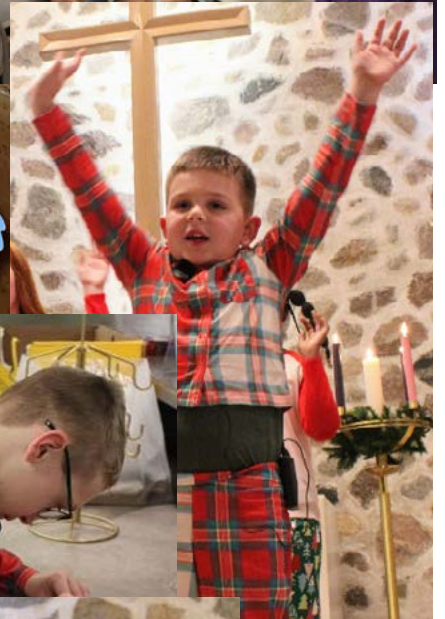
The 2024 Confirmation class was challenged to write their own Creed. Read below and be inspired by our teenagers who expressed their faith in God.



Have a blessed New Year!

*Pastor Lourdes Magalhães*







# Heavenly Handmade Holiday Update

**A** huge thank you to all of CUMC for participating in our Heavenly Homemade Holiday Sale. The generosity of members was wonderful. We are very proud to say our net profit was over \$1500! This is amazing, as lots of great baked items, cute crafts, and quality artwork were sold.


You could see the broad array of talents from so many people who submitted delicious treats. The packaging, the clever containers, and the tasty treat options were all on display in our bake sale. If you didn't find something to take home or give away, you missed a yummy Christmas addition. Our crafty, artsy members rose to the occasion with just about something to fill in your Christmas gift shopping. How about those who set it all up, covered the duties of cash box and

sales, and cleaned everything up, too. Everyone who helped this sale deserves a big thank you. To those who purchased items - your generosity is so appreciated. To support the ministry of this congregation you rose to the occasion and hopefully had fun doing so.

These funds go to our General Budget of the church. Remember this fund is the bedrock of our budget, supporting the many ways ministry is conducted at CUMC. Between the Rummage Sale this past summer and this sale we've contributed over \$8,500 to that fund! It has been said that even the smallest amounts when combined can make a difference and we certainly have witnessed that at CUMC. Let's keep these fundraising ideas flowing...how about it?



## Finance/Stewardship Update



**O**n behalf of the entire Finance team, I want to thank everyone for the 2023 contributions you made to Community United Methodist - Cedarburg. We are very fortunate to predict that at the end of 2023, we may make our budget, and end the year in a positive position. This was the result of good stewardship. We earned extra revenue from building use, investment income and special giving that filled the pledge shortage.

We are also happy if you have submitted your pledge cards for 2024, and if you have not yet returned yours, please get it to us as soon as possible. (There are cards available in the office, or we can email one to you.

Our 2024 Budget is \$241,714 for pledges. Current Pledges Returned are \$206,819. While we anticipate a few more pledges coming in, we expect a shortfall of around \$30,000. This is very similar to how the year 2023 started. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Shirley Krenzke.

### Stewardship Campaign Update

90 cards returned for a total of \$206,819

- a. 42 no change
- b. 27 increase - (2 new)
- c. 14 decreases
- d. 7 withdraw
- e. 45 no response

Mailed 135 cards.

*Finance/Stewardship Committee*

# Mission Outreach

## Looking Back ...and Forward

**D**ear CUMC Members and Friends,  
I write this on behalf of the Mission Outreach Committee, which you have always so generously supported. I have thanked you repeatedly as the year has gone on for the various special collections that we have held. But as we approach the end of 2023, I thought you might be interested in a summary of all that your generosity has supported.

We began 2023 with a budget of \$7,000, and with that money we supported 10 Ozaukee County organizations, 4 Milwaukee non-profit organizations, one national UMC Mission (Red Bird Mission in Kentucky), and four international UMCOR missions.

In addition to the above, you donated \$3,210 to special projects, including the Meta House lunch program and other projects, that allowed us to meet the needs of various organizations that exceeded our initial budget.

And finally, through your donations and participation in fundraising activities such as the quarterly Coin Offering, the Superbowl Soup Sale, the El Porvenir Aluminum Can Drive, the two Sendek's Brat Frys, the three Special Sundays (Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas), and the Special Sunday offerings such as UMCOR Sunday, Peace With Justice Sunday, and others, you allowed us to donate an additional \$3,600 to various causes.

That brings the grand total to \$13,810 that you have donated to help God's children locally, regionally, and internationally. And we are not done yet. As I write this, we have yet to include the Christmas offering (which will go to Family Promise and the United Methodist Church's Midwest Missions), and

the proceeds from the Pecan Sales (which will go to support Franciscan Peacemakers). In addition to the financial contributions that you have made, you provided 28 bags of food to Family Promise during the November Thanksgiving Food Drive, almost \$700 in gift cards and LOTS of hats, mittens and scarves to Northcott and Rooted and Rising (formerly United Methodist Children's Services), and a large donation of Christmas gifts to the residents of Lasata! Add to that the ongoing food collection for Family Sharing and Northcott, and the provision of meals to Family Promise, and the total impact that you have made is truly astounding!

Looking forward, we are planning once again to hold our annual Superbowl Soup Sale in early February, so please watch for those details.

I am humbled by your generosity and continued support for all that CUMC does to help those in need, and I thank God for each of you.

On behalf of your Mission Outreach Team, may God bless each and every one of you.

*Craig Pierce*



# Samson

**O**ur teen Sunday school class has been working through the stories and life of Samson since the beginning of the school year. And while we are ultimately finished with his story, we will continue to unravel the consequences of his behavior and choices he made throughout his life. We took our time through the book of Judges, and we journeyed through his life so that we could not only learn about him but also the grace that God showed toward him.

We will spend one more class on the final verses in Judges 16 before we recap and discuss all that we saw happening during his life. How, after taking wrong turn after wrong

turn, he still turned to God who, despite Samson's rebellious nature, still found God's forgiveness and the strength he needed to fulfill his purpose. This lesson teaches us that God made all of us for a reason and, no matter what, we are incredibly special to him.

Throughout these classes, the students have been working on a special project that we hope to share with all of you this month as we close our Samson series. Stay tuned!

*Stevie Stibor*  
*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*



## Save the Date - Love You to Pizzas Party!

**K**ids and preteens are invited to a pizza extravaganza in honor of Valentine's Day. Join us Saturday, February 10, when we will make our

pizzas, enjoy treats, play games, and just have fun living out the loving Word of God. More information to come!





# Responsibility

In Psalm 24:1, David wrote, "The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it." God is the author of creation, and God has entrusted us to care for and cultivate the world we see around us. We do that by taking responsibility. From work we need to accomplish, to people we meet, to the words we use, life is filled with moments where we can decide to reflect God's character, take responsibility, and use what we have wisely.

When we follow through and do what needs to be done, we can point others to Jesus, the One who took the ultimate responsibility for us and made it possible for us to be with God forever. God's Spirit has the power to transform our unique and imperfect lives into the character of Jesus. Taking responsibility may not come naturally to us, but God's Spirit can help us develop it in our lives as we follow Jesus and learn to live like Him.

Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. Everyone has some sort of responsibility. It could be getting homework done or picking up after playing a board game. Other times it might look like practicing a new instrument or caring for a hamster or puppy. For Pet Project, our children and preteen ministry group hopes to inspire kids to reflect God's character in the way they follow through on the work that needs to get done.

Throughout the Bible, we read a lot about how to live with responsibility. The Bible is filled with stories about people who could be trusted . . . along with others who struggled in this area. But beyond those stories, the writers of Scripture included proverbs, principles, and parables that also bring God's ideas about responsibility to life. Sometimes these concepts are more difficult to teach because there is no story included. However, the truths we find through Solomon and Paul, along with what we discover through Jesus' parables, can be life-changing when we learn how to live them out.

It is also important to remember that we cannot make promises about what will happen if we choose to put these ideas into practice. Proverbs and principles like these are not intended to offer certainty. Instead, they demonstrate that living with wisdom creates positive natural consequences that are likely to happen when we choose to honor God and others with the responsible choices we make.

## JANUARY KIDS AND PRETEENS

**Theme: Pet Project: See It Through**

**Memory Verse:**  
**Suppose you can be trusted with something very little.**  
**Then you can also be trusted with something very large.**

**Luke 16:10a NIV**

**January 7**  
**Bible Story: Greatest Commandment**  
**Scripture: Matthew 22:36-40**  
**Bottom Line: Love God and love others.**

**January 14**  
**Bible Story: Bigger Barns**  
**Scripture: Luke 12:13-21**  
**Bottom Line: Share what you have.**

**January 21**  
**Bible Story: Ant and Sluggard**  
**Scripture: Proverbs 6:6-8**  
**Bottom Line: Work hard.**

**January 28**  
**Bible Story: Use Words Wisely**  
**Scripture: Ephesians 4:29**  
**Bottom Line: Use your words wisely.**

*Stevie Stibor*  
*Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

# News from Temba Nkomozepe

**D**ear God's Holy people, Faithful brothers and sisters, Fellow workers and soldiers in Christ, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Grace and Peace be unto you!

I write to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year, 2024!

I was happy to finally meet you physically when I visited the USA. I thank you for allowing me to share our work with you in your churches and hosting me in your homes. I apologize for the churches who support us whom I failed to visit, but I am hopeful that I will be able to visit you the next time I itinerate. In the meantime, I am available to speak with you on Zoom or correspond through email.

Thank you so much for moral and financial support this year, 2023. Through your generous giving we reached the set goal for missionary support and we were also able to do a lot at the farm. We continue with the construction of our vocational college, which we are roofing now. Also we planted maize, soybean and sunflower on a total of just under 14 hectares for the year.



*Carpenters have started roofing the main block of our vocational/trade school.*



*Maize/Corn is growing so fast, now more than 2m tall.*



*All the roofing material has to be brought on site, 100 sheets at a time by the transporter, Yours Truly. One the last trip 100 iron sheets almost fell off the truck. Apparently no easy driving here like the highways in the Midwest.*

I had a very long trip back home from the US because our flight from Atlanta was delayed and I missed the connecting flight from Addis Ababa. I had to spend the day and night in a hotel in Ethiopia then proceeded to Lusaka the next day. When I arrived in Ndola, my wife and son joyfully picked me up from the airport and at Mujila Falls, our community welcomed me with song and dance. We are all grateful for you, our supporters, and we declare blessings on you and our connectional church.

I have enclosed a few picture updates below.



*So glad I made it in time for Lungile's birthday! (Angela, Lungile and Temba)*



*Reenes, Branel and Kennedy working on our Christmas party meal – pork, chicken and nshima (cassava and corn meal thick porridge/paste.)*

I'm very grateful for you and may your blessings be multiplied this year and throughout your life. Whatever is beautiful. Whatever is meaningful. Whatever brings you happiness.

May it be yours and your family's this Christmas and throughout the coming year. God Bless you!

Peace and Blessings, Temba Nkomozepe

# Christmas Choir and Acts 29 Thanks!

**W**e have many folks to thank after the debut of our Christmas Choir. If you were new to the choir, we are so happy that you took a “leap of faith” and gave singing in the group a try. It was marvelous to see new faces and we hope you had fun praising the Lord in song. We welcomed Lucien G. from CHS as a scholarship singer and hope he’ll return and fill our sanctuary with his beautiful tenor voice. If you are a choir veteran, we give thanks for your continued support of vocal music at CUMC.

To Acts 29 and their musical leadership. Not only did they provide the instrumental “glue” that added so much to the singing, but they joined their voices with the group.



To Ross on piano for covering all the music ministry songs and all the congregational hymns.

To Shirley and Ellie for organizing the music ministry, hymns, and all the myriad of details that go into planning worship.

We were blessed with a plethora of praise music in December. Handbells the first week, CUMC Jazz the second week, Shirley’s soaring voice along with Kayoko’s exquisite accompanying the third week. This congregation has been truly blessed with the gift of music.

Perhaps we can try a choir again for our Easter worship? If you liked what you heard, enjoyed the opportunity to sing together, and want to join your voice with all heaven and earth to celebrate our risen Savior, consider joining us come spring.

## Happy New Year!



**I**t is hard to believe that the new year is upon us, leaving many of us thinking where did the time go? Yet 2023, along with its mix of joys and concerns, is behind us.

For many, New Year’s is just another holiday. For others, it is a time of deep reflection, a time for setting new goals, a time for resolving to start or stop something to move us in a direction of change.

As Christians, New Year’s does not necessarily have any unique significance. But that does not mean we should not pause and reflect as we turn the calendar.

A new year can remind us of new birth. In a sense, each day with God is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. Setting goals for a new year are an important sign that we are intentional about glorifying God through our work, our home, our church, and our witness.

So, whether we are making concrete goals or more abstract ones, whether we are writing down resolutions or foregoing them altogether, allow your heart to draw closer to God and let him lead you into a year filled with the grace and abundance he wants for you. You are loved. I pray you allow that love to embrace you all throughout 2024.

*Stevie Stibor  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries*



## Women of Faith

**W**omen of Faith will begin 2024 with two January opportunities.

First, they will meet on Monday, January 8, in the CUMC Conference Room at 1:15 p.m. to discuss *A Message of Hope from the Angels*, chapters 7 and 8. Newcomers are welcome! Books are available on Amazon.com.

Second, Women of Faith invite all CUMC women and friends to gather on Monday, January 22, at 9:30 p.m., for an informal BYO coffee fellowship in the CUMC fireplace area.

Send questions and R.S.V.P.'s to Barbara Ridgely.



## Care Connectors

**T**he CUMC Care Connection Team will meet at 1:30 p.m. on January 15 in the Community Room. Our focus this month will be on "self-care." Self-care means taking the time to do the things that help us improve both our physical and mental health as we begin the new year. Care Connectors continue to serve our homebound 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*



## Connect with Us - Chili Cook-off

**C**onnect with CUMC and each other for Food, Fellowship and Fun on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m. We will gather for a chili cook-

off where we will vote for our favorite chili. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring chili, or a delicious side dish.



## Heartfelt Thanks!

**T**his is the first year for CUMC to have an artificial Christmas tree. After many years of providing real evergreens for our church, Rick Brekke

is not able to do this anymore. CUMC wanted to extend our appreciation to Rick for his generosity over the years. Thank you, Rick!



# Happy Birthday to You!



January 1	Bruce Krenzke Don Taft Nancy Taft	January 14	Tiffany Lator
January 2	Mike Harrington	January 16	Chris Robel Vicki Streich
January 4	David Grams	January 17	Paul Widstrand
January 7	John Grams	January 18	Dominic Jelinski Jakson Swarthout
January 8	Cooper Lator Kathy Ford Benjamin Brekke	January 19	Dan Swarthout
January 9	Kristin Westphal	January 20	Benjamin Taft
January 10	Michelle Manz	January 21	Janene Thomas
January 11	Tom Robel	January 27	Gayle Buege
		January 28	Tim Buege Craig Howe

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

## Mary Martha Circle

January 3, 12:00 p.m.

Open to ALL women of the church!

Please join us at P.J.Piper's Pancake House ( W61N514 Washington Ave., Cedarburg)

Sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to call Nancy Severson and leave a message.



## Adult Sunday School Class

Begins January 7, 9:00 a.m.

Join Mike Blodgett for his next Adult Sunday School class: *Ask - Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age*. We live in a skeptical age. People, especially young people, express doubts about Christian faith.

Scott Jones and Arthur Jones address hard questions that all of us face when considering faith, religion, and the church. The class will run for 8 weeks in the Community Room.











# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.CedarburgCUMC.org)

***"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"***