



"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night"
~ (Psalm 92:1-2)

What a wonderful thing to do

in this nation! In November, the people of this nation are given a time to pause and celebrate a day for Thanksgiving. This year, we will continue in this tradition on November 27 and we will all offer our thanksgiving to God, the Creator of the universe for His countless blessings bestowed on us as a nation, as a church family, as families and as individuals. As good as this tradition might be, I think one day a year is not enough to thank God. As children of God, we are called to joyfully participate in this national holiday of Thanksgiving, while simultaneously realizing that we have to acknowledge with gratitude all the blessings we receive each and every day throughout the year. Life, love, faith, health, friendships, relationships, opportunities, and everything in between is a gift from our Loving God.

I like what Henri Nouwen explains about the spirit of thanksgiving. He says, "Gratitude goes beyond the "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. This is significant to me in the sense that earlier in my formative years, I always thought of gratitude as a natural response to the awareness of gifts received, or simply put, a short-lived emotion that depends on our external circumstances. But now, as I grow in my spiritual journey, I have come to realize that gratitude is something to be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is freely given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy. We can enthusiastically embrace this discipline of gratitude because we understand that the action of thanksgiving is one which makes us humans

unique. Of all creatures, only human beings can choose to express gratitude, or choose to ignore the countless blessings of God. We must remember, though, that our unwillingness, or inability, to express gratitude is a deep, serious, spiritual illness.

In fact, this spirit of gratitude goes together with our Christian teaching of one's spiritual journey. God calls all His followers to discipline themselves and struggle to maintain a true Christ-like spirit, which includes the spirit of gratitude, the spirit of joy, the spirit of humility, the spirit of love, the spirit of hope, and more. Difficult and disappointing circumstances will tempt us to lose these Christian attitudes, but our spiritual struggle is exactly an effort to always live in communion with God and allow His Holy Spirit to fill us with His fruit of love, joy, peace, hope, and gratitude. Each and every moment of our lives, we have a choice to make whether to be grateful or to be ungrateful; to see life as a blessing, or a burden; to notice the hand of God present in our own reality, or to arrogantly think that we are our own god and we have achieved everything on our own.

This spirit and discipline of thanksgiving go in line with our upcoming Commitment Sunday. Every November, we chose one Sunday to be the day when we reflect upon the blessings that God has given us, and think about how we can show our gratitude back to God by offering Him from our many gifts. These gifts include our time, talents, and treasure. This year the Commitment Sunday will be November 16, 2025. By that time, you will have already received your stewardship packet and prayed to the Lord to guide you on how you can graciously respond to God's goodness to you and commit to support God's work through CUMC. Acting as a good steward of God in His Church is a concrete way we can express our thanksgiving to Him. I thank God for every one of you, and pray that you may have a most joyous and blessed Thanksgiving celebration.

In His Service,
Pastor Kyabuntu

Charge Conference November 9, 2025

On Sunday, November 9, soon after the church service, we will gather for our charge conference. We will be discussing the important business and current state of the church. Various written annual reports will be submitted, such as those of the trustees, finance committee, nomination committee, to name just a few. Rev. Kyung Sook "Sue" Lee from Mequon United Methodist Church will preside. We expect all members of the Administrative Council and various committees of the church to attend. We also encourage all members and regular attenders to attend as well.



Thanksgiving Service

On Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Community United Methodist Church, there will be a Thanksgiving Service. We will join together to express our thankfulness to God for His goodness and blessings He has given to us. The act of thanksgiving acknowledges God as the Giver and when we give thanks to God, we are confessing that He is the Giver of everything and we are on the receiving end of all that He gives.

Thanksgiving Dinner at CUMC



During the 11:00 a.m. Fellowship on Sunday, November 23, following worship, our church will host a traditional Thanksgiving All-Church Dinner! You will find sign-ups on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall for the food items needed to make it a great feast and to indicate whether you can attend. We encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, and family who would enjoy a time of food, fellowship, and fun.

Many of you ask how you can help to promote this event; here are a few suggestions:

Save the date, and sign up for this special annual event. Many hands are needed for set up on Saturday, November 22 (9:00 a.m.) and on the day of the meal.

During fellowship time over the next few weeks, ask others if they plan to attend. If not, encourage them to join us, and tell them why it's meaningful to you or your family.

Reach out to one or more members of our congregation whom you haven't seen for a while, and invite them to come.

Make an extra large batch of whatever you're planning to cook so we have plenty of food for visitors.

Sit next to someone you don't know well or at all. Remember that you were a new member once, and whether someone feels welcome can determine whether or not they want to become part of our church family.

Please don't save seats; if you feel strongly about sitting together, you can try to arrive together or wait in the coat area for your friends/family.

Watch to see if the tables are filling up, and offer to give up your seat to a newcomer while you help set up additional tables and chairs. It's an opportunity to show someone they are welcome and you're glad they're here!

Come with a thankful heart! Be ready to show gratitude for the privilege of gathering around the table with our church family – those who've been here for many years and those who are first-time guests!

Mission Outreach Christmas Activities

Northcott and Rooted and Rising

It is that time of year again. As in years past, we will again be supporting Northcott Neighborhood House, Rooted and Rising (the former United Methodist Children's Services), and Lasata.

Our giving tree will be put up in the lobby before November 2. This is for hats, mittens and scarves, which will support both Northcott and Rooted and Rising.

We will also be collecting gift cards for the same two organizations. Gift cards should be in denominations of \$10 or \$20, and should be from Target or Wal-Mart. These gift cards will help the staff of these two organizations purchase Christmas gifts for the children (and adults) that are supported by Northcott and Rooted and Rising. Cards can be placed in the wooden donation box in the church office.

In order to deliver the donated gift cards as well as the hats, mittens and scarves to the two organizations before their Christmas parties, we ask that all donations be brought to church no later than Sunday, December 7. The donated items will be evenly divided and delivered on Tuesday, December 9.

Lasata

Additionally, we will be collecting gifts for the residents of Lasata. A list of the requested items will be posted in church as soon as it is available, and we will request that you sign up for the gift... and the person...that you will support. This means that you will be purchasing items for a specific person, and the gift will be exactly what he/she has requested!

Those gifts must be unwrapped - please do NOT wrap them - and they must be delivered to church no later than Sunday, December 7. We have promised to provide gifts for 50 residents, but if we have more gifts that are donated, you can be sure that they will be used and appreciated.

Please help to make Christmas special for our friends at Lasata, some of whom are prior congregants of CUMC. Let's let them know that they are NOT forgotten!



Happy Birthday to You!

November 13 Emily Wellhausen

November 14 Lyle Schmidt

November 15 Ellyn Wagner

November 18

Janet Schmidt
Pat Lietzke

November 22

Mike Jelinski

November 28

Rick Zimbelman
Edna Stern

Magazines???



With so much reading material available online, reading paper magazines is largely a lost art. But if you are one of the few people who still receive magazines in the mail, or perhaps you buy them in the checkout line at the store, please keep the Ozaukee Jail Literacy Program in mind.

This is a mission that CUMC has supported for several years by collecting reading materials to be donated to the inmates in the Ozaukee County Jail. There is a group of people who sanitize the donated materials to ensure that it is appropriate for the inmates, and also to remove any personal identifying information. And a similar group of people also conduct tutoring sessions to help teach the inmates to read, and thus to better prepare them for re-entry into society upon their release.

It is not just magazines that are needed, but books - mostly paperback books - as well.

So please consider donating used magazines and books to the Ozaukee Jail Literacy Program. You can drop them in the lobby next to where we collect food donations for Family Sharing. A member of the Mission Outreach team will deliver the donated materials to the appropriate location.

And please keep in mind that many doctors and dentist offices have reading materials in their waiting rooms. Most of those materials get thrown away, but they would be perfectly acceptable donations. Ask the receptionist if we could have them when they are done with them. If you don't want to be responsible for picking them up, please notify Craig Pierce, and he will take care of it.

Thank you for keeping this segment of our population in mind...and in your prayers.

Craig Pierce and the Outreach Committee

4th Quarter Coin Offering



An email blast was recently sent out from the CUMC office about the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary in Milwaukee. This organization will be the recipient of our 4th quarter coin offering.

In recent years our coin offerings have suffered, to the point that sometimes we collect less than \$100 total for the entire three-month quarter. My guess is that this is often just because we don't think about bringing loose change to church. Because of the drop in our coin offering donation, your Mission Outreach team has committed \$100 from its budget to augment the recipient of each quarter's offerings.

Yet, we can do better. Let's see if we can reach \$200 in coin donations during the 4th quarter of this year. Although our numbers may be small, our hearts are not. So let's remember those who are less fortunate than we are, and let's do our part to make life better for those in need.



Women of Faith

On November 10th Women of Faith will meet in the CUMC library at 1:15 p.m. to discuss the rather lengthy Chapter 5 of the study book, *Finding Peace*. Those who wish to meet for coffee fellowship on the fourth Monday--November 24th--are invited to arrive at 9:30 a.m. at Big Apple Bagels in Grafton.

The women selected Monday, December 8, at 11:30 a.m. as the date and time for the 2025 Christmas Luncheon, and reservation have been made at the Flipside Cafe and Grill in Grafton. Please contact Barbara Anne Ridgely if you have questions.

Wander and Whisk Fundraising Opportunity



This successful fundraiser was started in 2024 and the Fundraising Committee has decided to continue it for 2025.

For those of you unfamiliar with this event, this is a cookie walk and craft sale that is open to our community. Another way to draw potential interest for an individual seeking a new church home.

As the old saying goes, many hand make light work. This event takes lots of hands so you can volunteer in various ways. Bakers – get out your fancy

Christmas cookie recipes and prepare to bake. Crafters – design and make your special crafted items to sell. Those of you who do not bake or craft, assistance is still needed. You can put up posters in locations you shop or work

to advertise. On Friday, December 12, 9:00-12:00 you can assist in set up and accepting donated items, and on the day of the sale, Saturday, December 13, 10:00-1:00, you can help with greeting and assisting guests, weighing cookie purchases, and other helpful ways. There will be sign-up sheets circulated soon so prepare to add your name to the volunteer lists.

If you would like to know more about this fundraising opportunity, another meeting is scheduled for November 13 at 9:30 and the committee would truly welcome your attendance. Or if you have questions in advance, you can contact either Linda Dillman or Pat Lietzke.

CUMC Fundraising Committee





Nations and Neighbors

Continue the Journey!

Looking for a midweek gathering that feeds your mind, heart, and spirit? Join us for “Nations and Neighbors” on Wednesday evenings – a time designed to connect, reflect, and grow together as a church family.

Each week, we come together to enjoy fellowship over food, dive into Scripture reflection, explore a cultural spotlight, engage in interactive activities, and lift one another up in prayer. It's a space where learning, reflection, and fun come together, helping us see God's work in the world and in our own lives.

Whether you're seeking meaningful discussion, hands-on experiences, or simply a time to pause and connect with others, this evening offers something for everyone. Come with your questions, curiosity, and an open heart – and leave inspired, encouraged, and connected to your church community.

Bring a friend or family member, and make Wednesday evenings a regular rhythm of faith, learning, and fellowship. We can't wait to see you there!

*Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Finance/Stewardship

As we approach the end of 2025, we express our optimism that our year-to-date profit for our general budget will continue to be positive and conclude the year on a favorable note. We extend our sincere gratitude to our congregation for their unwavering support and generosity, which have been instrumental in making this possible.

To ensure a positive net profit in 2026, Community United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the commencement of our fall Stewardship Campaign. This campaign will commence in November and will be distributed to congregants via mail in early November. Pledge cards can be returned during church services or mailed to the church at your convenience.

Sunday, November 16, has been designated as Commitment Sunday. While your commitment is not mandatory, we encourage you to return your pledge card to assist us in our planning efforts. This will prevent unnecessary follow-up communication from our committee.

We sincerely appreciate your prayers and support. Your pledge will contribute to the establishment of a positive budget for 2026, enabling us to continue our ministry and foster the growth of our church. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication.

*Shirley Krenzke
& Finance/Stewardship Committee*

Be Yourself - God's Got You

Being a teen can be confusing. There's pressure from friends, school, social media, and even yourself to act a certain way or fit into a certain mold. It's easy to start pretending to be someone you're not – trying to fit in or avoid standing out. But here's the truth: God made you exactly as you are, and He wants you to live authentically, not as a copy of anyone else.

God doesn't just want you to follow rules or check off a list of "right behaviors." He wants you to **know who you are and embrace it**, because your identity is rooted in Him. When you trust God, you gain the courage to be yourself – even when it's hard, even when others don't understand, even when it feels risky.

Being true to yourself doesn't mean ignoring God's guidance – it means letting Him shape the real you. He sees your strengths and weaknesses, your quirks and talents, your dreams and fears – and He celebrates the person you are becoming. Lean on Him in moments of doubt or pressure, and you'll discover freedom to live honestly, confidently, and uniquely.

The Bible is full of examples of people who stayed true to themselves while trusting God. Esther stepped into her role as queen, embracing who she was, even though it was risky. David followed his heart as a shepherd and a leader, trusting God with his strengths and weaknesses. Daniel remained faithful to God in a foreign land, standing firm in his identity even when it was unpopular. Their stories remind us that God values authenticity over approval.

So, students, here's the challenge: take a step today to live as your true self. Be honest in your friendships. Speak your truth with love. Pursue the gifts and passions God gave you. When you do, you'll find that trusting God makes being yourself not scary, but empowering – because the One who made you knows you best and will never leave your side.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Don't Miss "The Night Everything Changed"!

**Kids & Students Christmas Program
Sunday, December 21
during worship**

Get ready for laughter, surprises, and a whole lot of Christmas joy! On Sunday, December 21, our kids and students will take center stage during worship to present this year's Christmas program: "The Night Everything Changed."

This fun, lighthearted retelling of the Christmas story reminds us that sometimes the biggest moments come in the most unexpected ways. You'll see the story of Jesus' birth come alive through the eyes of kids who bring humor, heart, and a little holy chaos! From shepherds who are weary of counting sheep to angels who take their job very seriously, it's a joyful reminder that God's plan to save the world began in a humble, hope-filled night – and that good news is still changing everything today.

While the program is packed with personality, it also carries a powerful message: that *God shows up in ordinary places and through ordinary people*. It's a beautiful reflection of how He continues to work in our lives right now – through our children, our families, and our church community.

This morning of storytelling, humor, and heart will be one you don't want to miss. Bring your family, your friends, and your Christmas spirit as we celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth – kid-style!

Come ready to smile, laugh, and be reminded that the night Jesus was born truly *changed everything*.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Bedrock: Building Confidence in God, Block by Block

Confidence is something everyone talks about – but few truly understand. In a world that often tells us to “believe in yourself,” the Bible invites us into something deeper, stronger, and more lasting. True confidence isn’t rooted in self-reliance, talent, or success. It’s grounded in the unchanging truth that *God is with us*.

We define **confidence** as *living like you believe God is with you*.

That kind of confidence doesn’t waver when life gets hard. It doesn’t crumble under pressure or disappear when things don’t go our way. Instead, it’s built on the steady, unshakable foundation of God’s character – His love, His faithfulness, and His promises that never fail.

That’s why our theme this month is called “**Bedrock: Building Confidence in God, Block by Block**.” Just as a building must rest on solid ground to stand firm, our lives must be built on a foundation of faith. Every story we hear, every moment we trust, every prayer we pray – it all becomes part of the structure God is forming in us. One block at a time, our confidence grows as we come to know who He is and what He has done.

Throughout this series, our kids will explore powerful stories from Scripture – stories of men and women who built their lives on faith in God. They’ll hear about people who faced fear, uncertainty, and impossible odds, yet chose to trust God’s goodness. These aren’t just ancient tales; they are living examples of what happens when we place our confidence in the One who never changes.

When David faced Goliath, he didn’t rely on his own strength but on God’s power. When Esther risked everything to save her people, she trusted God’s providence even when His presence wasn’t obvious. When Peter stepped out of the boat, he learned that confidence in Christ can keep us standing even on the waves. Each of these moments reveals the same truth – confidence in God is built through faith that acts, even when we can’t see the outcome.

My prayer is that as children encounter these stories, they’ll begin to build their own bedrock of faith. They’ll learn that God’s love is steady, that His promises are true, and that His presence never leaves them – not at school, not at home, not anywhere.

But this isn’t just a lesson for kids. It’s a reminder for all of us. We live in a world that shakes our sense of security and questions what we stand on. Yet, when we root our lives in God’s Word and His character, we find confidence that endures.

So, as our kids learn to build confidence “block by block,” may we do the same. Let’s take time to remember God’s faithfulness in our own stories. Let’s encourage one another to trust Him in the places that still feel uncertain. And let’s live like we truly believe – every single day – that *God is with us*.

That’s the kind of confidence that lasts. That’s the kind of confidence that changes lives. That’s the **Bedrock** we’re building on together.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Thank You

My wife and I are very appreciative and thankful for all the cards of love and appreciation. We thank you so much and we thank God for us to be able to serve among you. May God continue to keep you, protect you and bless you all.

Pastor Kyabuntu





Twander & Whisk

A Sweet Treat Stroll

**Saturday
December 13
10 AM - 1 PM**

Capture the Christmas season with delectable cookies, candies & treats, when Community United Methodist Church holds a **Cookie Walk & Holiday Craft Fair**. The funds raised will go to faith supported programs. For more information visit our website - cedarburgcumc.org.



Cedarburg
Community
United Methodist Church

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Cedarburg **Community** United Methodist Church

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Monthly Newsletter of Community United Methodist Church

Please worship with us on Sunday mornings, either in-person
or online at cedarburgcumc.org | 10:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Through Labor Day - Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m.

Pastor | Pastor Banze Kyabuntu | PastorKyabuntu@CedarburgCUMC.org

Church Office | 262 • 377 • 3832 |

Hours | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

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"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"