



Cedarburg
Community
United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

Be Still, I Am God



"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ⁴

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵ God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. ¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." ¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." ~ Psalm 46:1-11

Have you ever been at the point in life where you did not know what to do because there was nothing you could do? Have you ever found yourself at the point of breaking and helplessness wondering how you were going to handle some situation in life, realizing that you did not have the power, the authority, and the ability to have it in your own strength? I can say this without any fear of contradiction that in this thing called life there comes a moment when life will present a set of circumstances for you that you have no authority, no ability, and no power to facilitate some change. I write this from my own experience. Many times, I have found myself at a place where I could not do anything to change the circumstances of my own life. In those moments, helplessness and hopelessness seized me. Consequently, I could not do anything but seat and watch. Children of God, I am aware of many health issues running in our congregation. We are living in trying time.

We are living in a moment when our faith is tested. Many times, I sit behind my desk disturbed thinking about many of you and praying for you, but I always end up being encouraged and strengthened.

In this reflection, I want to share with you the secret of my strength: I turn to the book of Psalms. You may have your own favorite book of the Bible, which is okay; but I love Psalms because when you come to this book, it gives you a picture of several individuals who found themselves in circumstances that were beyond their control and they were able to call on a God for whom nothing was impossible. And in their moments of strain and suffering, God showed up and showed to them that He was able to work things together for their good. Psalm 46 for instance, is a communal song of confidence and trust in God. In this Psalm, the community of faith is lifting their voices, letting everybody around them know that they trust and have confidence in their God. In verse 1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Whenever the community of God comes together and begins to sing, this is what they say, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." I do not know what this Psalm 46 can do for you as far as healing your soul is concerned but for me it helps me remember that though I am in a helpless condition, God is still up to something on my behalf. There might be someone reading this reflection who is facing some threatening life situations beyond their control, I want to assure you that God is working something out on your behalf so that your situation can be changed in your favor. God is still able to give you victory over your adversity, suffering, pain, and circumstances: be still.

Now, as much as I find comfort in that one verse, verse 2 is a bit challenging, because it says, "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." There come some situations in life that can be challenging and fearful, and can make one shifts in attitude. I, myself have experienced this at many occasions in my life. I shifted in my attitude because my illness or any other situation

(continued)

in my life did not give me some calmness and peace. My experiences were scary. How can't you be afraid when life is presenting you some scary stuffs, challenging diagnosis, and painful treatment? Verse 10 tries to give us an answer because in this verse, God speaks for Himself and He says these words, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Is there anybody reading this reflection who is grateful that every now and then God will open His own mouth and begin to speak to you in ways that you meet Him? God knows what to say and just at the right time so that we can have hope and know that everything will be alright. I am sharing this verse with you because I know that I am not the only one who has stood at some crossroads in life. Someone might be reading this reflection while dealing with some scary situation or diagnosis in their lives. Others, may not be there yet. But I want you to know that as you keep living, something will show up in this life that will scare you. And in that moment, God says, "Be still. And know that I am God." What does it mean to be still? In other words, God commands us to relax. Yes, I know you are scared, but relax. That is my word for everybody who is dealing with some stuff of some kind: relax. That word in Hebrew is unique. It literally means to "be idle or lazy." But the connotation in Psalm 46:10 is "to withdraw, to take your hands off, to drop your weapons and know that God is now working on your behalf to change the situation for you."

Now, if you can remember in other verses that precede verse 10 is talking about how God causes wars to cease because apparently there were some challenges in the life of the community of faith and they were dealing with some enemies, some battles and the Bible helps us understand that when God speaks, He says, I do not want you stressing about what is going on around you. Know that the God you serve is in charge. Withdraw, take your hands off your situation, drop your weapons, and believe that God is working. By our human nature, we were designed to fight or fix anything before we withdraw from anything. But in this scripture, God tells us that there are some fights you cannot handle by yourself or in your own authority or ability. You are too weak, too fragile to handle any situation. That is why God says, I am trying to help you: withdraw, take your hands off, drop your weapons, and realize that I am in complete control. The moment I came face to face with this verse; it shifted my attitude. Peace filled my heart and hope was restored. At some point in life, we are just going to remember that no matter what we are going through, God is still God and He is in control and He will fight our battles. Let me share with you why this is important for us to know. When we know that it affects how we live. What we know affects how we see the situation of our life. And if we know that God is God, it shifts our perspective and let us know that the enemy will not get the last word.

In His Service,
Pastor Kyabuntu

Happy Birthday to You!

October 2	Betsy Manz	October 19	Stan Heiniger
October 3	Ross Eggert	October 20	Sandy Purdy
October 6	Lincoln Schiel	October 24	Evan Zimbelman Nora Zimbelman
October 8	Grant Flesner	October 26	Lisa Zimbelman
October 9	Tania Ponfil	October 28	Mika Jelinski
October 12	Jan Adams	October 30	Sally Ghrist Nancy Hardee Grace Johnson
October 16	Ethan Johnson	October 31	Janice Olson
October 17	Chris Schumacher		
October 18	David Enright		

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

No Tricks – Just Treats!

A Halloween Party Celebrating God's Goodness

Saturday, November 1, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m, Fellowship Hall

Get ready for a day full of fun, faith, and so many treats! You are invited to our "No Tricks – Just Treats" Halloween Party, where we will celebrate not only the joy of the season but also the amazing gifts, we receive from God every day!

This is not your average Halloween event – this is a faith-filled, family-friendly party packed with games, goodies, and great reminders that God is the ultimate giver of good things.

What's Happening:

- **Costume Contest** – Come dressed as your favorite character.
- **Pumpkin painting and crafts** – Get creative with fall-themed art.
- **Carnival-style games** – Win fun prizes while having a blast.
- **Snacks & Sweets** – Enjoy some tasty fall treats with friends.
- **Gratitude Wall** – Kids can write or draw the "treats" God has given them – like family, friends, and Jesus!

Because here is the sweet truth: while candy is great, the sweetest treat of all is knowing how much God loves us. This party is a celebration of His goodness, kindness, and the joy He gives us every single day. We will have fun, but we will also take a moment to thank Him for the "treats" in our lives, big and small.

This event is perfect for all ages, so bring your friends, your neighbors, and your families!

Save the Date!

Saturday, 11/1, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

No tricks. Just treats. Just Jesus. Let's have a blast celebrating the joy of the season and the even greater joy of knowing God's love. We cannot wait to see you there!



Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Cedarburg Community UMC Ministry Giving & Spending Report for August 2025 Year to Date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenue:		
Pledged	\$ 131,186	\$140,000
Unpledged	\$ 4,910	\$ 6,667
Other	\$ 48,729	\$ 41,251
Total Revenue	\$184,825	\$187,918
Expenses:		
Conference	\$ 26,480	\$ 26,480
Facilities	\$ 31,502	\$ 32,667
Staff Relations	\$ 102,624	\$105,305
Other	\$ 20,343	\$ 23,466
Total Expenses	\$180,949	\$187,918
Net Revenue	\$ 3,876	

The Finance Committee is proud to report we have a positive year to date net revenue as of 8/31/25 of \$3,876. This year thanks to "other revenue" of Building use, Fundraisers, Holiday Offerings and Investment Income we have achieved this. Congratulations to the congregation for helping us achieve this! As we approach the fall, our stewardship campaign will be celebrating and asking you to help us grow for 2026.

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finance



Women of Faith

On Monday, October 13, Women of Faith will gather in the CUMC library at 1:15 p.m. to discuss winding down the summer and sharing thoughts after reading Chapters 3 and 4 in our new book, *Finding Peace*. Members mentioned they like the book and are finding it an "easy read." Books for new members are available online through In Touch Ministries. Contact Barbara Anne Ridgely with questions.

Outreach Upcoming Events

It is hard to believe that we are already talking about Thanksgiving and Christmas events! I wanted to give you advance notice of things that we are still doing...as well as one that we are no longer going to do.

Pecan Sales: Your Outreach Committee debated the continuation of this fund raiser for quite some time, but we ultimately decided that we will no longer hold Pecan Sales. In recent years there just has not been enough interest to generate any significant income. So we have reluctantly decided that we will no longer offer Pecan Sales.

Christmas Events: As in past years, we will again have a "Hats, Mittens, and Scarves" tree in the lobby of church. The donated items will be evenly divided between Rooted and Rising and Northcott Neighborhood House. At the same time, we will be collecting gift cards to Target and/or WalMart for the same two organizations. Gift cards should be in the denomination of \$10 - \$20, and these, too, will be evenly divided between these very worthwhile UMC organizations. Both of them have rather large Christmas parties at which they hand out gifts, and anything that we can provide to them are greatly appreciated.

We will also be collecting gifts for the residents of LaSata. As you know, some of those residents are former congregants of CUMC, but all of them, regardless of their church affiliation, really appreciate the gifts being provided...and most of all being remembered!

Additional information about all of these collections will be provided in the coming months.

2026 Superbowl: Finally, we will again be holding our annual Superbowl Soup Sale in February, 2026. The money that is raised will go to the Franciscan Peacemakers, which provides support for homeless women, and which importantly combats human trafficking. The date of the superbowl, and the soup sale, will be February 8, 2026, and we will be accepting donated soups several days in advance. Please mark your calendars, and more information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

Craig Pierce and the Outreach Committee

World Communion Sunday

October 5



As we step into the month of October, we are reminded of the rich traditions and meaningful observances that shape our faith. To name just one, the World Communion Sunday. October 5th 2025 is World Communion Sunday. This Sunday is celebrated throughout the world by Christians to mark the universal Christian practice of breaking bread and sharing the cup with one another to remember and

affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. When we observe this day, people celebrate the Holy Communion in their particular ways and languages and cultures. As we celebrate in our unique ways, we are reminded of our commonalities in seeking to live as disciples of Jesus in our current day and time. This sacred occasion invites the church to reflect on the unity of the Body of Christ and the call to love and serve one another, transcending all boundaries. It also calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity and unity among God's children around the world.



Nations and Neighbors

A Churchwide Journey of Culture, Prayer & Fellowship

This fall, we are embarking on a unique and meaningful 8-week series called “Nations and Neighbors”, a weekly celebration of culture, connection, and Christ’s heart for the world.

Each week, we will highlight a different country – exploring not only its traditions, foods, music, and customs, but also the spiritual needs of its people. Through this journey, we will grow in our understanding of the world, deepen our prayers, and strengthen our bonds as a church family.

What to Expect Each Week:

- A spotlight on one featured nation
- Cultural experiences like food samples, music, language, or dress
- A time of prayer focused on the people and spiritual landscape of that country.
- Stories of missions and ministry from that region
- Opportunities for deeper fellowship as we learn and grow together.

Whether you have traveled the world or never left the state, this series will open your eyes to God’s global heart and His call to love our neighbors, both near and far.

Why “Nations and Neighbors”?

Jesus commanded us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), and yet it starts with how we love our neighbor. This series is about expanding

our vision and our compassion. By understanding other cultures, we not only grow in empathy, but we also reflect God’s love to a world that is hurting and searching for hope.

In a time when the world often feels divided, “Nations and Neighbors” will remind us that the body of Christ is beautifully diverse, deeply connected, and stronger when we stand together.

How You Can Get Involved:

- Come each Wednesday ready to engage and learn.
- Invite a friend or neighbor – all are welcome!
- Share your own heritage if the featured nation is part of your story.
- Join us in prayer for the countries we highlight and the people who live there.
- Sign up at the kiosk in Fellowship Hall and let us know you are coming and/or if you would like to help.

It all kicks off on Wednesday, October 1st at 6:00 pm (and continues every Wednesday through November 19th) – and we cannot wait to go on this journey with you.

Let’s grow together in love, in understanding, and in mission. Let’s reach the nations, and our neighbors, for Christ.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Thank You

**Many thanks to Craig Howe for his hard work on the church lawn,
and for the beautiful back gate to the parking lot.**

Join the Mission: Help Lead the Next Generation Closer to God



At Community United Methodist Church, we believe the next generation is not just the future of the Church – they are an essential part of it right now. Every Sunday, our Children's and Student Ministries are alive with energy, curiosity, laughter, and, most importantly, the presence of God working in young hearts. But we cannot do it without you.

God is calling people, just like you, to invest in something eternal: the faith of our kids and teens.

Why Join the Team?

1. You Don't Have to Be a Bible Expert—Just Willing.

If you've ever thought, "I'm not qualified," here's some truth: God doesn't call the equipped – he equips the called. Kids don't need perfect leaders; they need present ones. People who will listen, show up, share God's love, and walk alongside them as they grow in faith.

2. You'll Make a Bigger Impact Than You Realize.

Think about the people who shaped your faith. A Sunday school teacher. A youth leader. A mentor. You can be that person for someone else. Sometimes, a kind word, a simple Bible story, or just being there week after week becomes the foundation of a young person's faith journey.

3. It's Not Just for Them – It Will Change You, Too.

Serving in kids' or student ministry stretches your faith in the best ways. It challenges you to grow, to lean on God, and to rediscover childlike faith. You'll find joy in the small things, laugh often, and be reminded that the Gospel is truly good news—for all ages.

4. You will Join a Joyful, Purpose-Driven Community.

When you serve in these ministries, you are not doing it alone. You become part of a team that prays together, serves together, and celebrates the wins, big and small, together. It's fun. It's life-giving. And it's one of the most rewarding things you will ever be part of.

Whether you love playing games or doing crafts, leading a Bible study, organizing events, or just being a friendly face, there's a spot for you on the team.

Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

We believe the next generation is one of the most important mission fields of our time. Let's not miss this opportunity to invest in what truly matters.

Let's raise up a generation who loves Jesus with their whole hearts...together.

*Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries*



The Bible in Contemporary Music



What do your favorite songs and the Bible have in common? More than you might think.

This fall, our middle and high school Sunday school class is kicking off an all-new series led by Mr. Chesney: **"The Bible in Contemporary Music."**

We will dive into the meaning behind some of the most iconic and thought-provoking songs out there and explore how they connect to Scripture, spirituality, and our everyday faith.

And we are starting with a classic: "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen (and covered by *basically everyone*).

You have probably heard the song in movies, shows, or on playlists. But did you know it is filled with biblical imagery? From King David and Bathsheba to Samson and Delilah, "Hallelujah" is more than just a haunting melody—it is a reflection on brokenness,

longing, love, and the tension between the sacred and the human.

In this series, we will ask questions like:

- What does "hallelujah" really mean?
- Can a song that feels sad still be worship?
- How do themes of redemption, grace, and struggle show up in today's music?
- How can we learn to listen for God's truth – even in unexpected places?

Why this series matters:

Music speaks to your generation in a powerful way. And whether it is a mainstream hit or a worship song, we believe God can use lyrics and melodies to open your heart and mind to deeper truth. This series will help you grow in discernment, biblical understanding, and your ability to see God at work – even outside the walls of the church.

Come ready to listen, ask questions, share your thoughts, and maybe even discover some new favorite songs along the way.

Bring your ears. Bring your questions. Bring a friend.

Let's find the gospel in the music that moves us. We cannot wait to see you there!

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Welcome to Wisdomland: Making Wise Choices with God's Help!

This month we are taking kids on a wild ride through *Wisdomland*, a theme that's as exciting and twisty as a roller coaster at your favorite theme park! From soaring highs to stomach-flipping dips, we are exploring how life, much like a roller coaster, is full of ups and downs. But here's the good news; God is always with us on the ride, and He can help us make wise choices every step of the way.

Throughout this series, we are diving into the stories of the kings of Israel and Judah. These rulers had a front-row seat to the power of wise and foolish decisions. When they chose to honor and worship God, the nation experienced peace, prosperity, and unity. These were the mountaintop moments, the exhilarating highs where everything seemed to be going right.

But sadly, not every king made wise choices. Many turned away from God, followed their own desires, or listened to poor advice. The result? A nation plunged into chaos, division, and despair. Just like the sudden drop on a roller coaster, these moments remind us how quickly things can spiral when wisdom is ignored.

So, what does that have to do with kids today? A lot more than you might think.

While our children may not be ruling kingdoms, the choices they make each day still have a significant impact – on their friendships, their families, their school life, and even their future. That's why this month we are helping them learn how to seek God's wisdom in everything they do. Through Bible stories, interactive activities, memory verses, and group discussions, kids will discover that:

- Wise choices honor God.
- God's Word is our ultimate guidebook for wisdom.
- We can always ask God for help when we don't know what to do.
- Our choices affect not just us, but everyone around us.

Each Sunday, we will focus on a key biblical principle and real-life application, giving kids the tools they need to think before they act, choose kindness over conflict, and trust God with the big and small decisions in life.

Parents, we encourage you to continue these conversations at home! Ask your child what they learned each week. Talk about the choices they are facing at school or with friends. And remind them often that God wants to help them make the wise choice because He loves them, knows what is best for them, and will never leave them.

As we ride through *Wisdomland* together, let's celebrate that no matter how twisty the turns or how high the peaks and low the dips, **God is our steady guide. He is always ready to lead us in wisdom, one choice at a time.**

Hold on tight, it is going to be a fun and meaningful ride!

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Charge Conference 2025

All members of the Administrative Council, various church committees and all other church members and friends; you are invited to attend the Charge Conference of Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church which will take place November 9th at 11:00 am soon after the church service. Rev. Sue K. Lee from Mequon United Methodist Church will preside this conference. This is a good opportunity for the whole church to come and learn how our beloved church functions. Looking forward to seeing you all there.



Connect with Us **this Fall!**

Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.

Service – 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship – 11:00 a.m.

October Pastor Appreciation Month

**Nations and Neighbors
8 Week Fellowship Series
Begins October 1 6:00 p.m.**

**CUMC Friends
Lunch at the Mineshaft
October 7 1:30 p.m.**

**Wander & Whisk Planning Meeting
October 8 9:00 a.m.**

**No Tricks – Just Treats Halloween Party
November 1 12:00 p.m.**



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.

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012

www.CedarburgCUMC.org

"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"