



Cedarburg
Community
United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

Time to Get Back



The Labor Day holiday traditionally marks the end of summer and many people get back to the routine of everyday life. Summer vacations are done, and children are back in school. It was exciting to see a lot of kids at Parkview

Elementary School when I went to drop off my kids on the first day of school. My Gaby was excited for her first day in first grade and Obed, his first day in second grade. Parents, everyone I met was excited – a lot of hugs and laughter. September is an exciting month. The church of God is not an exception either. This excitement should extend to the church as well. That is why I invite you all to get back to the church and make the church an exciting place to be.

As your pastor, I am so excited as I think about many of you getting back to church and the many things we have prepared for the church. When I say the church, I mean the people of Cedarburg Community United Methodist family. Among the things we have prepared for the church; first, beginning September 7, we will begin a new sermon series titled "Killing the Giants." As you may know, our life is filled with giants that attack us in different ways with a sole purpose of not only to destroy our lives but also to weaken our faith. The sad news is these giants can be paralyzing, traumatizing, enslaving and scary. But the good news is that every giant can be defeated because we have a God who fights for us. That is why when we experience these giants in our lives, we do not need to be afraid. We do not need either to run from the battle, but rather run to victory because our God promises us to always be with us. This is a very interesting series that I would not want you to miss. Join us for the next eight weeks. Second, discipleship opportunities are available for every ages. For example, children's programs will begin the week of September 14; adult Sunday School



will also begin this September 7, and we will be exploring the book by David Gibson, titled, "Living Life Backward." This is a great study that I invite you to participate. I hope we will not only learn something, but we will also have some fun while we do it.

Third, preparations are underway for Harvest fest and the upcoming stewardship campaign because as you may recall, our goal this year is to finish strong financially and begin the next year even stronger. God has been exceedingly gracious to our church this year. As I understand, we are holding up thanks to your commitment to serve the Lord with your lives and possessions through Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church. As you may know, stewardship is more than giving some money and a token amount of time. Stewardship is faith in action. Paul says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). God directs us to areas and activities He wants us to pursue and support. God takes ordinary people like us and does extraordinary things through us. Through our gifts, we become His hands, feet, and mouth. Through what you have done this year, you have proved your faith in action. You are true stewards. With all this said, let me pause here and just say, "thank you." Fourth, we will all have a full schedule with certain goals to accomplish together. For example, this fall, our goal is to build connections. In other words, we need to connect with other members, friends, and those in the neighborhood. In Matthew 5-7, asking what it looks like to live the blessed life, discovering the art of human flourishing, and considering how we as a community can live in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus today, we need to connect with others. That is why I personally invite you to join us for our Pot Luck on September 14th. It is the perfect time

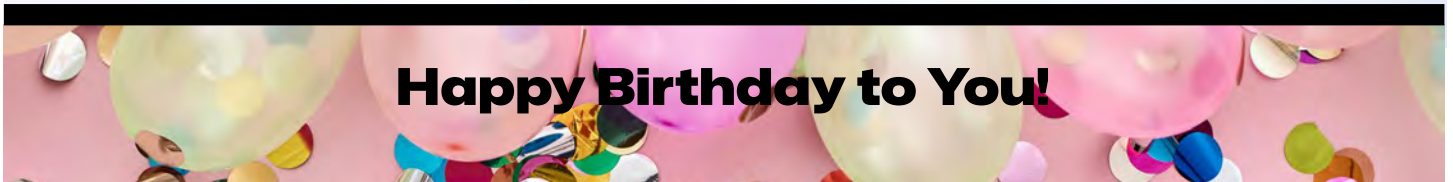
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to come back together after summer, reconnect with one another, and lean in to what God has for us in this season. But more than just filling a seat on Sunday, I want to challenge you to come ready to participate in what God is doing through our church. Come ready to grow, to wrestle, to be shaped by Jesus' words.

I would go on describing more things to come but because of lack of time and space, I want to stop here by saying that all these things: studies, events, programs are designed with the church in mind to help the church not only to grow in faith but also to come together, connect and strengthen our relationships. We want people who are here to engage in the life of their church. We want to welcome new people into the life of the church. When church members like you show up, new people get a sense of what our community is

like. Never discount the impact you can have on a new person. Your smile, your introduction, your just being you, it all adds up to being a welcoming church. If you have a friend looking for community, you are the best person to invite them. If you have an old church friend you have not seen in a while, you are the best person to invite them back. And if you encounter someone new here, that is a sign of new life in your church. Let all get back to church with full enthusiasm and excitement. And as always, it will be a season for me to feel proud to be your pastor. You are in my prayer life and you are always welcome to reach out and connect with me so I can support you. May God bless you every day, and peace be with you.

In His Service,
Pastor Kyabuntu



September 1	Bennet Krenzke Nathan Carpenter	September 17	Kristin Olson
September 3	Kerry Henderson	September 18	Dan Wade
September 4	Rachael Sheets Jan Setzer	September 19	Doris Schultz
September 5	Ethan Zimbelman Phil Schaefer Aleta Cooley	September 23	Dan Den Boer
September 12	Mary Grams	September 26	Sara Brekke
September 15	Rhea Slawter	September 28	John Hardee
September 16	Eric Mueller	September 29	Scott Flesner Jim Lake
		September 30	Guy Hansen

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

"Home Again" Potluck

Sunday, September 14
11:00 a.m.



Summer is rapidly coming to an end, and the routines of school, church and community programs will resume. To jump start our church programs – Sunday School for all ages, music ministries, children & youth ministries, small groups and active senior activities - all are invited to our annual "home again" potluck.

Have you missed seeing your church family over the summer? Are you new and wanting the chance to get more connected? Are you ready to dive in to all our opportunities to grow spiritually? Sunday, September 14 after the service (11:00 am) gets us off to a fun start!

Please bring a dish to pass. Hot dogs and Brats along with beverages will be provided, so salads, side dishes, snacks or desserts to share are what you can bring to make it a great meal. Look for a sign up so we can adequately plan, but also consider bringing an extra large dish to share to accommodate visitors who will be encouraged to stay that day!

Men's Study Group

We are all addicted to something or in some way. When we learn to identify our addictions, embrace our unbrokenness, and surrender to God, we begin to bring healing to ourselves, our family, our friends, and our world. In our newest book, *Breathing Under Water*, Richard Rohr shows how the Gospel principles of the familiar Twelve Steps can free anyone from any addiction—from the obvious dependence on alcohol or drugs to the most common addictions that break down our relationships with each other. We cannot stop drowning in the waters of our addictive culture, but we can see our reality for what it is, detach from it and build a "coral castle and learn to breathe under water". The New Testament calls it salvation, or enlightenment, the Twelve Steps program calls it recovery.

Richard Rohr is a globally recognized Jesuit Priest who has authored numerous books challenging our interpretation of the bible and our approach to religion. He is the founder and director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico. His manner of writing is challenging but easy to accept.

Gentlemen, please join us Thursday mornings at 7 AM at PJ Pipers in downtown Cedarburg for breakfast or coffee, and see if we can "breathe under water."

Thank You



David and Barbara Anne Ridgely want the church to know how very grateful we are for the kindness and generosity of so many members of our church family. In the wake of our tragic loss of two of our precious children, Nathan and Jocelyn last February, we have been comforted, encouraged and inspired by the love, prayers, and support that you have shown to us. Your continued support is appreciated more than you can know. With faith in Jesus Christ, we continue forward.



Women of Faith

On Monday, September 8, 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 One and Two in our new book, *Finding Peace*. Women, please bring a favorite Bible and *Finding Peace*. Books for new members are available online through [In Touch Ministries](#). Contact Barbara Anne Ridgely with questions.

A Note to Our Children and Student Ministries Leaders – You're Helping Kids Step into God's Big Story

God has invited each of us to play a powerful role in His unfolding story – including the children and students you lead. But just like the heroes of the Bible, the journey isn't always easy. As you walk through God's story with our kids, you'll see how Moses didn't feel ready, how Joshua and Caleb stood strong when no one else did, how Rahab risked everything for a God she had only just come to know, and how Ruth stepped into the unknown with faith and boldness.

Each of these moments shows us something important: when God's people move forward, it's almost always a step of courage.

The children and students in our ministry may not be facing giants or pharaohs, but their challenges are real, and they require real courage. Whether it's raising their hand in class, talking to someone new, standing up for what's right, or facing fears they can't even put into words, they need God's strength to walk in bravery.

That's where you come in.

You get to remind them that courage doesn't mean never feeling afraid, it means trusting God even when they do. You get to point them to the Holy Spirit, who gives strength, boldness, and peace. And every time they take a step of courage with God's help, the world around them gets a glimpse of God's story still unfolding.

So, welcome to the new year of children and student ministries! You're not just teaching lessons – you're helping shape hearts that will walk with God into every unknown, every challenge, and every opportunity He has in store.

I am so grateful for your support and dedication to these ministries. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children and students – the future of our church!

Because God is still on the move – and He's using you to lead the way.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Thank You CUMC!

The Mission Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for your amazing support that allowed CUMC to make two significant donations recently.

In early August, the Committee decided that we wanted to donate to flood relief for those who have been terribly affected by the floods in Texas, Virginia, and North Carolina. We set aside \$1,000 from the Mission Outreach budget, and we asked the congregation to join us in trying to reach a total donation of \$1,500. Within just a few days after making the appeal to you, our donations reached \$1,800. And now that the "dust has settled", we have topped out at \$1,247 in donations from the congregation, meaning that we are able to donate a total of \$2,247 to the Global Ministries US Disaster Response and Recovery Fund.

While our intent was to support those in Texas, Virginia and North Carolina, the US Disaster Response and Recovery Fund supports those in need throughout the U.S. This will include those in the greater Milwaukee area and throughout southeastern Wisconsin when we experienced our own flooding after the rain storms on August 9-10. The United Methodist Church has been and continues to be active providing various types of assistance. And it should also be noted that Midest Mission, which is also a United Methodist mission and is one that we have supported in a variety of ways over the years, has been involved both here and throughout the U.S. with flood recovery.

I should not be surprised, as your generosity to such causes is always amazing.

Later in August we held a Brat Fry at Sendik's in Grafton, the proceeds of which went to Ozaukee Family Services. Thanks to the many CUMC members and friends who stopped by to purchase food, eat lunch and visit with us, and the many community members who joined us, we raised \$440.

Again, thank you for making possible our support of these very worthwhile missions.

Craig Pierce
and the Outreach Committee

What Does Moses Have to Do with Me?

Finding Courage, and Direction, in the Unknown

Let's be real, life in middle and high school can feel like a mess of unknowns. Big decisions, tough choices, friendships that change, pressure from school or family, and questions about what's next... it's a lot. At times, it can feel like you're stuck at a dead end, unsure of what to do or where to go.

That's where Moses comes in.

Yeah, that Moses – the guy who stood up to Pharaoh, led a whole nation out of Egypt, and watched God part the Red Sea. But here's what we don't always talk about: Moses didn't think he was qualified. He had a past. He doubted himself. When God called him to something big, his first response was, **"Why me?"**

Sound familiar?

Maybe you've felt like that; unsure of your worth, unsure of your next move, or afraid of what the future holds. But just like Moses, **God is calling you to trust Him** in the middle of all the unknowns. And just like Moses, you don't have to figure it all out first.

That's exactly why Sunday School exists.

Sunday mornings aren't just about sitting through a lesson – they're about discovering what it looks like to walk with God when life gets complicated. It's a place to ask questions, connect with people who get it, and find real courage to face real life.

Over the next few weeks in Sunday School, we're diving deep into the story of how God led Moses and His people out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and toward the Promised Land. And we're asking big questions like:

- What do I do when I feel stuck?
- How can I trust God when things feel uncertain?
- What does faith look like when I don't have it all together?

If you've ever wrestled with those questions, you belong here.

God used Moses not because he was perfect, but because he was willing. What might God do through you if you're willing to trust Him in the unknown?

Come find out.

Join us in Sunday School. Bring your doubts, your questions, your friends – bring your whole self. We'll figure it out together.

Stevie Stibor

Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Brave the Unknown with God

Are you ready for an adventure? This fall in Sunday school, we're inviting YOU to brave the unknown just like God's people did long ago!

Imagine this: God's people had just escaped slavery in Egypt, and He was leading them to a brand-new land He had promised them. But the journey wasn't easy. They didn't know what was coming next. They wandered through the wilderness for 40 years, facing big challenges, tough choices, and plenty of moments where they had to trust God—even when they were afraid.

Sound familiar? Maybe you've faced some unknowns, too – starting a new school year, making new friends, or trying something that felt scary at first. That's why this Sunday School season is all about learning how to be brave; not by being fearless, but by trusting God no matter what.

Every week, you'll discover a new part of the incredible journey God's people took—and how He helped them every step of the way. And you'll be challenged to take small steps of courage in your own life, knowing God is with you, too!

What's coming up in Sunday School?

- Hear amazing stories of faith from Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Rahab, Ruth, and more!
- Try fun activities and games that help you learn to be brave.
- Create crafts that remind you of God's promises.
- Take on weekly courage challenges that help you trust God in real life!

God is still calling His people to step into the unknown—and that includes YOU. So come join the adventure. Bring your curiosity, your questions, and your courage.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Adult Sunday School

With Mike Blodgett

Begins September 7, 9:00 a.m., Wesley Room

DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US
TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END

Keeping the end in mind shapes how we live our lives in the here and now. Living life backward means taking the one thing in our future that is certain death and letting that inform our journey before we get there.

Looking to the book of Ecclesiastes for wisdom, *Living Life Backward* was written to shake up our expectations and priorities for what it means to live “the good life.” Considering the reality of

death helps us pay attention to our limitations as human beings and receive life as a wondrous gift from God freeing us to live wisely, generously, and faithfully for God's glory and the good of his world.

Books are \$13 for Kindle version, \$14.21 for paperback. Contact Mike Blodgett if you have questions.

The background of the entire poster is a close-up photograph of two hands gently cupping several autumn leaves. The leaves are in various stages of fall, with colors ranging from bright yellow to deep orange and red. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with fingers slightly curled around the leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the skin and the veins on the leaves.

Connect with Us **this Fall!**

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Service - 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship - 11:00 a.m.

begins September 7

Women of Faith
September 8 1:15 p.m.

Bell Choir
September 8 6:15 p.m.

Home Again Potluck
September 14 11:00 a.m.

Wine & Harvest Festival Fundraiser
September 20 & 21 9:00 a.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"