



Cedarburg **Community** United Methodist Church

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
cedarburgcumc.org 262-377-3832

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.

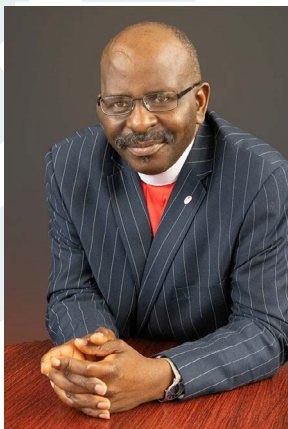
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www.CedarburgCUMC.org

"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"



Pastor's Corner



When I was finishing my master degree at Africa University, Zimbabwe, by that time, I was writing my dissertation: I was sick and tired of everything. The school had taken its toll on me and all I wanted was to get my degree, leave everything behind me and start my

ministry. All I wanted was to cross to the other side. I am currently experiencing the same thing as I am in the process of writing my doctorate thesis. There are seasons that come in life that start off with joy, excitement, and expectation, but as time goes, they take a toll on you and put you in a place where the joy is gone and all you want is to cross to the other side. If you have never been there, talk to a pregnant woman and she will tell you, "Pregnancy begins with joy and excitement," but at some point, in every pregnancy, a woman reaches the point where she is tired of being pregnant and the swelling and the sleepless nights... And she will tell you, "All I want is to get on the other side of delivery and walk into motherhood." Have you ever been there?

A marriage that is on the rocks and they will tell you it started with joy and love, but then they hit that rough terrain. The honeymoon is over. The joy and excitement are gone and the prayer is that, "Lord, just get us through this season and let this misery be on the other side so we can rekindle our joy." All you need to do is talk to someone who is going through round of chemo and they will tell you, "Even though the chemo is supposed to be healing me, I reached the place all I wanted is to get on the other side of these treatments and get my life back in order." For those reading this reflection, if the truth be told, some of you are just saying, "God, I am glad this year is over." Some of you may have good reasons to shout and thank God for the amazing things that happened in 2025 in your life, but there are few who can say, "I am grateful 2025 is over with all the hell I went through; the things I lost; the ups & downs and challenges I

experienced... I am just glad to make it to the end of another year and I am ready to begin another new year."

One of the Roman philosophers by the name of Seneca once wrote that "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." As we begin a new year I am reminded of the truth of that statement. The year 2026 is just about to begin but that fact comes on the heels of the fact that 2025 has ended. There is something special about new beginnings. The opportunity to start anew or lay aside the old. My question to you is, "How do you envision or plan to begin your new year?" As I want to suggest some few tips, I also ask you to wrestle with that question. But in the meantime, begin this new year with a vision. Begin the season with the expectation that 2026 will be a new season filled with new opportunities, and something better is on the way. See yourself in the new year being excellent and productive.

On another note, I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you who gave your time, gifts, energy, and resources to help Cedarburg Community UMC accomplish all we did this year. We continue to carry out our mission to make disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this community where we are currently planted. As I thank you all, I also want to challenge you to resist the temptation to rest on the glories of 2025. Instead, let us pray to God for what His vision is for Community UMC in 2026 and use last year as a source of spiritual inspiration to continue pushing on the proverbial gas pedal and let Jesus take the wheel. It might sound cliché, and I know there are many challenges ahead of us, but I truly believe that by the grace of God, our faith in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, the best is yet to come for Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church in 2026.

In His Service,
Pastor Kyabuntu

Finance/ Stewardship Update

On behalf of the entire Finance/Stewardship Committee, we extend our appreciation to all individuals who have contributed to Community United Methodist – Cedarburg in 2025. We anticipate at the end of the year, we will have successfully met our budget and achieved a positive financial standing. This great success is a testament to the excellent stewardship, great pastoral leadership, and wonderful support provided by our congregation. Detailed financials will be shared with you later this month. Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Shirley Krenzke at krenzke@icloud.com. She is happy to assist you at your convenience.

As we transition into 2026, Shirley Krenzke will be working with our new treasurer, Dan DenBoer, as he assumes his respective role within the church. Shirley has been very grateful for her time in these roles over the past several years, and she remains committed to supporting you during this transition. The Church Treasurer is responsible for disbursements, bill payments, reconciliation, budgeting, and reporting to the church. This position will assist you with your giving initiatives for our church. We encourage you to express your gratitude to Dan for assuming this role.

Finance/Stewardship Committee



Stewardship Campaign Update

We extend our appreciation to those who have submitted their pledge cards for 2026. However, several individuals have not yet submitted their pledge cards, and it is imperative that we understand your plans for our church in 2026. Kindly submit your pledge card as soon as possible. (Extra cards are available in the office, or we can mail one to you.)

Our 2026 Budget is set at \$212,008 for pledges. Current Pledges Returned amount is \$212,454.

Card Return Details:

We have mailed 102 cards, and 82 have been returned for a total of \$212,454.

Card Return Breakdown:

- a. 46 cards returned with no change
- b. 30 cards returned with an increase (2 new cards)
- c. 4 cards returned with a decrease
- d. 20 cards not returned

Income Tax Savings (Tip of the Month):

Many of our congregation members are required or choose to distribute funds from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). If the check is issued directly from the IRA to a qualified charitable organization or our church, this distribution lowers your taxable income; hence, an income tax savings. For further inquiries, please contact your IRA administrator to get this initiated.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Finance/Stewardship Committee

Wander & Whisk

A Sweet Treat Stroll

Photos courtesy of JK Michaelchuck Photography



Practice Makes Faith Grow



Most of us understand the power of practice. We see it in everyday life – athletes train daily to improve their skills, musicians rehearse until the notes flow naturally, and kids study consistently to grow in knowledge. Practice shapes us over time. It forms habits, builds confidence, and helps what once felt difficult become second nature. Faith, in many ways, grows the same way.

Following Jesus is not simply about gathering information or knowing the right answers. It is about learning a way of life. Each week we hear Scripture read, sermons preached, and prayers offered, but the real work of faith continues long after we leave the church building. Faith takes root when we practice what we have heard; when we live out the teachings of Jesus in our daily routines, relationships, and decisions.

Jesus often spoke about faith in practical terms. He talked about loving our neighbors, caring for the vulnerable, forgiving one another, seeking justice, and trusting God even when the path ahead feels uncertain. These are not ideas meant only to be admired; they are invitations to be lived. When we choose patience instead of anger, generosity instead of self-interest, or compassion instead of judgment, we are practicing the way of Jesus.

This practice is not about perfection. None of us get it right all the time. Some days we stumble, forget, or choose differently than we wish we had. But faith grows not through flawless performance but through faithful persistence. Each day offers a new opportunity to try again, to lean into grace, and to take one more step in following Christ.

We are also not meant to practice our faith on our own. God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who works within us as teacher, guide, and comforter. As we put our faith into action,

the Holy Spirit shapes our hearts, strengthens our resolve, and helps us grow in trust. Often this growth is quiet and gradual, noticeable only in hindsight as we realize we are responding with more love, more patience, or deeper hope than before.

Practicing our faith can look simple and ordinary. It may be praying at the start of the day, reading Scripture regularly, offering encouragement to someone in need, serving faithfully, or choosing to listen more carefully. These small, daily acts may not feel dramatic, but over time they form us into people who reflect Christ more clearly in the world.

As a church community, we practice faith together. We worship, serve, learn, and support one another as we grow. We celebrate progress, extend grace when we fall short, and remind one another that God is always at work shaping us, renewing us, and drawing us closer.

This rhythm of practicing faith is especially important in our children's ministry and Sunday School. Each week, our children hear the stories of Jesus, learn how deeply they are loved by God, and discover what it means to follow Him. As they pray, serve, and ask honest questions, they are practicing their faith in ways that shape their hearts for a lifetime. With the guidance of caring teachers and volunteers and the support of families and the whole church these small, faithful moments become the foundation of a growing, living faith. As a congregation, may we continue to encourage and invest in our children, trusting that as they practice following Jesus, the Holy Spirit is already at work, helping their faith grow strong.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



The Lord's Prayer: Why It Matters for Your Life

You've probably heard the Lord's Prayer more times than you can count. Maybe it was in Sunday School, youth group, or even in a movie. But what does it really mean, and why should it matter to you today?

The Lord's Prayer isn't just a set of words to memorize; it's a guide for how we connect with God and live out our faith. When Jesus taught it, He was showing us how to pray in a way that's honest, real, and life changing.

- **"Our Father who art in heaven"** reminds us that God isn't some distant figure. He's a loving parent who wants a relationship with you. You don't have to pretend or have it all together. God sees the real you.
- **"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done"** – Life is full of stress, pressure, and stuff that doesn't make sense. Praying this helps you remember that God's way is bigger than your worries. It's about trusting Him to lead, even when it's hard.
- **"Give us this day our daily bread"** is about trusting God for your everyday needs. Not just pizza and snacks, but the bigger stuff too, strength, courage, wisdom, and peace.

- **"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"** – Forgiveness is tough. We mess up, others mess up, but God wants us to let go of grudges and live free. Praying this helps us start fresh every day.
- **"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil"** – Life throws all kinds of challenges at us. This part reminds us that we don't have to face them alone; God helps guide our choices and protect our hearts.

The Lord's Prayer is kind of like a roadmap. It shows us how to talk to God honestly, trust Him with our lives, and treat others the way He does. And the best part? You don't have to be perfect. You just have to be real.

Want to dive deeper? Join us this Sunday at Sunday School to explore the Lord's Prayer in a way that's interactive, fun, and totally relatable. We'll break it down, talk about what it really means for your life, and discover how to live it out. Don't miss it – it's your chance to see prayer come alive!

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries




Thanks to all who contributed to our cookie walk and holiday craft fair. The variety of cookies was phenomenal and the crafts were varied and plentiful! The amount earned was \$2457.

This amount was \$734 more than last year, despite the frigid weather!

Our recap meeting will be Thursday, January 15 at 9:00 a.m. We will review what worked and what we need to change for next year. We will also discuss plans for the Spring Luncheon.

Thank You!



Thank you so much for all your prayers, card, and gifts! Our church has been such a wonderful support system for me during this cancer journey, and I truly appreciate it. Please keep the prayers coming as we continue. Thanks again!

Shirley Krenzke

Iwould like to thank everyone for the lovely poinsettia and holiday cards. I really appreciate it!

Ellen Holyoke



FINDING PEACE

Women of Faith

On Monday, January 12, at 1:15 p.m., *Peaceful Living*, Chapters 6 and 7, will be the topic for discussion in the CUMC library. Women of Faith welcomes new members anytime. Please contact Barbara Anne Ridgely about ordering a book or if you have any questions.

4th Monday Coffee Fellowship for all interested women of the church and friends will resume on January 26 at Big Apple Bagels, located on Wisconsin Ave., Grafton, between Culver's and Pick 'n' Save.

A Happy New Year - Stepping Forward with Hope

A new year always arrives with a sense of possibility. It invites us to pause, look back with gratitude, and look ahead with hope. As we say "Happy New Year," we do more than mark the passing of time – we acknowledge God's faithfulness in the year behind us and trust God's presence in the days to come.

The turning of the calendar offers a natural moment for reflection. We remember moments of joy and celebration, as well as seasons that stretched us, challenged us, or called us to lean more deeply on God. Through it all, one truth remains: God has walked with us every step of the way. Even when the path was uncertain, God's grace has been steady, and God's love has never failed.

A new year also gives us the gift of beginning again. While the world often encourages us to set resolutions based on achievement or self-improvement, our faith invites us to something deeper...renewed trust. We are invited to step into the coming year with open hearts, seeking God's

guidance in how we love, serve, forgive, and grow. Each new day becomes an opportunity to follow Jesus more closely and to reflect His light in the world around us.

As we enter this new year, we do so together as a church family. We will continue to worship, learn, serve, and support one another, trusting that God is still at work among us. Whatever this year may bring, new opportunities, unexpected challenges, or moments of transformation, we are not alone. God goes before us, walks beside us, and dwells within us.

May this new year be filled with hope that steadies us, faith that strengthens us, and love that guides our way. As we step into the days ahead, may we do so with grateful hearts and confident trust, knowing that God's mercies are new every morning. Happy New Year!

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Happy Birthday to You!

January 1	Bruce Krenzke	January 10	Michelle Manz
January 2	Mike Harrington	January 11	Tom Robel
January 4	David Grams	January 14	Tiffany Lator
January 5	Glen Peterson	January 16	Chris Robel Vicki Streich
January 7	John Grams	January 17	Paul Widstrand
January 8	Cooper Lator Kathy Ford Benjamin Brekke	January 18	Dominic Jelinski
January 9	Kristin Westphal	January 28	Craig Howe

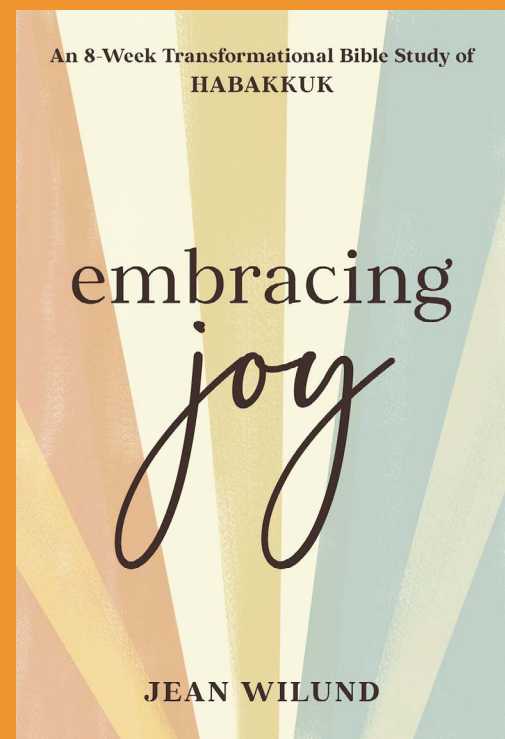
Not on the Birthday List? Please contact the CUMC office.

Adult Sunday School

How do you find joy in joyless times? Discover one of the shortest, most overlooked books of the Old Testament—one that contains an ancient message filled with modern-day hope. On January 4, at 9:00 a.m., Bob Chesney will begin a bible study focused on the book *Embracing Joy* by Jean Wilund.

This study points you to everlasting peace and abundant joy. Through probing questions, Jean Wilund's three-step transformational Bible study method, you'll uncover the powerful truths that transformed Habakkuk's perspective despite the violence and destruction that ruled the kingdom of Judah.

No matter what you're going through or what tomorrow brings, there is hope to be found in the book of Habakkuk.





New Worship Series - Pillars for Growth

We are called to be like Jesus. We are called to grow. We are called to live the full potential God created us to be. We are called to excel in everything we do or commit to do. How do we do that? Beginning January 18, 2026, we will be introduced to a new worship series called "Pillars for Growth."

In this series, we will learn certain principles we can use to build not only the ministry of this church and increase the quality of our discipleship, but also to build our individual lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Mark your calendar and join us for the following five weeks and we will all be blessed by this series.

Pastor Kyabuntu



Find Your Place: Discover How You Can Get Involved

Have you ever wondered where you fit in at our church? Whether you're brand new, have been attending for years, or are simply looking for a fresh way to connect, we invite you to join us for our **"Find Your Place" Workshop on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

This engaging workshop is designed to help you explore the many ways our church lives out its mission through service, leadership, and community. You'll have the opportunity to learn more about our various committees and ministries, hear what they do, and discover how your interests, gifts, and passions can make a meaningful difference.

"Find Your Place" isn't about filling a slot or adding something else to your to-do list. It's about connection – connecting your heart to the life of the church and finding a place where you can serve with joy, purpose, and confidence. Whether you enjoy working behind the scenes, caring for others, planning events, or helping shape the future of our church, there is a place for you.

Most importantly, this workshop is a chance to meet people, ask questions, and take a next step; no pressure, no long-term commitment required. Just come as you are, listen, and see what might spark your interest.

We truly believe that when each person finds their place, our whole church grows stronger. We hope you'll join us on **Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m.** and take this exciting step in discovering how you can be part of what God is doing in and through our church. A light dinner will be provided.



"Souper" Bowl Soup Sale

CUMC will once again hold a Superbowl Soup Sale on Superbowl Sunday, February 8. As we have done in the past, we ask those of you from the congregation to make one or more quarts of your favorite soup to be donated. We will sell them on Superbowl Sunday for \$10 per quart, and the proceeds will go towards the commitment that we have to our Covenant Missionary, Temba, at the Mujila Falls Agricultural Center in Zambia.

Soup containers and labels will be available Sunday, February 1 or during the following week from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We ask that you put a label on the soup container with the type of soup, and with the recipe if you want to. Soup can be dropped off at church between 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, or brought to church on Sunday morning. The sale will occur after church service on Sunday, February 8.

Thank you all for your participation, not only with making and donating soup, but with purchasing soup! And please feel free to ask one or two friends or neighbors to also participate, either by making or purchasing soup.

Mission Outreach Committee



Family Promise



December was CUMC's time to furnish a week of meals for Family Promise guests. We provide meals on Friday. St. Boniface gives meals on Monday and Wednesday. Out n Out donates salad and mac and cheese (CUMC fills in the rest and delivers the meal) on Tuesday. La Cantina contributes a meal on Thursday (CUMC delivers.)

Please thank the managers of Out n Out and La Cantina when you patronize these restaurants.

CUMC also provided a single male guest with Christmas gifts to brighten his Christmas celebration!

Thank you to the following people who donated food: Art Sutherland, Jane West, Sandy Purdy, Karen Eggert and Carla Schmidt.

If you would like to be a part of this caring ministry, contact Karen Eggert or Carla Schmidt.

Upcoming dates in 2026 include the weeks of March 2 - March 6, May 4 - May 8, July 10 - July 14, and October 26 - October 30.

Mission Outreach Committee