



Pastor's Corner



Happy Easter to everyone! Did you know that Easter is a story of a Man who died and was buried, and a few days later, He came back to life? Did you also know that Easter is the only one event that makes our religion unique? There is no other religion that claims the bodily resurrection of its

founder. The grave of Buddha is occupied. The grave of Mohammad is occupied. The grave of Confucius is occupied. But the only grave that is empty is that of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. And what that means for us Christians is new life and new beginning for everyone who trust in Jesus Christ.

Now, soon after the death of Jesus, on Good Friday, on the hills of Golgotha, there was much anxiety and fear among all disciples. Of course, these disciples had plenty to be anxious and afraid of. They saw their leader being brutally tortured on the Cross, and later His body was taken off the Cross and laid in a borrowed grave. With everything they saw, they assumed those same religious leaders would be looking for them to arrest and kill them as well. And so, they locked themselves up in a room hiding themselves for fear of being arrested. They were confused, worried and uncertain about their future. They would not sleep. Their world was shaken and turned upside down. I think we can identify in so many ways with these disciples. There are many things that happen in our lives uninvited, things like illness, crisis... and those things can leave us broken and shaken. When we look at the world, we experience war everywhere on the planet. Peace is eroding. Men and women are dying senseless death in foreign wars that do not even pertain them. Remember, these are sons and daughters of people. These are spouses and parents of people. Closer home, when we look at the political landscape, we experience lies, cover-ups, flatteries, confusion, chaos and the like. All these can make one confused and worried.

When we look at the economy, we experience price rises for basic commodities. All these can create fear, and uncertainty about the future. We may not have been with Jesus' disciples on that Good Friday, but their chorus is like ours: "What is next?" However, it was going to be a sad story if all ended with Good Friday.

But early Sunday morning, the women went to the graveyard, and they found out the body of Jesus was not there. Remember, the big stone they sealed on the grave and that stone was rolled away and these women were confused to see what they saw. Have you ever been there? Have you ever experienced that in your life? Maybe not a big stone. But a disappearance of something that created sleepless nights in your life. Maybe a miraculous healing of your body. You cannot believe what you experience or see with your own eyes: something good to be true. In their moment of confusion and fear, the angel appeared to them and said, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is risen." Put yourself in the shoes of these women. How cannot they be afraid? Remember how the dark covered the whole earth on Friday. Remember now the earthquake, and the angel on Sunday! That was scary. The women ran back to inform the other disciples. However, the disciples did not believe in their report because they thought it was just a piece of nonsense. And so, Peter and John came to the graveyard to see by themselves, and the truth of the matter was that Jesus was not there. Confused as well with what they saw; they ran back to the Upper Room and hid. This time it is not the angel, but Jesus Himself appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." Why? Because I am alive. And that is the good news of Easter story. We do not need to lose hope or despair or live in fear because of what is surrounding us. We do not need to live with low expectations because Jesus is alive and this should bring excitement, celebration, joy and hope to our hearts. Let me pause here and ask you this question. As we make our way toward Easter, what are you afraid of? What is that one thing or two keeping you awake all night long? Is something coming up in your life? As we prepare to celebrate this important event in the history of our faith, I want to remind you that there is power in the resurrection. The resurrection can still change everything for you that is keeping you confused, worried and scared if you would simply believe and trust in the Risen Savior.

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To prepare ourselves spiritually as we make our way to Easter, here is what we have prepared for you:

(1) Maundy Thursday: Worship will be held at 7:00 pm and the theme for that night is **“Love that Would Not Let Us Go.”** The service on Maundy Thursday will include the **Holy Communion.**

(2) Good Friday: Worship will be held at 12:00 pm with light lunch to follow. The theme for this service is **“The Crucified Savior.”**

(3) Easter Sunday: Worship service to celebrate the Risen Savior will be at 10:00 with Easter Breakfast served at 9:00 am prior to the service. The message on Easter Sunday is **“Living with Low Expectations”.**

Please, join us in all these services as they will be very beneficial to our spiritual journey with God. Should you also have someone to invite to the Easter Breakfast and the service, please do so. This is a wonderful time of year to do that. May God richly bless you and your family with full of joy on this Easter. Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday so that we can celebrate together the joy of the resurrection.

In His Service,

Pastor Kyabuntu

Personal Dignity Kits To Support Midwest Mission



After the church service on **Sunday, April 26**, we will be packing 100 Personal Dignity Kits (PDK) for Midwest Mission. We have done this for the past two years, and it is an activity that will cost you nothing, and one that everyone, including children, can participate in. The Mission Outreach Committee will provide all of the items that make up the PDKs. We need your involvement to pack these items into one-gallon zip lock plastic bags for shipment to Midwest

Mission. These kits will be provided to those who have experienced natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc., and who in many cases have lost everything. So please join us after church on Sunday, April 19, and be sure to bring the kids - they love being involved in a simple activity like this, and it is a chance for them, and us, to be God's hands in helping others.

Mission Outreach Committee

Easter Flowers



Thank you to all who generously shared flowers with us on Easter Sunday. Blessings to you and your loved ones at Easter!

Special Easter Offering Envelopes

I hope by now, you have already received the Easter offering envelope. Please, remember to return them. At this Easter season we are called to give generously to God out of thankfulness for the new life available to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May God bless you richly in your giving.

Maundy Thursday: A Sacred Invitation to Remember



As Holy Week unfolds, we are invited to slow down and walk more intentionally with Jesus through the final moments leading to the cross. Maundy Thursday offers a meaningful pause in that journey – a time to reflect on love, humility, and sacrifice.

On Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m., we will gather for a special Maundy Thursday service as we remember the night Jesus shared a final meal with His disciples. In that quiet setting, He demonstrated what true love looks like, not just in words, but through humble service and complete self-giving. He set an example that continues to shape how we live and love today.

This service is not meant to be loud or celebratory, but rather thoughtful and reflective. It invites us to step away from the busyness of life and enter into the weight and

beauty of this moment. As we listen, pray, and remember together, we are reminded that Jesus chose love even in the face of suffering. He chose to serve, to give, and to remain present with those around Him.

Maundy Thursday also prepares our hearts for what is to come. It helps us better understand the depth of Good Friday and the joy of Easter. By pausing here, we begin to see more clearly the cost of love and the incredible grace that has been given to us.

We invite you to join us for this meaningful evening. Whether this is a familiar tradition or something new, there is a place for you. Come with a posture of reflection, gratitude, and openness.

As we gather, may we be drawn more deeply into the love of Jesus – the kind of love that serves, sacrifices, and leads us forward with hope.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service - April 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service - April 3 - 12:00 p.m.

Light Lunch follows the service.

Easter Sunday Potluck Breakfast - April 5 - 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!

Easter Sunday Service - April 5 - 10:00 a.m.

Supporting What Matters Most

Middle and high school years are some of the most formative, and often most challenging, seasons of life. Students are navigating friendships, identity, academic pressure, family dynamics, and growing independence. They are asking deeper questions: *Who am I? Where do I belong? What do I believe?* What matters to them during this time isn't just success or achievement – it's connection, purpose, acceptance, and truth.

At this stage, relationships are incredibly important. Students want to feel known, valued, and understood. They are looking for safe spaces where they can be themselves without fear of judgment. They're also searching for direction, guidance that helps them make sense of life and the decisions they're facing every day.

This is where church and Sunday school play a vital role.

Student Ministries provide a consistent place where students can experience authentic community. It's a space where they can build meaningful friendships, connect with caring leaders, and know they are not alone in what they're going through. In a world that often pressures them to measure up or fit in, the church reminds them that their value comes from something deeper.

Beyond community, Sunday school helps students build a foundation of faith that speaks into real life. Rather than offering surface-level

answers, we encourage honest questions and thoughtful conversations. Students are invited to wrestle with their doubts, explore what they believe, and grow in their understanding in a way that feels genuine and relevant.

We also focus on helping students see how faith connects to everyday life. Whether it's handling stress, making wise choices, navigating friendships, or dealing with setbacks, they are learning that they don't have to figure it all out on their own. They are being equipped with tools, perspective, and encouragement that can guide them both now and in the future.

Ultimately, our goal is not just to fill time on a Sunday – it's to invest in students in a way that helps shape who they are becoming. We want them to leave feeling grounded, supported, and confident that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with families in this journey. Together, we can help students grow into individuals who are resilient, compassionate, and rooted in a strong sense of purpose and faith.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



What If? – Imagining a Growing Church Through Everyday Evangelism

E What if growing our church didn't start with a program but with a question?

What if...

What if each of us saw ourselves as someone who could make a meaningful difference in another person's life?

What if sharing our faith felt less like a big, intimidating moment and more like a natural, everyday conversation?

What if the simple act of inviting someone, listening to their story, or showing genuine care became the way our church grew?

Often, when we hear the word evangelism, it can feel overwhelming. We might picture having all the right answers or saying something perfectly at the right time. But what if it's actually much simpler than that?

What if evangelism starts with paying attention?

Paying attention to the people around us – neighbors, coworkers, friends, and even those we interact with briefly throughout the week. People who may be searching for connection, hope, or purpose. People who might be more open than we realize.

What if it looks like building relationships first?

Taking time to listen. Showing kindness. Being present. Earning trust. These small, consistent actions often speak louder than any single conversation. Over time, they create opportunities for deeper discussions about faith and life.

What if an invitation could change everything?

For many people, walking into a church for the first time can feel like a big step. But a personal invitation from someone they know can make all the difference. A simple "Would you like to come with me?" can open a door that might have otherwise stayed closed.

What if we trusted that God is already at work?

We are not responsible for having all the answers or changing hearts. Our role is simply to be faithful – to show up, to care, to share when the moment is right. Growth happens when we trust that God is working in ways we may not always see.

What if everyone took one step?

Not ten steps. Not something huge. Just one. One conversation. One invitation. One intentional moment of care. Imagine the impact if each person in our church took just one step toward someone else this week.

Growth doesn't always come from big events or major initiatives. Often, it happens through ordinary people living out their faith in simple, genuine ways.

So, what if we leaned into that?

What if we became a church known not just for what happens inside the building, but for how we live, love, and connect outside of it?

What if the next step in growing our church is already right in front of us?

Maybe it starts with one person. One moment. One "what if."

So, what can you do? Start small but start intentionally.

You can pray daily for people in your life who do not yet know Christ. Pray for opportunities to speak about your faith naturally and honestly. You can look for one person each week to encourage, invite, or simply listen to. You can practice living in a way that reflects Christ's love so clearly that people become curious about where your

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What If? – Imagining a Growing Church Through Everyday Evangelism

hope comes from. You can support the church's mission by participating in worship, serving, and building relationships within the community. You can share your testimony – because your story of God's faithfulness is powerful.

You do not have to have perfect answers to share Jesus with others. You only need to be willing to share what you have experienced of God's grace.

The message of the Gospel has never changed. The call to share it has never ended. What changes is how we live that message out in each generation.

Now is the time to move forward with confidence, not in our own strength, but in the power of God's Spirit working through his people. The church is not declining when it is faithfully sharing Christ – it is fulfilling its purpose.

The future of the church is not about holding onto what we have lost. It is about faithfully stepping into what God is still building. And God is not finished with his church yet.

*Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries,
Chair of Community Outreach and Evangelism*

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet on the second Monday, April 13, in the CUMC library at 1:15 p.m. Discussion will center on Charles Stanley's book, *Peaceful Living*, Chapters 12 and 13. New members are welcome 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 is planned for 9:30 a.m. on April 27. The place to meet is at Big Apple Bagels, located on Wisconsin Ave., Grafton, between Culver's and Pick 'n' Save.

Meta House Lunch Making



As we do every month, we will again be making lunches for the women at Meta House. The April date will be Sunday, April 19. This is a chance for you to help impact the lives of the women who are struggling to break free from substance abuse. Helping them to improve their lives affects not only the women, but often their children as well. This simple act

of providing lunches for them allows them to focus on their outpatient counseling, as simple as it is, is often the best meal that they may have all day. Please join us after the church service on Sunday, April 19, to spend 20-30 minutes in fellowship with other CUMC congregants while we pack lunches.

Mission Outreach Committee

Movement, Wellness, and Community: Senior Center Classes at Our Church



On several mornings each week, you may notice a quieter rhythm unfolding in our building. The local Senior Center offers Tai Chi here on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Chair Yoga on Fridays. During those hours, Fellowship Hall is transformed into a space of calm focus and steady movement.

Tai Chi emphasizes slow, intentional motions that improve balance and coordination. Chair Yoga provides accessible stretching and strengthening exercises designed to support mobility and overall health. Both programs play an important role in helping older adults remain active and connected.

Providing space for these classes is another tangible way we live out our evangelical calling. Evangelism is not only proclamation – it is presence. By opening our doors for programs that nurture health and fellowship, we build trust, strengthen relationships, and quietly reflect Christ’s care for the whole person. Simple hospitality often becomes the bridge for deeper conversations and future connections.

Should you encounter participants arriving or leaving, a courteous welcome is always appreciated. Your kindness helps reinforce that our church is a place where people of all ages can feel comfortable and respected.

We are thankful for the opportunity to share our space in this way and for the positive presence these programs bring to our weekly schedule.

Stevie Stibor

Happy Birthday to You!



April 5	Matthew Blodgett	April 15	Michael Cordio
April 6	Timothy Grams Eleanor Laydon Carole Tiedemann	April 18	Alia Reuter Phyllis Widstrand
April 7	Alexander Peterson	April 21	Joe Johnson
April 8	Jill Vanderspool	April 24	Joann Jacobs
April 9	Dee Gergens	April 25	Sally Hader Maxine Curler
April 11	Mary Hundertmark	April 27	James Blodgett
		April 30	Kamren Westphal

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

Going and Knowing my Church

with Jerry Johnson

Was a thought usually there, when was the last time
That my thoughts worked their way into going?
Why did it take me that much time to
Go back to the church where I was a member?
I was always welcomed by other members who
Always returned a friendly greeting with our usual handshake –
Including a nice looking smile and as usual “How are you doing?”

My wife was also pleased to be there at church
And was just as pleased as I was because we
Always did treasure our attendance. We loved to listen to the
Band and choir and the bellringers who would move
Their bodies in tune as they rang their bells.

Treasured to us was hearing the
Introduction by a church member who would welcome us all
And who would bring us up to date on church
Activities. These events always helped us appreciate the works of our
Leadership and participants who follow the inspiration of our
Wonderful, caring and active pastor.

Most, but not all, churches have a pastor
who brings us inspiration on our belief stages. To
Help us through our lives in a welcome and sharing
Manner, to help us keep our faith and helpful behavior
For ourselves and others.

We move in and out of our days in our lives with our get togethers
With our family and friends who might also share our beliefs
And helpful behavior. We also share our helpful church's beliefs which
Encourage our religious feelings toward ourselves, family, friends
And many other persons who might need our guidance,
Developed and supported by our Belief System.
This Belief System is supported by our weekly church inspiration,
Enhanced by our pastor's messages and belief in our personal religious life.

It is up to each of us to fill in our own Belief System and helpful behavior
In our sharing platforms with others who also share these beliefs and are helpful
To others. Our church will always give to us
Our own caring thoughts and beliefs which inspire us, brought to life
By a pastor with enhanced talent.

We therefore find in our lives a Personal Belief in attending our
Church, to continue our belief of God's and Jesus' messages
As shared to us by our worthy Pastor Kyabuntu

Please note that Attending could also mean with our computer at:
<http://cedarburgcumc.org/worship>

My Church was written by CUMC Member Jerry Johnson who is now living with his son Brian, his wife Christine and their children in Champaign, IL for the past six years after the passing of Jerry's wonderful wife, Maxine, who gave Jerry a wonderful 64 years of marriage.

Men's Study Group

will discuss the Letters of Peter



Hey guys; come and join us as we read and discuss the letters of Peter. In February and March we discussed William Barclay's book on the Letters of James from his Daily Study Series. In April we continue with Barclay's study of the Letters of Peter. Barclay, a renowned Presbyterian theologian, author, and minister, is well known for his in-depth texts of all the books of the Bible. His intent on writing the series was not academic but to enable readers to "to know Jesus Christ more clearly, to love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly."

Why did Peter, who Jesus loved most and named him the Rock on which the Christian church would be built, write only a few letters? I Peter is like a series of letters more like sermons; II Peter is more like a pastoral letter. They appear to be addressed to the entire Christian community as opposed to Paul's letters being addressed to individual communities. We look forward to learning more about the frequently forgotten or ignored words of Peter as interpreted by Barclay.

Men! We look forward to seeing you PJ Piper's Pancake House Thursday mornings at 7am. We'll analyze Barclay's thinking and share some comradery.

Strengthening Our Partnership with the Cedarburg Children's Theater



We are grateful for our continued partnership with the Cedarburg Children's Theater, who faithfully uses space in our building for rehearsals and programs. This collaboration has been a gift to our church – bringing energy, creativity, and young families into our space – and we deeply value the relationship we share. This relationship aligns beautifully with the heart of our evangelism ministry: opening our doors, building relationships, and creating welcoming spaces where Christ's love is powerfully reflected.

As part of their commitment to child safety, Cedarburg Children's Theater has recently implemented additional safety protocols. These include a designated check-in and check-out table for kids and families during rehearsal and program times. You may notice volunteers monitoring entrances or asking individuals to identify themselves.

If you are ever stopped and asked who you are or why you are in the building, we kindly ask that

you respond with grace and understanding. While many of us recognize the theater staff and families, they may not know all of us. Their questions are not meant to be burdensome, but rather to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in their care. Thank you in advance for helping create a culture of patience and mutual respect.

Additionally, during times when the theater is in session, I will be onsite. My presence is meant to provide support, so they have someone available to answer questions, assist with building needs, and strengthen communication. It also gives a welcoming face to our church and reinforces the spirit of partnership we share.

This is a strong and meaningful relationship that brings life and value to our congregation. Let us continue to extend hospitality, encouragement, and warmth whenever we see theater families in our hallways. A simple smile or greeting goes a long way in showing Christ's love and reminding them they are welcome here.

Thank you for helping us nurture this important partnership.

Stevie Stibor

Joy in the Bigger Story

As we move into the month of April, our Children's Ministry will be focusing on a powerful and encouraging truth that we want every child to carry with them beyond Sunday mornings:

You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Life doesn't always make sense, especially through the eyes of a child. There are moments of excitement and celebration, but also times of confusion, disappointment, or uncertainty. This month, we want to help kids understand that even when they don't fully understand what's happening, God is still at work in ways they may not yet see.

Throughout April, we'll be exploring what it means to trust that God's story is bigger than any single moment we experience. Instead of focusing only on what's right in front of us, we'll encourage kids to zoom out and see that their lives are part of something greater, something filled with purpose, hope, and direction.

Joy, as we'll be teaching it, isn't just about feeling happy when things are going well. It's deeper than that. Joy is a confidence we can have, knowing that God is in control and that He is always working for good – even in the middle of challenges. It's the ability to hold onto hope when circumstances feel unclear and to trust that the story isn't over yet.

Each week, our lessons and activities will reinforce this idea in ways that are engaging and meaningful. Through discussion, hands-on learning, and real-life application, kids will begin to see that their questions, emotions, and experiences all fit within a bigger picture that God is carefully and lovingly writing.

We also want to equip children with simple ways to apply this truth in their everyday lives. Whether they're facing something difficult at school, navigating friendships, or dealing with something that doesn't seem fair, we'll remind them that they can pause, take a step back, and remember *there's more to the story*. And because of that, they can choose joy.

April is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to build a stronger foundation of trust in God – learning not just to react to what they see, but to believe in what they know to be true about him. My prayer is that this focus on joy in the bigger story will help shape how they view their lives, their challenges, and their faith for years to come.

Thank you for partnering with us as we invest in the hearts and lives of your children.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



Save the Date!

Savor the Spring Salad Luncheon

**Saturday,
May 16, 2026**

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Once again, CUMC will be having a salad luncheon fundraiser. Last year, our Savor the Spring Salad Luncheon held on April 4, 2025 raised \$717. Because the first weekend in April is Easter weekend, it was decided to hold the luncheon on May 16 instead. The luncheon will include salads, breads, rolls, desserts, punch, coffee and hot water for tea.

Tickets will be \$15.00 and will be sold in advance. Tickets will be numbered and individuals will need to sign up for how many they take to sell. Tickets will be available on Sundays after service.

Sign-up sheets for salads, desserts, breads and rolls and punch are on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. There is also a sign-up sheet to set up on Friday, May 15 and assist on the day of the luncheon, May 16. A planning meeting is set for April 16 at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Dillman.

Native American Ministries Sunday



April 19 is also Native American Ministries Sunday. The United Methodist Church has set aside six Special Sundays that allow us to collect and donate funds to specific missions, and this is one of them. Alcoholism, abuse, and suicide in much more prevalent in the Native American culture than in the United States overall. Your Mission Outreach Committee has voted to provide funding to this cause via the United Methodist Church and also via a non-profit organization called Strong

Hearts. On April 19 envelopes will be available for you to make a donation to support Native American missions via the United Methodist Committee and Relief. If you are interested in learning a bit more about the needs of Native Americans, I encourage you to look at the websites <https://umcmmission.org/story/umcor-supports-the-heal-it-project-for-native-american-youth> and strongheartshelpline.org.

Mission Outreach Committee

Remember CUMC In Your Will

Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) has benefited from the generosity of gifts from many of you. Others have supported CUMC even beyond their lifetimes by including the church in their wills.

Please consider including CUMC in your will to strengthen the ministry of the church and extend your ministry into the future for the next generations. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the church office.



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.

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012

www.CedarburgCUMC.org

"We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation"