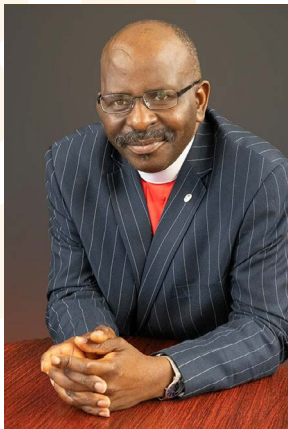




**Pastor's Corner**



“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” ~ 2 Peter 5:10.

**H**ave you ever been frustrated in this life? Or, have you ever experienced some storms of life such as financial crisis, family problems, relationships issues, failure, or career

challenges? Has your life been moving along smoothly but all of a sudden, an earthquake strikes or the unexpected happens such as illness or the death of a loved one? Has your world fallen or shaken yet?

I think you will agree with me. We are all living in a shaking world. Life is always a series of celebrations interwoven with a series of disappointments, pain and trials. As long as we continue to live in this crumbling world, the earthquake will strike in our life, the storms will blow strongly, the unexpected will happen, and we will experience trying moments... All those are characteristics of the shaking world. Now, it is always difficult to be a people of faith when the storms blow strongly on us, or when the earthquake strikes or when our world is literally falling apart on us. What I have learned is that in those moments of difficulties, our first response as Christians is fear, doubt, uncertainty and desperation. Many times, we feel overwhelmed, inadequate, discouraged and unable to move forward. We fail to maintain our faith in Christ. We crumble, we fall and we never stand again.

Let us ponder together. Is there any other option for Christians? Is there any possibility for Christians to remain unmoved in a shaking world? If so, how can we stand still as Christians when everything crumbles? What can we do to keep our faith strong in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves facing? The reality is that storms will come. Tragedies and earthquake will strike in our lives. They are inevitable. But I have Good News for you all. We can be unshakable in their midst. It is possible to live an unshakable life in a crumbling world. It is possible to face even the toughest situation in this life with our faith not only intact, but stronger than ever. However, we must have a good foundation. And that foundation is Christ who is in us all. As your pastor, I am aware that some in our church family are being tried and tested in their faith. This can be a very hard moment. However, moments like these are not meant to break us but to sharpen our characters. Moments like these are not meant to make us weak but to make us strong. Whatever you are experiencing in your life currently, I invite you to stand on the foundation of Jesus Christ. And also remind yourself as the psalmist says that, “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning” (Psalm 30:5b.) Those words are meant for your comfort.

In His Service,

*Pastor Kyabuntu*



## A Frustrated Church Goer



**W**hy do we go to church? Have you ever asked yourself this question?

There are many reasons why people go to church. A story is told of a church goer who wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote, "I have gone for 30 years now, and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I cannot remember a single one of them. So, I think I am wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting their time too by giving sermons."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I have been married for 30 years now. In that time, my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today." When you are down to nothing, God is up to something. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible. Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment.

*Pastor Kyabuntu*

## MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary Toy Collection



**M**acCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary (MBHS) is a homeless shelter located in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee at 24th and Center Streets. MacCanon is a former nun who was a founding member of Repairers of the Breach, and is someone who has a heart for helping those in need.

In 2013 MacCanon left Repairers and founded The Homeless Sanctuary which includes a homeless shelter, food and clothing distribution, and even a medical clinic. It is a daytime sanctuary and multi-resource center for homeless and at-risk individuals with core values of healing, spirituality, recovery, peer empowerment, dignity, nonviolence, advocacy, voice, sustainability and mutual transformation.

MCHS recently reached out to their supporters, including CUMC, to ask for donations of toys for the children, ages 1 – 17, that they serve. As the summer months are approaching, they wanted something to provide a positive spark in the lives of those children, to offset the chaos, uncertainty and violence of the environment in which many of them live.

Your Mission Outreach Committee hopes that the CUMC congregation will join us in supporting this toy drive. It will begin immediately, and we will collect toys until May 10.

We will have a bin (or bins) in the church lobby to receive your donations, which should be new, unwrapped gifts. A list of suggested "toys" is found below.

For more information about the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary, please visit [mbsanctuary.org](http://mbsanctuary.org).

As always, thank you for your generosity, and for having a heart for others.

For younger children: Craft kits; Play-Doh; Legos; Matchbox/Hot Wheels; dolls; jump ropes; roller blades; bubbles; sidewalk chalk; hula hoops; whiffle balls and bats; skateboards and helmets; books.

For older boys: Basketballs; other sports items; wallets; earbuds and gift cards.

For older girls: Manicure sets; bath sets; journals; jewelry and gift cards.

*Mission Outreach Committee*

# Seeking Wisdom: Finishing the Sunday School Year Strong



**A**s the school year begins to wind down, we are also approaching the close of another meaningful Sunday School season in our children's ministry. Classes will continue through Sunday, May 17, giving us a few more weeks to learn, grow, and finish strong together.

This year, one verse that beautifully captures what we've been striving toward is Proverbs 18:15: "The mind of a smart person is ready to get knowledge. The wise person listens to learn more." This has been at the heart of our Sunday School experience – not just learning Bible stories, but encouraging children to be curious, to ask questions, and to actively seek God.

Throughout the year, the kids have done just that. They've engaged with Scripture in creative ways, participated in hands-on activities, and asked thoughtful (and sometimes wonderfully unexpected!) questions. These moments remind us that faith is not just about knowing, it's about seeking, discovering, and growing.

As we head into our final weeks, our focus will be on a simple but powerful message: Don't stop. Don't give up. God is with you! We'll be encouraging the kids to keep going in their faith, even when things feel challenging or uncertain. This theme is rooted in Galatians 6:9: "We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time. We must not give up!" It's a reminder that God is always at work, even when we don't immediately see the results.

It has been a joy to watch children begin to take ownership of their faith. Whether it's making connections between Bible lessons and everyday life or sharing what they've learned at home, we see Proverbs 18:15 coming to life in real and meaningful ways.

As we prepare to wrap up the year, we want to thank our dedicated volunteers, teachers, and families. Your support and commitment create an environment where children feel safe to explore their faith and grow in their relationship with God.

Even as Sunday School pauses for the summer after May 17, the journey of seeking wisdom continues. We encourage families to keep that spirit alive—through conversations, reading Scripture together, and noticing God's presence in everyday life.

We're so grateful for this year and all the growth we've seen. We look forward to finishing strong over these next few weeks and can't wait to see how our children continue to seek, learn, and grow.

*Stevie Stibor*  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



# Stay Connected: Keeping Your Faith Strong This Summer

**S**ummer break is right around the corner, but we're not there just yet. We still have a few more weeks of Sunday School ahead of us, with our final day on Sunday, May 17. These last weeks matter. They're a chance to finish strong, to lean in, and to make the most of the time we have together as a group. Whether it's through discussions, games, or simply showing up and being present, these moments help build a foundation that can carry you through the months ahead.

As the school year wraps up, life begins to shift. Alarms get turned off, schedules loosen up, and days start to feel a little more open. Summer brings a lot of good things, time with friends, vacations, camps, late nights, and a break from the usual routine. But with all that freedom, it can also become really easy to lose some of the habits that help keep your faith strong. Without realizing it, time with God can get pushed aside.

That's why this summer we want to challenge you with something simple but important: stay connected to God.

In John 15:5, Jesus says, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* It's a powerful image. A branch can't survive on its own – it needs to stay connected to the vine to live, grow, and produce fruit. In the same way, our lives are strongest when we stay connected to Jesus. When we don't, we start to feel it. We might feel distant, unmotivated, or unsure. But when we stay rooted in Him, we grow in ways we might not even notice at first.

Summer doesn't have to be a break from your faith. In fact, it can be one of the best times to make your faith your own. During the school year, a lot of your spiritual rhythm might come from structure – Sunday School, church service, or even just a regular weekly routine. But in the summer, those rhythms change. And that's where your personal choice comes in. Will you stay connected, even when it's not scheduled for you?

Staying connected to God doesn't have to be complicated. It can be as simple as setting aside a few minutes each day to pray, reading a short passage of Scripture, or even just talking to God while you're outside, working, or hanging out. It's about consistency, not perfection. Some days will be easier than others, and that's okay. What matters is that you keep coming back.

Another important way to stay connected is through community. You're not meant to do this alone. Even though Sunday School will be wrapping up on May 17, we're excited about what's ahead. This summer, there will be lots of opportunities to stay engaged, from fun outings and group hangouts to meaningful volunteer opportunities where you can make a difference. These moments aren't just about staying busy, they're about staying connected to each other and to God.

Serving others is one of the most powerful ways to grow in your faith. When you step outside of yourself and help someone else, you begin to see God at work in real, tangible ways. Whether it's a local service project or simply helping someone in your daily life, those moments matter more than you might think.

It's also important to pay attention to where God is already at work around you. Summer has a way of slowing things down just enough for you to notice more – the beauty of creation, meaningful conversations, quiet moments of reflection. God doesn't only show up in church or structured settings. He's present in your everyday life, and summer can be a great time to recognize that in a deeper way.

As we head into these final weeks of Sunday School, take advantage of the time you have. Be present. Ask questions. Encourage each other. And start thinking now about what it looks like for you to stay connected over the summer.

Don't let your faith be something that only fits into certain seasons. God doesn't take a break from you, and you don't need to take a break from Him.

We're looking forward to finishing strong together on May 17, and we're even more excited for what comes next. Stay tuned for everything we have planned this summer – we truly believe God has something special in store.

So as summer approaches, take this with you: wherever you go, whatever you do, **stay connected.**

*Stevie Stibor*  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries



# Savor the Spring Salad Luncheon

**Saturday,  
May 16, 2026**

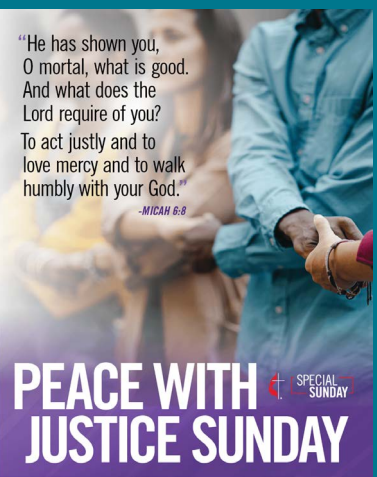
**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**O**ur first fundraiser of the year is the Spring Salad Luncheon scheduled for May 16, 11:00-1:00. This is a wonderful opportunity for both women and men to share lunch with their friends, neighbors and family. For just \$15 per person (a price better than in a restaurant) you get a wide selection of salads, desserts and a beverage. Don't miss out. Get your tickets now.

If you want to help in a different way, offer to make and donate a salad or dessert. Help is always needed in setting up for the luncheon or assisting with serving or cleanup afterwards. Sign-up sheets are posted.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this worthy event.

## Peace with Justice Sunday



"He has shown you,  
O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the  
Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to  
love mercy and to walk  
humbly with your God."  
-MICAH 6:8

**PEACE WITH  
JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**P**ace with Justice Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, May 31, we come together to support ministries that work for peace and fairness around the world. It's a day when the church speaks out against violence and inequality and renews its commitment to be peacemakers—just as Jesus taught.

The world is full of conflict, division, and injustice. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that the church

has a role to play in making things right. United Methodists believe that working for peace means addressing the deeper causes of conflict—like poverty, racism, and oppression. It's not just about ending war, but about building a world where everyone is treated with dignity.

Peace with Justice Sunday matters because it equips United Methodists to advocate for change and support ministries that challenge systems of inequality and violence.

*Mission Outreach Committee*

## Second Quarter Coin Offering

**T**he second quarter coin offering will be donated to Harbor House Crisis Shelters. Harbor House Crisis Shelters provide emergency shelter for thirty (30) days. Each family has their own secure room. Single women are in a dormitory-style room with an available secure locker space. Bedding, toiletries, diapers, towels, clothing

and non-perishable foods are available. Case Worker Goals (priority determined through assessment) include increasing income, budgeting processes, housing counseling, mental health/AODA/physical disabilities assessment referrals, other housing programs referrals, nutrition and parental education, etc.

## Thank You!

**T**hank you for your generosity as you responded to the appeal for the UMCOR Native American Special Sunday on April 19. You donated \$186! This will add to the \$600 that was donated by the Mission Outreach

Committee: \$300 to the UMCOR Native American Comprehensive Plan and \$300 to the Native American StrongHearts non-profit organization.

*Mission Outreach Committee*

## Thank You! – Part II

**A**fter our worship service on Sunday, April 26, we put together 100 Personal Dignity Kits (PDKs) for Midwest Mission.

Midwest Mission is an outreach of UMCOR that provides warehousing facilities and storage for needed items, including the Personal Dignity Kits.

When disasters, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, etc., strike, Midwest Mission responds by shipping needed items to those who have lost their homes and everything. These items include

things like Flood Buckets and our Personal Dignity Kits.

It was such a joy for those of us on the Outreach Committee to watch the congregation turn out to build these PDKs. It did not take long, and in the blink of an eye, you had compiled the kits, and they are ready for shipment.

This is the third consecutive year that CUMC has undertaken this mission, and we could not do it without your participation.

Thank you!

*Mission Outreach Committee*

## Wisconsin Conference Weather Damage Cleanup

**T**he Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church has recently launched several volunteer initiatives to help those in need after the severe weather outbreaks that have affected Southeasters Wisconsin. While some of the volunteer activities are probably beyond our capabilities, there is at least one in which we can participate.

Volunteer groups come from throughout the state to provide damage clean-up, building and restoration work. Some of those groups are being housed at the Brown Deer United Methodist Church, and they need to be fed.

There is a group coming in on May 15-17, and it is a small group of 5 people that will be here for only 3 days. They will need 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners, and we have committed to providing those meals.

If you are interested in participating in this activity, please contact Susie Heiniger (414-303-6739) or Craig Pierce (262-227-9400).

Thank you in advance for your compassion for others.

*Mission Outreach Committee*

# Women of Faith

**W**omen of Faith has finished reading and discussing their 2025-2026 study book, *Finding Peace*. The group will next meet on June 8 to celebrate completing the book at an “order off the menu” luncheon at The Prime Minister restaurant in Thiensville.

Fourth Monday Coffee for the summer will happen at a location (to be determined) where outdoor seating is an option. Due to May 25 being Memorial Day, the group will skip that date and gather for coffee and fellowship on June 23, then July 27 and August 24. New women are welcome anytime, and anyone who would like to gather for coffee and conversation on the fourth Monday morning

each month is invited. Watch for an update on the Fourth Monday summer location.

For next fall the group agreed to undertake a beginners’ study on the book of Revelation. They are also considering rescheduling their long-standing “second Monday” meeting time from 1:15 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. Watch for confirmation of the 2026-2027 meeting time.

Please contact Barbara Anne Ridgely if you have questions.

## Happy Birthday to You!



May 6	Lynda Janssen	May 22	Jeffrey Lator Jacob West
May 8	Marilyn Plaistow	May 24	John Heyer
May 11	Melissa Reuter	May 26	Judi McCullum
May 12	Suzanne Zabransky	May 27	Carla Schmidt
May 15	Tom Reuter		
May 20	Sue Kennedy Jennifer Wade		

Not on the Birthday List? Please contact the CUMC 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.CedarburgCUMC.org)

*“We are a Safe Sanctuary Congregation”*