



Cedarburg
Community
United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

As we journey through life, we are often faced with challenges, disappointments, and uncertainties. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness and stresses of our daily routines, losing sight of the important things God has granted us in our lives. And then we fail to be grateful and joyful. Yet, as God's children, we are called to be grateful stewards who embrace joy not just in the good times, but in all seasons of life. Paul, writing from a prison cell, encourages us in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" These words remind us we cannot be grateful if we are not joyful. These same words also remind us joy is not dependent on our circumstances; it is rooted in our relationship with God. True joy comes from knowing we are loved by God, we are part of God's Kingdom, and nothing can separate us from God's love. This fact alone is also something that can spring our hearts with gratitude. How do we cultivate joy in our everyday lives mainly when things are not going well? Everything starts with a mindset of gratitude. When we take time to reflect on God's blessings, big and small, we begin to see how God is at work in our lives. Gratitude opens our hearts to joy. Gratitude allows us to experience God's presence in new and profound ways.

That is why beginning November 1, we are walking through a 4-week series called, "Grateful Stewards". What does it mean to live as grateful stewards? For many, the word "steward" or "stewardship" immediately brings to mind financial giving. But Scripture paints a bigger, more beautiful picture, one that includes the stewardship of our time, our talents, our presence, our hospitality, our compassion, our emotions and yes, our treasures. As we explore what it means to live as grateful stewards, together we will learn that everything begins with gratitude. We will also learn a simple and freeing truth from Psalm 24:1 to boost our spirit of gratitude, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." God owns it all. We do not. We get to manage it. And this is good news for us. When we shift from owner to manager, two things happen: (a) the pressure comes off. We do not have to provide everything. The Owner does. (b) The gratitude goes up. When we realize everything we have is a trust, not a trophy, we start saying thank you. Finally,

we will also learn true gratitude is not passive; it moves us to action. When we deeply appreciate the blessings, we have received, our natural response is to give back generously to God and to our community. I think this comes at a wonderful time of year – November which always makes us think about gratitude. Turkey, family, fall colors... are holiday mood in November. But what if God wants gratitude to be more than a holiday mood?

Here is where we are going each Sunday in this series:

- November 1, 2026: 1 Chronicles 29:14
Gratitude is the Beginning.
- November 8, 2026: Philippians 4:11-13
Enough: Stewarding Contentment
- November 15, 2026: Matthew 6:19-24
Trust: Stewarding Treasure
- November 22, 2026: Psalm 100
The Table

Throughout the series, we will be asking important questions and we invite you to reflect on them: (1) How can my financial giving grow to reflect the gratitude I feel for God's blessings? (2) Can our household take a step up in our giving percentage to help reach our collective church goal? (3) In what ways can I dedicate more of my time and talents to serve our faith community? As we prayerfully reflect on these questions, we will also be preparing our hearts for a special moment of commitment on Sunday, November 22, and we will consecrate our gifts and commitments for the coming year – our pledges of time, talents, and treasures – as an act of gratitude. This is more than a series about giving. It is an invitation to step into a richer, and more grateful way of living. When we live with gratitude, the world catches a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. We encourage you to be present each week, to open your heart to the Spirit's leading, and to prayerfully consider how you might live with gratitude in the year ahead.

In His Service,

Pastor Kyabuntu

Fundraising



Our next fundraising activity will take place immediately following the CUMC Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 22, which takes place right after the service. Homemade desserts of all kinds will be auctioned off, and I'm told the desserts will be incredible and the bidding fierce! So, be sure to bring your wallets!

Our December fundraiser will be our annual Wonder and Whisk Cookie Walk and Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All cookies, regardless of size, will sell for \$15 per pound. In addition to an amazing selection of cookies, you'll find handmade crafts, coffee, hot chocolate, seasonal

music, and the wonderful aromas of the holiday season. A few tables will also be available where you can sit, sip a warm beverage, and enjoy your edible purchases. In past years, visitors have told us this is one of the best cookie walks they've ever attended! Please sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall if you are willing to bake and donate your wonderful holiday cookies (gluten and/or gluten free), donate crafts, and help on that day. The last planning meeting for the cookie walk is November 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to another wonderful event and hope you'll join us! Please mark your calendars. Thank you!

*Randy Pierce
Fundraising Committee Chair*

Christmas Activities are Right Around the Corner



You may have noticed the Christmas tree in the lobby. This is for our annual "Hats, Mittens and Scarves" drive to support Rooted and Rising (formerly United Methodist Children's Services) and Northcott Neighborhood House. As you probably know, both of these organizations are missions of the United Methodist Church.

In addition to the Hats, Mittens and Scarves, we will also be collecting gift cards that will help needy families of these two organizations provide gifts for their children. We are suggesting that gift cards be from Target or Wal-Mart, and that they be in the amounts of \$10 to \$25 dollars.

In order to collect and deliver these gifts to Rooted and Rising, and to Northcott in time for their Christmas activities, we ask that you make your donations no later than Sunday, December 6. We will then take the donations to the two organizations the following day, on Monday, December 7.

Additionally, we will again be providing gifts to the residents of Lasata. As a reminder, the staff of Lasata will provide us with a list of gifts that have been requested by their residents, so you will be purchasing them for a specific person. We will not have their names, but they will be identified by a number, so it is important that you identify the recipient number to the gifts that you provide.

As soon as we get the information from Lasata, we will have a signup sheet so you can sign up for the gift or gifts that you want to provide. Gifts should be unwrapped, and should be placed in the bins that will be provided in the church lobby. We do know that the deadline for delivery of those gifts to church will also be Sunday, December 6...again, so we can deliver them on Monday, December 7.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this Christmas a little more special for others.

*Craig Pierce
Mission Outreach Committee Chair*



Save Room for Dessert!

Our Thanksgiving Dessert Auction is Back!

What's better than gathering around the table for Thanksgiving brunch? How about ending the morning with a little friendly competition, some incredible homemade desserts, and plenty of laughter?

Our Thanksgiving Dessert Auction is back, and we can't wait! Join us on Sunday, November 22, following our Thanksgiving brunch for a fun tradition that brings our church family together in the sweetest way possible.

If you've been part of this event in the past, you know the fun begins when the desserts come out! Our talented bakers and generous church members donate beautiful treats, from homemade pies and delicious cakes to cookies and other sweet creations. Then the bidding begins! You never know which dessert will spark a bidding battle or how far someone will go to take home their favorite treat. It's all part of the fun!

Whether you're hoping to win your favorite pie, bring home a beautiful cake to share at Thanksgiving dinner, or simply enjoy the excitement of the auction, there's something for everyone. And who knows? You might discover a new favorite dessert along the way!

Want to contribute to the sweetness? We'd love to have you donate a dessert! Whether you're known for your award-winning pie or simply enjoy baking something special, every contribution helps make this event a success. Sign up at the kiosk in Fellowship Hall to let us know you'll be bringing a dessert.

So come hungry, bring your competitive spirit, and get ready for a morning filled with fellowship, laughter, and a little sugar! We're looking forward to another wonderful Thanksgiving tradition together.

See you November 22 – bring your sweet tooth, your competitive spirit, and your best bidding game. May the odds (and the desserts) be ever in your favor!

With a little sweetness and lots of gratitude,

Your Welcoming Committee



There's Always Room at the Table!

Thanksgiving is all about gratitude, good food, and gathering with the people who make life special. And what better way to celebrate those blessings than around the table with our church family?

Join us for our Thanksgiving Meal on Sunday, November 22, following worship!

We'll share a meal, enjoy good conversation, and take time to appreciate the connections that make our church such a special place to belong.

And here's the best part: you don't have to bring a thing to be part of the fun! If you'd like to bring a dish to pass, we'd love that. But if cooking isn't on your agenda, or your schedule is already full, please come anyway! Your presence is what matters most. There's always room for one more at our table.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend, a neighbor, or someone who might enjoy a morning of good food and friendly faces. You never know how much a simple invitation can mean to someone. Let's make sure everyone has a place at the table!

Please sign up at the kiosk in Fellowship Hall so we can plan for our gathering. Let us know if you'll be joining us and whether you'd like to bring a dish to share.

We have so much to be thankful for, and one of those blessings is the opportunity to share life together. We hope you'll stay after worship, pull up a chair, and celebrate with us!

Good food is wonderful, but the people around the table make it special. We can't wait to see you there!

With grateful hearts,
Your Welcoming Committee

The Power of Enough: A Thanksgiving Eve of Gratitude



As Thanksgiving approaches, it's easy to get caught up in everything we need to do, everything we wish we had, and everything we think would make life just a little better. There's always another item on the to-do list, another thing to worry about, or another reason to feel like we haven't quite done enough.

But what if, for just a little while, we stopped striving for more and made room to recognize the blessings that are already right in front of us?

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. as we reflect on *The Power of Enough*.

Enough doesn't mean that life is perfect or that we have everything figured out. It doesn't mean we don't have worries, unanswered prayers, or days when the weight of the world feels a little heavier than we can carry. It means learning to recognize God's presence in the middle of our ordinary, imperfect lives. It means remembering that even when we don't have everything we want, there is still so much for which we can be grateful.

Sometimes enough looks like a meal shared with people we love. Sometimes it's a friend who listens, a hand offered when we need help, or a quiet moment when we finally take a breath and realize we aren't walking through life alone. And sometimes, enough is simply the reminder that we are loved by God—not because of what we accomplish, how much we have, or how well we hold everything together, but simply

because we are God's beloved children.

As a church family, we have so much to be thankful for. We have people who show up for one another, hands willing to serve, hearts ready to care, and a community where we can bring both our joys and our struggles. We don't always get everything right, and we don't have to. We are learning and growing together, trusting that God's grace meets us right where we are.

This Thanksgiving Eve, let's set aside the busyness for a little while. Let's gather in gratitude, make room for reflection, and remember that the blessings we sometimes overlook may be the very things that matter most.

Whether Thanksgiving is a joyful season for you or one that carries some heartache, loneliness, or uncertainty, you are welcome here. There is room for you, just as you are.

May we leave our time together with grateful hearts, a renewed sense of hope, and a deeper understanding that sometimes the greatest blessing isn't having more. It's recognizing the goodness of what we already have.

We hope you'll join us.

Thanksgiving Eve Service
Wednesday, November 25
7:00 p.m.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children & Student Ministries

Women of Faith

Monday, November 9 - 1:15 p.m.:
Bible study - the Book of Revelation - meeting in the CUMC Conference Room, where a table for our Bibles and study books, *Breaking the Code*, is available. Please bring the 1) study book, 2) Bible or Revelations printout of chapters 4 & 5 (NIV), and 3) responses to study questions for Chapters 4 & 5.

Monday, November 23 - 9:00 a.m.:
Coffee and fellowship for women and friends in the CUMC Library; brew a cup in the kitchen or BYO

beverage and/or accompaniments. Please contact Barbara Anne Ridgely if you have any questions.

Monday, December 14 - 11 a.m.:
Christmas Luncheon at Flipside Cafe and Grill, 2074 Washington St., Grafton - in their back room; bring a wrapped "re-gift" or one purchased for up to \$5.00 for a gift exchange. Each person will order from the menu. **All CUMC members and friends are welcome to join in the fun! R.S.V.P.'s are appreciated, or sign up on the kiosk at CUMC.**

Community Outreach & Evangelism: What If We Started by Listening?



Have you ever had someone ask you a question that made you stop and think? Maybe they asked how you got through a difficult season, what keeps you hopeful when life feels uncertain, or why your faith matters to you. Sometimes, these ordinary conversations open the door to something much deeper.

We often think sharing our faith means knowing what to say. But what if one of the most meaningful ways to share God's love is to start by listening?

The people around us are carrying all kinds of questions, hopes, worries, and experiences. Some may be searching for purpose. Others may be struggling to find hope or wondering whether God is really present in their lives. And some may simply need someone who is willing to slow down, listen without judgment, and make room for an honest conversation.

In James 1:19, we are reminded to be “quick to listen, slow to speak”. What a simple but powerful way to approach the people in our lives! We don't need to turn every conversation into a lesson or feel responsible for having an answer to every question. Sometimes, the most faithful thing we can do is listen with an open heart and trust that God is already at work.

So, here's something to try this month: **Be curious about someone else's story.**

Ask a question you might not normally ask. Find out what brings someone joy, what gives them hope, or what helps them through difficult days. If the conversation naturally turns toward faith, share your own experience honestly. You don't need a perfect testimony or a neatly packaged answer. Your story is your story, and there is value in sharing it.

And don't be afraid of the questions that don't have easy answers. Faith isn't about pretending we understand everything. It's about continuing to seek God, growing together, and trusting that even in our uncertainty, there is room for grace.

As a church, we have an opportunity to be a community where people feel safe enough to ask questions, share their stories, and explore what faith might mean for them. That kind of welcome begins long before someone walks through our church doors. It begins in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and the everyday conversations we sometimes overlook.

We may never know what someone is carrying or what a conversation might mean to them. But we can choose to be present, to listen with compassion, and to let God's love shape the way we treat one another.

Let's spend less time worrying about having the right words and more time being willing to hear someone else's story. We might discover that God has already begun a conversation – we simply needed to make room for it.

Stevie Stibor
Director of Children & Student Ministries
Chair of Community Outreach and Evangelism

Charge Conference 2026

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 15th at 11:20 a.m. soon after the

church service. Rev. YoungTae Lee, an Elder in the Wisconsin Conference, will preside. 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.

Faith for Real Life

What does faith look like when you're at school, hanging out with friends, or facing something that feels hard?

That's what we get to explore in Sunday school!

Sometimes we think of Sunday school as a place where we learn Bible stories. And we do! But those stories are about so much more than people who lived a long time ago. They help us understand who God is, who we are, and how we can live out our faith every day.

What do we do when a friend feels left out? How do we find courage when we're afraid? What does it look like to forgive someone, show kindness when it isn't easy, or stand up for what's right? These are real-life questions, and our faith has something to say about every one of them.

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul reminds us that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Think about that for a minute. **God created you with purpose. You have gifts to share, love to give, and a difference to make in this world.** Sunday school is one of the places where we begin to discover what that looks like in our own lives.

And you don't have to have all the answers! Faith grows when we ask questions, listen to one another, explore Scripture, and learn together.

Some weeks we might discover something new in a familiar Bible story. Other weeks, we might laugh, play a game, work on a project, or have a conversation that makes us think a little differently.

But one thing is always true: you belong here.

We want our children and students to know that church is a place where they are loved, where their voices matter, and where they can grow in faith surrounded by people who care about them. We want them to discover that God isn't just part of Sunday morning. God is with them in the classroom, on the playground, at home, and everywhere life takes them.

So come join us! Bring your questions, your curiosity, and a friend. Let's discover together what it means to follow Jesus, love our neighbors, and make a difference in the world around us.

We can't wait to see you in Sunday school!

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." – Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Stevie Stibor

*Director of Children & Student Ministries
Chair of Community Outreach and Evangelism*

Happy Birthday to You!

November 13 Emily Wellhausen

November 14 Lyle Schmidt

November 15 Ellyn Wagner

November 18 Janet Schmidt
Pat Lietzke

November 22 Mike Jelinski

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



**Cookie Walk
& Holiday Fair
Meeting**

**Thursday, November 12
9:30 a.m.**



The Worst Part About Gratitude? It Works

From Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



I recently came across a humorous Instagram video in which a comedian talks about his therapist encouraging him to practice gratitude. He clearly does not want to do it. With frustration and sarcasm, he talks about being told to name a few things he is grateful for each day. And then he delivers the punchline: the worst part about gratitude is that it works.

That line stuck with me.

This time of year, naturally turns our attention toward gratitude. Thanksgiving invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks. But if we are honest, gratitude can feel harder to practice when finances are tight, uncertainty is high, or the future feels unclear. Churches feel that pressure. Families feel that pressure. Individuals do too. In those moments, gratitude can sound too simple – almost naïve. But gratitude is not pretending everything is easy. It is not denial. It is not ignoring hardship. Gratitude is choosing to notice that, even in the middle of challenge, God is still present, still faithful, and still at work. In that sense, gratitude changes what we see. When I used to ride a motorcycle, I learned a simple

but important lesson: where you look matters. If there is something in the road you want to avoid, you do not stare directly at it. If you fixate on it, there is a good chance you will ride right into it. Instead, you look toward where you want to go. Life is often like that too. If we focus only on scarcity, fear, and what might go wrong, those things begin to dominate our vision. They shape our mood, our decision-making, and our sense of possibility. But if we intentionally look for signs of God's provision, evidence of changed lives, and the gifts already in our midst, that focus begins to shape us too. It does not eliminate difficulty, but it changes how we travel through it. That is especially true in stewardship. Gratitude helps move us from anxiety to trust, from fear to faith, and from clenched hands to open ones. It reminds us that stewardship does not begin with obligation. It begins with recognizing what God has already given. We give because we have first received. This November, even in difficult financial times, perhaps one of the most faithful things we can do is practice gratitude. Name what is good. Give thanks for what God has done. Notice the blessings that are already present. As that comedian discovered, much to his irritation, the worst part about gratitude may just be that it works.

Let's Talk About It - An Advent Conversation Series



What if we didn't just listen to the message on Sunday but actually talked about it?

This Advent, join us for Let's Talk About It, a casual weekly gathering where we'll share a meal, revisit Sunday's message, ask questions, share our thoughts, and explore what Advent is saying to us in the middle of real life.

This isn't another Bible study.

It's a conversation.

Come even if you didn't understand the sermon. Come even if you disagreed with something. Come with questions. Come with doubts. Come simply because

you want to eat soup and spend time with people.

You don't need to have all the answers. You don't need to be a Bible expert. And you don't even have to know exactly what you think.

Just come ready to eat, listen, wonder, and talk.

Because sometimes faith grows not just when we hear the Word but when we have the opportunity to talk about it together.

Come. Eat. Listen. Ask. Wonder.

Let's Talk About It.

*Stevie Stibor
Director of Children & Student Ministries*



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.

Labor Day Through Memorial 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"