cumc newsletter october 2026

Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church

Pastor's Corner

A Lone Christian

There is no such thing as a lone Christian. From the beginning of the world, God created Adam and realized that it was not good for Adam to be alone. And so, God created Eve. Since then, God has been forming a people. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, called the twelve to follow Him, then He sent them out two by two. In the book of Acts, before ascending to heaven, Jesus sat with His disciples and commended them to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them. And when this power came upon them, the Church was born and it became a living entity. The church is an assembly of believers who come together as a family of God to worship and glorify God. It is in this regard, John Wesley, the founder of methodism movement once said, "Christianity is essentially a social religion, and to turn it into a solitary one is to destroy it."

Many times, we forget that, and the forgetting is quiet. Nobody decides to drift. Our schedules fill up, worship becomes something we attend when it is convenient, and we start carrying our faith alone without ever noticing we set it down. But faith was never meant to be carried alone, because most of what it needs can only come from somebody else. We need people who will tell us the truth. People who will pray for us by name. People who notice when we are not ourselves. That is why we need each other and the church puts us together for a good purpose. As we tend toward the end of the year, I invite you to a moment of reflection, to a time of looking inward, assessing our lives, and pondering the corporate life we are called by Jesus. Jesus' call is both beautiful and challenging. There are times we can fall and be cold to the things of God. But let us remember that it is okay to stumble; it is part of the process. What matters is our commitment to get back up and continue together following Jesus, even in the toughest of seasons.

So, for the remaining weeks before we come to the close of this year, I invite you to come and sit next to somebody you do not know from our church and let us praise God together. Friends, we are better together. We always have been. And I cannot wait to see what God will do in us and through us next. God wants us to be together and not lone Christian.

In His Service,

Pastor Kyabuntu

Fundraising

August fundraising went well, having raised $4,251.62 with the Rummage Sale. Again, a huge thank you to all the folks who gave their time to setting up, selling and parking. It could not have happened without you. As you may know parking for Wine and Harvest Fest was canceled due to the weather. Again, thank you to all the folks who signed up for parking, even though the weather canceled us.

Our next fundraiser, **Wander and Whisk (Cookie Walk and Holiday Craft Fair), will be on December 12, 2026, from 9:00 am to noon**. To save time, consider making your dough early, freezing your dough and baking your cookies closer to the date. Cookies and candies will sell for $15.00 a pound. Larger cookies will go into the boxes and will not be sold separately, but you can donate other food items (quick breads, puppy chow, etc.) for the Holiday and Craft sale. This year we are going to set up some tables and sell coffee and hot chocolate (for a free will donation).

Have a happy healthy October,
CUMC friends.

Randy Pierce
Fundraising Committee Chair

Jail Literacy Program

Some of you may know that we support the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program. In face, the Jail Literacy Program was the recipient of the proceeds that we received from the August Brat Fry at Sendex. This is a non-profit organization that provides reading materials, as well as educational classes and tutoring, to inmates at the Ozaukee County jail.

But you need to know that we also support the program in ways other than financial.

The Jail Literacy Program is always in need of appropriate reading materials. These would include almost any magazines or paperback books – no hard-cover books, please. The one exception is that true-crime books or magazines are not permitted.

While most of us probably get few, if any, paper magazines anymore, if you do, you can rest assured that those that are donated are "sanitized" before they are given to jail personnel. Staples are taken out of the magazines, personal information such as mailing labels are removed, and inappropriate articles are taken out.

If you have any paperback books or magazines that you would like to donate, please bring them to church and place them in the wicker basket under the TV monitor in the lobby.

On a related note, Jail Literacy Program will be holding a fund-raiser on October 22 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. It will include heavy or'de vours, a cash bar, and a silent auction.

You can find more information about the fund raiser at https://ocjlp.org/kto-event-2026/, and more details about the Jail Literacy Program at https://ocjlp.org/

Craig Pierce
Mission Outreach Committee Chair

children & student ministries

Don't Miss Out! Something Is Happening Here!

Have you ever had that feeling that something fun is happening and you're the only one who missed it?

Everyone is talking about what happened. There are inside jokes you don't understand. Someone says, "You should have been there!"

Nobody likes feeling left out.

That's one reason I want to invite you to Sunday School and Kids' Church this month.
Because something is happening here – and you are part of it!

Sunday School isn't just about sitting in a classroom and listening to someone talk.
It's a chance to ask questions, discover what the Bible has to say about real life, make new friends, laugh, create, and maybe even discover something about yourself and your faith that you didn't know before.

And Kids' Church? That's a chance to worship, learn, play, and hear stories about Jesus in a way that's designed just for you.

You might walk in thinking, *"I'm not sure if I want to go today."*

But what if today is the day you hear something you really needed to hear? What if you discover a Bible story you've never heard before?

What if you have more fun than you expected? You won't know unless you're there.

And here's the really important part:
we want you there.

Not because we need to fill a classroom. Not because we are keeping track of who comes. We want you there because you are part of this church family, and it isn't quite the same when you're missing.
So, consider this your invitation:

Come with a friend.

Come ready to laugh.

Come with questions.

Come even if you aren't sure what to expect.

You might just discover that Sunday morning becomes one of your favorite parts of the week.

And if you miss it?

Well...you might just have to hear everyone else talking about what happened.

Don't miss out. I saved you a spot!

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

October 2	Betsy Manz
October 3	Ross Eggert
October 6	Lincoln Schiel
October 8	Grant Flesner
October 12	Jan Adams
October 16	Ethan Johnson
October 17	Chris Schumacher
October 18	David Enright
October 19	Stan Heiniger
October 20	Sandy Purdy
October 28	Mika Jelinski
October 30	Sally Ghrist Nancy Hardee Grace Johnson
October 31	Janice Olson

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

Community Outreach & Evangelism: Good News I Meant to Be Shared

There are some things in life that are just too good to keep to ourselves. When we discover a great restaurant, we tell someone about it. When we find a book we love, we recommend it. When a friend tells us about something that made a difference in their life, we listen – and sometimes we want to experience it for ourselves.

We share good things.

So why do we sometimes find it so difficult to share the most important thing we have?

Our faith.

The word *evangelism* can sound intimidating. It can make us picture someone standing on a street corner with a Bible, knocking on strangers' doors, or trying to convince someone to believe exactly what we believe. But I don't think evangelism has to look like that. At its heart, evangelism simply means sharing good news.

And as Christians, we have good news to share. We have a God who loves us – not because we have earned it, but simply because we are his. We have a Savior who meets us in our brokenness, offers forgiveness, and reminds us that our past does not have the final word. We have a faith that gives us hope when life is difficult and reminds us that we don't have to walk through this life alone.

That's good news. And good news is meant to be shared.

Sometimes sharing our faith might mean telling someone what Jesus has done in our own life. Sometimes it might mean inviting someone to church. Sometimes it might mean offering to pray with someone who is hurting. And sometimes it may simply mean being the kind of person who reflects the love, grace, patience, and compassion of Jesus wherever we go.

We don't have to have all the answers. We don't have to be theologians. We don't have to find the perfect words. We simply have to be willing to say, "This is what Jesus has done for me."

I think that's where evangelism becomes less frightening and much more personal.

We're not trying to win an argument. We're not trying to pressure someone into believing. We're simply sharing something that has become important to us.

Think about the people God has already placed in your life, family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, classmates, people we see at the grocery store or the coffee shop. What if we stopped thinking of evangelism as something we have to go out and do and started seeing it as something that naturally flows from who we are as followers of Jesus?

Because here's the thing: You don't have to be an expert to share good news. You just have to know the Good News.

And maybe that's where we begin. Not with a plan. Not with a script. Not with pressure. But with gratitude. Grateful for God's love. Grateful for Jesus. Grateful for grace. Grateful for the hope we have been given.

And when something is that good, sometimes the most natural thing in the world is simply to say: "You know, I want to tell you about something that has made a difference in my life."

Good news was never meant to stay inside the walls of the church.

It was meant to be shared.

Sharing it with you,

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

We're Getting the Band Back Together!

Remember our church jazz band? We're hoping to bring it back!

The idea is simple: a jazz band that comes together for special Sundays and occasions when we'd like to add a little extra music to our worship.

This isn't going to be another weekly commitment or a group that rehearses all the time. We'll get together when we have a special Sunday coming up, prepare the music, and then enjoy making music together.

So, if you've ever thought, "I'd love to play again, but I just don't have time for another regular commitment," this might be exactly what you're looking for!

We're looking for instrumentalists who would enjoy being part of the group, as well as someone who would be willing to serve as a conductor/director when we play.

Maybe your instrument has been sitting in its case for a while. Maybe you played in a band years ago and would love to dust off those skills. Or maybe you're still actively playing and would enjoy bringing your musical gift into worship.

There's no need to commit to every Sunday. We're simply looking to build a group of people who would be interested in playing when the opportunity arises.

Think of it as music ministry without the big time commitment.

If you're interested in being part of the jazz band, or you'd simply like to learn more, please let the church office know.

And if you know someone outside our church who might be interested, invite them to reach out, too!

Let's see if we can get the band back together and make some joyful noise!

Help Make the Holidays Brighter at Lasata

One of the things we've been reminded of in our Made to Matter sermon series is that every person matters. Sometimes, the smallest gestures can make the biggest difference in helping someone feel seen, remembered, and loved.

On Wednesday, October 28, at 11:30 a.m., we'll gather in Fellowship Hall to write Christmas cards for the residents of Lasata. Cards will be provided, so simply bring your own lunch and join us for a time of fellowship and sharing a little holiday cheer.

For some residents, the holidays can be a lonely time. A simple Christmas card with a few thoughtful words can be a powerful reminder that someone is thinking of them and that they have not been forgotten.

As we've explored throughout Made to Matter, we don't always have to do something big to make a difference. Sometimes, making someone feel that they matter begins with something as simple as a handwritten note.

Consider joining us as we share a little love, spread some Christmas cheer, and help make the holiday season brighter for the residents of Lasata. We hope you'll be part of this meaningful opportunity to remind others that they matter, too!

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

Thanksgiving Dinner at CUMC

During the 11:00 a.m. Fellowship on Sunday, November 22, following worship, our church will host a traditional Thanksgiving All-Church Dinner! You will find sign-ups on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall for the food items needed to make it a great feast and to indicate whether you can attend. We encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, and family who would enjoy a time of food, fellowship, and fun.

Many of you ask how you can help to promote this event; here are a few suggestions:

Save the date, and sign up for this special annual event. Many hands are needed for set up on Saturday, November 21 (9:00 a.m.) and on the day of the meal.

During fellowship time over the next few weeks, ask others if they plan to attend. If not, encourage them to join us, and tell them why it's meaningful to you or your family.

Reach out to one or more members of our congregation whom you haven't seen for a while, and invite them to come.

Make an extra large batch of whatever you're planning to cook so we have plenty of food for visitors.

Sit next to someone you don't know well or at all. Remember that you were a new member once, and whether someone feels welcome can determine whether or not they want to become part of our church family.

Please don't save seats; if you feel strongly about sitting together, you can try to arrive together or wait in the coat area for your friends/family.

Watch to see if the tables are filling up, and offer to give up your seat to a newcomer while you help set up additional tables and chairs. It's an opportunity to show someone they are welcome and you're glad they're here.

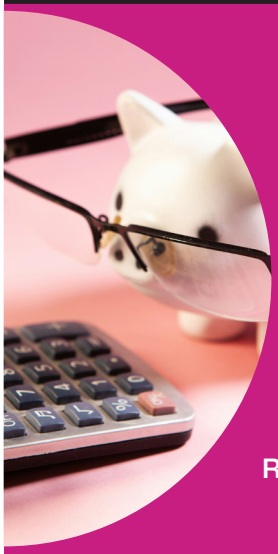
Come with a thankful heart. Be ready to show gratitude for the privilege of gathering around the table with our church family – those who've been here for many years and those who are first-time guests!

Thanksgiving Service

On Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 PM at Community United Methodist Church, there will be a Thanksgiving Service. We will join together to express our thankfulness to God for His goodness and blessings He has given to us. The act of thanksgiving acknowledges God as the Giver and when we give thanks to God, we are confessing that He is the Giver of everything and we are on the receiving end of all that He gives.

Cookie Decorating Workshop
with Maggie Schiel

On Sunday, November 8 at 11:00 a.m., there will be a cookie decorating workshop led by Maggie Schiel. We will meet in the Community Room, where once again, Maggie will share her incredible talents with us! All materials will be supplied, so all that is needed is your enthusiasm and curiousity to learn something new, or to perfect your skills. Please sign up by October 25 so Maggie can prepare. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.



Finance Update

As we return from summer activities and begin the final quarter of 2026, the Finance Committee would like to share a snapshot of our financial position. Below are the highlights of our finances as of September 30, 2026:

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue from pledges and other gifts:	$162,528	$165,000	($2,477)
Total Revenue from all sources:	$209,193	$218,631	($9,438)
Total Expenses:	$223,900	$$218,631	($5,269)
Revenue minus expense:	($14,707)		

The summary message we would like to share is the congregation has done a great job of managing the items that can be controlled. A sincere thank you to the congregation for keeping up with pledges and other gifts over the summer. We would also like to thank the committees for carefully spending the church's funds.

Our expense budget reflects our aging church building. Maintenance and utilities and insurance costs have been larger than we planned. We have a beautiful facility and we need to maintain it properly.

Many have signed up for automatic giving which helps us keep up with the budget. If that is something you would like to consider, please contact Shirley Krenzke, our financial secretary, or me.

If, at any time, you have questions about our church finances, please contact Shirley, me, or Mike Harrington, our Finance Committee chair.

Humbly and gratefully,
Dan Den Boer
Treasurer

Stewardship Campaign

As we approach the end of 2026, we are hopeful that our year-to-date profit for our general budget will be positive and conclude the year on a favorable note. To assist with this goal, please consider supporting to the Thanksgiving and Christmas offering which supports all the ministries of our church. We extend our sincere gratitude to our congregation for their unwavering support with their pledges and generosity, which will be instrumental in making this possible.

To ensure a positive net profit in 2027, Community United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the commencement of our fall Stewardship Campaign. This campaign will commence in November and will be distributed to congregants via mail in early November. Pledge cards can be returned during church services or mailed to the church at your convenience.

Sunday, November 22, has been designated as Commitment Sunday. While your commitment is not mandatory, we encourage you to return your pledge card to assist us in our planning efforts. This will prevent unnecessary follow-up communication from our committee.

Tax Tip: A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charity, allowing individuals age 70½ or older to donate tax-free. This distribution is excluded from your taxable income, giving you many benefits. CUMC is a qualified charity. This can also count towards your RMD, Required Minimum Distribution, if applicable. Any questions can be directed to Shirley Krenzke, Finance Secretary, krenzke@cloud.com or Mike Harrington, Finance Chair, mikegharrington@hotmail.com.

We sincerely appreciate your prayers and support. Your pledge will contribute to the establishment of a positive budget for 2027, enabling us to continue our ministry and foster the growth of our church. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication.

If I Matter, and I Was Made for This... Now What?

Over the past several weeks, we've been talking about something that sounds simple, but can actually be pretty difficult to believe: **You matter.**

Not because of what you accomplish. Not because of how much money you make, how successful you are, how many people know your name, or how well you think you have your life together.

You matter because God says you do.

That was where we began our *Made to Matter* series: You Already Matter.

And maybe that is something we need to be reminded of more often than we realize.

We live in a world that constantly asks us to prove ourselves. Am I doing enough? Am I successful enough? Am I needed enough? Am I making a difference?

But God starts somewhere completely different. Before we accomplish anything, we matter to him.

Then we took that a step further with **I Was Made for This.**

If I matter to God, then my life isn't an accident. God has created each of us with gifts, experiences, passions, relationships, and opportunities that can be used for something beyond ourselves.

We aren't all called to do the same thing. We don't have the same gifts. We don't have the same story. And that's the point.

God can take your story and use it in ways you may never have imagined.

But here's the question I've been thinking about: **If I already matter, and if I was made for a purpose...now what?** Because it's one thing to know something. It's another thing to let it change the way we live.

Knowing that we matter should change the way we see ourselves.Knowing that other people matter should change the way we see them.

Knowing that God has given us a purpose should change the way we look at an ordinary Monday morning, a conversation with a neighbor, a difficult relationship, a job we don't particularly enjoy, or an opportunity to serve someone else.
Maybe our purpose isn't always found in some big, dramatic calling.

Maybe sometimes it looks like showing up. Listening. Encouraging someone who is struggling. Using a gift we've been keeping to ourselves. Forgiving someone. Serving when nobody notices. Being the person who brings a little hope into someone else's day.

Perhaps being "made for this" doesn't mean God has given us one giant thing to accomplish.Perhaps it means that every day, God gives us opportunities to live out who He created us to be.

And that's where we're headed as we finish our *Made to Matter* series in October.

We've talked about who we are and why we're here. Now we get to wrestle with what that means for the way we actually live.

I hope you'll join us for these final two Sundays – not simply to hear the next message, but to take some time to ask yourself: What might God be asking me to do with the life, gifts, relationships, and opportunities He has given me?

Because you matter.

You were made for this.

So now what?

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

Kids and Students:
You're Invited -Be Part of Our Christmas Program!

Calling all kids and students! Christmas is coming and that means it's time for one of our favorite traditions: our annual Christmas program! And guess what? We want YOU to be part of it! Maybe you're thinking, *"Wait...do I have to memorize a bunch of lines?"* Nope!
"Do I have to perform some embarrassing skit in front of everyone?" Definitely not!

Our Christmas program is all about having fun, celebrating Jesus, and sharing the joy of Christmas together.

We'll begin rehearsals during Kids' Church in October, so you don't have to add another practice to your already busy schedule. We'll learn everything together, have some fun along the way, and get ready to share the Christmas story with our church family.

Our Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 27!

And here's the best part: Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be the best singer. You don't have to be comfortable on a stage. You don't have to have any special talent. You just have to be willing to show up, have fun, and celebrate Jesus with us.

So, invite your friends! Invite your neighbors! Invite your cousins, brothers, sisters, and classmates! Bring everyone!

We would love to have a whole bunch of kids and students joining us this year.

Because Christmas isn't about putting on the perfect performance. It's about celebrating the greatest gift ever given – Jesus!

So, mark your calendar, tell your friends, and come join us during Kids' Church in October.

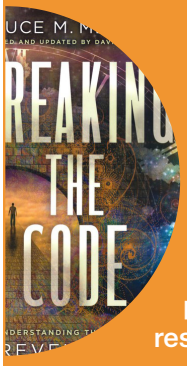
We can't wait to see you!

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.

Women of Faith



Monday, October 12 - 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 1-3 (NIV), and 3) responses to study questions.

Monday, October 26 - 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.

children & student ministries

You Matter Here

There is something I want every child and every student who walks through the doors of our church to know: **You matter here.** Not someday when you're older. Not when you know more Bible verses. Not when you're old enough to volunteer or take on a leadership role. **You matter right now.**

Sometimes we talk about children and students as "the future of the church." And certainly, they are part of the future. But they are also something much more important: They are part of the church today.

Jesus understood that.

When people brought children to Jesus, the disciples tried to keep them away. But Jesus stopped them. He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus made room for them.

I think that is something worth remembering. Our children and students don't need us to simply create programs for them. They need to know that they are seen, welcomed, valued, and loved. They need adults who know their names. They need someone to listen to their questions – even the questions that don't have easy answers. They need someone to celebrate with them when things are going well and encourage them when life is hard. And they need to know that they have a place in this church family.

That doesn't mean you have to teach a Sunday school class or volunteer with Children's Ministry. It might be something much simpler. Say hello to a child you pass in the hallway. Ask a student how their week is going. Sit with a family you don't know. Take an interest in what a young person is excited about.

Sometimes what seems like a small moment to us can become a very big moment for someone else.

Because eventually, I hope every child and student in our church can say: "These people know me. These people care about me. I belong here." And underneath all of that, I hope they discover something even more important: "I matter to God."

As we continue our *Made to Matter* series, this is a message I hope we will carry with us – not just on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week.

Our children matter.

Our students matter.

Their questions matter. Their ideas matter. Their presence matters. Their faith journey matters. And they don't have to earn their place in God's family.

They already have one.

So, if you are a child or student reading this, I hope you hear this clearly:

You are loved.

You are valued.

You are needed.

You belong.

You matter here.

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

Wander & Whisk
A Sweet Treat Stroll

Cookie Walk & Holiday Fair Meeting

Thursday, November 12
9:30 a.m.

Wander & Whisk

A Sweet Treat Stroll

Saturday, December 12

9 AM - 12 PM

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with homemade cookies, sweet candies, and festive crafts at the **Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church Cookie Walk & Holiday Craft Fair.** Shop, unwind, and indulge. Enjoy a hot coffee or cocoa while you sample your freshly picked cookies. The funds raised will go to faith supported programs.

For more information visit our website - cedarburgcumc.org.

Cedarburg Community United Methodist Church

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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"