



~ Joy! ~

A Gospel Christmas Celebration

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On December 11, our Chancel Choir will present the cantata "Joy!". It will be presented at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services. Our Chamber Ensemble will once again be accompanying the singers. Telling the Christmas story through six dynamic choral settings, Joel Raney brings his masterful ability to new and creative rhythms that showcase his grasp of the gospel style in this impactful presentation. There are upbeat blues-gospel numbers as well as slower ballads in a gospel groove, plus one calypso tune. Christmas carols like you've never heard before, all performed with a jazzy style and an interspersing of scripture readings will make this cantata one you will not want to miss.

This is what Joel says about this cantata: "There are many definitions of the word "gospel," but two favorites are: (1) the story of Christ's life and teachings as narrated in the New Testament, and (2) impassioned, rhythmic, and spiritual music rooted in African-American churches of the American South. I've wanted to bring these two definitions together in a musical work for a long time, because what's more joyful than the good news of Christ's birth and what sounds more joyful than gospel music?"

Please Join Us!

Active Seniors

“The Plain People”

by Reynold Kremer



We welcome to Active Seniors a very special guest speaker, Reynold Kremer. Many of you will remember that Reynold was to speak last February but became ill with a life threatening disease. He is healthy and back on the speaking circuit. Praise

God! Reynold published the book, “Driving the Back Roads: The Amish – In the world, but not of it.” In this fascinating presentation, Reynold will help us understand the “Anabaptists – the Amish, the Hutterites and the Old Order Mennonites.” Through his many years of study, interviews and experiences with “plain people” he has a unique understanding to share. There are three main topics he will cover: 1) The History of the Anabaptists 2) The Beliefs of the Plain People 3) The Riddles and Traditions of the Amish.

He has given this talk a few hundred times polishing what people find most useful. You will be fascinated by an understanding of these groups that is not locked in stereotypes or misunderstanding.

Our lunch gathering will begin Tuesday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m. with mac- n-cheese from Out & Out, along with delicious salad. Then, dessert and coffee will feature a plain folk twist with Amish Sugar Cookies and Mennonite Chewy Ginger Molasses Cookies. Reynold will begin his presentation that lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes. Do bring guests as we are quite fortunate to have someone of Reynold’s caliber with us. He will also have some display materials – clothing, hymn books, school text books and periodicals. With the fourth largest population of Amish in the state of Wisconsin, this is a presentation you don’t want to miss. Please join us!

Tuesday, December 13 » 11:30 a.m.



Christmas is FORGIVING



Every year we are all caught up in the fervor and hype concerning the most sought after gifts. Perhaps "craze shopping" began decades ago with Cabbage Patch Kids.

Some might also remember Tickle Me Elmo or Furbies or Beanie Babies. Remember the pandemonium?! Of course, electronics could not be left behind and many years people waited in long predawn lines for the latest rendition of Xbox or Playstation. And is there really any other time of year that stores sell Chia pets? And who buys them?

Truth is all of these are but passing gifts – too frequently losing our interest and being discarded. Oh sure, there are gift items that will be remembered, but perhaps more by the memories of shrieks of joy and frenetic excitement of children they provoked. Yet, there are gifts that cannot be wrapped. Many of these gifts last, linger in the souls of people for years to come, perhaps a lifetime. And some of these gifts are crucial and essential to the story of Christmas or our preparation for it, our preparation to receive Christ anew. This Advent season, Pastor Dave in a series of messages and worship entitled, "Christmas is Forgiving" talks about these gifts ...in light of the scriptures and the Christmas story. There are gifts of the human soul (like forgiveness) that you won't be able to wrap, but you certainly will want to give and receive this year. Please join in the thought-provoking and inspirational series.

"Christmas is Forgiving" series

1st Sunday of Advent	November 27	"Dig In...Still Dream"
2nd Sunday of Advent	December 4	"See the Best"
3rd Sunday of Advent	December 11	Cantata Sunday
4th Sunday of Advent	December 18	"Extras: Small Parts in a Big Story"



Mommy & Me Too Support/Playgroup Here at CUMC

Join us for a FREE opportunity where mothers and their babies/toddlers of all ages can get together to share experiences with one another including playtime and discussion of various parenting topics.

Daytime group meets from 10 - 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month here at CUMC (excluding holidays/inclement weather.) For more information contact Erin Williams at u2girl1@gmail.com.

Long Range Planning 20/20 Vision



At the end of October, Matt Lange gave the congregation a brief update in worship regarding six years of long range planning that resulted largely in our building expansion, a full time youth pastor, and other enhancements to our ministry. Last Spring's listening sessions in committees and age level groups was largely a capstone to that era of Long Range Planning. In many ways, Matt helped us understand that chapter is complete. Yet, churches like any organization must continue the process of peering into the future they desire. Otherwise, "those who fail to plan ... plan to fail." Therefore, beginning in January, Matt will convene a new group of visioners, Long Range Planning 2.0. These will be persons interested in specifically addressing our future health and vitality and essentially coming up with a short term 20/20 Vision, as well as, one well beyond! Already a couple of individuals (based on his talk) have come forward to serve on this team. If you are also interested, please talk to Matt or contact the church office to be invited to the first meeting.

FOCUS
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FOCUS



An Encore Photo Shoot *in the* "Ken Michaelchuck Studio"

Saturday, December 3
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Community Room

Ken will photograph you and your family, you and your pets, for your holiday pictures or and updated directory photo. Don't miss the opportunity! Last Call! Drop in or email Ken Michaelchuck for a specific time slot (ken.michaelchuck@gmail.com)

BeFriender Ministry principles guide the ministry and characterize the pastoral care a BeFriender brings to others. Honoring these principles supports and strengthens the befriending relationship between the Befriender and the person they Befriend. These principles are:

God is Present

BeFrienders are aware that they are in God's presence when befriending someone and that the time shared is a blessing to both the person befriended and the BeFriender.

Caring not Curing

BeFrienders accept people as they are without telling them how they should be, listen with compassion without giving advice, and allow

others to make their own decisions without trying to decide for them. The care offered by BeFrienders provides an opportunity for those they befriend to make choices and grow.

Non-judgmental presence

BeFrienders provide a sacred and safe space for someone to talk about their experiences, thoughts, and feelings without being judged or criticized.

Active Listening

The value and healing potential of having one's story heard is profound. BeFrienders actively listen by using communication skills that create an environment of respect and dignity.

Meet Suzanne Zabransky



Suzanne joined the Befrienders' first class in 2011 to enhance her listening skills and offer a quiet presence for those in need. Befrienders provide an extremely significant service consisting of many caring people for those who would like a confidential listener. Suzanne is a former school teacher (grad Ohio State and Youngstown State.), business owner, and professional clown who currently takes part in Cedarburg festivals, parades, and visits to nursing homes as "Popcorn". (Just a fun note from the clown world: instead of "break a leg" it's "bump a nose" for good luck before gigs). It was necessary to leave Texas due to her parents' poor health and their need for assistance and her mother's developing Alzheimer's. Suzanne and Ron each worked in the Cleveland, OH area and she traveled the hundred mile round trip several times a week to their house for physical and financial help. After nine years and the passing of her parents they moved to Cedarburg. At this time there were also many trips back and forth to Ohio for care of an elderly aunt.

They have a wonderful family of three children, a daughter and two sons, daughter- and son-in-law and three grandchildren residing in Wisconsin. Ron is a retired Professor from the Dept. of Pathology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. They have a twelve year old rescue dog named Sadie.

Meet Joann



Joann joined CUMC in 2010. She retired from Froedtert Hospital as a programmer analyst a year ago and highly recommends retirement. She has two sons, one daughter (John, Jennifer & Jason) and two granddaughters and one grandson (Crystal, Grace & Tyler). Joann enjoys downhill skiing, kayaking, reading, walking, cooking/baking and traveling. She has been a member of the BeFrienders Team since its inception in 2011 and feels that ministering to another in the form of listening, caring, and a non-judgmental presence is an honor and a very humbling experience.



If you would like to request the care of a Befriender, please contact our Director of Befriender Ministry Sarah Loy at (414) 915-8273, or Pastor Dave at the church office at (262) 377-3832.



Greetings from Mosaic Youth Ministry!

It's hard to believe that it's almost Christmas, and our Middle and High Schoolers have found plenty to keep themselves busy and having fun this fall. Early in November, we spent one of our Youth Group nights helping to serve the congregation by clearing and cleaning dishes after one of our All Church Wednesday's. It was a simple way for our students to say "Thank You" to the church - for not only allowing us to use the building so freely, but for encouraging us in our faith formation.

Our night of serving was good practice for our Thanksgiving Potluck and Auction, which took place later in the month. Again, our students willingly stepped up by taking care of dishes for the congregation. We had a blast serving this second time around, and with good reason - the majority of the proceeds from the night went directly to our Youth Activities Account. It's my belief that personal encounter with God can be initiated when we get out of our "normal" circumstances. This is why retreats and missions trips are so important to our DNA as a Youth Group. Many of the significant moments of experience with God happen in such settings and can be catalyst forward into greater spiritual growth. On behalf of the Youth Ministry, we would all like to say "Thank You, CUMC!" Thank you for your generous contributions - it will help many students attend trips by making them more affordable.

Moving forward, December is a time where we pause and say "Thank You" to the adult leaders in our ministry. We have a Leaders Appreciation Night coming up this month to show them just how much they are loved and appreciated.

December is also a good time for us to enjoy each other during our Youth Christmas Party before taking some time off to be with our families as well as the rest of our church family during the Christmas season.

Blessings,

~Nate Gruber

Director of Student Ministries

Dates To Remember

Lastly, make sure to take a look at our newly updated Youth Ministry website and events page. Many of the questions you may have regarding our ministry can be answered there. Here are some of the things we have coming up in the near future:

Dec. 7: Mosaic Youth Group, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 8: Coffee & Donuts: Last of 2016, 7:30-8:15 a.m. @ CUMC. Meet in Community Room for Chinese Tea and donuts. For high schoolers.

Dec. 14: Youth Christmas Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For Middle and High Schoolers: games, carols, ugly sweaters. Bring cookies or a salty treat to share.

Dec. 21 & 28: NO Mosaic Youth Group. Happy Holiday!

Jan. 6-7: Laser Tag Overnight, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 a.m. Battle all night long!! We transform the church into a laser tag battle zone. \$5.00

Jan. 20 - 22: Mosaic Winter Retreat @ Fort Wilderness, McNaughton, WI for Middle and High Schoolers. Join us for the best weekend of the winter! Tons of outdoor fun at an amazing camp. Sign up in the church office or email nateg@cedarburgcumc.org

Christmas Eve - *The Most Wonderful Night of the Year*



On this sacred night accented by candles, a sea of poinsettias, favorite songs, powerful emotions, family members by your side and beautiful music ... it is truly the most wonderful night of the year! Beyond the array of enriching experiences, connecting fully with the heart and senses, are how these pieces together point us to the miracle of God's love come in a person, Jesus the newborn King! Everything about this night converges to communicate that one great truth. At Community UMC, there are 3 distinctively different services for this purpose. Join us with those you love for the service that appeals most to you or the time best for your Christmas celebration.

5:00 pm Young Family and Children's Service

This year, Pastor Dave launches a new angle in talking about and experiencing the wonder of Christmas. Based on the traditional story, "The Tale of Three Trees" our children will experience why this night is so very special, not only for the birth of a baby, but the man he grew into, and the purpose he came to fulfill. As always at this Christmas Eve service, creativity will be employed to make the service participatory and experiential, not merely words. An abbreviated service of about 45 minutes to accommodate squirrely, active little bodies, the verses of beloved Christmas hymns sung are also chosen to connect with the perceptions of a child. Our youth band, Praise Lab, will lead us in some special music and together we will raise, young and old, safe battery operated candles at the end of the service as we sing "Silent Night."

7:00 pm Choral, Preaching and Candlelight Service

This is our most traditional service. Beginning with a prelude by the Bell Choir of holiday music, you will be welcomed into a spirit of adoration and praise. The organ joyously calls us to sing a great many of our favorite Christmas carols and songs. Special music is provided by the Christmas Choir, the Bell Choir, and our fabulous pianist (and organist) Johanna Schilling. Pastor Dave shares a charming yet provocative message entitled, "The Ugliness of Christmas." We conclude the service passing the light with candles as we reflect on the Light of the World coming into our midst. Then, together we hoist our candles high singing, "Silent Night." This soul satisfying service is fast paced and very rich.

11:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

A little boy, the son of a pastor, once asked his dad "are you going to just tell the story or mess it up trying to explain it?" This service values simplicity and the uncomplicated truth of God's love and redemption given as a gift in Christ our Lord. To that end the service, amid a sanctuary softly lit punctuated with many candles, is a musically saturated service. Our music team themselves provide numerous vocal and instrumental pieces. We

sing all the beloved Christmas carols associated with this night. And we tell the Christmas story, read from the pages of Luke's Gospel, and in quietness reflect on these words without embellishment or sermon. Then, we gather around the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. We conclude the service singing, Silent Night with lighted candles cutting a path in a darkened sanctuary. And together we leave greeting Christmas morning. This simple, powerful, romantic service is a favorite of many of our young adults who often visit and get caught up afterwards chatting before departing. All are welcome!

Christmas Day 10:15 am Service

If you are like many, there is simply no way to sing all the fabulous hymns and carols associated with Christmas. Inevitably, too many are left on the editing floor. The very occasional occurrence of a Sunday Christmas Day gives us the opportunity to leave no carol unused (well, nearly all). This Sunday service will be very much a service of congregational singing as Steve Hufnal leads us at the organ bench. Good Christians All Rejoice, The First Noel and other songs will complement your family activities. It is very much a come as you are service. Steve will show us a few flourishes of his own in special music, highlighting the joy of the day. Pastor Dave will offer a short, whimsical message entitled, "Dressed Up." You will definitely want to see his holiday madness and attire!

January 1 - 10:15 John Wesley Covenant Communion Ushers in New Year

Every New Year people make "New Year's resolutions." They resolve to think, live, relate ... differently. Since the late 1700's no service has captured this sentiment as richly in words, liturgy and an extremely thoughtful holy communion experience as "John Wesley's Covenant Communion Service." You will be struck by the moving nature of the words as we surrender our lives to God anew. Special music will be provided by Shirley Westphal (vocals) and Nate Gruber (saxophone) and Johanna Schilling (piano). This is certainly a service that many have talked about as a highlight of their yearly worship experiences. Don't miss this helpful way to begin anew!

BIRTHDAYS

December

December 1 — Arden Riddle
Emil Assmann

December 6 — Sandy Mantooth

December 7 — Clare Weaver

December 9 — Jeff McCray

December 12 — Dan Jablonski

December 13 — Susan Kelly
Lew Hanson

December 14 — Madeline Geszvain

December 15 — Marjorie Van Vickle

December 16 — Ryan Coert

December 18 — Barbara Ridgely
Debbie Bauer

December 19 — Sarah Siefkes

December 20 — Joseph Grams
Karen Eggert

December 23 — Kimberly Polan
Vikki Hahn
Dick Frankson

December 26 — Ellen Holyoke
Darrell Olson

December 27 — Jared West

December 29 — Kelli Hardee

December 30 — Valerie Olson
Jason Graham

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

Receive Your Newsletter Electronically

In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we will be sending emailed newsletter notifications for those who request it. Please send an email to PamK@CedarburgCUMC.org with the subject "Emailed Newsletters". For each family member who wants to

receive an email notification, please include their name and email address in your request. Requesting the emailed newsletter notifications will remove you from the current paper deliveries. Thank you for helping us reduce costs in this way!



Mary Martha Circle

Wednesday, December 14, 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at Settler's Inn, W63 N657 Washington Avenue in Cedarburg. Sign up on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Nancy Severson if you have any questions - (262)375-4073.

Outreach

As the year ends, the Outreach Committee would like to thank Colleen Healy and Amy Cordio for their service over several years. Their dedication to Outreach activities was a true motivator to all committee members. As Colleen and Amy leave, Outreach welcomes Susie Heiniger and Rhea Slawter. Susie and Rhea bring their own special talents and desire to serve that can only enhance the committee's work. The Outreach Committee asks the congregation to keep looking for the various opportunities to serve and thanks you for your support!

Outreach Committee

Chairman: Craig Pierce, Mike Blodgett, Jack Hale, Susie Heiniger, Val Nichols, Carla Schmidt, Chris Schumacher, Rhea Slawter, Vicki Streich, Carole Tiedemann



Poinsettias Available

Sign up today to purchase poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for the Dec. 19th and the Christmas Eve Services. Cost is \$12.00 a plant. They may be taken home anytime after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service or on subsequent Sundays. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. **The order deadline is Sunday, December 4th.**



There will be no
Sunday School
on
December 25
&
January 1

Advent Sunday School Study

December 4, 11 & 18

Mike Slaughter is the pastor of the cutting edge Ginghamburg United Methodist Church. In his video study, "Down to Earth," he explores the heaven to earth miracle of Jesus that leaves us feeling that all the "hopes and fears of all the years are met in

thee tonight." Pastor Dave leads this DVD based and conversation based study in the Community Room. All are welcome to enrich their preparation for Christmas through this short series.

Thursday Morning Men's Group

This month the Thursday Morning Men's Group will begin reading and discussing two books. To lead off, we will be looking at Adam Hamilton's "Christianity and the World Religions" This short treatise looks at the differences between the different religions in the world, how God works in other faiths, and how Christians should view other religions. Hamilton is pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. The second book is "Worlds at War" by Anthony Pagden. Pagden, who is Professor of History and Political Science at UCLA, was educated in Chile, Spain, and France and has held academic positions at Oxford, Cambridge, and Johns Hopkins. "Worlds at War" is a synthesis of military history, political history, political philosophy, and theology. In this book we will delve into the roots of the clashes between civilizations, dating back to ancient Greece and the Persians through modern times with the conflict between east and west, within Islam and Christianity, and between Islam and Christianity. We invite all men (age is not a barrier) to our Thursday morning discussions. Books will be made available for all. Breakfast is optional but the camaraderie and discussion is not.

» 7 AM Thursdays «

» PJ Piper's in downtown Cedarburg «

Women of Faith

The Women of Faith will have a change of pace next month. They will be going to lunch and have a social event instead of a study meeting. Lunch will be at the Flipside Restaurant on Monday, December 12 at 11:30. Please bring a wrapped white elephant "gift" for the holiday event.



CALENDAR *December*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent WORSHIP 8:00 AM Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM 27	28	29 Acts 29 7:00 PM	30 Confirmation 5:00 PM Mosaic Youth Ministries 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	1 Men's Study 7:00 AM Barcel Violin 4:45 PM - 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 6:45 PM	2 Jingle Jam 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Encore Photo Shoot with Ken Michaelchuck 10:00 AM - Noon 3
WORSHIP 8:00 AM Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM Heifer International Live Gift Market 11:30 AM	Outreach 6:00 PM Charge Conference 6:30 PM Women's Fellowship "Tea Tasting" 7:15 PM	6 Befrienders 7:00 PM Acts 29 7:00 PM	7 Confirmation 5:00 PM Mosaic Youth Ministries 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	8 Men's Study 7:00 AM Youth Ministry Coffee & Donuts 7:30 AM Chancel Choir 6:45 PM	9	Cantata Rehearsal 1:00 PM 10
WORSHIP 8:00 AM Joy! Cantata Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM Joy! Cantata	Women of Faith 11:30 AM Flipside Restaurant 12 Facilities 6:30 PM Finance 6:30 PM Welcoming 7:00 PM	13 Active Seniors "The Plain People" Presentation and Luncheon 11:30 AM Acts 29 7:00 PM	Mary Martha Circle 12:30 PM Settler's Inn Cedarburg 14 Confirmation 5:00 PM Mosaic Youth Ministries Christmas Party 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	15 Men's Study 7:00 AM Barcel Violin 4:45 PM - 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 6:45 PM	16	17
Family Promise WORSHIP 8:00 AM Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM	Family Promise Women's Fellowship Bunko 6:30 PM	20 Family Promise Acts 29 7:00 PM	21 Family Promise Bell Choir 7:00 PM	22 Family Promise Men's Study 7:00 AM Chancel Choir 6:45 PM	23 Family Promise Office Closed	24 Family Promise Young Children & Family Service 5:00 PM Choral, Preaching & Candlelight Service 7:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service 11:00 PM
Family Promise Merry Christmas! NO Sunday School WORSHIP 10:15 AM ONLY 25	Office Closed 26	27	28	29 Men's Study 7:00 AM	30	31
Happy New Year! NO Sunday School WORSHIP 10:15 AM ONLY 1	Office Closed 2	3 Acts 29 7:00 PM	4 Confirmation 5:00 PM Mosaic Youth Ministries 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	5 Men's Study 7:00 AM Barcel Violin 4:45 PM - 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 6:45 PM	6 Mosaic Ministry Laser Tag Overnight 6:30 PM - 8:00 AM	7

A CHRISTMAS PARTY BIG ENOUGH FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

JINGLE
JAM

PUT A **BOW** ON IT

DON'T MISS JINGLE JAM! Friday, December 2, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Looking for something exciting for the whole family during this holiday season? Take a break from the mall. Stop staring at those packages, and come celebrate with us at the coolest party this side of the North Pole. Join us for a new, alternative, creative and engaging performance that celebrates the real reason for the season, and will give parents and their kids something great to talk about afterward. There will be drama, music, laughter, interactive games and fellowship. This special holiday gift is geared toward elementary kiddos and their families and will also engage the smallest through middle schoolers. This is definitely a Christmas program you will want to bring your friends and extended family to so mark your calendars and get ready for **JINGLE JAM!** This event is free and is designed to be invitational so please invite friends and neighbors! We hope to see you all for a *Jingly Jangly* good time. Join us for the fun and then take a short walk to downtown Cedarburg to check out "Festive Friday."

J I N G L E
J A M

Women's Fellowship

"Tea Tasting" with Nate Gruber
Monday, December 5
7:15 p.m. • CUMC



With Nate's extensive buying of tea from locals in China, his travels there, and his vast experience in Minneapolis with the high end tea industry ... this will be a fun and educational night. Limited to twelve participants.

BUNKO
Monday, December 19
6:30 p.m. • CUMC



Invite a friend, bring a snack or appetizer to share and \$2 to cover the cost of prizes. For all ladies of the church...an easy to learn dice game! We all had a great time in October... let's keep the dice rolling!



Community United Methodist Church
 W68N563 Evergreen Blvd.
 P. O. Box 617
 Cedarburg, WI 53012

Return Service Requested

“We are a safe sanctuary congregation”

www.CedarburgCUMC.org

W68N563 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg, WI 53012

After Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hours | Memorial Day Through Labor Day | Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Church Office | 262 • 377 • 3832 |

Pastor | Rev. David Blackmer | PastorDave@CedarburgCUMC.org

After Labor Day | 8:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

Memorial Day Through Labor Day | 9:00 a.m.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us on Sunday mornings.

Monthly Newsletter of Community United Methodist Church

Growing devoted followers of Christ. Equipping passionate leaders in service.



Community United Methodist Church, Cedarburg