



## PASTOR'S CORNER: a Word from PW

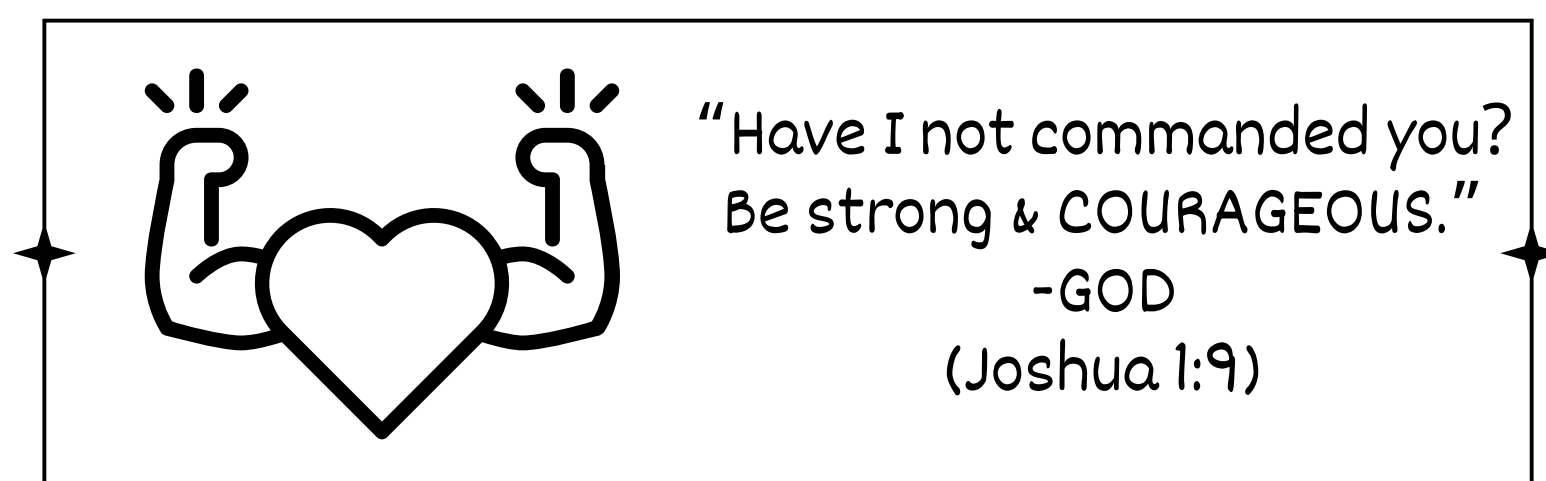
# Good News Letter October 2025

**Bigfork CUMC - The place where we practice...**

**Open Hearts** by doing our best to love others with the all-encompassing, all-inclusive love of God.

**Open Minds** by recognizing that we have more to learn and room to grow.

**Open Doors** by welcoming all people from all places of life into our community of faith.



How have you been brave this week? It is a question you have heard me ask every Sunday for the past month. And several of you have shared your answers with me. We all heard about Sally's brave move to tell a group of young men engaged in a Bible Study how happy she was to see their commitment to learning and growing in faith. Today, the person I met for coffee bravely approached a man wearing a "Navy Veteran" cap to thank him for his service - it was clear how much those words of gratitude meant to him. I have heard about calls you've made to new neighbors, courageously "putting yourself out there" to make someone feel welcome and possibly gain a friend. A community person recently asked me when the AA groups meet at our church and his desire to take that first, brave step to admitting his addiction and doing something to address it. I have heard about apologies made, forgiveness extended, harsh words kept quiet and kind words of truth spoken out loud. I know about prayers offered for strangers in public places and information gathered in order to make lifelong dreams come true.

There are numerous ways you have dared to live out Brave Faith this past month. Countless moments we, as a church family, have remembered the words God speaks to us over and over in scripture: "Do not fear...Be strong and courageous, for I am with you wherever you go."

As we continue to hear stories of Brave Faith from scripture and think about the ways God is asking each of us to boldly and bravely live our faith each day, may we also think about the power our stories of brave faith have for others. Hearing the ways all of you have been brave inspires me to be brave, too!

One way I am trying to be more brave is by naming out loud the direction I think God is calling us to go. Though this may seem like an obvious task of a faith leader, I have to admit that I often do not think of myself as having the charisma or confidence to lead people where we are supposed to go. Or perhaps the bigger issue is that I keep waiting for God to clearly tell me where we are supposed to go - and then do not say anything if I'm not sure about the answer!

So this month, I bravely and boldly name who I see God calling us to be and pray that God will set a clear vision in our hearts & minds in the months ahead. At CUMC, WE ARE: called to name and claim ourselves as the church where ALL people are genuinely welcome. Where we believe that every person is beloved by God, belongs to God's family, and is called to become all that Christ has called and created them to be. We believe we are called to PRAY BIG because God can do more than we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20), so we pray for more children, families, and adults to be a part of our church family. We pray for a gifted person to help lead new programs. We pray for the courage to keep living with BRAVE FAITH.

In Faith and Courage,

*Pastor Wendy*



# Opportunities to WORSHIP

Do not stop meeting together with  
other believers...

Keep encouraging one another.

-Hebrew 10:25



# Opportunities to CONNECT

Love each other like members  
of your family. Be best at  
showing honor to one another.  
-Romans 12:10

## STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

**CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS:** Lynda Willis is taking photos for those of you who aren't in our online directory. but would like to be ! Please call, text or email her at (713) 829-5999, lynda.willis@sbcglobal.net.

**GET A CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Dana in the office can help you download the "Instant Church Directory" on your phone and/or get a printed copy of the current directory to you. Contact her at (406) 827-4547 or bigforkcumc@gmail.com.

### No Hearts & Hands in October

Be ready for more fun, food and  
fellowship in November!

### Thursday's Coffee & Conversation

will move to Grateful Bread,  
starting Thursday, Oct 9 @ 9 am.



Be sure to "like: our Facebook  
page – Community United  
Methodist Church – to get  
regular updates & see what is  
happening!



Watch Sunday Services and other  
events on our  
YouTube channel:  
Bigfork United Methodist Church



**Chess Club  
Games & Legos**

for Kids ages 5-15  
**Tuesdays @ 4pm**  
starting in October

**Bigfork Community  
United Methodist Church**  
750 Electric Ave  
(a block from the high school)  
with Chess Coach James Atkins

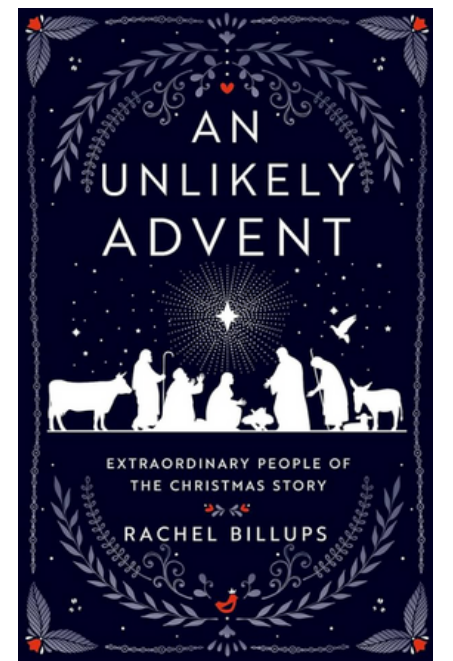
# Opportunities to GROW

If someone asks about your hope  
as a believer, always be ready  
to explain it.  
-1 Peter 3:15

## Advent Bible & Book Study

"An Unlikely Advent" Bible & Book Study will begin Monday, November 24, at 10 am. This four week study will include coffee & cookies and will meet upstairs. Please join leaders Carol Bertram & Jetta Johnson to discover new details about the often overlooked characters of the Christmas story!

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# Opportunities to CARE

## Prayer List:

Jean Randall, McKenna Squires, Ann Giannini, Jane Leivo,  
Craig Spencer, people of Israel, Palestine & Ukraine,  
Bigfork Food Bank

Send a greeting to your church family!

### November Birthdays

Jeff Whitney 11/3  
Analyn Lee 11/6  
Judy Meseroll 11/10  
Christina Gump 11/16  
Chris Travis 11/16  
Cory Willis 11/22  
Shirley Saunders 11/30



### November Anniversaries

Jerry & JoLynn Yenne 11/11  
Gordon & Marilyn Graham 11/17  
Jim & Sue Mitchell 11/20  
Rick & Jinger Moore 11/26



Let's not get tired of doing good,  
because in time we'll have a harvest  
if we don't give up.  
-Galatians 6:9

### **Food Bank Requests:**

Pancake mix, refried  
beans, tuna, canned  
ravioli, canned  
peaches, rice-a-roni,  
crackers, mac &  
cheese, spam,  
produce. Donations  
can be left in/on the  
grey bench in the  
coat room. Checks  
can be made out to  
CUMC with Food  
Bank on the memo  
line and put in the  
regular offering.

# Opportunities to GIVE



Did you know that you  
can share your  
offering digitally?

Go to: [bigforkumc.org](http://bigforkumc.org)

Click on the Tabs  
"More" and "Give"

Everyone should give what they  
have decided in their heart...  
God loves a cheerful giver!  
- 2 Corinthians 9

## A Note from our FINANCE Team:

**The Finance Committee is pleased to share that revenue is exceeding forecast** through the end of October and expenses are in line with expectations. Fortunately, we have no major expenditures anticipated however we continue to grow our reserves in case the unexpected happens.

As detailed in our **GIVE THANKS year end offering** letter which you will receive shortly, our new focus is to provide funding for an assistant to Pastor Wendy by establishing a "**Pastor Assistant Reserve Fund**" which can be used to cover related expenses until the position can be funded within our annual operating budget. When the right candidate is identified, we want to be able to make the hire happen. Your consideration and support are appreciated.

The **Trustees** are busy keeping the church and parsonage in good working order. **The Mission committee** is leading our efforts in outreach to both our local community and international efforts. **Thanks to all those involved.**

**Quote of the Month:** "When you light the way for others, your path becomes brighter too."  
M. Green

**Finance Committee Members:** Harry Wilson, Sandy Whitney, Don Willis, Don Julian, Mary Bolhuis, Gary Bolhuis, Rob Petek, Chris Travis, Jetta Johnson, Jerry Bygren, Marilyn Bowman, Ethel Mathews, Bob Mathews, Rick Magstadt



**Nov 2** – \*John and Diane Pearson, Jeff Whitney, Carole Mason, Betty Jo Ivey, Neats Iverson, Lori Heninger, Bob & Bonnie Chrysler

**Nov 9** – \*Gary, Celie and Margo Perleberg, Jack and Donna Ganiere, Scott Longtin and Kristine Arndt, Jim and Marlene Gray, Dave and Goldie Enger, Tom and Carolyn Nicewarner, Jan McCandless

**Nov 16**– \*Nanci Bain and Ruth Guldner, Ochs Family, Gary and Mary Bolhuis, Candy Martin, Ed and Carolyn Stamy

**Nov 23** – \*Jay and Sandy Whitney, Wayne and Kathryn Murray, Chuck Hubbard, Don and Lynda Willis, Martha Greathouse

**Nov 30** – \*Rob and Debbie Petek, John and Kim Rose, John Brault, Karen Robinson, Kent Koolen, Susan Nybo, Kay Pricher, Ellette Day

**Dec 7** – \*Judy Meseroll, Jerry Bygren and Sarah Taylor, Jim and Sue Mitchell, George and Dorothy Codling, Ricky Hozwarth

## Coffee Hour Group Leaders to Meet on November 16

Our Coffee Fellowship Coordinators are preparing for the winter season and want to meet with all Coffee Hour Group Leaders for a brief meeting on Sunday, November 16th, following worship. The group will be discussing how to plan for food, how to support group members, and how to encourage new people to join. The Coordinators will directly contact group leaders about this meeting, but all Coffee Hour participants are welcome to welcome to attend!"

**Join us!**  
**Thanksgiving Day at 1:00**  
**Turkey, potatoes and**  
**beverages will be provided**  
**sign up in November to**  
**bring your favorite side**  
**dish**





# A Note from our MISSIONS Team:

**The coin jar collection for CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocates) was \$455.72! Thank you. We were able to add that amount to the \$500 supplied by the Special Ministries reserve Fund for a total of \$955.72 that we sent to CASA through the “Great Fish Challenge”.

Our long anticipated **tour of the Blackfeet United Methodist parish** turned out to be a beautiful day and a blessing to us all. Bogue and Becky Miller, LouAnn Baird, Margie and Ward DeWitt, Marcia Peck, Chris and Francine Hagar drove over to Browning on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Rev. Gail Hoyt gave us an informative and thorough tour of the Browning and Babb Churches, and the BUMP ranch. We delivered the 76 pounds of new underwear (up from 57 pounds last year) for the Parish to distribute to the children of the reservation which is much appreciated.

**The Mission Committee is giving \$500** in support of Sierra Remington’s “go fund me” project to supply reusable sanitary pads for the girls in Kisumu, Kenya.

**Thank you for your wonderful response to our BUMP (Blackfeet United Methodist Parish) box project.** The boxes are due back October 24<sup>th</sup>. They can be left in the library and will be checked in under your name and stored in our mission storage room until we deliver them in early November for the Christmas distribution. So far, 103 boxes have been checked out.

**The purpose of the CUMC Missions Committee is to serve  
as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.**

## **How we do it:**

We strive to involve all members of the congregation in following God’s commands to care for the poor, sick and needy by engaging in mission partnerships with local, national and international organizations. We strive to be good stewards of God’s resources and to be God’s witnesses wherever we go, showing the love of God and our faith in Him by what we do.

Members of the committee are: Francine Hagar-Chair, Janet Bones-Vice Chair & Finances, Margie DeWitt, Rick Moore-Food Bank liaison; Joy Bailey, Marcia Peck, Chuck Hubbard-Salvation Army liaison, Jan McCandless, Lori Hines and LouAnn Baird.

In Kisumu County, Kenya, many girls miss school each month because they cannot afford safe sanitary pads, often resorting to rags, plastic bags, or leaves. Community leader Rosemary Odada hosts menstrual health talks and runs a sewing workshop where youth are learning to make reusable cloth pads. Just \$13 provides one girl with a year’s supply: 6 reusable pads plus soap, while also paying the workshop staff. This helps the girls in the community gain dignity, health, and the chance to stay in school. [HERE](https://www.gofundme.com/f/reusable-pads-for-girls-in-kisumu-kenya) is the GoFundMe link with further details about the project our member

**Sierra Remington started when visiting Kenya:**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/reusable-pads-for-girls-in-kisumu-kenya>







# Thank you!!

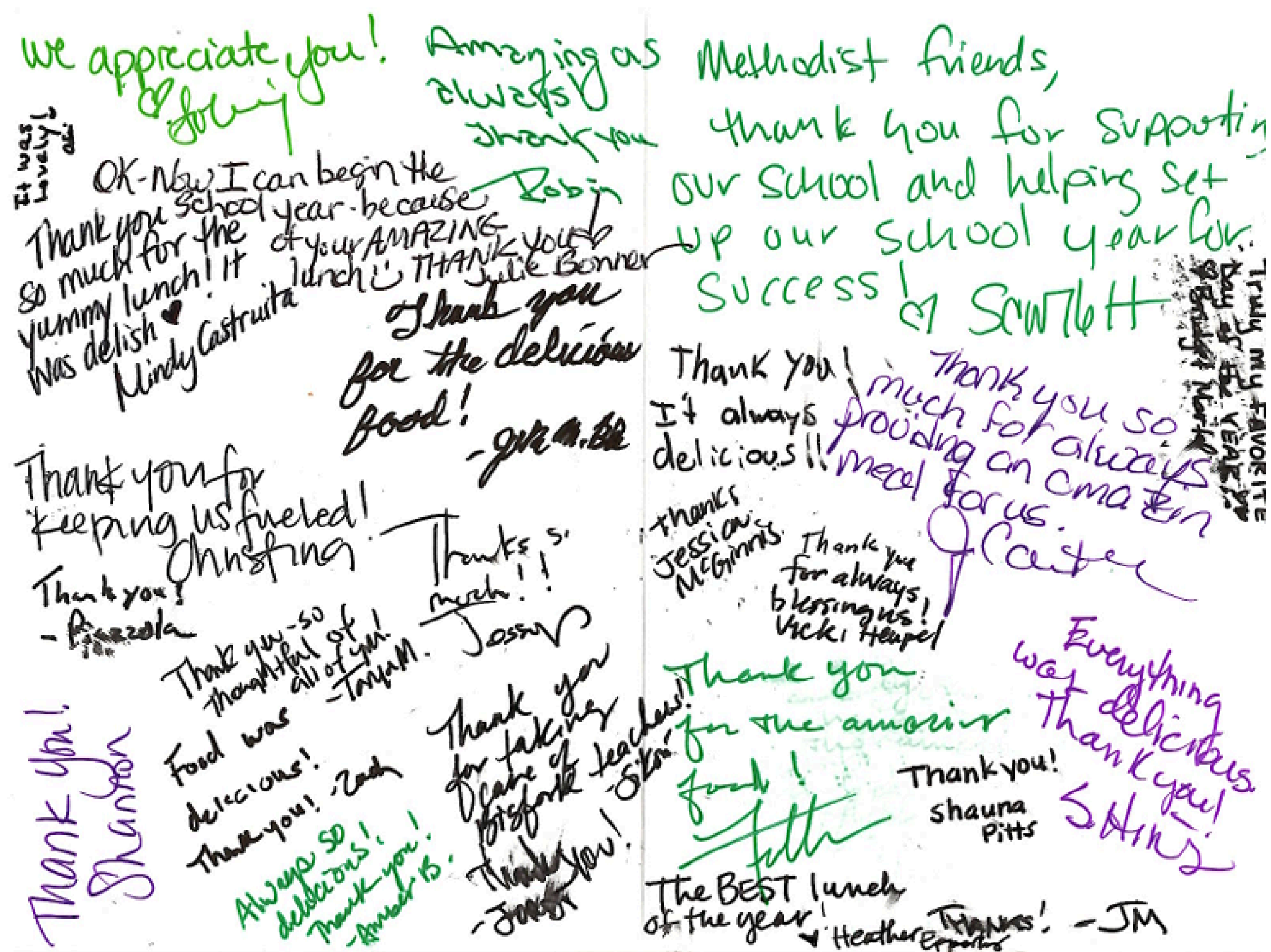
To our Friends at CUMC,  
On behalf of the staff and board team here at Abbie Shelter, I'm honored to reach out with a note of thanks for your incredibly generous gift to our organization in the 2025 Great Fish Community Challenge. Your continued support of our work means the world not only to us, but to the hundreds of people who access our services each year.  
Wishing you all a safe and joyful remainder of Summer - and many thanks again!  
With Gratitude,  
Kristen Schepker  
Executive Director  
Abby Shelter

To our friends at Community United Methodist Church,  
we cannot thank you enough for your incredibly generous gift to the Abbie Shelter in this year's Great Fish Challenge. Your continued support helps us make the Flathead a safer place for everyone who live here. We are so deeply grateful!  
With Gratitude,  
The Abby Team

Dear Community United Methodist Church,  
Thank you so much for your donation to the Sparrow's Nest  
of NW Montana. Your support ensures we can continue to  
provide life changing services to the homeless teens in our  
community. Thank you for being the change they need and  
for helping us build brighter futures for our youth.  
We greatly appreciate you!  
Sincerely,  
The Sparrow's Nest Family

Thank you so much!  
Every year 150 teens have the opportunity to walk  
through our doors and receive the care and  
accountability they need to thrive in our community.  
This couldn't happen without a supportive community  
that cares about Flathead Valley teens.  
We are so grateful for you!  
Valerie McGarvey  
Center for Restorative Youth Justice  
Board Chair

## Thank You from Bigfork School for the Teacher's Luncheon





406-863-1781  
P.O. Box 1060  
214 Second Street W | Whitefish, MT 59937  
contact@whitefishcommunityfoundation.org  
whitefishcommunityfoundation.org

August 28, 2025

Community United Methodist Church  
750 Electric Avenue  
Bigfork, MT 59911

Dear Community United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$6,000.00 to the Great Fish Community Challenge, hosted by Whitefish Community Foundation. Your gift is designated to the following nonprofits:

ABBIE SHELTER	\$1,000.00
FLATHEAD WARMING CENTER	\$1,000.00
FLATHEAD YOUTH HOME	\$1,000.00
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF FLATHEAD VALLEY	\$1,000.00
SPARROW'S NEST OF NW MT	\$1,000.00
CASA FOR KIDS	\$500.00
CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE YOUTH JUSTICE	\$500.00

**As the Flathead Valley's home for charitable giving for 25 years, Whitefish Community Foundation is proud to strengthen our local nonprofit community in this year's Great Fish Community Challenge.**

Since its launch in 2015, the Challenge has raised more than **\$35 million** for nonprofits across the Flathead Valley, improving lives and investing in our future.

At the close of the Challenge, Whitefish Community Foundation will award participating nonprofits a percentage match — made possible by members of our Circle of Giving and donors to the Great Fish Match Fund. In 2024, that match was an impressive 58% on \$25,000 raised by each nonprofit, providing up to \$14,500 in additional funding per organization.

Thank you for supporting the vital work of our local nonprofits. Your generosity will have a lasting impact across the Flathead Valley for years to come.

  
Alan Davis  
President/CEO

*Thanks for supporting so many nonprofits in the Challenge!*

*Please consider this letter an official receipt of your tax-deductible contribution on 08/28/2025 in the amount of \$6,000.00. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Our federal tax identification number is 81-0533002. This organization is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization for both federal and state tax purposes.*