



PASTOR'S CORNER: a Word from PW

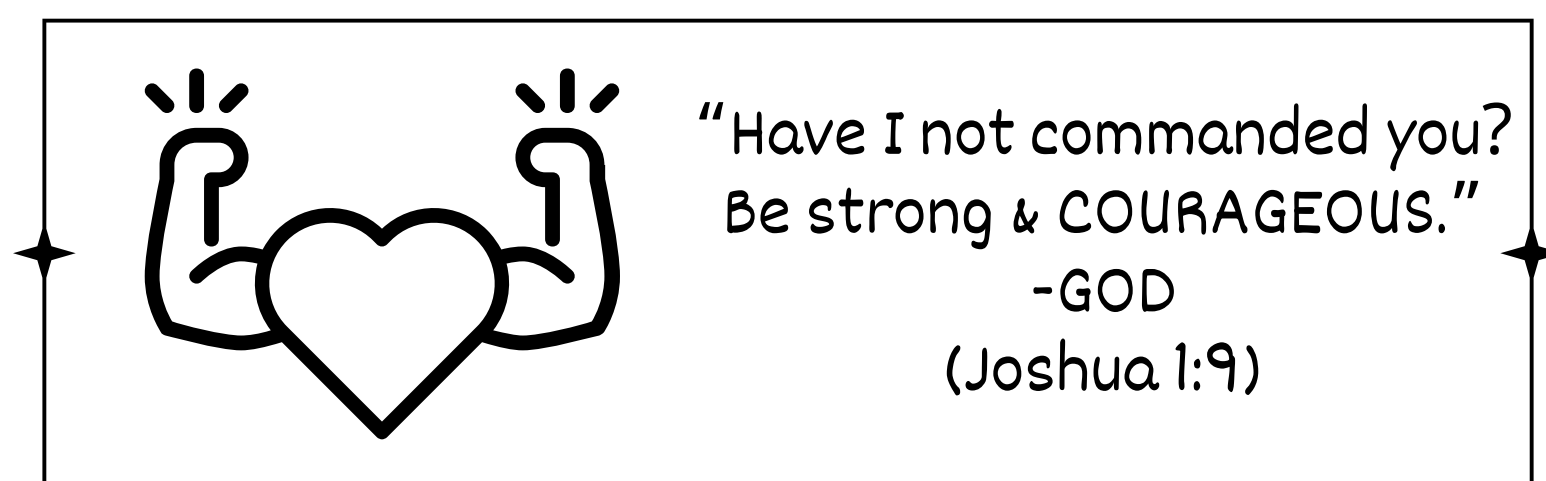
Good News Letter October 2025

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



Fall 2025

Sundays @ 10 am

October 5 - What We Do Not Choose
Holy Communion

October 12 - Stepping Up to the Plate
New Members & Apple Cider Press

October 19 - Brave Enough to Keep Going
Brother Van Sunday

(Come for Worship, Stay for Pie!)

October 26 - Guest Preacher John Brault

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



Brother Van Society

Join Us
October 19 for Brother Van Sunday
during Fellowship time after Worship



**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

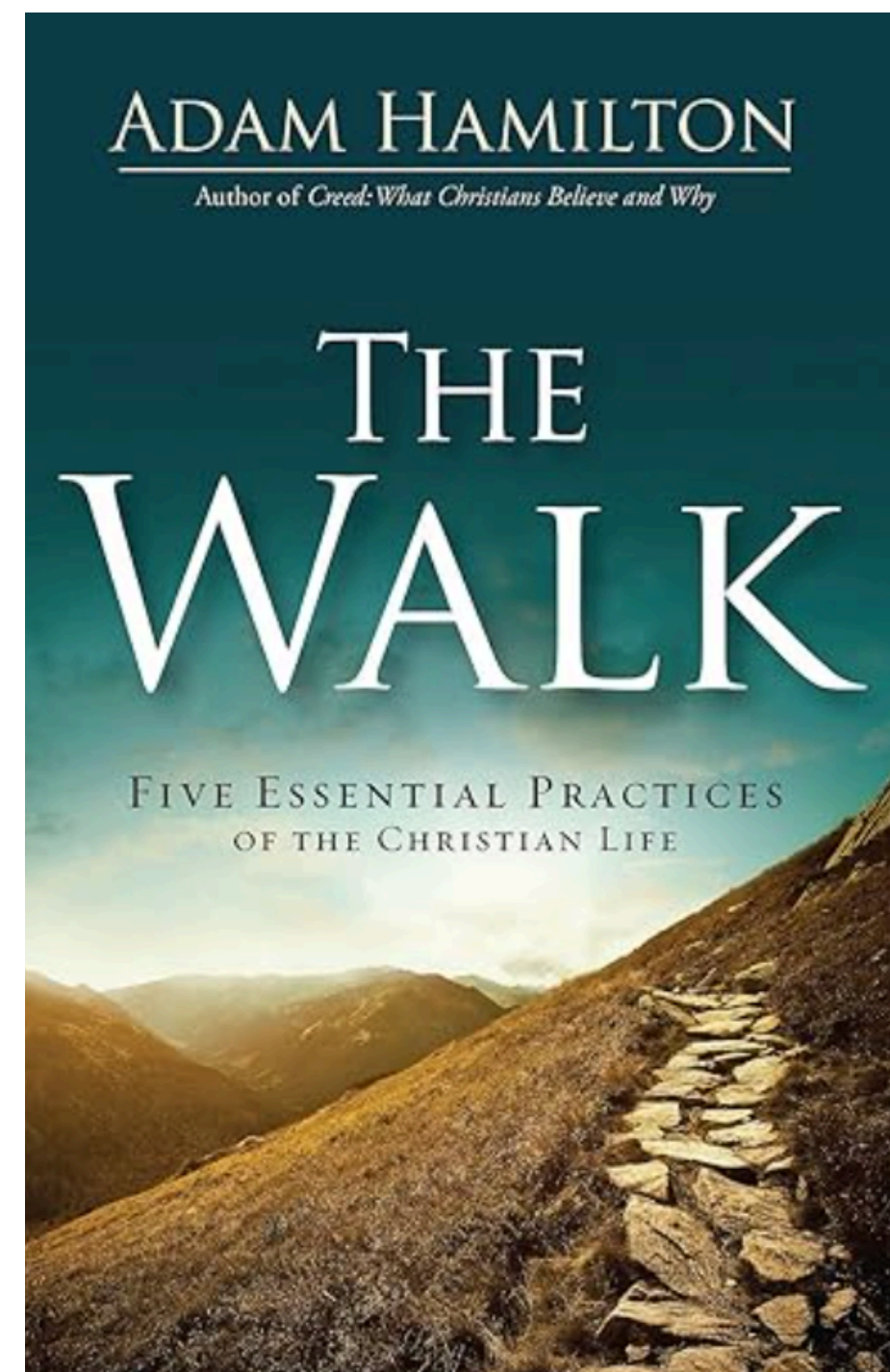
FALL BIBLE STUDY w/Pastor Wendy

WHEN: Thursdays, Sept 18-Oct 23
@ Noon - bring your own lunch

(PW will offer an evening/Zoom
option, if there is interest)

WHAT: "The WALK:
Five Essential Practices of the Christian
Experience" by Adam Hamilton

Sign up with Dana, Pastor Wendy, or in the
Fellowship Hall



OCTOBER 30 @ 12:00

LUNCH & LEARN

Bring a sack lunch and
hear about Rev. Janet
Fitzgerald's mission trip to
East Angola



Opportunities to CARE

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

Prayer List:

Jean Randall, McKenna Squires, Ann Giannini, Don Thomson, Donna Fraley, people of Israel, Palestine & Ukraine

Send a greeting to your church family!

October Birthdays

Judy Maseman 10/3
Chuck Hubbard 10/4
Karen Sykes 10/9
Gary Perleberg 10/15
Bruce Peck 10/19
Kathy Kamerick 10/24
JoLynn Yenne 10/25
Jessica Beasley 10/25
Betty Matthews 10/28



October Anniversaries

Doug & Peggy Safley 10/15



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

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 report that the elevator is paid off! Thank you again for all the generous support that made it possible to replace the elevator without needing to take out a loan!

Church finances are on track. In addition to the elevator, we've been able to get the carpets cleaned and get the paved parking areas sealed and repainted. Thanks to the trustees for all the work they put in to keep our facilities looking great.

October 19 we'll be celebrating Brother Van Sunday. The CUMC Brother Van Society supports estate planning, so if you'd like to provide a bequest to the church as you plan your estate, the society can explain the process and help you through it. But mostly Brother Van Sunday is about pie. Mary Bolhuis will again be blessing us with her delicious pies after worship that day.

Quote of the month: “One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.” – Jean Vanier

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



Apple Cider Press

Sunday, October 12
after worship
@ the Trembath's
9065 MT Hwy 35
(Trembath Trail)

Please bring a dish to share!
Burgers and Hot dogs provided
Bring empty distilled water
jugs, a dish to share and apples
(no windfalls please!)



Join us!

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



BIGFORK SCHOOL CHOIR

**CONCERT AT CUMC
OCTOBER 14 @ 6PM**



CUMC CONNECT

GAME NIGHT
Saturday, October 18, 5 pm
Board & Card games for all ages!
You're invited to bring a
game and/or snack to share.
Most importantly, bring yourself & a friend!
Please call Martha with ?s: 719-331-1917



Oct 5 – * Karen Sykes, Jerry and JoLynn Yenne, Nancy Kelly, Bill and Penny Smith

Oct 12 – *Gordon and Carol Bertram, Corinne Johnson, and Mick Pauli, Judith Cain, Kay Boorsma, John and Lorelee Weaver, Craig and Suzy Spencer

Oct 19 – *Marilyn Bowman, Karen Matthis, Chris and Francine Hagar, TC and Sally Hamilton, Patti Wright

Oct 26 – *Kay Gough, Harry and Joy Bailey, Chris and Diane Travis, Web and Lynn Antil

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

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 17th. 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 24th. 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:

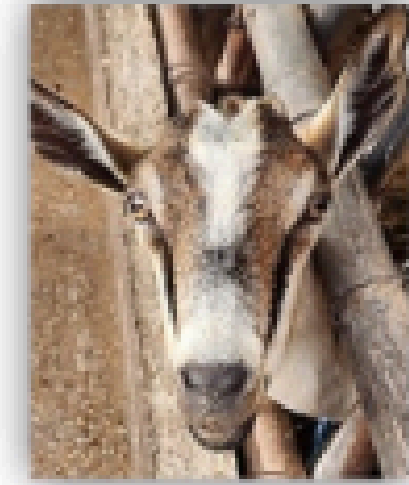
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/reusable-pads-for-girls-in-kisumu-kenya>

A Message from the New Directors of Give Ye Them to Eat

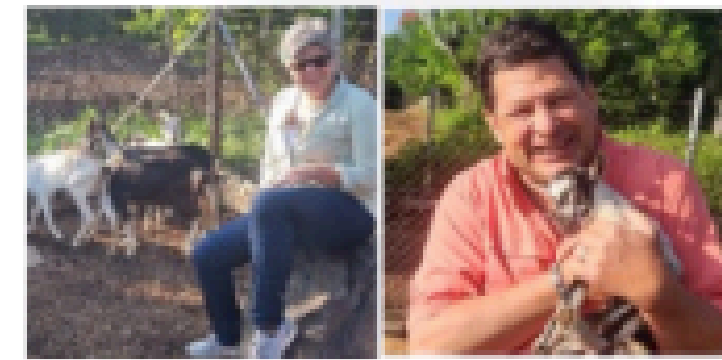
Palabras con la Cabra

Words with the GOAT...

Rev. Patrick and Kim Lewis invited to serve Give Ye Them to Eat by the General Board Of Global Missions of the United Methodist Church. They now live full time in Mexico splitting their time between Puebla working at the offices of GYTTE and at Arbol De Vida, the experiential farm and learning center in Tlancualpican.



Everyone starts somewhere at Arbol de Vida, the tree of life learning center. And it seems they start by visiting the goats, so let's start there. In the United States, we use the expression Greatest Of All Time (GOAT), often in reference to boxing or sports, but in Mexico, *the* G.O.A.T. is God, Dios, PaPa, the One who created all. *And* that's where we are going to start. Sharing ideas, wisdom, laughter, thoughts and prayer with the **Greatest Of All Time, GOD.**



Gracias DIOS... Each prayer here begins with thanks to God, but in so many ways, God is woven into the fabric of who and what the people here are. Even the greetings have GOD woven into them. How many times have you heard someone say Adios? Yes, it is a simple goodbye, but within it literally contains a powerful message A-DIOS, one GOD or the GOD. A simple greeting that sends GOD with you as you leave. And isn't that where we are in the world? No matter where we are God is with us.

I think about Joseph in Genesis and the coat that Jacob gave him. The coat was intended to protect Joseph as he went into life, but even when the coat was gone, GOD was there guiding the adventures and protecting Joseph along the way. God is also with the brothers bringing them back to Joseph and guiding the story of reunion and forgiveness. God moves similarly with us in our times of trial and in times of grace and blessing. If we are reminded of GOD's presence always, we see GOD in all we do. Sincerely, the Greatest Of All Time, and of all space.

In the few months since we have arrived at Give Ye Them To Eat, we have witnessed GOD creating and blessing all we encounter. I can't help but wonder if part of our lives here is GOD reminding us that creation continues, and that we are invited to be part of that creation?

So, let's ask, how are you being invited to be part of creation in the world today? As you sit and read this, I am aware that you are part of the GYTTE family and have in some way been part of the story here and maybe with your church or with a service group that has been active with helping at some point in time. But what about today? I don't think it is accidental that you are reading this. I don't think it is happenstance you chose to read this message, and I do think GOD is inviting you to something. But what?

Could your life have an open place to participate in creation? Is GOD inviting us into a relationship that will somehow make an impact on the world today?

Consider the programs you may be familiar with Give Ye Them To Eat. Maybe you have helped build simple, affordable housing for a family, or you may have participated in a program that helps provide health workers to remote parts of Mexico. Maybe you have helped support the education of ministers, or maybe you have prayed for those who are working to make change in the world. In whatever way you have helped, it has changed lives... but there is more work to do and we are



being invited to be part of creation today. You are invited.

Today, we recognize GOD, working in the world and in our lives. We move with GOD and we are protected and guided as we move.

I wonder, as Joseph sat on the desert floor, under the stars, afraid and alone, did he pray to GOD a prayer of desperation for himself, or was it a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonders and grace GOD demonstrates in the world and along his journey. Do we pray out of desperation and self-need, or do we move in an attitude of grace and thanksgiving?

Take a moment.
Take a deep breath.
Take in all the sights and sounds...
Take in all you have been blessed with in this moment...

Take in GOD's presence in your life...

Take a moment to thank GOD for all you have, and all GOD is providing you now...

Now, take a moment and ask,
GOD, to what are you inviting me?

Take a step, move, act, do...
And trust that God is with you as you give to GOD from what you have received.

Gracias DIOS...

ADIOS... VE CON DIOS.
Go with GOD
(The Greatest Of All Time!)

~ Pat plewis@umcmmission.org
~ Kim kLewis@umcmmission.org

Rev. Patrick and UMC Deaconess Kim Lewis, serve as co-directors of Give Ye Them to Eat, GYTTE, a 501C3 program through the General Board Global Mission of the United Methodist Church. Programs focus on six key areas of mission: Community Development, Agricultural Development, Livestock Development, Community and Family Health, Church and Faith Development, and the A.W.A.R.E. Program (Alternative Work-study And Reality Experience). More information can be found on Facebook, GYTTE.org, etc. You are invited to donate to the ongoing programs of GYTTE - Advance No. **7629A** at:

<https://gbhem-umc.my.site.com/hemgm/s/donate-to-campaign?id=a3fPo000000D46uIAC>

We invite you to visit Kim's blog that talks about the Community and Family Health Program at:

https://frommoleto ministry.blogspot.com/2025/08/hands-to-care-hearts-to-actthe-gift-of.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawMxUGleHRuA2FbQIxMABicmlkETE2V210cDJnRHM2REpXaGY4AR5hoxb8_1dFH1jl8ZSgbyaUHIPhCJY-XOCy-RnRd8sRG1g2TUEDQ3A9YEA6bw_aem_dPEG-Wi5UkFoYYJKoK1wRA

"Give Ye Them To Eat" - Advanced No. 07629A



gyttephm@aol.com

www.gytte.org

Thank you!!

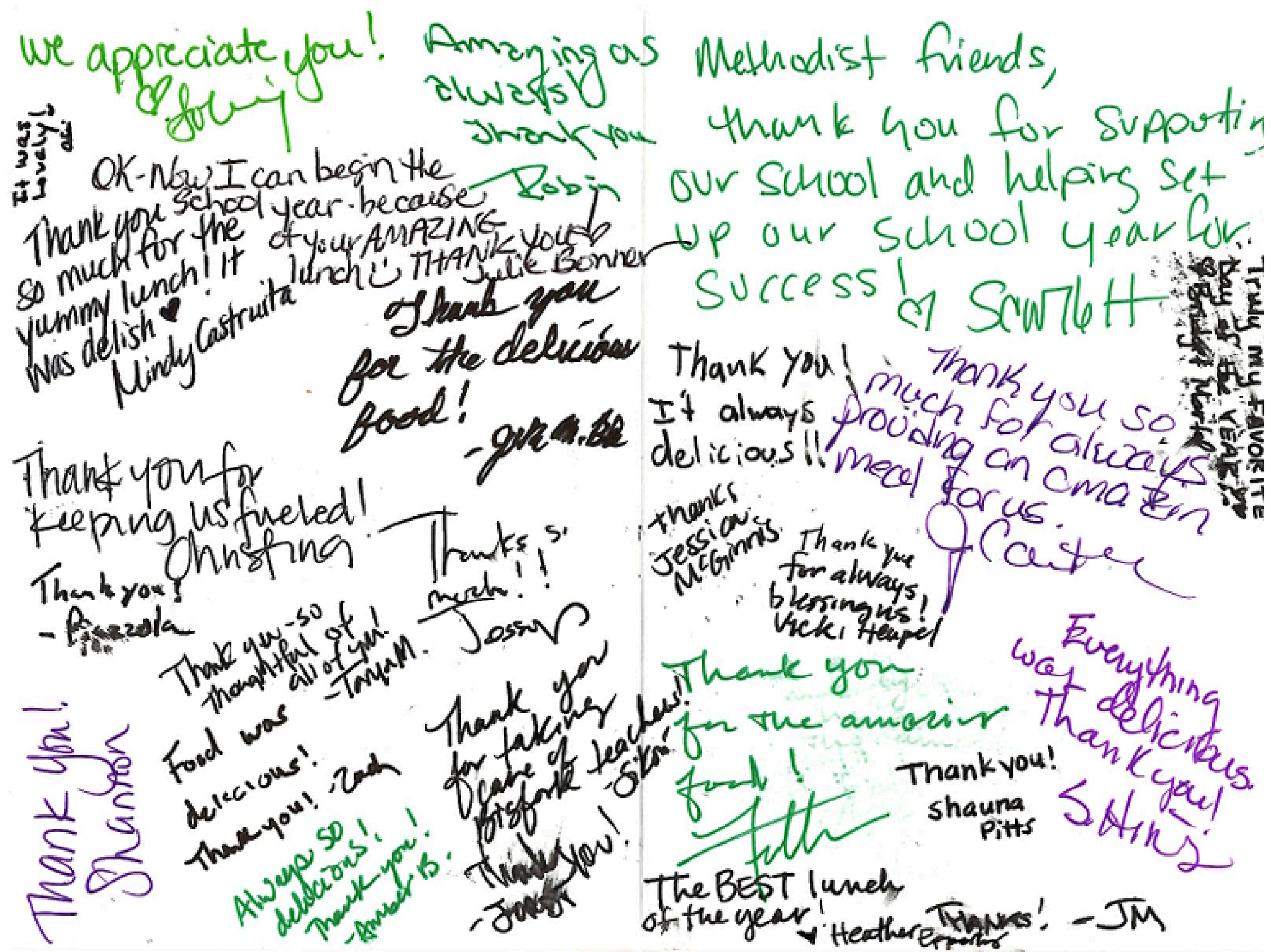
To our Friends at CUMC,
On behalf of the staff and board team here at Abbie Shelter, I'm honored to reach out with a note of thanks for your incredibly generous gift to our organization in the 2025 Great Fish Community Challenge. Your continued support of our work means the world not only to us, but 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.