



PASTOR'S CORNER: a Word from PW

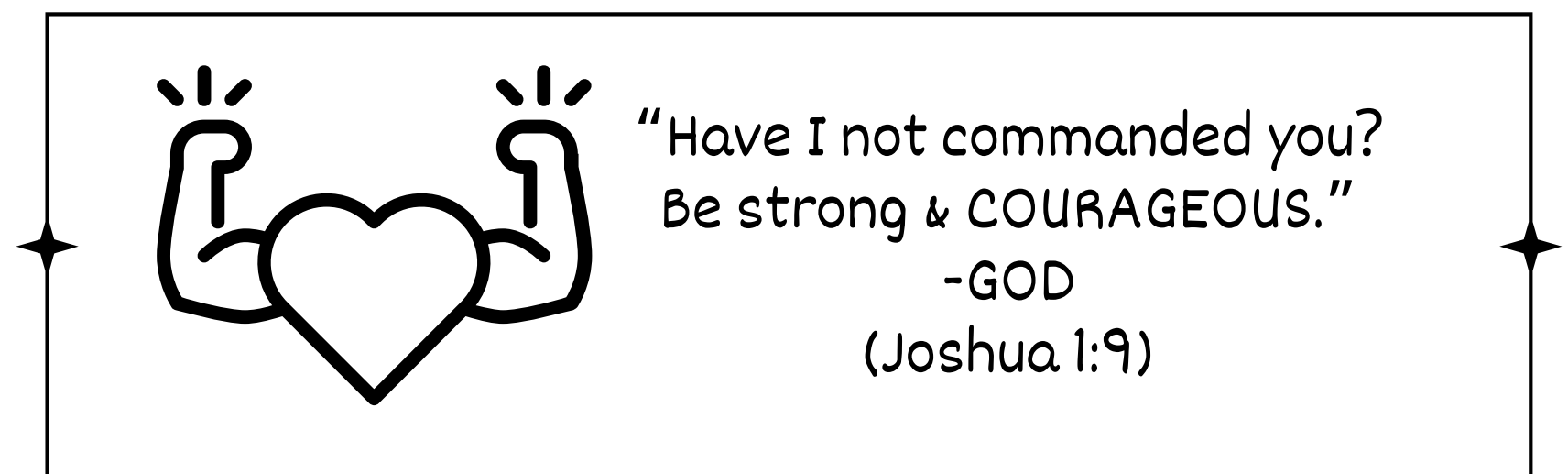
Good News Letter SEPTEMBER 2025

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.



Who is the bravest person you know? What makes them brave? In what ways do you wish you could be more like them? My guess is that you thought of someone who has endured great challenges and faced them head on, because that's what bravery is.

According to the Oxford Language Dictionary, brave means "ready to face and endure danger or pain." According to the Bible, those who live with brave faith are those who face and endure difficult situations with a belief that God is there to guide, protect, and help them each step of the way.

This fall, we are going to explore many examples of people who have demonstrated brave faith when confronting difficult and dangerous situations. It is easy to conjure up images of a skinny kid named David taking on a giant named Goliath or of Moses boldly telling Pharaoh to "let God's people go!" but how about a childless Hannah weeping at the temple while promising God that the gift of a baby is a gift she will offer back to God? Or the disciples who chose to stay by Jesus' side after many deserted him because of the strange and daring claims he made?

There are many ways we are called to act with brave faith just as there are many dangerous or painful circumstances we face in this broken and messy world. Oftentimes, the challenge is discerning what brave choice to make: Do I speak up or shut up? Stay or go? Take a step in this direction or that direction?

Whatever our choices, learning to live with courage and bravery is both a biblical mandate and a growing edge. Throughout scripture, God tells us "do not fear," "be strong and courageous," and to know that "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." But actually doing that?? It takes a lifetime of practice. Facing dangerous or painful situations is difficult and scary; it is not something we typically choose to do unless we have to. But as people who have faith in a God who has promised to never leave or forsake us - no matter what dangerous or painful situation we are facing - we are called to work on more bravely, boldly, and courageously moving forward with faith. Learning to discern what "brave faith move" to make takes practice - and courage. Thankfully, God has given us plenty of examples that show us how this can look in both scripture and in life. I look forward to exploring them with you!

In Faith and with 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

**September 7 - What Does It Mean
to Be Brave?**

September 17 - Living in the Tension

September 21 - Do I Stay or Do I Go?

**September 28 - Accepting What We
Do Not Choose**

October 5 - The Blowback of Bravery

October 12 - The Courage to Persevere

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.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS: If you are not getting emails or text messages from the church and you would like to, talk to Dana in the office and we can verify your contact information is correct and work on getting you opted in to receive communications from the church. If you don't want to hear from us, we can also opt you out of the emails and text messages.



Let's cheer on our Bigfork Vikings!

Friday, September 5

Meet at church @ 6:15 pm

or at the stands @ 6:30 pm

We'll cheer on our Vikes together!



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

END OF SUMMER SOCIAL



Summer is wrapping up and fall is in the air. You are invited to an End of Summer Social on Wednesday, September 17 from 5:00-7:00 at Coleene and Jim Torgerson's (845 Grand Drive). Bring a lawn chair, a snack to share and your favorite beverage.

We will sit outside, spend time with friends and enjoy music by Don and Coleene.

Questions? Contact Coleene (406-261-5665) or Don (816-853-7628)

Opportunities to GROW

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

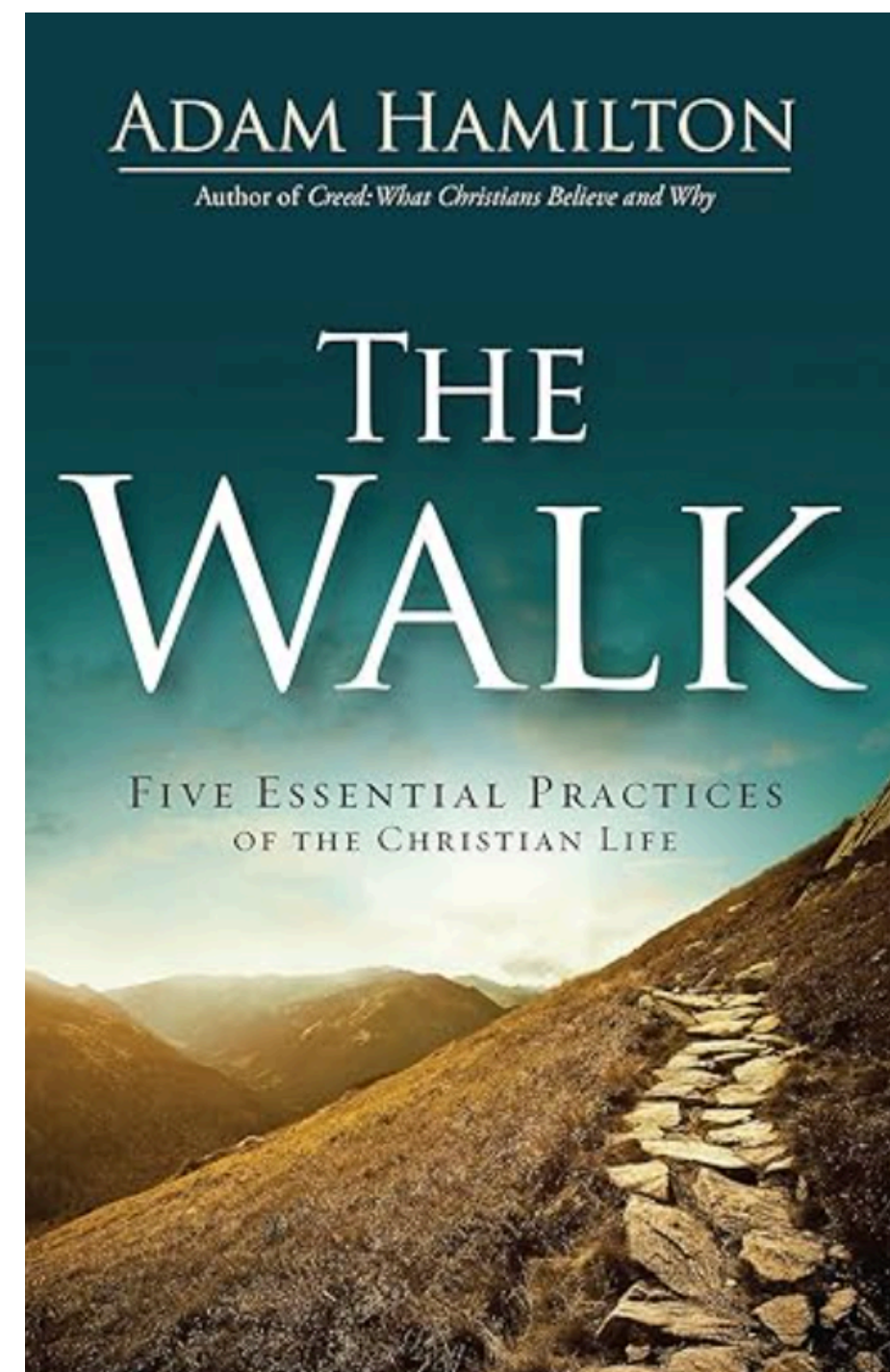
FALL BIBLE STUDY w/Pastor Wendy

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



KIDS' BELL CHOIR



**OUR KIDS' BELL CHOIR WILL BE PLAYING
IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, SEPT 7
AND WE'D LOVE MORE RINGERS!**

PRACTICE @ 9:15 AM

WORSHIP @ 10 AM

HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!

DIRECTOR: NEATS IVERSON - (406) 580-3624

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

Hearts & Hands is back!

Wednesday September 10
10am-12pm

187 Tall Pines Court

We will enjoy coffee, dessert and of
course good fellowship!

Please bring a friend

Send a greeting to your church family!

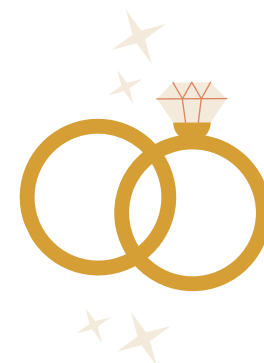
September Birthdays

Becky Miller 9/2
Ethan Willis 9/4
Lynn Krutzler 9/4
Ward DeWitt 9/6
Helene Gough 9/8
Rick Baird 9/8
Rita Dorn 9/11
Alex Ochs 9/12
Janet Fitzgerald 9/12
Ann Giannini 9/14
Loralee Weaver 9/29



September Anniversaries

Gary & Celie Perleberg 9/6
Jay & Sandy Whitney 9/11
Bob & Ethel Mathews 9/22
Gordy & Carol Bertram 9/25



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 with our progress for the first two months of our fiscal year. With an unanticipated gift of matching elevator fund donations for the remaining \$24,500, we anticipate all funding will be completed by the time you receive this letter...thanks everyone for your generosity and continuing support of CUMC. Who would have anticipated we could have a new elevator installed and paid for in less than one year!

Vacation Bible school was incredible! We are not sure who had bigger smiles-the kids or the staff. A big thank you goes to all the volunteers. We do have a reserve fund for children's programs that allows us to take on kids' projects without worrying about funding. How wonderful!

Lots of activities are on the calendar. Brother Van Sunday is October 19 and once again will feature Mary Bolhuis's pies. Boy, are we lucky!! Thanks Mary...

Quote of the Month: "Charity is the sunbeam that melts away the frost of indifference." E. Ross

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



Coin Jars are due back September 7
proceeds will go to
CASA -Court
Appointed Special
Advocates



BUMP boxes will be
distributed August 31-
September 14
Take a box, fill it with some
necessities and a gift for a
child in the Blackfoot
United Methodist Parish.

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 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>

Greater Flathead United Methodists'

ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, September 21
@ Flathead UMC Camp
21339 Methodist Camp Rd, Rollins
***Handicap accessible!**

Burgers & Brats provided.
Please bring a dish to share!

GREATER FLATHEAD UNITED METHODISTS

Garden supplies!
In the shed in the parking lot are a bunch of 6' metal T posts. Perfect for the garden. Please take as many as you would like

A Note from our MISSIONS Team:

This month Pastor Wendy has lend us in thinking more deeply in what Jesus meant by “love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31. We as your mission committee try to support organizations that help our neighbors in need. Because of your continued generosity, the church is able to put aside funds every month into the **Special Ministries Reserve Fund**. Thus for the third year we are using funds out of it to participate in the “Fish Challenge”. Here is the list of donations that total \$6000: (One thousand dollars each)

Abbie Shelter

“Supports survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault”

Flathead Warming Center

Their “mission is to save lives, link people to resources, and encourage dignity through low-barrier access to a warm safe place for those in need.”

Flathead Youth Home

An eight bed group home that provides “short-term crisis intervention and longer-term group care for youth, ages 10 to 18.”

Habitat for Humanity

Provides a means of “home ownership for lower income families”.

Sparrow’s Nest

“Provides stable housing for homeless high school students” in our valley.

(\$500 each)

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

“Provides independent, trained advocates for the best interests of children within the judicial system who are at substantial risk.”

Center for Restorative Youth Justice

They “work with teens, families, justice agencies and school discipline teams to reduce youth involvement with the legal system, interrupt cycles of harm, repair trust, promote accountability and foster community connections.”

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Undie Sundae Sunday! We will be delivering the underwear to Rev. Gail Hoyt on September 17th. On that day she will give a tour of the parish. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome. Please let Dana at the office know if you are coming by September 10th. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8 am., load the underwear and should reach the Browning by 10- 10:30. Please pack a sack lunch. More details will follow.

Here is what is coming up in September on the “Mission Calendar”.

September 1st through the 14th, we are happy to be giving out BUMP boxes again in support of the Blackfeet children’s Christmas. You can pick up a box to fill after service through Sunday, September 14th. The boxes will be available during the week any time the church is open for self-check out. Instructions are included in each box .

Sunday, September 7th: Collection of coin jars for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

On **Sunday, September 28**, bring your appetite and mark your calendar for the annual potato bake sponsored by the Mission Committee for the benefit of Heifer International. Gary Bolhuis is graciously supplying his delicious “bakers”. Thank you, Gary! Toppings include chili, cheese sauce, BBQ chicken, broccoli, sour cream, chives, bacon bits, guacamole, salsa, coleslaw and desserts (of course). You are welcome to bring a favorite topping of your own to share. The “bake” is always fun and supports a very worthy cause. Heifer International has helped so many out of poverty and given them a lifeline to improve their circumstances. Their very informative web-site is www.heifer.org , check it out! Our church is working towards our sixth Ark, that is a donation totaling \$5000. You can find out more about what the ark represents on the web site. The fifth Ark that we completed last year will be presented to the congregation soon. The pictures representing each Ark are displayed in the fellowship hallway across from the bulletin board. You make a difference worldwide by your support of all these mission projects and we are thankful for your faithfulness.

At our **September 10th** meeting we will be reviewing Sierra Remington’s request for support of Kenyan women’s menstrual pad needs.

Rick Moore, our liaison for the Bigfork Food Bank reported that our church has been averaging 111 pounds of donations per month since the start of the year. He reported there is an increased need for food assistance since this spring.

We are happy to welcome LouAnn Baird to our committee!

Our Mission Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month, except for June and July, at 3:30 in the fellowship hall or library. Please join us. We look forward to having new members or if you would like to do a presentation to the group, get in touch with any of our members listed at the end of this article.

In closing, as Pastor Wendy reminded us of Mister Rogers question “Won’t you be my neighbor?”, we hope to continue to explore and answer who we view as neighbors by our actions. (Continued..._

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.



Thank you!!

Dear Ladies,

On behalf of Wayne, thank you for his prayer quilt. It is quite pretty plus a good weight for an older person. Wayne's hip is healing well considering he's also living with cancer of the red blood cells. His last quilt was made in 2014 plus he has another undated. - he's spoiled!

Christian love and prayers are a gift. Thank you for providing that.

Sincerely,

Kathy Murray - for Wayne

To everyone at CUMC Bigfork,

I want to express my sincere and lasting thanks for all you've done for my dad and my family over the years.

Dad cherished the church and all of you - you were friends, a source of fellowship and exploration for him. Not just the Rowdies, though they were very special to him, but everyone there.

Thank you,

Pat Roath

p.s. I know my dad would want any funds contributed in his memory to be used however the church sees best.