

The Friendly Communicator

October 2025

A Word from the Pastor

Our Congregation's Values:

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| 1. Community (belonging, fellowship, togetherness) | 4. Care for each other |
| 2. Worship | 5. Mission work (time, talents, & offerings) |
| 3. Music | 6. Welcoming the stranger |

Fall is here! As we enter the month of October, we focus our attention on the last of our congregation's core values: **welcoming the stranger**. This value is not only central to our mission as a church, but it also reflects a deep biblical mandate that runs throughout Scripture. In both the Old and New Testaments, we are reminded that welcoming those who are new, different, or in need is at the very heart of God's desire for His people. Hospitality is not merely a kind gesture—it is a faithful response to God's love for us.

In **Deuteronomy 10:19**, God commands His people, "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." This call to empathy and welcome is rooted in the shared human experience of displacement and need. Later, in **Matthew 25:35–45**, Jesus reinforces this calling in powerful and challenging terms: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me." These verses remind us that when we welcome others, we are encountering Christ himself—and when we fail to do so, we are missing an opportunity to serve our Savior.

Throughout October, we will reflect together on what it means to be a church that truly welcomes the stranger—through worship, fellowship, and concrete opportunities to reach out to others. Whether it's greeting someone new in worship, warmly greeting a neighbor, or making space for someone whose story is different from our own, each act of hospitality is a sacred offering. I encourage each of us to take time this month to ask: *Who is the "stranger" in my life right now, and how can I welcome them in Christ's name?*

And please don't forget: our quarterly congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 19th**. This is a time to come together, celebrate what God is doing in our community, and discern where we are being led next. Your presence and participation are so important. May this month be one where we live out our calling with open doors and open hearts.

With peace and gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

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August 2025 Financial Income Report

General Receipts

Envelopes	\$10,095.00
Loose Offerings	345.00
Capital Fund	13,794.70
Church School	137.00
Total	\$24,371.70

Miscellaneous Receipts

Initial Offer	2.00
Pow wow	50.00
MMCC	400.00
Funeral – Graves (250-fellowship, 250-VBS, 200-Tamarack, 75-undesigned)	775.00
Total	\$1,227.00

Communion Offering

MCC	125.00
Total	\$125.00

Mission Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing	105.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Community Crossroads	150.00
Total	\$405.00

Deposited Total \$26,128.70

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Oct. 19th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Community Crossroads are **soup/ravioli & razors/shaving cream**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.

Quarterly Business Meeting and Potluck on October 19

Please plan to attend the Quarterly Business Meeting and Potluck after morning worship on Sunday, October 19. Several issues of critical importance will come before the congregation.

The congregation will be asked to approve a Settled Pastor Agreement between Pastor Stephen and the church that would call Pastor Stephen to serve as our settled pastor beginning November 1, 2025. His term as Covenant Pastor will end on October 31, 2025.

The 2026 Proposed Budget, designed by the boards and committees of the church over the past several months, and approved by the Church Council, will be presented to the congregation for adoption.

In addition, officers and board members for 2026 will be elected.

The members of our church will receive the text of the Settled Pastor Agreement, the 2026 Proposed Budget, and the slate of 2026 officers and board members by mail or email in early October, well in advance of the quarterly meeting.

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October Birthdays

- 3 Pat Shawgo
- 6 Samuel Koss
- 7 Christopher Spitzer
- 8 Barb Winski
- 12 Charles Graves
- 13 Chad Beutin
- 15 Michelle Caswell
- 15 Kim Kosobucki
- 18 Adriann Kupka
- 24 Michael Arnold
- 26 Margery Krueger
- 28 John Keinert
- 29 Jane Cordie

October Anniversaries

- 4 Jeremy & Nancy Koss, 28 years
- 9 Lynn & Lorna Stoecker, 60 years
- 10 Joseph & Alisha House, 17 years
- 18 Karl & Nancy Byleen, 51 years
- 27 Chad & Sheila Beutin, 35 Years

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.



October Communion Offering will be:

The Hunger Task Force

Mission Statement:

Hunger Task Force believes that every person has a right to healthy food obtained with dignity. We work to prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing food to people in need today and by promoting social policies to achieve a hunger free community tomorrow.

Trustees at Work

The Trustees have received two proposals from MEI, our elevator service company, to repair the church elevator, which has been out of service since June 22, 2025.

The first proposal, to replace the main control board at a cost of \$14,571.33, was approved by the congregation at a special business meeting on Sunday, July 6. Unfortunately, replacing the control board did not solve the problem with the elevator.

A second proposal, to replace additional control boards and update software, at a cost of \$43,913.49, is now being evaluated by our insurance company, Church Mutual, and its affiliate, the Hartford Steam Boiler Company.

The Trustees are waiting to learn how much of that cost will be covered by our insurance.

The lengthy delay in getting the elevator repaired has been frustrating for the Trustees and for those who regularly use the elevator. We appreciate your patience.

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Isaiah 43:18-19: The Lord says, "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth
This is the focus scripture for the World Mission Offering 2025. I think it is very appropriate for this time of year.

As we move into fall, many of us look back on summer, saddened by the drop in temperature, the sun setting earlier, vacations being over, the coming winter, and a myriad of other things. In the scripture from Isaiah, we are told not to look back but to keep our eyes and ears open for the new things that God is and will be doing. What are these new things?? Well,

1. New members in the choir
2. A full handbell choir
3. A new addition to the worship leader team
4. An upcoming musical gathering at FBCWA
5. The beautiful fall colors
6. Apple cider donuts (had to put that in there)

These are some of the new things I am celebrating in my small world. What about you?
As we move ahead in our journey of faith, let's remember that God is always with us as we look ahead to new and exciting things in our life and in the life of the church.

Mary Schecher

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FEEDING THE HUNGRY OUTREACH

Jesus fed the 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish. “Feed the hungry,” was Christ’s teaching. Compassion through feeding. When the call went out from the Guest House in Milwaukee that it was running low on food -- particularly sandwiches -- for distribution, our church answered. In late August, following the worship service, many of our church members gathered in Fellowship Hall to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. *Over 100 sandwiches were made and donated!*



The mission of the Guest House is to provide “shelter, housing, education, and services to Milwaukee’s homeless who seek to transform their lives with dignity and purpose.” In 1981 the Central City Churches Outreach sought a community-based solution to assist the growing number of homeless in the inner city. Guest House opened its doors the following year to serve the short term needs of the homeless. Today it offers a full continuum of services to address issues of homelessness and housing instability. It currently serves over 1,229+ men, women, and families, as well as sheltering 86 men at night and providing daily meals. “Guest House saved my life,” said Roberto, a Guest House client.



Original sign from earliest Guest House years.



FBC WA filled two boxes with sandwiches!

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The Golden Guys and Gals enjoying summer activities



The Golden Guys and Gals had a perfect summer day to picnic and cruise on Phantom Lake on Wednesday, September 17. Twelve were able to attend. Many thanks to Debb, Jeff, and Charlotte for their hospitality and for the expert guided tour of the wildlife and history of the upper and lower lakes.



Our intrepid cyclists (John, Tami, Karl, and Craig), undeterred by light rain and heavier showers, bicycled 13 miles on Saturday, September 20. The group started at church and biked on the Hank Aaron and Oak Leaf Trails to the Byleen home in Hales Corners. There they were joined by Becky, Maria, Manuel, Nancy, Sarah, and Isaac to celebrate the 15th Annual Bike Ride with a picnic supper.