

# The Friendly Communicator

## November 2025

### A Word from the Pastor

#### Our Congregation's Values:

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

November is the season of Thanksgiving, and I must say, my heart is full of thanks for each of you. I am deeply honored and humbled that you have chosen to call me as your settled pastor at our October congregational meeting. Your faith, trust, and partnership mean more to me than I can express, and I am filled with anticipation for all that God will continue to do through our shared ministry. Together, this congregation is continuing to build something beautiful—a community rooted in love, hope, and the transforming presence of Christ.

This month, I invite us to continue focusing on our final congregational values: *welcoming the stranger*. In a world that often seems divided and uncertain, our commitment to radical hospitality is a powerful witness to the Gospel. Every time we greet a newcomer with warmth, make space for someone's life journey, or reach out to those who feel unseen, we are embodying Christ's love. Let us remain intentional about opening our doors, our hearts, and our lives to others—because in doing so, we often discover that the “stranger” is, in fact, Christ in our midst (Matthew 25).

I am also excited to begin working alongside the newly elected slate of officers who will serve in 2026. Your willingness to lead and serve is a sign of faith and vitality for our congregation's future. I look forward to partnering with these officers—and with all of you—as we discern God's vision for the next chapter of our ministry together. May we continue to encourage one another, listen deeply, and act boldly as we follow where the Spirit leads.

Finally, when November draws to a close, we will turn our hearts toward the season of Advent—a time of expectant waiting and preparation. I look forward to entering this sacred season with you, remembering that Christ still enters this world in surprising and grace-filled ways. May this month be one of gratitude, renewal, and welcome—for one another and for all whom God sends our way.

With peace and gratitude,

Pastor Stephen

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### September 2025 Financial Income Report

#### General Receipts

Envelopes	\$8,458.00
Loose Offerings	130.00
Capital Fund	1,200.00
Church School	123.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,911.00</b>

#### Miscellaneous Receipts

Initial Offer	0.00
Pow wow	0.00
MMCC	400.00
Funeral-Brenda Graves	335.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$735.00</b>

#### Communion Offering

Kodiak Baptist	115.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>

#### Mission Offering

World Mission	685.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	50.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
Milwaukee Community Crossroads	150.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,035.00</b>

**Deposited Total** **\$11,796.00**

**Christmas is Coming!!** We are in need of 5 people/families to do the Advent candle readings and prayers. The script is all written out. If you would like to be part of this special part of worship during the Advent season, please let Mary Schecher know.

### November Birthdays

- 8 Glenn Kupka
- 9 Christine Leitner
- 13 Regina Hernandez
- 19 Angela Wothe
- 21 Terry Arnold
- 24 Joseph House
- 26 Zoey Zunker

### November Anniversaries

- 5 Dave & Barb Winski 37 years

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

Suggested items for the third Sunday (Nov.16th) food and hygiene collection for the Milwaukee Community Crossroads are **canned vegetables & body wash**. Please place your donations in the bins inside the office door entrance.



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## Hanging of the Greens & Family game night

Please help decorate the church for Advent at 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 29. Supper will be served around 5:00 pm, followed by family game night. Please bring your favorite board games!

## November communion offering:

Guest House of Milwaukee has a proven track record of assisting even those with the most severe challenges to overcoming homelessness regain and maintain their independence, including: mental illness, addiction, physical and cognitive disabilities, and history with the criminal justice system.

## 2025 Holiday Bazaar

The Annual Holiday Bazaar will be held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 14 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, and on Saturday, November 15 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

We are now accepting donations of attic treasures for the Holiday Bazaar. **We recommend donating books, jewelry, holiday decorations, cookware, glassware, and kitchenware.** Please **do not** donate clothing, electronics, furniture or anything that is not clean or in working order. Bring items to the upper room (that is, the room above the church office). Contact Becky Holl if you have any questions.

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Our congregation has spent a significant amount of time identifying our core values. Going through this process is important because it helps us see who we are and identify where we want to go as a community of faith. This past month we have been looking at the value of welcoming the stranger. While I was thinking about this, I decided to try a YouTube search and guess what? There is a song called “We Are Called to Welcome Strangers” by Sheena Evans and Simon Hancock.

The words of this hymn are extremely powerful and fully express what we have been striving to do – welcome in all those who come through our doors and into our lives. The text addresses contemporary issues such as war and food insecurity as well as mental health issues.

We will be using this hymn in worship during November, so I have included a link to a video that includes the words. Just hold down the “control” key and click to get to the video. As you watch it, learn the words, sing the melody, and use it as a prayer for courage in these days of uncertainty.

[We are called to welcome strangers](#)

Mary Schecher

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The 181st Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin too place September 26th & 27th at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Madison. The theme was “Be Strong and Courageous” from Joshua 1:9.



Youth Choir



Ministry Fair and Coffee



Gary, Pastor Stephen, & Rev. Mindi at the photo booth



Rev. Dr. Marcus Allen, Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church



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### Fall Financial Campaign

Each year, during the month of November, the Finance Committee conducts a campaign to raise funds to support the next year's budget. We encourage our members to take stock of all that God has given them in 2025, and then to set goals for their use of time, talents, and finances in 2026.

As part of the campaign, each member will be asked to complete an *Estimate of Giving* for 2026. Only one person in the church, the Financial Recorder, sees those estimates, but the total of all estimates is helpful to the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees in their roles as stewards of the church's financial resources.

The congregation adopted a 2026 budget of \$168,451 at the October 19 quarterly business meeting. Please participate in the campaign by making an *Estimate of Giving* for 2026. *Estimate of Giving* forms will be distributed at church and sent by mail or email. Completed forms may be placed in the offering at worship or mailed to the church in care of the Financial Recorder.

### Trustees at Work

The church elevator is back in service after four months of being out of order, apparently due to damage caused by a power surge. The final installation of control boards was completed by MEI, our elevator service company, on Oct 22.

The total cost of the elevator repairs was \$58,484.82. However, our insurance company, Church Mutual, has covered all of the cost except for our deductible of \$10,000.

Several recent gifts, designated for the Capital Fund or elevator repair, will be sufficient to cover the unexpected \$10,000 expense.



Sunday School chalk artists

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