

CEDAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

17541 Jefferson St. NE , Ham Lake, MN 55304 | 763-434-7463 | cedarumc.org

Pastor Jen Anderson

OCTOBER



2026

"We are on a journey, committed to share God's love and the hope of Christ with our community"

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN



Growing in Christ: God is at work in Ordinary Places

Last month, I wrote about the first word in Cedar's vision: **belong**. One of the things I love about Cedar is the way people care for one another and make this church feel like a place where people can know and be known. This month, we turn to the second word: **grow**.

When we talk about growing in Christ, it can be easy to imagine something that happens primarily through Bible studies, Sunday school classes, or time spent in prayer. Those are certainly important ways we grow. But I wonder if we sometimes make spiritual growth more complicated than it needs to be. Because throughout Scripture, God seems to delight in doing extraordinary things through very ordinary people and ordinary moments.

Jesus talked about seeds growing in the soil, bread being shared around a table, a lost coin being found, and a neighbor showing kindness. So much of his ministry happened in ordinary places – with ordinary people who were simply willing to pay attention, show up, and love their neighbors.

I think we see something of that at Cedar. One example is the work of our Trustees. The Trustees are the people who help care for our building and property. They fix things, maintain things, notice what needs attention, and make sure this place we call our church home is ready to welcome others. At first glance, that might not sound like a particularly spiritual ministry. But I absolutely think it is.

There is something deeply faithful about caring for a place that belongs to a community. There is something faithful about noticing what needs to be done and being willing to roll up your sleeves and do it. And there is something faithful about using the gifts and skills God has given you – not necessarily from a pulpit or in a Bible study, but with a toolbox, a ladder, a paintbrush, or simply a willingness to help. I've also heard that members of the Trustees have, at times, taken those skills beyond the walls of Cedar to help people in our community with small home projects. That warms my heart!

~continued



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Imagine a ministry where people from Cedar use the skills they already have – or simply a willingness to learn – to help neighbors with the small things that can make a big difference: fixing a door, building a ramp, repairing something that has broken, doing a little yard work, or helping someone who simply can't manage a project on their own. It wouldn't have to be flashy. It wouldn't require everyone to be a contractor or a handyman. It would simply require people willing to say, **"I have something I can offer, and I'd like to use it to help my neighbor"** That, to me, is growing in Christ.

We grow when we discover that God has given each of us something to offer. We grow when we move beyond simply receiving God's grace and begin to recognize the ways we can become holders of that grace for someone else. And we grow when we discover that following Jesus isn't confined to what happens inside a church building.

Pay attention to the ordinary

Perhaps one spiritual practice we can try this month is simply to pay attention. Where is God already at work in your ordinary life? What gifts, skills, experiences, or resources have you been given that could be a blessing to someone else? Where might there be a need right in front of you that you've never thought of as an opportunity for ministry? And perhaps, most importantly: **Where might God be inviting you to take one small step?**

We don't all have the same gifts. We don't all have the same amount of time or energy. And growing in Christ doesn't mean doing more and more until we're exhausted. Sometimes growth looks like learning. Sometimes it looks like serving. Sometimes it looks like asking for help. Sometimes it looks like being willing to try something new. And sometimes it looks like showing up with a toolbox.

I hope we can continue to notice and celebrate the many ordinary ways people at Cedar are already growing in Christ and sharing God's grace. And I hope we can remain open to where God might be inviting us next.

Maybe one of those next steps is finding new ways to use the gifts we already have at Cedar to serve our neighbors. If there is interest and someone who feels called to help coordinate it, I would love to see us explore what a ministry like that could become. Because growing in Christ isn't only about knowing more. It's about becoming more deeply rooted in God's love – and letting that love take root in the way we live, serve, and care for the people around us. God is at work in ordinary places. Maybe this month, we can slow down enough to notice.

Grace & Peace
Pastor Jen



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TRUNK OR TREAT

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Saturday, October 24th

3:30 - 5:30 pm

**Treats for the kids, campfire
and delicious soups.**

Come & join the fun!

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GREETERS/GREETERS

We are in need of greeters here at Cedar. What are a greeter's responsibilities? Arrive to church by 9:30 and welcome everyone as they enter the building. If there is a new person that comes into the church, you make sure they get a name tag, let them know where important places are located in the building. Introduce them to a few people and get them a copy of the church brochure. There is a spot to sign up for Greeter on the sheet located on the welcome table.

Any questions about this important position, please speak with Tanna or contact the church office for Tanna to get in touch with you.

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Vocal Choir and Bell Choir are looking for new members to join their groups.

Both of these groups are vital ministries to Cedar but can only continue if there are people who are willing to participate.

If you have any interest in joining Vocal Choir, please speak with Marty and if interested in Bell Choir, please speak with Pastor Judy or contact the church office and leave your information for them to get in touch with you. And please spread the word.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for Sunday Nov 8th at 2:00pm for Charge Conference.

Cedar UMC will be joining other United Methodist Churches for the Great United Methodist Get-Together: Charge Conferences 2026. We'll meet at Champlin UMC at 2:00pm on Sunday, November 8th, where we'll approve the 2027 Pastor's Compensation and any other Charge Conference forms that are ready at that time.



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BISHOPS MONTHLY BOOK STUDY



All United Methodists in the Dakotas-Minnesota Area are invited to join

Bishop Lanette Plambeck's monthly book study, taking place Oct. 2026-April 2027. The first book we will study in the Dog-Eared Disciples Book Study is *"An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith"* by Barbara Brown Taylor. [Learn more about Dog-Eared Disciples](#) and [register](#).

What if the sacred is not somewhere else?

What if God is waiting to be encountered in the places we already inhabit, in the work of our hands, the people we meet, the ground beneath our feet, the meals we share, the bodies we live in, and even the moments when we lose our way?

For our inaugural gathering of Dog-Eared Disciples, we'll spend time with Barbara Brown Taylor's *"An Altar in the World,"* a beautiful invitation to rediscover the spiritual practices hidden within ordinary life.

Taylor takes us beyond the idea that spiritual formation happens primarily inside churches or during designated "spiritual" moments. Instead, she invites us to pay attention: to walking, working, getting lost, encountering others, living in our bodies, and noticing the holiness woven through the world around us.

Perhaps an altar is not only something we approach on Sunday morning - Perhaps the world itself can become an altar.

As we read together, we'll wonder:

- Where is God meeting us beyond the walls of the church?
- What practices are forming us in the middle of ordinary life?
- And how might paying attention change the way we love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and creation?

Bring your book. Bring your questions. Bring whatever pages you've managed to dog-ear along the way.

Come ready to notice.

Because sometimes the holy ground we have been searching for is already beneath our feet.

Join us for Dog-Eared Disciples and *"An Altar in the World."*

[Learn more about Dog-Eared Disciples](#) and [register](#).



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FROM OUR HISTORIAN

November 2 will be our 40th anniversary in this building. It would be nice to include something in the service commemorating our building consecration on November 2nd, 1986.

-I think a table display with photos of the church building and ground breaking would be nice.

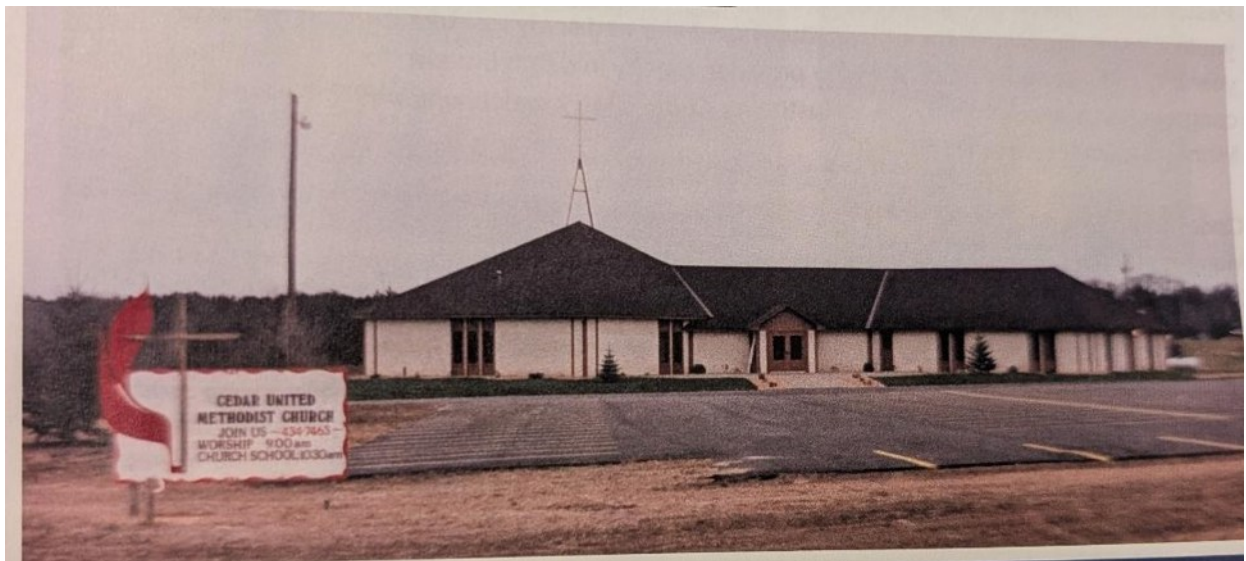
-We could replay the slide show from our 125th In the Fellowship Hall during coffee time.

-Maybe a cake for fellowship time.

-Other ideas?

Note the size of the trees donated by the Stern family in front of the church in photo from November 1986.

Bob Heavirland, Historian





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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



10/1	Dane Cederberg Dylan Cederberg
10/4	Paul Kauppi
10/5	Doug Jensen
10/7	Megan Dean Rosalyn Fineran
10/8	Ron Peterka
10/9	Nick Pongratz
10/10	Susan Hammitt
10/13	Sheila Kauppi
10/17	Carl Loverud
10/19	Jennifer Snyder
10/21	Andrea Pahan
10/22	Eric Karkinen
10/23	Dave Holmquist Lauren Pahan
10/25	Todd Meier



OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1. 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	2.	3.
4. World Communion Sunday 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday school	5. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	6.	7. 6:00 pm Bells	8. 10:45 am Fire Inspection 6:00 pm Piecemakers	9.	10.
11. 7:30 am Book Study 10:00 am Worship & Sunday school 11:30 RJ Book Study Christ UMC	12. Columbus Day	13. 2:00 pm Trustee Meeting	14. 7:00 pm Choir	15.	16.	17.
18. 7:30 Book Study 10:00 Worship No Sunday school	19. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	20.	21. 6:00 pm Book Club 7:00 pm Choir	22. 6:00 pm Piecemakers	23.	24. 3:30-5:30 pm Trunk or Treat
25. 7:30 am Book Study 10:00 Worship No Sunday school Noisy Sunday 11:35 am RJ Book Study	26. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	27.	28. 6:00 pm Bells	29.	30.	31. Halloween