

# CEDAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Pastor Jen Anderson

**JULY**



**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



Hello church!

I am so excited to be joining you all at Cedar UMC and for the journey ahead as we continue to share God's love and the hope of Christ with the community. Pastor Cliff gave me a copy of Cedar's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet that was beautifully put together, which allowed me to get a glimpse of Cedar's incredible ministries over the years. My heart was warmed each time I read the phrases "Growing in Christ - Rooted in Love", as I read through the pages of lovely stories, because they reminded me of John 15:5 -

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (NRSVUE)*

This Scripture has been a recurring guide for my life and faith since I memorized it in Confirmation class. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, God's love and grace abound. I believe that when we remain rooted in Christ, God works through each of us - and through us together - to bear fruit in ways we could never accomplish alone.

I look forward to discovering how God is already at work among you and to discerning together where the Holy Spirit is leading us in the months and years to come. As we begin our ministry together, my main focus will be on listening - getting to know you, the things you love, and your hopes, dreams and vision for the church.

As we begin this journey together, here are a few things about me: I grew up in Yankton, SD where I met and later married my high school sweetheart, Blair. Church has been my second home since middle school. I found a community within The United Methodist Church that accepted me for who I was, encouraged me to learn and grow, and offered me opportunities again and again to step into various leadership roles.

~continued



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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN (continued)

Pastor Cliff was even a part of my call to ministry through his work with the Dakotas Conference UMC camps. I received my B.A. in Religion Philosophy from Jamestown College (now the University of Jamestown) in ND, and my M.Div. from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. I have served in small, medium and large churches in urban, suburban and rural settings.

Fun fact: Blair and I took turns supporting each other through graduate school - he worked while I was in seminary, then I worked while he finished his degree (a Doctorate in Genetics and Genomics). I even spent a year coaching gymnastics between seminary and my first official appointment so he could attend the graduate school of his choice.

Blair and I have three incredible kids (yes, I'm biased, but you'll soon see how amazing they are!) - Marie, Paul and Elizabeth. Marie will be a 7<sup>th</sup> grader this fall and a few of her favorite things are reading, dance, and baking. Paul will be in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and he loves soccer, reading, and taekwondo. Elizabeth will be a 1<sup>st</sup> grader and some of her favorite things are monkey bars, taekwondo and playing with friends. We also have a 13 year old yellow lab, Dakota, who we call Kota.

There's so much more I could share, but I'll save some stories for our conversations in the weeks ahead. My prayer is that, as we begin this new chapter together, we will continue to abide in Christ, trusting that God will bear fruit through our shared ministry in ways beyond what we can imagine.

Thank you for welcoming my family and me. We are grateful to be joining the Cedar UMC family and look forward to meeting each of you soon. Please keep us in your prayers as we make this transition, and know that you are already in ours.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Jen

## MEMORIAL

DID YOU KNOW.....

Our beautiful white urns that sit at our church entry are in memory of Patricia Hetrick. They were donated by Holly, Terri and Shelly. We are so grateful for this gift.

We cherish and respect every gift.  
The Memorial Committee





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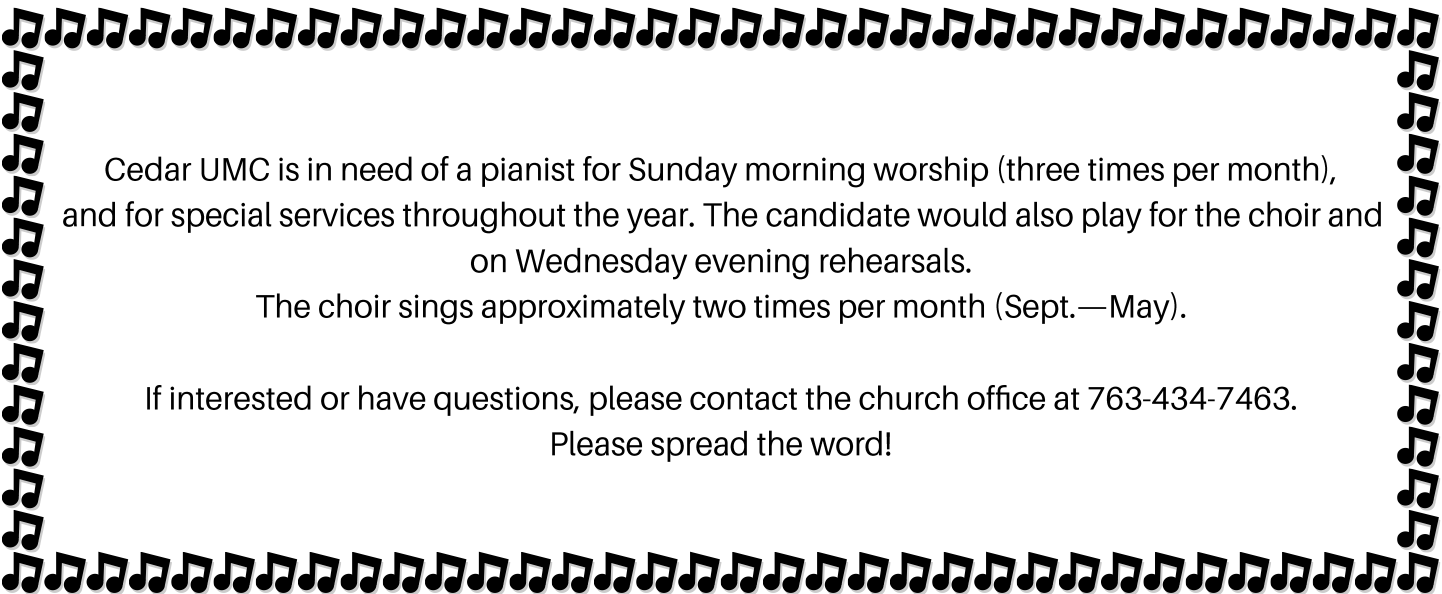
## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Social Media Team would like to invite you to consider joining the team. Some roles that are needed are: •create posts for events, worship and activities, •learn more about Facebook, Instagram, and other sites so that we are managing our pages well •help with decisions that bring us and others closer to Christ through various communications (flyers, signs, posters, community pages, etc.).

If you already have some skills in any of these areas, you are needed. But if you just want to help or have an interest, but are unsure of your skills, you are welcome, too! You are probably more creative than you think, and making posts and publications is probably easier than you might imagine. We are also willing to help you learn if you don't know Canva yet. And who knows? You might find it so fun that you start creating your own cards, invitations, garage sale ads, or ads for your own products, and so on!

Please talk with Amy, Lisa, Tammy or Stu to learn more and/or to serve in this important function of Cedar's mission for Christ.

## PIANIST WANTED



Cedar UMC is in need of a pianist for Sunday morning worship (three times per month), and for special services throughout the year. The candidate would also play for the choir and on Wednesday evening rehearsals.

The choir sings approximately two times per month (Sept.—May).

If interested or have questions, please contact the church office at 763-434-7463.  
Please spread the word!



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## HELP NEEDED

Cedar UMC is looking for someone or two people to lead the Funeral/Wedding ministry with hospitality.

What Hospitality Teams Provide:

- Coordination: Serving as the primary point of contact for the family, church staff, and any outside caterers.
- Food and Beverages: Setting up tables with coffee, water, and provided meals (often potluck-style casseroles or donated baked goods).
- Setup and Cleanup: Arranging table linens, tableware, and ensuring the Fellowship Hall is cleaned and restored after the gathering.

Leftover Care: Packaging and organizing leftover food so the family can take it home or donate it.

If this is something that interests you, please contact Connie Robillard or the church office.

## FIRE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday July 30th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Come for as little or long as you like. Feel free to bring your own lawn chair.

We will have Root Beer Floats, Ice Cream Cones, S'mores and some other Ice Cream treats.

In case of inclement weather, we will meet inside the church.

Come and get to know your community a little better.

## VBS

VBS, was a success, even with just a few kids and adults. Fun was had by all, learning more of Jesus' younger life, tasting some unknown special oils with breads, making skin scrub with various oils, flowers, even spices. Tasting some new fruits, yum. Outside games, digging for gems, making jewelry etc. Making use of drills, non electrical type!

Thank you to the cooks we had for the dinners, our teachers, parents, of course, our awesome kids!!! Ending the week with bonfire and hot dog roast and s'mores

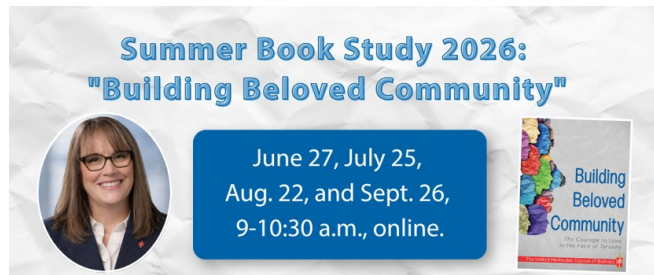
Thanks to all who have donated \$6 to get fruit trees for Honduras, we currently have enough money donated for 10 trees +. We will keep the donation box up through middle of July for further donations! Thank you for the support!! If checks used, please mark KID TO KID donation on memo line.

Thank you. Tammy & Lorraine



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## BOOK STUDY



You're invited to participate in a 2026 Summer Book Study led by Bishop Lanette. In this area-wide study, United Methodists across the Dakotas and Minnesota are invited to read "Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny" by The United Methodist Council of Bishops. This book offers a prophetic roadmap for these turbulent times where we see polarization dividing communities and people of faith confronted with an urgent question: "What does faithful discipleship look like when beloved community is under attack?" Through biblical reflection, global perspectives, and practical strategies, participants will discern faithful responses to local challenges while connecting to the worldwide struggle for justice and peace.

All are welcome! Mark your calendar and encourage others to join you.

[Order your book or e-book now!](#) Hard copies are also available.

Discussions will be held via Zoom on the fourth Saturday morning in June, July, August and September, from 9-10:30 a.m. Central Time, centering largely on the discussion questions found at the end of each chapter. The schedule is:

- June 27, 2026, 9-10:30 a.m. Central—Part 1: Deceptive Detours (with Preface & Introduction)
- July 25, 2026, 9-10:30 a.m. Central—Part 2: Empowered by Grace
- August 22, 2026, 9-10:30 a.m. Central—Part 3: Staying Alert
- September 26, 2026, 9-10:30 a.m. Central—Part 4: Seeds of Change

## MISSIONS

Once again we are thankful for the generosity of our congregation in response to our "Noisy Sunday" collections which fund our mission projects.

During the summer months we collect funds to purchase school supplies for Johnsville Elementary School with lists they provide of the needed items. We will also try to stay aware of other needs that may come up.

We wish you all a blessed summer.  
Junelle and Sue



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## TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of new Sunday School teachers. Sad news but Tammy & Lorraine are needing to retire from many years of SS and VBS & other kid events. It is heart breaking for both of us. Kids have been our lives for years, but job and health issues are taking a toll. Sunday School starts again on September 13, 2026.

Tammy has many jobs related to Post Office, major one is the requirement to work week ends and often out until very late evenings. She cannot get to meetings and has to leave Sundays early. Time is becoming a great issue for studying.

Lorraine has other duties especially at church and often needs to miss other things. She will pick a couple to stay active on, but can only help with Sunday School occasionally. Her health is causing some issues and another surgery coming up with bone situation does not help. We are sorry, this is not great timing but necessary!

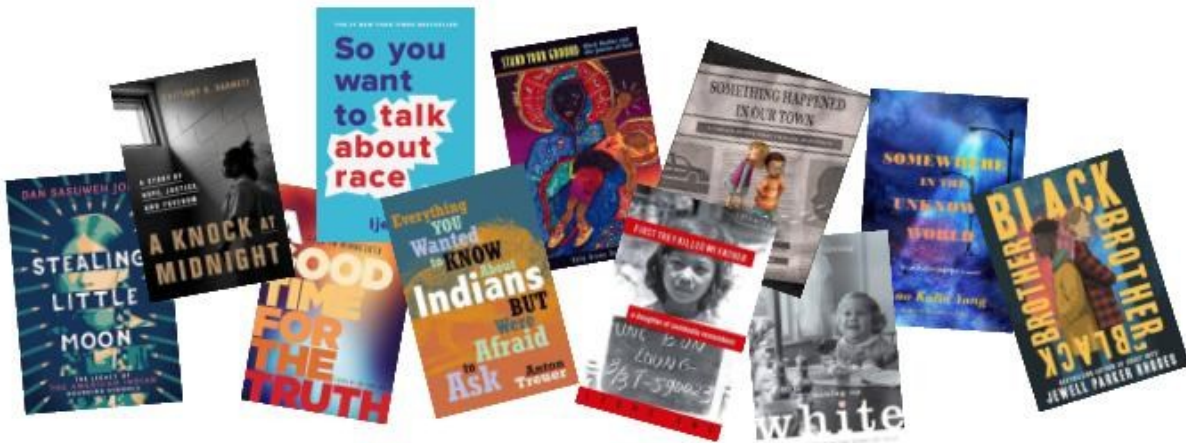
Will be praying for new kids and teachers stepping up. Please help me pray for new people.

Lorraine

## RACIAL JUSTICE BOOK STUDY

### Racial Justice Book Study

Are you looking for a way to engage in meaningful discussion, deepen faith and understanding on a topic relevant to our world today? The Minnesota Annual Conference is offering a \$300 grant for congregations and their communities to engage in a learning experience based on a book read. This is a great opportunity to begin a discussion on racial justice or to go deeper on your journey toward racial justice. We will choose a book together, and open our hearts and minds together. Please contact the church office or Amy Gustafson for more information.



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## JULY BIRTHDAYS



7/4	Tom Cederberg
7/7	Robert Tueffel
7/8	Geoff Kacer
7/9	Mike Gehling
7/10	Bev Bakk James Childers
7/12	Lynda May Karin Miller
7/13	Blair Anderson Sue Rylander
7/24	Wyatt Kauppi Loralai Patton
7/27	Amelea Criswell
7/28	Theodore Neitzel
7/29	Pam Hansen
7/31	Judith Ganz



# JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1.	2. 7:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting	3.	4. Independence Day
5. 10:00 am Worship	6. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	7.	8.	9. 6:00 pm Piecemakers	10.	11.
12. 10:00 am Worship	13.	14.	15.	16. 6:30 pm Ad Council Meeting 7:00 pm Charge Conference	17.	18.
19. 10:00 am Worship	20. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	21.	22.	23. 6:00 pm Piecemakers	24.	25.
26. 10:00 am Worship Noisy Sunday for Johnsville Elementary	27. 6:00 pm Caring & Sharing	28.	29.	30. 5:30 pm Bells 6:30-8:30 pm Fire & Ice	31.	