

A Lifetime OF GENEROSITY

Different stages. One faithful story.



A STEWARDSHIP DEVOTIONAL
Community United Methodist Church
2026

DISCOVER | BUILD | INVEST | LEGACY



A Lifetime of Generosity

DIFFERENT STAGES. ONE FAITHFUL STORY.

From the Desk of Pastor Tim

Dear Family in Faith,

I'm especially excited about this fall's stewardship campaign, A Lifetime of Generosity: Different Stages, One Story, because it celebrates a powerful truth: generosity grows and changes through every season of life. A child learns to share. A young adult gives from a first paycheck. A family gives faithfully while stretching every dollar. Later in life, we give from years of experience and faith, helping generosity grow in the generations that follow. The stages differ, but the story is the same: God has been generous to us, and we respond in kind.

Everything we have is a gift from God: our time, our talents, our resources, and life itself. Stewardship is not about meeting a budget. It is how we answer the love of the One who gave us everything. Let this booklet be a companion for prayer. Each devotion invites you to reflect on scripture and consider your own story of generosity.

When you are ready, please complete the pledge card enclosed and bring it to worship on Sunday, November 22. Your pledge is a statement of faith that helps us plan for ministry in the year ahead. Every gift, whatever its size, is part of the story we are writing together.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tim

Community United Methodist Church

We Are a Story That Spans Generations

Community did not begin with us.
Generations before us worshiped, served, taught,
gave, cooked, sang, prayed, built, repaired, welcomed
and dreamed. They created a place for people
they would never meet.

Today, we are one of those generations.

And now it is our turn—not simply to maintain what
was handed to us, but to care for it, grow it and prepare
it for whoever comes next.



*Same faith.
New faces. Brighter tomorrows.*



WEEK 1

Discover

LEARNING THE JOY
OF GIVING



“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

1 Peter 4:10

Generosity often begins early. We learn to give by watching, by participating and by experiencing the joy of making a difference. At Community, our children and youth remind us that we all have something to give—a kind word, a helping hand, our time, our energy and our hearts.

When we invest in the next generation, we are planting seeds of faith that will bear fruit for years to come.

Think About It

What is something someone taught you about giving?

This Week

Find one way to encourage or support a child or young person at Community.



“I love coming to church.”

— Layla



WEEK 2

NOVEMBER 8
YOUNG ADULTS

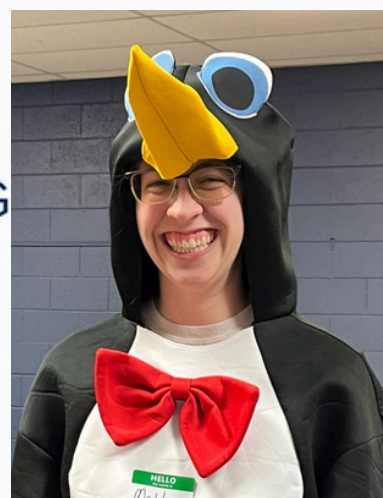
Build

MAKING GENEROSITY
PART OF THE LIFE WE'RE BUILDING



*"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*
Matthew 6:21

This is a season of new beginnings—first jobs, college, relationships, young families, new careers and big dreams. It can also be a season of financial pressure and many competing demands. Generosity in this stage isn't about having a lot to give. It's about making an intentional choice: What kind of life do I want to build? What place does generosity have in it?



Think About It

What are the values you want to build your life on?

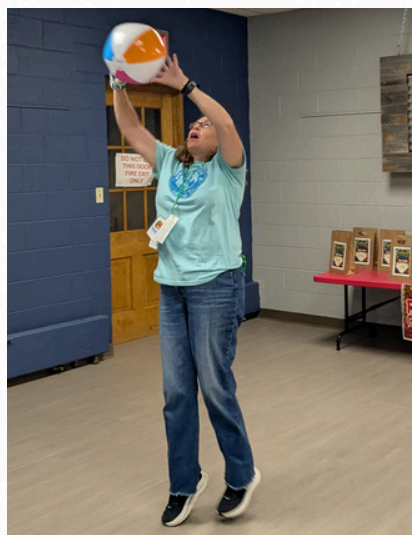
This Week

Take one step—small or big—toward making generosity a regular part of your life.

WEEK 3

NOVEMBER 15

MID-LIFE



Invest

USING WHAT WE'VE BEEN GIVEN
TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*"Each of you should use whatever gift
you have received to serve others..."*

1 Peter 4:10



Midlife is often a full and busy season—careers, families, leadership, packed calendars and caring for children and/or parents. It's also a time when many of us have more to offer—our time, talents, skills, resources, leadership and financial giving. Everything we've been given can make a difference in the life of the church and our community.



Think About It

What are the gifts, skills or resources you can use to make a difference?

This Week

Say "yes" to one opportunity to serve, lead, give or encourage.

WEEK 4

Legacy

CREATING SOMETHING
THAT LIVES BEYOND US



*"Let the next generation know ...
so that they in turn might tell their children."*
Psalm 78:4

Legacy isn't just about what we leave behind—it's about what we invest in today. Whether through faithful giving, mentoring, serving, praying or planned giving, each of us can help ensure that the ministry of Community continues for generations to come.

What we do now can create a place where people we may never meet will one day find faith, hope, love and belonging.

Think About It

What do you hope someone will experience at Community ten years from now?

This Week

Pray about your commitment and how you can help plant seeds for the future.

NOVEMBER 22

LATER LIFE &
EVERY GENERATION



A Lifetime of Generosity

Different stages. One faithful story.

Your generosity brings ministry to life.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Caring for our bodies through *movement*, healthy living and connection.



MENTAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Finding hope, peace and belonging through faithful support.



MUSIC WELLNESS

Nurturing faith and bringing people together through music.



SPIRITUAL WELLBEING & GROWTH

Deepening faith through worship, prayer and study.



EDUCATION WELLNESS

Growing in wisdom and discovering new ways to give back.



INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Sharing gifts across generations to bless our neighbors and world.



Six connected ministries. One faithful community.

Our Ministries Make a Difference

Your generosity supports a wide range of ministries at Community UMC, sharing God’s love in Elm Grove and beyond.



Physical Health

Yoga, Tai Chi, hiking, health classes, blood drives, educational resources, and a variety of opportunities to support healthy bodies and overall wellbeing.

\$103,581.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

12.4%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



Education Wellness

Children, VBS, and family ministry activities, including Trailblazers Kids (Children’s Chapel), and Vacation Bible School. Mother’s Day Out Preschool, OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livlier Seniors), and Elm Grove School for Lifelong Learning.

\$115,281.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

13.8%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



Mental & Emotional Wellbeing

Stephen Ministry, Friends in the Grove, care ministries, support groups, and a compassionate community for all.

\$199,715.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

23.8%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



Intergenerational Service

Mission and outreach, local and global partnerships, service opportunities, and living out our faith together.

\$104,481.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

12.5%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



Sound & Spirit: Music Wellbeing

Chancel Choir, Clarion Bells, Jubilate Chimes, Praise Team, organ and piano, special music, and worship arts that lift our spirits.

\$188,618.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

22.5%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



Spiritual Wellbeing & Growth

Worship, sacraments, discipleship, small groups, spiritual practices, and deeper connections with God.

\$126,438.22
ANNUAL BUDGET

15.1%
OF TOTAL BUDGET

Total Church Budget

\$837,698.32
ANNUAL BUDGET

100%
OF TOTAL BUDGET



A Lifetime of Generosity

DIFFERENT STAGES. ONE FAITHFUL STORY.

Reflect on Your Journey

01

DISCOVER

Who taught you generosity?

02

BUILD

What generous habit can you grow?

03

INVEST

What gifts could you share?

04

LEGACY

What do you hope to leave for others?

My Next Faithful Step

How will I help Community's ministry grow?

My time: Where could I serve or lend a hand?

My talents: What skills or experience could I share?

My giving: What financial commitment can I prayerfully make?

My next step: What will I do—and when will I begin?

God, guide me toward a generous and faithful next step. Amen.

Generations of Community



*Different generations.
One shared mission.
A brighter tomorrow.*

Today.
Tomorrow.
And for Generations to Come.



God, thank you for the generations
who prepared this place for us.
Give us courage and generosity
to prepare it for those who come next.
Amen.

COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Discover. Build. Invest. Legacy.



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(262) 782-4060



www.cumceg.org



Worship Every Sunday
9:30 a.m.

*Open Table Communion
the first Sunday
of each month.*

2027 Pledge Card

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Different stages. One faithful story.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, and in support of God's work through Community United Methodist Church, I/we commit to giving:

\$ _____ per ☐ week ☐ month ☐ year

Beginning January 2027.

At Community, I/we are especially thankful for:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Give online



cumceg.org/stewardship

Community UMC

DISCOVER • BUILD • INVEST • LEGACY