

The Chimes

Centenary United Methodist Church



see page 2



see page 3

January 2024

Bible Study

with Pastor Maria

Adult Book Study

led by Art Finnigan

see page 5



HELPING HANDS FUND

see page 6



Inside this issue...

<i>Pastor's Message</i>	2	<i>ALB Highlights</i>	6	<i>Ways to Give</i>	9
<i>Pastoral Visitation</i>	2	<i>Helping Hands Fund</i>	6	<i>Foundation News</i>	10
<i>Community Worship Schedule</i>	3	<i>Worship Recording</i>	6	<i>Intercessory Prayer Team</i>	10
<i>January ALB mtg.</i>	3	<i>Children's Sunday Class</i>	7	<i>January Food Pantry Item</i>	11
<i>Singing Group</i>	3	<i>Wednesday Fun Night</i>	7	<i>January Missional Giving</i>	11
<i>Bishop's Convocation of Laity</i>	4	<i>College & Military News</i>	7	<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	11
<i>Confirmation Class</i>	4	<i>Retired & Re-Fired Group</i>	8	<i>Parish Nurse News</i>	12-13
<i>Bible Study w/Pastor Maria</i>	5	<i>Sewing Machines Update</i>	8	<i>January Birthdays & Anniversaries</i>	18
<i>Adult Book Study w/Art</i>	5	<i>Fellowship Group News</i>	9	<i>January Lectionary</i>	18
<i>Infant Baptism</i>	5	<i>Parish Ministry</i>	9	<i>January Calendar</i>	19



Happy New Year!

As we step into this new year, I am reminded of the powerful impact of prayer, a timeless connection between our hearts and the Almighty. In Matthew 21:22, Jesus assures us, **“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”** This promise echoes through the ages, and today, I want to share a remarkable story that illustrates the profound influence of one man’s unwavering faith and prayer.



Let me introduce you to Robert J. Thomas, one of my heroes whose life and death in Christ continues to inspire my faith and ministry. Born in 1839 in Wales, Thomas had a fervent passion for evangelism. His journey in 1866 to Chosun (the old name for Korea) on the American trading ship, the General Sherman, became a defining chapter in his story. The vessel faced adversity when warned by the Chosun army to leave, yet it pressed on. Unfortunately, the ship was set ablaze, and amidst the chaos, soldiers on the river bank took the lives of those trying to escape. In the midst of impending death, Robert Thomas, at the age of 27, offered his last Bible to a soldier who aimed to take his life with a spear. In that moment of sacrifice, he breathed his last breath.

One might wonder, did Robert’s prayers for the spread of the Gospel end with his death? The answer is NO. The soldiers who took Thomas’ life were profoundly impacted by his selflessness. One soldier, moved by the memory of Thomas’ serene smile, tore pages from the Bible and affixed them to the walls of his home. Miraculously, these pages became seeds of faith, leading others to conversion and eventually birthing the foundation of Korean Christianity. Robert J. Thomas trusted, prayed, and submitted his ways to the Lord until the very end. This profound faithfulness echoes in the stories of our faith ancestors, who, through their prayers, laid the groundwork for the remarkable tapestry of our spiritual journey.

As we embark on this new year, let us reflect on the power of prayers and the love of God for all human kinds. Our presence here today is a testament to the prayers of those who came before us. May we, too, continue to trust, pray, and share the word of God, confident that God weaves our stories into the grand story of His love.

Peace, *Pastor Maria*

TO LOVE YOU MORE...

It is the job of the pastor, leaders, and whole congregation to care for the body of the church. We are called to love as Jesus loved. The church doesn’t always know when you are hurt, having surgery, going through a tough time, or in the hospital. **If you would like Pastor Maria to visit you or a family member**, please call the church office or her cell directly at (253) 886-6015 to set up a time!



Upcoming Events



Pastor Maria leads worship for community residents. You are welcome to join and spend time sharing God's love. January's dates are below.

Jan 2 at 10:00 a.m. at Lafayette Manor

Jan 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Shullsburg Home

Jan 11 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Villa



Monthly Accountable Leadership Board Meeting



Tuesday, January 16
6:00 p.m.



"Coming Soon...Centenary UMC Singing Group"

Coming soon...there will be a Centenary UMC Singing Group. They are looking for Song Leaders to take a Sunday and pick songs to sing. Tina Cruse will be leading practices, and Mary Gensler will be leading the group. If you love to sing are interested in participating, please contact either Tina Cruse or Mary Gensler. They will be starting on Sunday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to join them. They are looking for anyone of any age who loves to sing.



Sharing God's love to change the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership 2024

Abundance of God - Hope for the Future

You're invited to join us at this year's Bishop's Convocation of Laity Leadership 2024.

If you belong to The United Methodist Church, you are a leader and disciple for Jesus Christ. This gathering is for you! Connect with our Conference Leadership during this event to:

- Learn of connectional ministries within The United Methodist Church.
- Be encouraged to broaden your God given gifts and talents within the work of the church.
- Share Devotion and Bible study scripture during this inspiration filled event.

Date & Time:

February 9 — 6:30 p.m. Meet & greet with a build your own taco bar dinner.
February 10 — 8:30 a.m. Registration. Lunch at noon will be build your own sub sandwich. Program 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be provided, but please register for the meals you will be eating with us.

Location:

West Bend: Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
323 S 5th Avenue
West Bend, WI 53095

Registration fee \$10.00 per person. Everyone must register by the deadline of noon on January 26.

Register at <https://na.eventscloud.com/website/65439/>.

Sponsored by the Conference Board of Laity. For questions about the event, contact Ben Brancel at brancelangus@gmail.com



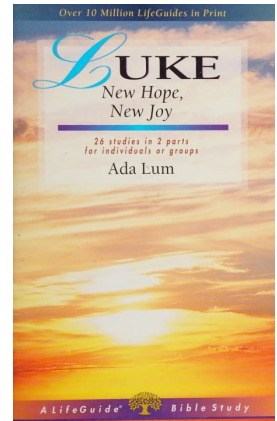
Confirmation Class Schedule for 2023-2024

January 10 & January 21
February 11 & February 21
March 27 & March 31— Confirmation Sunday

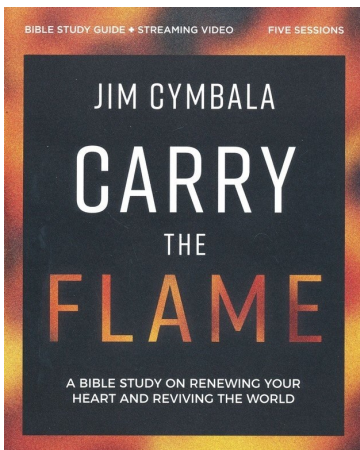
***On Sundays, our class will consist of worship in the first half, followed by a session with Pastor Maria in the second half. On Wednesdays, our class will begin with the Wednesday Fun Night program in the first half, followed by a session with Pastor Maria in the second half.**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Maria

(Gospel of Luke) supplementary material:
Luke—New Hope, New Joy (by Ada Lum)
9:30 a.m. @ Second Chance Coffee Shop



This will guide you through Luke in a way that will help you discover, explore, experience, and share the heart of God more deeply.



Wednesday Evening Adult Book Study

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
In the Serenity Room

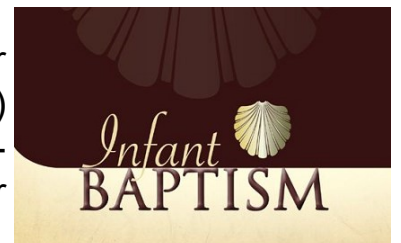


God Can Use Anyone and Everyone!
Join us for fellowship and interesting discussion

Infant Baptism

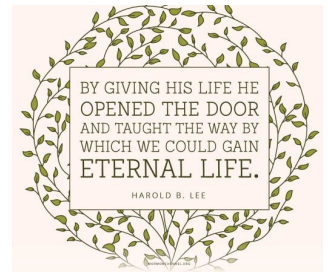
Adult baptisms are typically part of becoming a member of the church. At Centenary UMC, we also celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for infants and children. When an infant or child is baptized, the congregation commits itself to nurturing the child in faith. In turn the parents or guardians of the child declare their promise to be an active part of the church community.

A baptism application must be submitted five to six weeks prior to the Sunday your child will be baptized, and the parent(s) must attend a Baptism Commitment Class (one time). An application is available at the church office. For more details or questions, please, contact Pastor Maria.



Accountable Leadership Board Meeting

Highlights



December 19 meeting:

Business/Ministry Reports

- Update on how we are doing Financially- Review and discuss Financial Reports
- Apportionments: 15% tithe to apportionments for Conference, plus designated apportionment giving.
 - ♦ Motion made by Lois Finnigan seconded by Mary Gensler to approve sending \$1,922 for November. Also motion made to approve making our apportionments paid in full before the last date in January to send in. All in favor. Motion approved.
- Meeting Minutes- Review and Approve-
 - ♦ Motion made by Lois Finnigan seconded by Mary Gensler to approve the minutes as corrected. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- Trustees
 - ♦ Drinking Fountain downstairs– Jamie stated that something needs to be done with the fountain downstairs. He will get quotes and bring to next meeting.
- Finance Team
 - ♦ Motion made by Mary Gensler seconded by Jamie Roberts to approve sending all coins that are in the collection plate each Sunday to the Helping Hands Fund at the Shullsburg Schools. All in favor motion approved.



Starting January 1, all change that is given in the offering plate on Sunday mornings will be given to the Shullsburg Schools Helping Hands Fund. They

help students who can't afford things such as school fees, activity fees, toiletries, etc. Please help us help the students of our local school by giving your loose change every Sunday.

Worship service is recorded every Sunday and posted on the church **Facebook page**. The Tech Team is in charge of recording & posting, if you would like to be part of the team, please let Team Leader Jeremiah Diedrich know. In addition to posting on Facebook we will now be posting the weekly worship on our **Website** as well. It will be posted by Monday afternoon.





Every Sunday Morning
from 10:30 a.m. - End of Service

Class will be open every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. until end of service.

All children (toddler – 5th grade) are welcome! We will be working on the curriculum from Celebrate Wonders.

We are looking for anyone who would like to help teach or be a helper. If you are interested, please contact the teacher Pam Harker.



Every Wednesday night
from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

These take place every Wednesday and include programs for Sunday School kids, the youth group, and an adult book study. One of the great things about it is we begin with a shared meal time. People of all ages, from children to seniors, are welcome to participate and grow in faith and love. Any questions or volunteering, please contact program director Danica Diedrich.



College/Military Ministry News

The College/Military Ministry team sent Christmas greetings to 20 college students and 1 active military member in December. We know it may be difficult to adjust to life away from home and the challenges and excitement of a new way of life. Our goal is to let these young people know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.



Meetings and News

Retired & Re-Fired Small Group

Happy New Year!

How about starting the New Year off right by celebrating Holy Communion with your church family on January 7 at the 10:30 a.m. service? Jesus specifically asked that we do this in his memory. It is a reminder of the sacrifice He made of his blood and body that each of us might receive forgiveness and eternal life. This is the real Comfort Food!

Thank you to all who helped put together and deliver the Christmas gift bags at our last meeting! I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas with the 4 F's: faith, friends, food, and fun!

Our next meeting is coming up on Monday, January 8 at noon. We'll meet upstairs in the Serenity Room to watch the third episode of The Chosen. This one is titled, "Jesus Loves the Little Children." In it we'll see Jesus camping alone outside Capernaum and interacting with friendly children who visit his camp site.

Please bring your own lunch. Hot soup, coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided. I hope you'll be there to share lunch and the video.

May God bless you and guide you until we meet again!

Mary Gensler, Retired & Re-Fired Small Group Leader

We're all Part of His Flock



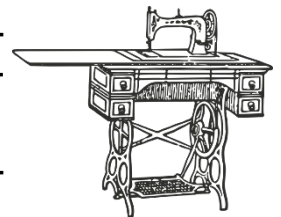
Sewing Machines Wanted

Thank you to all who donated used sewing machines. We were able to collect 6 sewing machines to take to the Midwest Missions to be distributed to different countries over seas.



If you have a sewing machine that you would like to donate, or if you have questions, please call the church office (965-3455) or Lois Finnigan (965-3036).

If you would like more information about Midwest Mission, visit midwestmission.org.



Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

We are the people of the United Methodist Church!

Fellowship Group News

Happy New Year! Our Fellowship Group had a very successful pie sale on November 21, selling 49 pies! Thank you to all of our members who helped with prepping, making, and baking! Special thank you for Therese Gratz for donating her apples and other ingredients!

I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of our Fellowship Group and who have helped with our funeral luncheons, bringing food, pasty and pie prep/baking, cleaning the kitchen, and always being there when needed.

Thank you to Mary Gensler and Deb Unbehaun for cleaning and organizing the kitchen. It was so appreciated!

God Bless you and your families, and have a blessed New Year!

Pam Harker, Fellowship Chair

Parish Ministry

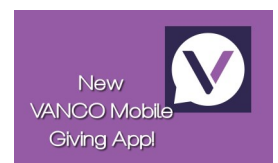
Pastor Maria's regular office hours during the weekdays are from Tuesday to Thursday. We kindly request your attention to the fact that Hazel Green UMC is also an integral part of her ministry, and she always sets aside a certain amount of her time to engage with Hazel Green congregation for visitation, small group gatherings, Bible study, and more. Please feel free to inform her of your visit to coordinate a suitable time. While Tuesday mornings or Thursday afternoons would be the most convenient for her given her commute (schedule & route), she is open to any time that suits your needs.

All the Ways to Give to Your Church

Ways to give to the church include In-Person, Mailed, Electronic, and now Online and Mobile. Recurring giving provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider one of these as your way to give. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office.

To give online, visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCNY>

To give via Mobile app, find the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app in the Apple store or Google Play; use our church code QFHQQW.



Active Discipleship

A University chaplain had an interesting conversation with a student that came to see him one day. He writes:

“I was wondering what I ought to do about the exam,” she said, “then I looked at this bracelet” (here she gestured to the “What Would Jesus Do?” bracelet on her wrist), “and I said to myself, ‘I am going to just say a little prayer, relax, and look after myself.’”

And I thought to myself, “I can think of at least a couple of other things Jesus might tell you to do — like get over to the library and get busy studying for this exam.”

Devoid of specific content, insubstantial, vague “spirituality” may be our contemporary Christian undoing. We have rendered Jesus into someone so vague, amorphous, and flimsy that he makes little claim upon us. Jesus has become a fashion accessory, something tied to our wrist, a comfort, never a challenge. What would Jesus do? Whatever we do, it appears.

This short story reminds me of what a challenge Christian Discipleship. It is easy for us to become a member of a church, attend several times a year, give a little money, and to sit back and relax because we all know that God’s grace is free. And yet, we forget that while God’s love is given to us freely, if we allow it to grab ahold of us, it changes our lives. Our priorities are no longer our own, but God’s. We pray that “God’s will be done,” not only in a general sense, but particularly in and through our own lives. This means becoming an active part of our community of faith. Giving our energy to worship, instead of being a passive observer. Actively loving and serving our neighbor, instead of just praying for them and hoping for a miracle. Spending time with God in prayer and study. Letting generosity be the top priority in our finances, not just giving what’s left over after we’ve gotten ours.

Christian Discipleship is a difficult enterprise. Thank God we have grace to support us and strengthen us. And thank God we have a community of faith to help us along and to hold us accountable.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



Our intercessory prayer group is going well! Intercessory prayer is powerful!!! It's simple to join, just send your email address to Pam Teasdale at pamteas@yousq.net!

When we pray, God listens and works for us! The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth (Psalms 145:18).

As children of God, we are connected through our prayers for each other in Christ. Feel free to submit as many prayer requests as you like!

Going Above and Beyond as Stewards of CUMC



Food Pantry Giving

We collected 82 items for our December collection. Thank you to everyone who brought something in! For the month of January we are collecting canned meals such as beef stew, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.

Distribution will be on January 18.

January Missional Giving

Mission money collected this month will go to Gingerbread House Preschool.

If you would like to give to a different ministry, just write it on your envelope, but if you don't, it will go to this month's cause.

**Gingerbread House
Preschool**



Join us on Sunday mornings before Worship for Coffee and Fellowship. Coffee, tea, and milk along with a light snack will be served from 10:00-10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

If you feel called to sign up for a Sunday, please see the sign-up sheet on the back table or contact the team leader Mary Gensler.



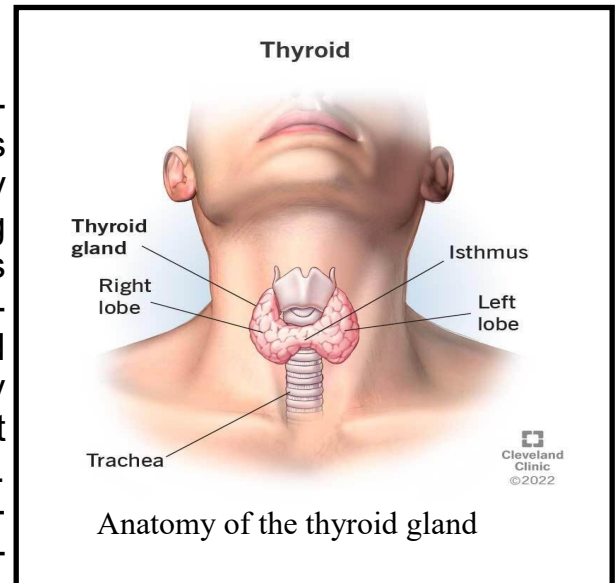
From Our Parish Nurse.....

January is Thyroid Health Awareness Month

There are several different types of thyroid disease. Thyroid disease is very common, and it is estimated that 20 million people in the United States have some type of thyroid disorder. Women are about five to eight times more likely to be diagnosed with a thyroid condition than men.

What is the thyroid?

The thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located at the front of the neck under the skin. It's a part of the endocrine system and controls many of our body's important functions by producing and releasing certain hormones. The thyroid's main job is to control the speed of our metabolism, which is how our body transforms the food we consume into energy. All the cells in our body need energy to function. When the thyroid isn't working properly, it can impact our entire body. The following bodily functions are affected by thyroid hormones: metabolism, heart rate, breathing, digestion, body temperature, brain development, mental activity, skin and bone maintenance, and fertility.



Conditions and Disorders

The four main conditions that affect your thyroid include:

Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid) - Hypothyroidism happens when your thyroid doesn't produce and release enough thyroid hormones. This causes aspects of your metabolism to slow down and weight gain. It's a common condition that affects approximately 10 million people in the United States.

Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) - Hyperthyroidism happens when your thyroid produces and releases more thyroid hormones than your body needs. This causes aspects of your metabolism to speed up and weight loss. Approximately 1 out of 100 people over the age of 12 have hyperthyroidism in the United States.

Goiter (enlarged thyroid) - Goiter is an enlargement of your thyroid gland. Goiters are relatively common; they affect approximately 5% of people in the United States.

Thyroid cancer - Thyroid cancer is cancer that begins in your thyroid tissues. Approximately 53,000 people in the United States receive a diagnosis of thyroid cancer every year. Treatments for most thyroid cancers are very successful.

What are the early warning signs and symptoms of thyroid problems?

Different thyroid conditions have different symptoms. However, since the thyroid has a large role in certain body systems and processes, such as heart rate, metabolism, and temperature control, there are certain symptoms to look out for that could be a sign of a thyroid condition, including: slow or rapid heart rate, unexplained weight loss or weight gain, difficulty tolerating cold or heat, depression or anxiety, and irregular menstrual periods. If you're experiencing any of these symptoms, talk to your healthcare provider about getting a blood test to check your thyroid function. The first-line test for checking the health of your thyroid is a blood test that measures your levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) and other thyroid hormones. If your test results come back abnormal your provider may suggest having an imaging test such as a thyroid scan, which uses small amounts of a safe, radioactive material to create images of your thyroid, or a thyroid ultrasound.

What are the risk factors for developing a thyroid condition?

Thyroid conditions are common and can affect anyone at any age. However, some factors put you at a higher risk of developing a thyroid condition, including: having a family history of thyroid disease, having an autoimmune condition, such as Type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, or lupus, taking a medication that's high in iodine, being older than 60, especially if you are female.

What can we do to help keep the thyroid healthy?

The main way to keep our thyroid healthy is to make sure we are getting enough iodine in our diet. The thyroid needs iodine to make thyroid hormones. Luckily, most people get adequate amounts of iodine through iodized table salt and foods that are fortified with iodine. Other food sources that contain iodine include: cheese, cow's milk, eggs, yogurt, saltwater fish, shellfish, seaweed, soy milk, and soy sauce.

However, it's important not to consume too much iodine because that can cause problems as well. If you're experiencing symptoms of thyroid disease, such as changes in your weight, heart rate, and temperature sensitivity, contact your healthcare provider—don't wait. Thyroid conditions are usually successfully treatable!

This page is provided by our
Parish Nurse for Centenary UMC:

Marlene Burgos-Stewart,
MSN, RN, WCC, PN 608-293-1193

Please feel free to call her with any
health questions you might have.

***References:***

*American Thyroid Association - <https://www.thyroid.org/>
Cleveland Clinic- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/>*



1 Neal Mullikin	18 Camden Russell
12 Don Ahlstrom	21 Linda Dillon
12 Eric Russell	21 Diane Freiburger
12 Kaia Wurtzbacher	21 Kari Strang
12 Christian Wurtzbacher	22 Rosa Gierke
14 Chad Gleason	23 Jeremiah Diedrich
14 Jamie Roberts	25 Jennifer Foulker
14 Charles Searles	29 Julie Gill
17 Tara Teasdale	29 Nathan Harker
18 Kortney Kudronowicz	30 Kennedy Kudronowicz



Scripture Readers

Opening Prayer Readers

CHILDREN FOR OFFERING HELPERS

Your participation will make our worship more lively and active!

If you feel called to help with any of these, please contact our Worship Coordinators Sharon Teutschmann at 732-7232 or Julie Gill at 482-0494.



3 Chris & LeAnn Wurtzbacher

January Lectionary

January 6

Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Mark 2:1-12

January 7

Baptism of the Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14

2nd Sunday After the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21

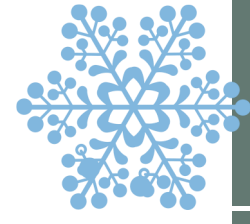
3rd Sunday After the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28

4th Sunday After the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

6

5

4

3

2

1

10:00 Community Worship
@ Lafayette Manor

9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd
Chance w/Pastor Maria
6:00-7:00 Book Study w/Art



7 Communion

10:30 Blended Worship
10:30 Sunday Class for kids

8

Noon Retired & Refired

9

10

9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd
Chance w/Pastor Maria
6:00-7:00 Wednesday Fun Night
6:00-7:00 Book Study w/Art
7:00 Confirmation Class

11

10:00 Community Worship
@ Shullsburg Home
2:00 Community Worship @
St Dominic Villa

12

13

14

10:30 Blended Worship
w/Youth Choir
10:30 Sunday Class for kids

15



16

6:00 ALB mtg.

17

9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd
Chance w/Pastor Maria
6:00-7:00 Wednesday Fun Night
6:00-7:00 Book Study w/Art

18

3:30 Food Pantry

19

20

21

10:30 Blended Worship
10:30 Sunday Class for kids
11:30 Confirmation Class

22

23

24

9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd
Chance w/Pastor Maria
6:00-7:00 Wednesday Fun Night
6:00-7:00 Book Study w/Art

25

26

27

28 Band Playing

10:30 Blended Worship

29

30

31

9:30 Bible Study @ 2nd
Chance w/Pastor Maria
6:00-7:00 Wednesday Fun Night
6:00-7:00 Book Study w/Art





The Chimes

*Join us for Sunday
Morning Blended
worship*

*10:30 In-Person &
Recorded Service on
Facebook each
Sunday*

Centenary United Methodist Church
226 West Church Street
P.O. Box 127
Shullsburg, WI 53586-0127

Address Service Requested

May he give you the desires of your heart
and make all your plans succeed

Happy New Year



Our Vision Statement

"Sharing God's love to change the world by making disciples of Jesus"

2023 Vision of CUMC: "Be a welcoming community for all, worshipping together at God's house"

(To have more than 50 at each service)