


The Current Of The River Of Life



Northcott
Neighborhood
House

Building
The
Future

January Loose Coins
Page 15



**Knit & Crochet With
A Mission**
Last Wednesday each month
Page 11



**MISSIONS
FAIR**

February 20th
Page 11



Midwest Mission

Mission Trip
March 30-April 1
Page 10

Distribution Center

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

BELOIT CAMPUS

2345 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, WI
608.362.8866

OFFICE

2375 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, WI
608.362.8866
Fax 608.362.0554

CLINTON CAMPUS

402 Church Street
Clinton, WI
608.676.4646

CLERGY STAFF

Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021
pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com
Tom Alverson, Lay Minister 608-362-8866
talverson@rolumcwi.com
Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

CHURCH OFFICE

608.362.8866

Christina Bergh Bookkeeper
cbergh@rolumcwi.com
Bonnie Moore Secretary/Receptionist
bmoore@rolumcwi.com

MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music
Marge Johnson Pianist



Please contact the office if you or a friend would like a prayer shawl. We have many shawls to share.

LAY LEADERSHIP 2021

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Annual Conference Lay Members

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Kathy Rodgers

Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

Finance Chairperson

Jesse Calkins

Hospitality Chairperson

Diane Gemignani

Memorials and Wills Chairperson

Marietta Axmear

Missions Committee Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson


Marlene Erickson

Eight people without internet currently have the bulletin and sermon mailed to them each week. Call the church office if you would like them mailed to you as well.

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Gabi Dray

People we have prayed for....



Jason
Kerri
Nan
Betty
Our Congregation
Our Community



We are recruiting for an Organist/Pianist

If anyone in our congregation knows of someone looking for a job, please Contact:

Marlene Erickson
608-362-0830
or
Lois Ulvin
608-365-4024



Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12

Not ready to come back to in person worship yet? Or out of town for the weekend?

Be sure to participate in worship on our church website or on Facebook. The River of Life website and Beloit Facebook page now have the Beloit service and the Clinton Facebook page has the Clinton service, so you can watch two services each week!

From the Pastor's Desk



I am writing this from Lauderdale By The Sea, Florida. My husband Dan and I, our daughter Elizabeth, and her husband Shane are staying in a duplex three blocks from the ocean. We are disappointed in the condition of the duplex. The neighbors continually play their music way too loud. If that were not enough, it has been cloudy, windy and sprinkle-y the two days we have been here so far. The next two days are supposed to be rainy. After that, the sun is forecasted to come out, but it is supposed to be cooler. There may not be a single day that is beach-worthy. It would be easy to complain – and it sounds like I am. We save all year for our South Florida vacation, and this week's weather is not typical, sunny, South Florida weather.

That seems to be our human condition, doesn't it? It seems that we are eager to complain, and we complain a lot. We are not as eager to be grateful for our blessings.

This duplex we are staying at is on a canal of the Intracoastal Waterway. When we walk out of the patio door, there is a small patio, a small in-ground pool, and then the canal. It is as though we are at the end of a river. It is beautiful in the daytime. It is stunning at night, when the lights reflect off the water. The kids are having a blast fishing. The small back yard is surrounded by palm trees and tropical plants. We may not be having typical South Florida beach weather, but we are experiencing wonderful blessings. I am very grateful!

I have caught myself several times with an attitude of complaint the past two days. It made me think about the times when I am quick to complain and slow to be grateful. I am wondering if this happens to you as well.

Today I read and reflected on the entire book of James. It is a good writing on what it means to act like a follower of Jesus. Of course, James tells us not to complain. He also tells us to be grateful. Both are actually common themes throughout the Bible.

If I am not home by the time you read this, I will be within the next few days. It will seem easy for all of us to complain about ice and snow and cold weather. It will seem easy to complain about the dark of winter. Aches and pains seem worse in the winter. And now with Covid numbers up again, it is another thing to complain about. But instead of complaining, let's see if we can come up with ways to express gratitude for God's blessings. I will be interested in hearing your gratitude for blessings when you could have been complaining.

Holding you in my heart until we can see one another in person again,

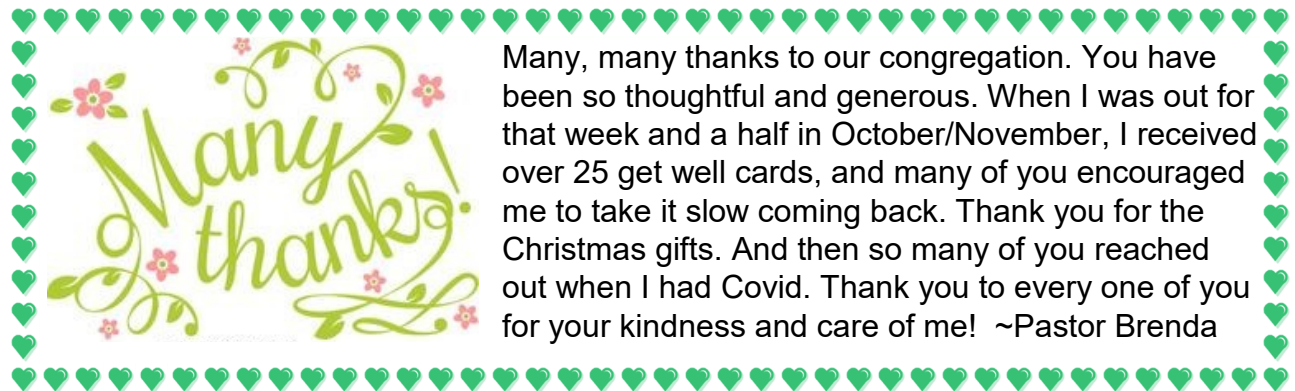
Love, Pastor Brenda

COVID-19 UPDATE



From Pastor Brenda.....

Because there is a fair amount of time between the newsletter deadline and when you receive the Current, I cannot predict if we are meeting for in-person worship or will not resume for several weeks. Our Rock County Covid positive test numbers have been at record highs, and that does not count people who used an at-home test, tested positive, but did not report it. The fact that both Tom and I got Covid at Christmas time, even though we are both fully vaccinated, speaks to what experts have been saying about Omicron's high transmutability, even to those who are boosted. Although Tom and I both had very mild symptoms, there are certainly people who would not have mild symptoms, and it would be horrible if someone got very sick because we decided to worship in-person during this time of high Omicron transmutability. We will continue to send out emails and voiceshots to keep everyone updated. Thank you for your grace in this matter as we continue to work to keep everyone healthy.



Many thanks!

Many, many thanks to our congregation. You have been so thoughtful and generous. When I was out for that week and a half in October/November, I received over 25 get well cards, and many of you encouraged me to take it slow coming back. Thank you for the Christmas gifts. And then so many of you reached out when I had Covid. Thank you to every one of you for your kindness and care of me! ~Pastor Brenda

SPECIAL THANKS

to Carol Allen

Carol made our Christmas Eve towel gift. Carol regularly makes gifts for the congregation. Thank you so much, Carol!

THE RIVER OF LIFE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LEADERSHIP TEAMS January 2022

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEES**

Administrative Council

Shellie Olson, Chair
Tom Alverson
Jesse Calkins
Marlene Erickson
Diane Gemignani
Tracy Maxwell
Sarah Parsons
Karen Parssinen
Kathy Rodgers
Chrissy Bergh
Pastor Brenda

At Large Members

Ellen Butchart
Margaret Hansen
Pat Sands
Roger Sands

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

**Lay Members of
Annual Conference**

1. Bob Scheets
2. Carol Scheets

Circuit Laity Rep

Kelly Clark

Finance

Jesse Calkins, chair
(This committee should
be broken into classes)
Lynn Caple
Paul Dubler
Tom Michels
Shellie Olson
Bob Scheets
Carol Scheets
Chrissy Bergh
Pastor Brenda

**Staff Pastor Parish
Relations Committee**

Marlene Erickson, chair

Class of 2022

1. Mary Alice Harris
2.
3.

Class of 2023

1. Julie Hartje
2. Kathy Dearth
3.

Class of 2024

1. Ann Williams
2. Marlene Erickson
3.

Lay Leader

Pastor Brenda

Trustees

Kathy Rodgers, chair

Class of 2022

1. Jim Churchill
2.
3.

Class of 2023

1. David Clark
2. Sheryl Horvath
3. Kathy Rodgers

Class of 2024

1. Dennis Boschma
2. David Haas
3. Lee Kuska

Tom Alverson
Pastor Brenda

**Leadership
Development
(Nominations)**

Class of 2022

1. Tom Alverson
2.

Class of 2023

1. Jesse Calkins
2.

Class of 2024

1.
2.

**PROGRAM
COMMITTEES**

Decorating Committee

Tracy Maxwell, chair
Carol Allen
Kathy Dearth
Sheryl Horvath
Kathy Smith
Kathy Weiser

Discipleship

This Team needs to be developed

Memorial Committee

Marietta Axmear, Chair
Sandy Calkins
Sandy Ovist
Dolly Sonneson
Lee Kuska (Trustees Rep.)
Chrissy Bergh
Pastor Brenda

Mission Committee

Ellen Butchart, Co-Chair
Diane Gemignani Co-chr
Kathy Allen
Margaret Hansen
Joanne Johnson
Pat Sands
Clara Welch

Nurture

This Team needs to be developed

Outreach

This Team needs to be developed

Hospitality Committee

Diane Gemignani, chair
Carol Allen
Cindy Ferger
Betty Hannum
Sheryl Horvath

Scholarship

Shellie Olson
Karen Parssinen
Pastor Brenda

Stewardship Team

Tom Alverson, Chair
Jesse Calkins
Irma Davis
Tom Hamlett
Brian Lutzow
Shellie Olson
Pastor Brenda

Youth Ministry Team

Karen Parssinen, Chair
Robin Vieth-Austin
Nan Bolar
Lora Cawkins
Donna Hammett
Tina Henthorn
Kelly Lutzow
Carolyn Lynch
Linda Matthews
Tracy Maxwell
Sarah Parsons
Cindy Peters
Pastor Brenda

**SHORT TERM
TEAMS**

Armed Intruder

Barb Kuska, Chair
Tom Alverson
Paul Dubler
Marlene Erickson
Julie Hartje
Sue Kiser
Lee Kuska
Pastor Brenda

Financial Corner

Month of:
December 2021

Current month :

Operating Income \$ 21,702.63

Operating Expense \$ 19,815.27

Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$ 323,747.51

Operating Expense \$ 297,672.88

Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$ 7,830.50

Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,241.76

Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 5,533.70

Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$ 1,536.78

Thank you to those that donated to missions!!!

We received \$165.13 for Salvation Army and \$1035.00 for 16:49, along with over 1000.00 for UMCOR. Great Job!!!!

**Please watch out for next months Financial Corner!!!
I will have a 2021 breakdown and year end summary.**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Our Wednesday morning bible study will begin again
on Jan. 19, from 10:30 – 11:30, via Zoom.

We will be using the study guide entitled *Christian Character*.

Description of the study guide: "Compassion, humility, faith, perseverance. We long for the beauty of Christ to be reflected in our lives. Such character comes only as the Spirit of God transforms us through the Word of God. This twelve-session LifeGuide Bible Study will help you along your journey toward becoming all that God created you to be." It sounds very worthwhile, and probably a great segue as we approach the season of Lent!

Our group is made up of people who regularly attend both the Clinton and Beloit campuses, so you will see a familiar face no matter which campus you attend! If you are interested in joining us, (and we would love to have you!) please let the church office know. They will send you the link for the Zoom session, and they will put a study guide in the bin outside the Beloit office. The study guide costs \$10.00, and we have ordered extra copies. We look forward to seeing you!



Feb. 2

Susan Kiser

Feb. 6

Stephen Buckler

Bruce Cawkins

Feb. 8

Ann Hegge

Feb. 9

Dave Buckler

Patti Novy

Feb. 11

Emma Miller

Feb. 14

Annette Henz

Feb. 15

Dakota Knutsen

Tony Ward

Feb. 16

Shania Knutsen

Feb. 17

William Churchill

Feb. 18

Lori Sturdevant

Stephen Wadle

Feb. 19

Candace Jacobson

Charles Weiser

Feb. 22

Kathryn Parsons

Feb. 23

Kathryn Dopp

Clay Ward

Feb. 26

Stephanie Klett

Linda Lyman

Feb. 27

Heather Buckler

Phyllis Carpenter

Doris Davis-Gaustad

Feb 28

Kelly Lutzow

Feb. 29

Mary Van Meter

Note: If your name is not on our lists, please call the office so we can update our records.

Corrections from last issue birthdays:

Sandy Ovist: January 15

Pastor Brenda: December 29



Dear members of United Methodist Church,
Thank you so very much for your incredibly generous donations! It will make such a positive difference for our students experiencing homelessness! We were able to give out many of the items and gift cards before the holiday break. Your kindness makes our kids feel like people care!

With deep gratitude,
Robin Stuht
from 16:49

Adult Mission Trip Details

Our annual Adult Mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Springfield, Illinois, is scheduled for Mar. 30 – Apr. 1, 2022. A signup sheet is included in this issue. The MMDC staff is fully vaccinated, and Covid protocols are in place. Masks must be worn in the kit room and warehouses at all times. If you need to remove your mask for any reason, you need to exit the building to do so.

The staff is looking forward to our arrival. We may be assembling personal dignity kits and flood buckets, inventorying donations, shellacking or assembling desks, repairing bicycles or sewing machines, or mending sheets and blankets. The staff will tell us what jobs need to be done, and we volunteer for which ones we feel we can do. We go to serve. We come home amazed at their organization and humbled by the difference we make in the short time we are there. They have amazing stories to share about how God works with them to touch the lives of people all over the world. Check out their website at www.midwestmission.org.

The Adult Mission trip departs from the church parking lot at 9:00 am on Wednesday, Mar. 30. We carpool down to the Springfield area, and do some sightseeing on the way. We will watch the covid numbers and make a detailed itinerary in March.

You have a choice of staying in the dormitory at Midwest Mission Distribution Center or at the Comfort Inn and Suites. At the dorm, there are two bunk beds in each room, but you will be assigned the room for just yourself unless you want to pair up with anyone (and receive a discount). You need to supply your own towel and bedding. The dorm has a full kitchen, men's and women's showers, air-conditioning, and wifi.

If you choose to stay at the Comfort Inn, you will make your own arrangements. They will have a block of rooms set aside for us (under the name of River of Life) for Wednesday and Thursday nights at a discounted rate (\$95 per night). The Comfort Inn's phone number is 217-529-8898. They will need your reservation by Mar. 16.

We look forward to you joining us this year! If you have any questions, please contact Diane Gemignani at 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com.



From the Missions Committee

A few coins jingling in a pocket; the zippered compartment of a purse; an old jar on the bureau that clinks every time a coin is dropped in; do these loose coins given every Sunday really make a difference? Yes!

I am old enough to remember a March of Dimes card on our dining room table in the 1950s. For years, we diligently saved all our dimes to fill up the cards, turn them in and then get a new one. They were only dimes, right? The millions of dimes collected helped fund the research for a polio vaccine that saved thousands of children from a crippling virus and provide restorative treatment. When polio was eventually conquered, the dimes were redirected for preventing and treating birth defects.

Just like the fight against polio, our Sunday coins make a great difference in the lives of our community members. On Sunday, February 20th, a "Missions Fair" highlighting the organizations supported by our loose coins will be held in Fellowship Hall after church. Come see display tables demonstrating the many products and services our congregation supports.

Ever wonder what is in a Bag of Hope? How is a Flood Bucket put together? Is a Blanket of Hope a real blanket? What services does Northcott Community Center provide? What do deserving women and children receive from Domestic Abuse services? These are just a few examples of the agencies we support. The Missions Committee is eager to share information and answer questions about all of our loose coins recipients and how you make a difference. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kathy Allen

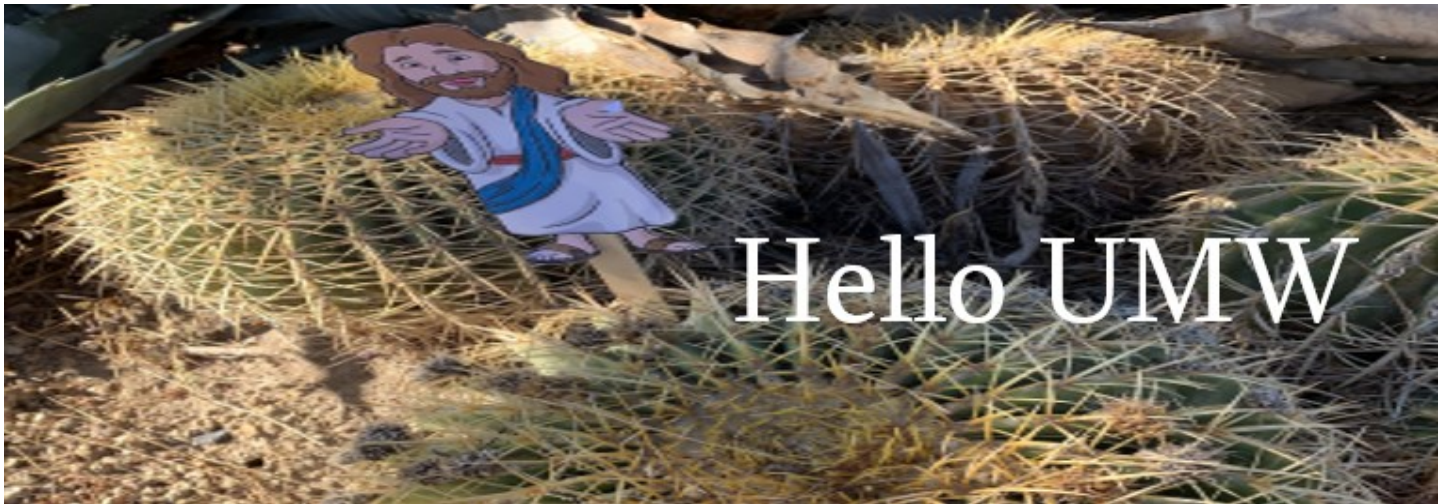


Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is February 23rd at 1:00 pm in the Office Workroom. We welcome all knitters and crocheters, no matter what skill level, and anyone wishing to learn.

If you have any questions call Sandy Ovist: 608-362-6583.

Please join us!!



A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Traditionally UMW observe a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial in Circle meetings during the month of February. Complete information, a brochure and program ideas may be found at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/call-to-prayer>

The following information and graphic was copied directly from the United Methodist Women e-news January 6, 2022



LOVE, JUSTICE AND SERVICE:
ANSWERING THE CALL

Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call

Every year, “A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” encourages women to step out in faith and bring the love of Christ into a hurting world through their prayers and selfless giving. This year’s special offering will support the vital and vibrant ministry of deaconesses and home missionaries, consecrated laity who have dedicated their lives to vocations of love, justice and service. Find all you need to host an observance or contribute on our [Call to Prayer website](#)

Coming!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming UMW Unit meeting on February 23. Kelsey Hood-Christenson, Director of Survivor Empowerment Services at Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois will be the speaker. Kelsey started as a volunteer with the program and currently oversees the Defy Domestic Abuse Program and the Sexual Assault Recovery Program serving Rock and Green Counties. She will provide information about the program and how we can help in their mission.



Flat Jesus Joins UMW For Lunch!

Flat Jesus is a picture of Jesus that is flat and will easily fit in your pocket so you can take him everywhere you go. The program was started to encourage our youth, but everyone was invited to take part.

We are very happy to announce that Flat Jesus enjoyed lunch with this happy group of UMW. You cannot help but be happy with Jesus at your side. Watch this column for further adventures with Flat Jesus.



Book Review

The Holy Bible

Author: Several people, but all inspired by God

Publisher: Several over the centuries, ranging from hand-written to digitized.

Date: Several thousand years ago, but still current.

Readership: Several million, very popular around the world, but often started and never finished.

Today we are featuring a special edition:

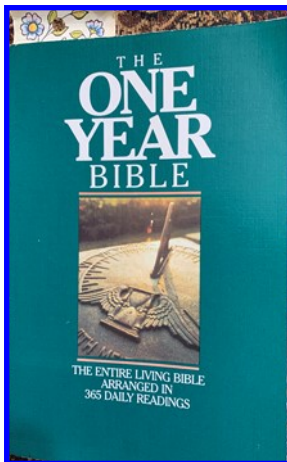
The One Year Bible

The Entire Living Bible Arranged in 365 Daily Readings

Tyndall House Publishers, Inc.

Wheaton, Illinois

This is an unusual version/translation of the Bible. First it is written in today's English, so no one can complain about strange 17th century words. Secondly it's divided into 365 small bites; each daily reading consists of a portion of the Old Testament, the New Testament, the Psalms and Proverbs. Thus no one can complain about having to read long, boring sections. In the third place, you don't have to start on January 1; just start any day and keep reading each day, when you get back to the day you started, you will have read the entire Bible. It takes about 10-15 minutes a day to accomplish this. Give it a try and you will be surprised by the satisfaction you get from doing this to say nothing of the blessings you will receive while reading God's Word.



Pray Without Ceasing

This column has been featuring odd moments that people utilize for prayer. For the next few months we will be sharing special prayer times of members of ROLUMW. This month **Ann Williams** writes:



“I have been doing this for a number of years. My prayer list includes every individual that has ever assisted when I’ve needed help. I usually tell the person or persons that they will be added to my nightly prayers. Their reactions vary from pleased and delighted to looking at me with cynicism or a “Big Deal Attitude”; however, I persist and the devil is in the details as they say. I tell the Lord that mentioning them in my prayers is a way of thanking him for sending them to me. I also pray what I call gratitude prayers. These are daily snippets expressing gratitude for the beauty of His creation gratitude for my physicality or the fact I’m not totally blind yet and so on and so on. The fact is I wouldn’t be here were it not for the good Lord and his son Jesus. I’ve been blessed with a caring family, friends I’ve had for many years. A wonderful, loving church family. I am indeed blessed!”

Old News

Christmas and New Year’s Day have come and gone. All the hustle and bustle is over. All those wonderful special holiday foods are but a memory, unless you ate too much and now are trying to eliminate results!

At any rate, we would like to say a great big thank-you to all the people who made the 2021 Cookie Walk a success. That includes all the people who made schedules, set-up tables, arranged trays, passed out boxes, served as cashiers, took down and, of course, all those who baked the dozens and dozens of cookies we sold.

It may be old news, but it is never too late to say THANKS to all who made this important event a success.

Thank You!

UMW Calendar

January: No scheduled events

February:

16 Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.

16 Mary Circle 1:00 p.m.

23 Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Election of officers

Special speaker, Kelsey Hood-Christenson

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator

Loose Coins for January

January loose coins will go to **Northcott Neighborhood House**, a multi-program community center in Milwaukee, started in 1961 by the United Methodist Women, the Wisconsin Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries. Northcott's beginnings were a lot like the startup of Caritas in Beloit, providing food, clothing, and a support system for families out of an older house in the city.

Today Northcott Neighborhood House takes up several modern buildings and serves 10,000 community residents a year. They provide job skills, employment opportunities, and basic food and clothing necessities, as well as recreational facilities and community meeting space. They also offer educational opportunities for all ages, including GED, literacy, Head Start, and after-school programs at locations around the city.

Northcott Neighborhood House has really grown since that first food and clothing bank started by UMW. It's still supported by UMW and the Wisconsin Conference, among many other community funding partners. It serves one of the most segregated cities in the nation with community building and family support.

Please give to this important ministry right in our own state. Drop your loose coins in the offering! Or -- since we've missed a few Sundays of in-person worship -- put a couple bills or a check in an envelope marked for Northcott.

-- Ellen Butchart



Donations needed:
Diaper Cream

***Please drop off your pop tops
which benefits
Ronald McDonald's House***



Thanks

...from one of the Aldrich families who received Christmas donations from our congregation:

*Thank you very very much for all of your warm and generous hearts for helping my family with Christmas. It means the world to us. God Bless you all always.
E.M. , Aldrich family parent*

Some of the activities that the Youth Ministry Team has been involved in, during the 2021 year, included the following:

- *Virtual Sunday School*
- *Church Re-Opening Ice Cream and BINGO*
- *"Camp-out" Vacation Bible School*
- *Back-to-Sunday-School BINGO and Cookie Walk*
- *Tutoring*
- *Trunk or Treat*

I've lost track of the endless number of people who have said, "YES!" to my many requests this year:

teaching Sunday School; contributing baked goods, treats, and prizes; leading and planning activities for VBS; leading and cooking for WATR; being a tutor and a mentor; decorating a Halloween trunk; helping at the Aldrich Holiday Bazaar; donating to Aldrich families; creating postcards and typing up my last-minute requests for the Current; walking the neighborhoods with activity promotions; taking photos with Flat Jesus; providing advice; and everything else that I've forgotten. Thank you so very much for continuing to smile when I head your way and for being a friend. --- Karen P



Let Your Light Shine!

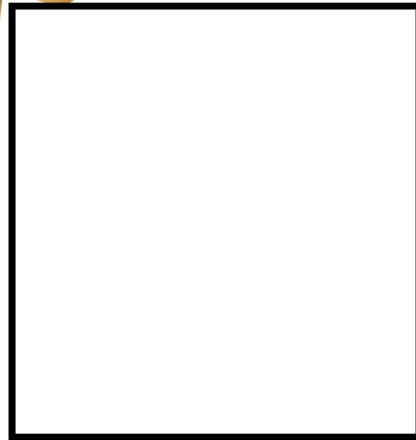
All About Me

Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____

Favorite Food: _____

Favorite Activity: _____



I want to do this for Jesus this year:

Pray to: _____

Read My Bible to: _____

Tell: _____ About Jesus

Go to Sunday School with : _____





**Adult Mission Trip to
Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Chatham, Illinois
Mar. 30 – Apr. 1, 2022**

Join our team volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center! You can choose to stay on-site at the dormitory or stay 7 miles away at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL. We leave Beloit the morning of Wed., Mar. 30, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thurs. and Fri., and return to Beloit on Friday evening, Apr. 1.

If you stay in the dormitory, the cost of the trip is \$175 plus the cost of one lunch and 3 dinners at area restaurants. If you choose to stay at the motel, the cost of the trip is \$90 plus the cost your room at the Comfort Inn and the cost of the previous meals. The Comfort Inn will have a block of rooms under the name of "River of Life" for approximately \$95 per room per night. You are welcome to arrange to share a room with another person on the trip.

Please do NOT let the cost of the trip keep you from signing up! There is money available in a fund specifically to help people with the cost of participating in the adult mission trip. Please let Diane Gemignani know if you are interested in the assistance.

Payment Schedule is:

\$50 deposit* due when you sign up
balance* due Sun. Mar. 27

If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com). If you would like to sign up for the trip, fill out the slip below, include the non-refundable \$50 deposit, and mail it to Diane Gemignani, 1005 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit, WI 53511. **The deadline to sign up is Feb. 1, 2022.** – We can add people after this date only if there is room at MMDC.

I am interested in joining the Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Mar. 30 – Apr. 1, 2022. (I understand the \$50 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable if someone else can take my place.)

Name

email

address

Home phone

Cell phone

* Please make checks out to ROL-UMC with "Adult Mission Trip" in the memo.



Apportionment Connectional Giving for the Transformation of the World



"The PEOPLE of the United Methodist Church are involved and do remarkable ministry around the world." The truth is that organizations do not have a personal relationship with God, and organizations do not get involved in mission and outreach. It is the members of individual church communities who are inspired by God's grace in their own lives to come together, nurture their relationship with God and with each other, acknowledge their differences, and unite in order to be tools in God's hands in every corner of God's Creation, with the aim to make disciples for Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:16-20) for the transformation of the world.

Together, we can extend a helping hand so that our neighbors can overcome formidable obstacles in times of crisis. Together, we can reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster. Together, we can spread the gospel of peace and encourage cooperation locally, in our country and around the world. Together we can help survivors of natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes. Together we can invest in vulnerable communities, helping them to become self-sustaining. Although we cannot cure diseases like malaria, together we can implement the most effective solutions known at this time to prevent these diseases from claiming lives. Together we can equip the next generation of Christians to lead the Church and society.

A familiar refrain in The United Methodist Church is that our apportionment costs are too high and prohibitive. Couldn't we do more if we kept the money ourselves and spent it closer to home? The simple and quick answer to that is NO. Let's say a person puts one dollar in the collection plate on a Sunday morning. What actually happens to that dollar; how much goes to pay apportionments, and how much gets used locally? First, eighty-four cents (\$.84) of every dollar stays right in the church where it is given. For the average United Methodist church, half of that amount pays salaries and benefits, a quarter pays insurance, building, and maintenance costs, 15% covers programs, equipment, and ministry expenses, 7% goes to administrative and material costs, and 3% goes to missions. If apportionments stayed in the local church, there is little evidence that it would be spent on missions. Of the remaining sixteen cents (\$.16), approximately 80% stays in the annual conference paying for conference programs and staff, district superintendents, and specialized missions and ministries. Two cents (\$.02) goes to general church apportionments, and a penny (\$.01) goes to Advance Specials, Special Sunday offerings, and other miscellaneous funds.

Apportionments remind us that our faith and devotion to God is bigger than our immediate area. Apportionments remind us that all of us share the same planet and are tasked with taking care of our living environment (Genesis 2:15). Apportionments remind us that all Methodists are connected to God and to each other whether they are down the road a piece or on the other side of the globe.

In the Grace of God,
Thomas C. Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Sunday

Monday

1:00 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)
1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

Wednesday

10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
6:30 pm WATR &
Adult Bible Study

Thursday

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
5:30 pm Saturday Worship

Calendar

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

It is the decision of the Worship Team to cancel all activities of the church including In-Person worship until the end of January, 2022. The number of Co-Vid cases in our community continues to remain high. Rock county is currently one of the extreme hot spots in the state of Wisconsin. We continue to monitor the situation each day. Starting at noon, Saturday, January 15, 2022, temporarily there will be no activities or in-person worship at both campuses until further advised. Pastor Brenda is on vacation until January 18th. If you have a pastoral need, please call the office at 608.362.8866 and we will contact Pastor Keith for you. Please watch our recorded worship Sundays at 9:30 am on our website or Face book pages.

January 17 6:30 pm Stewardship (Zoom)
January 18 6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)
January 24 6:00 pm Trustees (Zoom)
January 25 6:30 pm Ad Council (Zoom)

Issue deadline:

February 4th

The next newsletter will be available February 13th

