The Current Of The River Of Life



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

CLINTON CAMPUS

402 Church Street Clinton, WI 608.676.4646

STAFF

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

Lois Ulvin Director of Music
David Newman Pianist/Organist
Derek Burgh IT-Production Manager



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

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

The Beloit Service is on the website and both Beloit and Clinton are on Facebook

LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

Lay Leader

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

Kelly Clark

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Women of Faith President

Pat Sands



Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Margaret Sears (Mother of Sarah Parsons) Gwen Bergh (Mother of Derek & Christina Bergh)

People we have prayed for....

- Austin
- t Lisa
- Chuck
- + Marge
- Daniel & Max + Mary
- Darla
- + Nan
- David
- Pastor Eduardo
- t Jeff
- + Pastor Keith
- † John
- + Peggy
- † Joyce
- **+ Sandie**
- + Kerri
- **t** Steve
- **Kyleigh**
- t Wally



Pastor Brenda will be on vacation from

January 23—February 6th.

If you have a pastoral care need, please contact the church office.

The services and activities at River of Life United Methodist Church are videotaped, including adults and children.

Nine 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.

From the Pastor's Desk



I love to watch it snow. I like to watch the rain too, but watching snow can take my attention for a long time. Sometimes the flakes are big and sometimes they are small. Sometimes they fall softly down, and sometimes they blow sideways. I find it very relaxing to watch the snow. (Of course, I am not responsible for cleaning the snow off the driveway!)

As I was watching large flakes of snow falling gently the other day, and praising God for how beautiful they are, a thought came to mind: Water in its liquid form is water. Water in its gas form is water vapor. Water in its solid form is ice. Although ice does fall from the sky sometimes as hail, in the winter, we get snow. How does the water turn into snow as it's falling, instead of ice?

According to the NOAA website, "A snowflake begins to form when an extremely cold water droplet freezes onto a pollen or dust particle in the sky. This creates an ice crystal. As the ice crystal falls to the ground, water vapor freezes onto the primary crystal, building new crystals – the six arms of the snowflake."

Isn't that incredible?! God didn't just say, "When I need to water the earth, I'll send liquid water." God was clever and imaginative and decided to not only make rain and hail: God decided to make snow. Those snowflakes can be different sizes and have different moisture content. And they are all different! NOAA again: "Individual snowflakes all follow slightly different paths from the sky to the ground —and thus encounter slightly different atmospheric conditions along the way. Therefore, they all tend to look unique."

Of all of the things that God created, the intricacies just go on and on. No wonder King David wrote in Psalm 90, "The heavens declare the glories of God!" They certainly do! All of nature does!!

Jesus said, if God cares so much for the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, how much more does he care for you! I would add, if God cares so much that he made the atmosphere create different forms of precipitation, as well as the situation that each snowflake would be different, how much more does he care for you!

This winter, as the cold lingers and you long for spring, be on the lookout for all of the ways that God's imagination makes things beautiful, the snow – and everything else! I'll see you in church, where we praise God's creativity!

Love, Pastor Brenda

Dear Family of Faith:

I wanted to let you know that I have accepted Christina Bergh's resignation effective December 22, 2022. Christina, our bookkeeper, had planned on resigning by the end of the year, but circumstances moved the date earlier. Please pray for Christina as she makes this transition away from River of Life to her employment at Mercy Hospital in Janesville.



The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee had recently hired Kelly Lutzow as our church secretary. Kelly has a 1-year certificate in accounting from Blackhawk Tech, and several years of experience as a bookkeeper. From the very beginning of Kelly's employment, SPPRC and I were considering bringing Kelly into both positions. Kelly is bright, learns quickly and works quickly. She has now been offered the position of doing both jobs, and she has accepted. We are confident that Kelly will do this combined position well. We will also be looking for volunteers to do some office tasks, like assembling mailings several times a year.

Kelly's new title will be Office Manager, as she will be responsible for everything in the office. She formally began in this new role December 27th. Kelly's email address is kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com. Note there is a period between her first and last names. Kelly will be full-time, spending 40 hours a week in the office, but the office will continue to be open 10am-3pm Monday-Thursday. Kelly's remaining hours will be time that can be uninterrupted so she will be able to get all of this work done. And please also remember - on Sunday mornings, Kelly is worshiping and fellowshipping. Please do not ask her "work" questions during this time. Call the office or send her an email.

I thank you in advance for the grace that I know you will extend to Kelly as she learns a new job while needing to close out one year and open another. Of course, feel free to reach out to her with any questions you have.

Blessings to you in this New Year!

Love, Pastor Brenda



Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias and helped set up the poinsettias! The church looked lovely for our Christmas services!



Donated By

Mark & Kathy Smith

Bill & Kathy Rodgers

Tom & Joan Michels

Diane Kittelson

Sam & Judy Paddock

Sam & Judy Paddock

Fran & Jacquelyn Patch

Fran & Jacquelyn Patch

In Honor of

Kayden & Makynli

Our children and grandchildren

Don & Phyllis Michels

ROL Choir

Lois Ulvin

Pastor Brenda

All who lead us in worship

All of ROLUMC's wonderful volunteers

Donated By

Mark & Kathy Smith & Family

Mark & Kathy Smith & Family

Kelly, Zeke, Kellyse & KJ

Marge Johnson

Bill & Kathy Rodgers

Dale & Diane Gemignani

Dale & Diane Gemignani

Dale & Diane Gemignani

Tom & Joan Michels

Diane Kittelson

Joanne Johnson

Brenda & Dan Whitford

Brenda & Dan Whitford

Brian & Tracy Maxwell Family

Brian & Tracy Maxwell Family

Ellen Butchart

Ellen Butchart

Marlene Erickson

Helen Oleston

Jeanette Waite & Family

Tom Alverson

Mary Alice Harris

Eleanor Burnside, children & families

In Memory of

Jerry & Merilyn Hoffman

Bill Pace

Brian Lutzow

Frank Johnson

Our parents, grandparents, and Reid

Henrietta & Bill Spanos

Anne & Paul Thompson

Henrietta & Tuly Gemignani

Melvin & Lillian Von Arb

Kenny & Louise Kittelson

Robert B. Johnson

Mary Jo Whitford

Charles Beecher

Tom Maxwell

Mary Kay Maxwell

Ruth Butchart

Phil Butchart

Glenn Erickson

Dale & Marion Oleston

Leon Waite

Parents Edward & Marilyn Alverson,

Sister Cindy Alverson & Wife Sin-Dee Alverson

Jeanine Barker, Jeanne Advani, & Glenda Lensing

Harry Burnside



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Committee says a huge **Thank You** to all the people who provided snacks on Sunday mornings in December! Fellowship time after church gives us all an opportunity to catch up with each other and to deepen our connections. Thank you for your time and goodies to make this happen! We appreciate all the people who stop in the kitchen to help with setup and cleanup. And thank you, Tom Alverson, for the coffee!

Carol Allen Kathy Allen Nan Bolar Mission Committee Joanne Johnson Tracy Maxwell Joan Michels Harvest Volunteers Karen Morris Sarah Parsons Jacque Patch

Stewardship Volunteers



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group January 25, 2023 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583



A note of thanks to each and every one who made this year's Clinton Community Christmas
Food Basket Drive a success!
Through your graceful generosity, we collected
220 boxes of Mac N' Cheese.

Thank You again!!



Wednesdays at the River

January 4th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

January 11th 4:00pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study

January 18th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

January 25th 4:00pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study continues comparing stories from the book of John with the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke). People of all knowledge levels are welcome. Participants should bring a study Bible. This group meets at 6:30 most Wednesday evenings.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will begin a new study on January 4th. The group is in the process of choosing the next one. If you would like to join this online Bible study, please reach out to Pastor Brenda to get the Zoom link.





Another Christmas Cantata in the books!

Thank you to everyone for their time, energy, and dedication to make this production always such a success!











JANUARY CARITAS COLLECTION



We will once again be joining the "Stock the Shelves" initiative at Caritas this January by collecting full size bottles of both shampoo and conditioner. Please consider donating to this cause to help those in the community, especially right after the holiday season. This can be a very difficult time for some people—mentally, spiritually, and financially.

Circle Times

All women are invited to become a member of a Circle. We encourage you to come and enjoy fellowship with the ROLUMC women's community. Here are the meeting times, dates and contact persons. Please join us for a time of joy, learning and service.

Martha Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

For details contact Carol Braukhoff 608-299-9738

Mary Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.

For details contact: Jacque Patch 608-362-7729

Circle Dates

January 18 Martha Circle 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Shirley Sweet with programing

Weather permitting—Cancellation phone calls will be made if necessary

January 18 Mary Circle 1:00—Jacque Patch is the hostess



Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center Chatham, Illinois

May 17 – 19, 2023

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., May 17, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thurs. and Fri., and return to Beloit on Friday evening, May 19.

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 \$115 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 by Mar. 19 balance* due by May 15

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 Mar. 19, 2023.** — 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 May 17 – 19, 2023.

(I understand the \$50 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable if someone else can take my place.)

Name	E-mail
Address	
Home phone	Cell phone

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

MISSIONS

Loose Coins

Loose Coins for January will go to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. This multi-program community center was started in 1961 by the Woman's Society of Christian Service (now United Women of Faith), together with 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 family support system out of an older house in the city.

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

Northcott Neighborhood House has really grown since that first food and clothing bank started by WSCS. It's still supported by UWF 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, put a couple bills or a check in an envelope marked for Northcott. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Thank you to all those who stayed to help decorate the church for the Christmas season!













www.rolumcwi.com















If you missed the "Hanging of the Greens" event, don't worry!
You can join us for the "Un-Hanging of the Greens" event on
January 15 after worship.













16







If you missed the "Hanging of the Greens" event, don't worry!
You can join us for the "Un-Hanging of the Greens" event on January 15 after













www.rolumcwi.com

Decorating for Advent 2022—Clinton Campus
It was an eventful day getting the two trees decorated along
with putting up the rest of the ornaments and manger scene in
time for Advent Season. Carol Scheets and Jeanette are shown
working on the new tree along with our photographer Vicki
Boschma. Once we got the Sanctuary decorated, we came out
and helped decorate the tree with Carol, Jeanette and Vicki. We
are also missing a picture of Dennis' brother, Darrell. Darrell,
Dennis and Vicki got a head start on getting the tree set up and
started decorating it. A great time had by all.







Photos courtesy of Tom Alverson

www.rolumcwi.com





UWF 2022 Activity Summary

The Lord has richly blessed the River Of Life unit of the United Women in Faith as they learned together, worked together and served together in 2022. Several area people spoke about helping others locally and around the world.

Kelsey Hood-Christenson, Director of Survivor Empowerment Services at Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois shared this ministry and what we might do to help.

Larry Correll told us about his 25 years of serving as a missionary in Europe and Africa.

Sue Correll presented a program on setting up training programs for pre-school teachers in the African bush. She was one of the first missionaries to work in South Africa after Apartheid was disbanded.

Robin DeGarmo spoke on UWF Sunday about 16:49 which is a program for young people during non-school hours.

Mary and Martha Circles met in a joint meeting with **Pastor Dave Carlson** who shared a touching moment in his ministry with the LGBT community.

The UMW became the **UWF** during this year and we learned the history of the organization. A series of articles in the Current traced the history of **Social Justice/Social Action** within the UMC and the UWF.

A number of UWF attended the Breaking of the Bread held at First Baptist Church.

The adventures of Flat Jesus, both at home and abroad, were shared in the Current.

The annual Rummage Sale was a great success with plans to streamline the operation.

The Cookie Walk has become a successful area tradition.

The UWF were delighted to present the annual UWF scholarship to Ellie Maxwell.

UWF Lesson for January 2023

On Our Journeys to and with Christ

Introduction

Welcome back as we celebrate a new year in each other's company. As we start the year, we want to create a space to acknowledge that our present and future is a result of a journey, a sum of our experiences, of the people we've met, the legacy our ancestors are living through us, and that we are laying the foundation for generations to come.

Let's form pairs to take a moment to think of someone who has been life-giving in our faith journeys. Who were they and how did they impact our faith or journeys? *Allow three minutes to share and then cue the pairs to change roles.*

Program Summary

In this program, we will continue looking at our unique gifts and journeys as well as see how these have been enriched by the support of other people.

Perhaps we start our story from the day or place we were born, the days we turned to Jesus, the moment we moved to another city, or perhaps it starts with our parents or grandparents or earlier ancestors.

Most of us have family stories of migration, which are also stories of people seeking connection, love, safety, and prosperity.

Regardless of when we start our journeys or our stories, it is important to acknowledge that all those moments and where we come from have made us who we are today and that through good or difficult moments

God has been there with us.

All of us have a story worth sharing.

JOURNEY OF/ aith

Material copied from Page 53 Program Reference Book



Reflection of 2022



Covid-19 is still daunting us to this day. Many of us have made up our minds that we are going to dawn masks when needed and go out and about to get what we have to do and be done. I still wear mine to this date when I go to the big box stores and when I go into the gas stations or any other smaller stores, post office when I have errands to do. We, as a church body, have grown to put our faith forward and do what needs to be done for the church. Live streaming is here to stay I do believe deep down in my heart. Several, if not most of the churches locally, are still offering live streaming as well as services done by radio sitting in your cars. We offer on-line contributions to be done if you are not able to be in church to give your offerings. Yes, we do offer drop through the mail slot and USPS that you can get your offerings to the church as well. With all of this being said, I do want to Thank each and everyone of you for what you have accomplished in maintaining your pledges in 2022. Our church is so generous and loving. In this year alone, we have helped several people through God's fund. We were able to cloth them, help them keep their job by helping them purchase a pair of steel toe work boots. Through your generosity, we showered gifts to Family Promise to help those in need. We also purchased laundry products and baskets to help the VETS help themselves to learn the steps into maintaining clean clothes. We helped young teens to survive through the 16:49 program; gave a tremendous amount of donation to help folks get back on their feet through a hurricane that wiped them out. Our church home offers a home to two AA groups. One AA group has one meeting and the other AA group offers two meetings in one night. The list goes on and on through our missional help and needs. You maintained your pledge throughout the year. Even when we had to shut down for a month due to high Covid –19 numbers, each and every one of you kept on giving your offerings so the work could still be accomplished every week. When the need arises, this congregation is ready to help. Help both locally and beyond our own backyards.

We have members who gives of themselves. Their own talents. Each quarter and for some special activity of the whole church, there is a person who goes out of their way to be creative of the theme that the special event is about. Then we have our folks who have made prayer shawls. They are beautiful prayer shawls. If you would like to have one or know of someone who would love to have one, please contact the office. These shawls are beautiful and full of love.

We do need to remember that being missional is wonderful. We need to remember that our church needs to have funds as well to keep the doors open so we can maintain being a invitational and loving church to continue in doing the work that needs to be done. We have lost pillars of our church and their legacies go on living within the church. We need to figure out how we are going to make up for those losses. When we don't increase our giving, it effects us all. If you aren't changing, we aren't changing in what we are offering to our members. To our communities. We have two beautiful campuses and we have a lot to offer to our communities. Let us go forth in 2023 to make our church stronger yet.

Again, Thank You for all you do for your church! Thomas C. Alverson Stewardship Chairperson Note: If your name is not on our lists, please call the office so we can update our records.



<u>February 2</u> Susan Kiser

February 6
Stephen Buckler
Bruce Cawkins

February 8
Dave Buckler
Patti Novy

<u>February 11</u> Emma Miller

February 14 Annette Henz

February 15
Dakota Knutsen
Tony Ward

February 16 Shania Crandall

February 17
William Churchill

February 18 Lori Sturdevant Stephen Wadle

February 19 Candace Jacobson Charles Weiser

February 22 Kathryn Parsons

February 23 Kathryn Dopp Clay Ward

<u>February 26</u> Stephanie Klett Linda Lyman

February 27
Heather Buckler
Phyllis Carpenter
Doris Davis-Gaustad

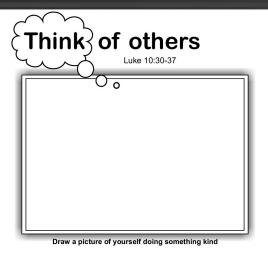
February 28 Kelly Lutzow

February 29 Mary Van Meter







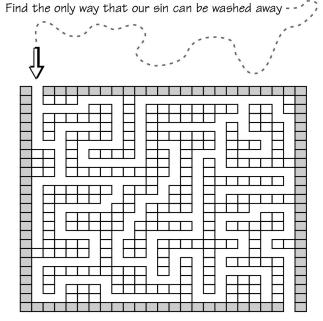


Find the words in the square and draw a line around them.

It helps if you shade in the boxes that have an X, Y or Z.

SERVE CARE AID LOVE GIVE SHARE HELP

Х	Z	Х	S	Η	Α	R	Е
С	Α	R	Е	Х	1	Х	Ζ
Z	Х	Υ	R	Z	О	Z	Х
Χ	Z	Х	>	Х	Z	Х	Υ
Z	Х	Н	Е	L	Р	Х	Z
Χ	Υ	Z	Х	0	Х	Υ	Х
Z	Х	G	Ī	٧	Е	Х	Υ
Χ	Υ	Χ	Z	Е	Χ	Z	Χ



By the blood of Jesus

Psalm 51:7, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 9:24-26

FOLLOW GOD'S WAY

Join the words to the sign that shows whether this is God's way or the wrong way.

Try stay on the path

with your pencil.



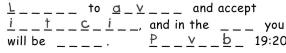


become wise and stay on track.

end instruction advice Listen

Proverbs

wise



NOTE: The Bible gives all the advice and instruction you need!



C. Draw an arrow at A. Try stay on the path one end of each sign with your pencil. to show if it is... God's way > share the wrong way < be honest be cheeky help others lie & steal be truthful B. Now rub out the line and be lazy try again; this time, follow be obedient the path in the dark or with your eyes closed. read the Bible go to church

Cross out the wrong words in the sentences below

We disobey when we make a mistake, do what we know is wrong. Nehemiah 1:7

The Bible compares darkness to *sin and evil, God's goodness. John 3:19*

The Bible is like a rock, a lamp, a big tree. Psalm 119:105

We can stay on God's path by reading the newspaper, a map, the Bible. Psalm 199:11

Following God's way is like walking on a broad road, narrow road. Matthew 7:14



Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship 10:00 am Clinton Worship

Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Book Study (Zoom)
4:00 pm Tutoring (FH)
5:30 pm WATR Dinner
6:30 pm Adult Book Study (FH)

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)

Jan 3	Youth Ministry Team (Zoom) 6:00 pm
Jan 12	Clinton Ministerial Meeting 10:00 am
Jan 14	Community Pancake Breakfast at Clinton 8:30—11:30
Jan 15	Special Offering Sunday —Human Relations
Jan 16	Stewardship Meeting (FH) 6:30 pm
Jan 17	Missions Committee 11:00 am
Jan 17	Finance Committee 6:30 pm
Jan 18	Martha's Circle (FH) 9:30 am
	Mary's Circle 1:00 pm
Jan 23	Trustees Meeting (FH) 5:30 pm
Jan 24	Ad Council (FH) 6:30 pm

Issue deadline:

January 27th
The next newsletter
will be available on
February 5th



REMEMBER TO "LIKE US"

Our Facebook pages are active and there you'll find current postings on upcoming events, activities, church happenings, and lots more.

OUR FACEBOOK PAGES ARE:

The River of Life United Methodist Church, Clinton Campus Www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumcClinton

and

The River of Life United Methodist Church.

Www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc

www.rolumcwi.com