

The Current of The River of Life

February 2021



♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

February 14, 2021

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 18 Issue 13

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

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LAY LEADERSHIP 2021

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Annual Conference Lay Members

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Marietta Axmear

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Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Covid Task Force Chairperson

Pastor Brenda Whitford

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

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Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

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Tom Alverson Worship Leader
talverson@rolumcwi.com

Bonnie Moore Receptionist
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MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music
Judith Paddock Organist
Marge Johnson Pianist

Eighteen 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...

Ruth Potts
Helen Mason
Allen Kiser (Son of Jeneane Kiser)
Nan & Gary Bolar (the loss of her Mother)



People we have prayed for....

Annette Henz

You can watch worship online in two ways:

- * On our church website
- * Through Facebook

The benefit of a "Facebook Premiere" (similar to a Facebook Live) is that we can comment in real time. So, as we watch at the same time, we can interact with the video together. This gives at least a little more sense of the community of our church family as we see each other's comments.

From the Pastor



Last year we celebrated Ash Wednesday, began Lent, and then two and a half weeks later we canceled in person worship because of Covid-19. I hoped we were going to shelter in place for a few weeks and we would be back in the sanctuary by Palm Sunday. Instead, eleven months later, we are still not back in person in the sanctuary. It kind-of feels like we are still in that season of Lent from last year and we are beginning Lent for this year. With this in mind, how do we make Lent meaningful this year? How does it not become depressing?

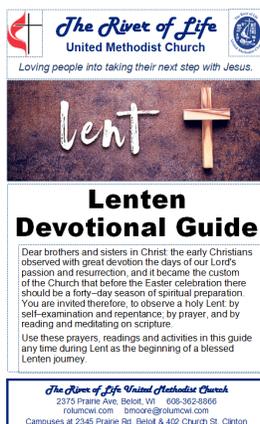
If you are like many people, this year has been far from “normal”. Your life has been turned upside-down by Covid. You sacrificed a lot to keep yourself and others safe. I don’t think you need to give up anything this year for Lent. You don’t need to be reminded of your mortality. If you are like many people, you have already given up enough. You need some healing and some life during this time.

This year it might be helpful this Lent to add an activity each week, or even each day, to help you connect to God. Do an activity each week/day from the Lenten Devotional Guide you will receive on Ash Wednesday. Commit to reading one of the Gospels over these next forty days. Join one of the three Bible or book studies that we are offering. Memorize all of the scripture memory verses we have had since last July. Commit to writing an encouraging card or two or three a day to members of our church family.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we will return. God takes our dust, redeems and perfects us. Because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, you have been transformed from dust into a precious child of God! Lent is a time to claim this, and reconnect to the One who is the giver of life!

I wish you a blessed Lent. May you connect with God in a new way. May you see that Covid will come to an end. May you know that this year-long Lent will come to an end. May we come out of the other side of it recognizing more than ever our new life in Christ Jesus.

Stay strong in faith, until we can meet in person together, Love, Pastor Brenda



An 8-page Lenten Devotional Guide will be given away at the Ash Wednesday Drive Through Prayer time at the Beloit Campus (12:00pm) and the Clinton Campus (2:00pm.) The Lenten Devotional Guide includes scripture reading and prayer techniques as well as some fun and meaningful activities.

If you are not able to attend, they will be available in the totes at each campus.

FINANCIAL CORNER

MONTH OF: **JANUARY**

Week 1	\$	1,693.00
Week 2	\$	12,741.00
Week 3	\$	812.22
Week 4	\$	48,147.86
Week 5	\$	2,735.00
ACH	\$	3,050.00

2020 statements have been mailed. Please check for any discrepancies. Also, I did send out what the new statements will look like for those that have donated in 2021.
Thank you!! Christina
cbergh@rolumcwi.com

Total: \$69,179.08

There are three opportunities for small group study during Lent:

LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple

by Adam Hamilton will be the book study for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group, 10:30am via Zoom. The first session will be February 24th. Contact the office or Pastor Brenda if you would like to join this Bible/book study.

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study

by Marjorie Thompson will be the book study for the Wednesday Evening Bible Study Group, 6:30pm via Zoom. The first session will be February 24th. Contact the office or Pastor Brenda if you would like to join this Bible/book study.

Reflections Bible Study

is using videos from *The Bible Project*. This group meets Saturdays at 7:30am. Participants can join at any time. Contact the church office or Bob Parssinen.

Everyone is welcome to join in any of these three studies.



Our worship and sermon series during Lent will center on the healing of Jesus. We will look at some favorite healing passages as well as some that may surprise you. How can these passages give us the courage to live into Jesus' healing for our lives now? Join us online as we discover Jesus' Healing.

Reopening Update:

The Reopening Team met in January to discuss when it will be appropriate to begin worshiping in person again. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel: we just don't know how long the tunnel is. We will be meeting again in March and hope to be able to begin putting together a time-line. We need to be patient a little longer to keep our church family safe. We all are longing to return. Keep praying!

Drive In Worship

We have heard from many people that they have found Drive In Worship to be very meaningful during this time of not worshiping in the sanctuary. We were hoping to have several through the winter, but the tremendous amount of snow and ice have gotten in the way. We are hoping at the very least we will be able to Drive In on Palm Sunday and Easter. Watch for updates as spring approaches.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Care Visits will resume in late March. Pastor Brenda qualified under category 1a of the Covid vaccine distribution as a Spiritual Care Provider. She has received her first vaccine and will begin visiting people by mid to late March. If you or someone you love have received both vaccine doses and would like a home or facility visit, please let the office know so it can be scheduled.



Mission News

February Loose Coins -- Bags of Hope

The Mission Committee met recently and set the Loose Coin designations for 2021.

February Loose Coin offerings will go to **Bags of Hope**. This is the ministry started by Clinton members Vicki and Dennis Boschma to supply bags with toiletries and other personal items to about a dozen area shelters and agencies, such as the Sparrow's Nest shelter, Family Promise (serving homeless families), Rock Valley Community Program (serving veterans), Domestic Violence Center and the GIFTS Shelter.

Since Vicki and Dennis had to give up the project, the Mission Committee has been searching for a workable way to keep it going. We are happy to announce that it will continue, managed by Tom Alverson, with the committee providing support. Prior to Covid, we had distributed over 1,285 personal gift bags.

To contribute to the Loose Coin offering, you may put cash or a check made out to the church (with "Loose Coins" on the memo line) in an envelope and slip it in the front-door slot at the church office, or mail it, or bring it to a drive-in service when they resume. To have it included in your church giving record, write your name and offering-envelope number on the envelope.

Sewers Needed Blankets of Warmth

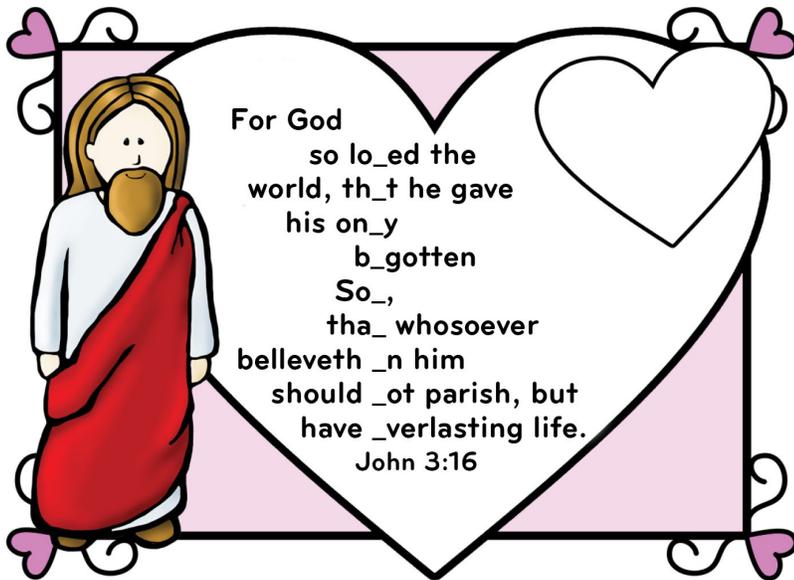
Sewers -- that is, people who know how to sew -- are needed to help with the growing Blankets of Warmth project.

Some of our Clinton members head up this mission, sewing and delivering blankets to many of the same agencies that Bags of Hope serves. The needs are great right now, and they've been asked to supply more. Prior to Covid, we had distributed 125 Blankets of Warmth.

The blankets are made by sewing two pieces of fleece together inside out with an opening, and then turning them right side out and sewing around all the edges. Just a simple sewing machine stitch is used. If you can help or would like more information, call Margaret Hansen (608-774-1802) in Clinton or Diane Gemigniani (608-290-5274) or Ellen Butchart (608-365-9625) in Beloit.

-Ellen Butchart

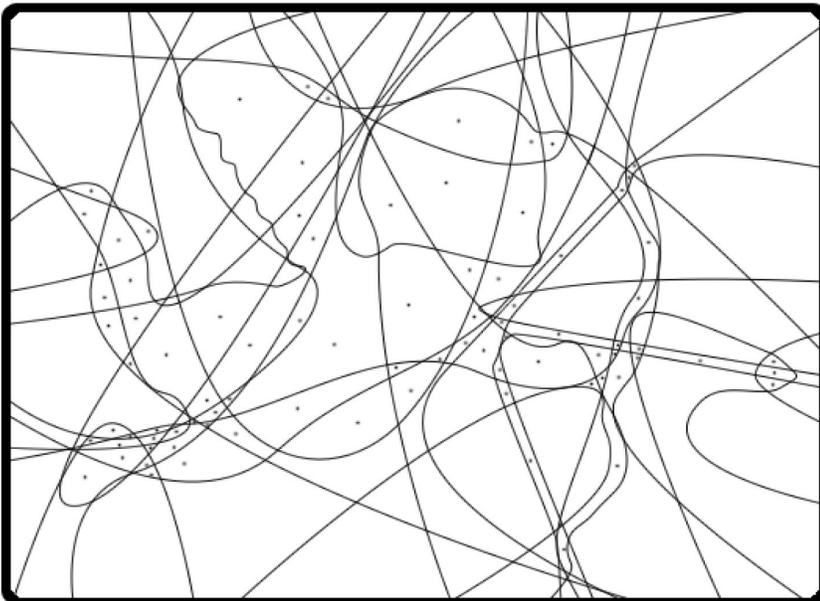




Fill in the missing letters to spell a word.



Color in all of the areas with dots to reveal the hidden picture.



Happy Valentines Day from AllCrafts.Net <http://www.allcrafts.net>

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Valentine Word Search Fun

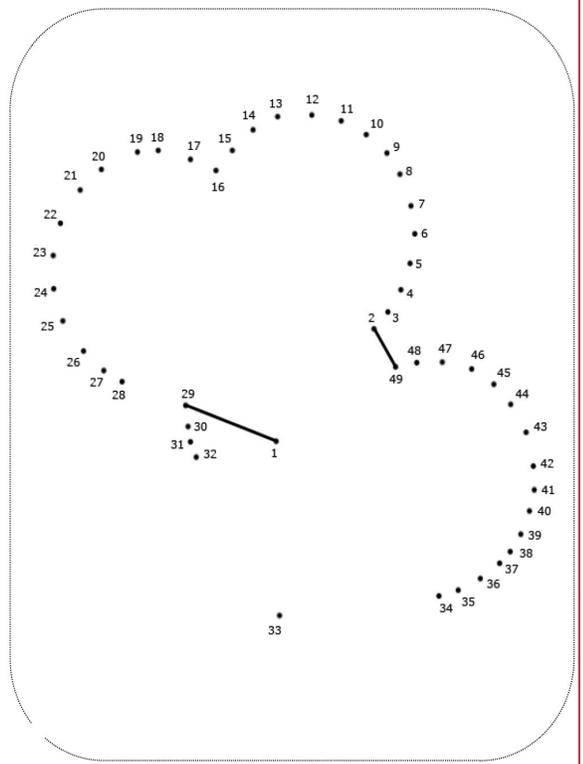
T R A E H F
S E F U R Y
S Q E I S D
I E E W Q N
K N Y J S A
D I P U C C

CANDY HEART
CUPID KISS
FRIEND SWEET

What are some other words that relate to Valentines Day?

Courtesy of FamilyCorner.com Magazine, Inc. www.familycorner.com (for scholastic or private use only)

Connect - the - Dots



Happy Valentines Day from AllCrafts.Net <http://www.allcrafts.net> © copyright 2010 AllCrafts.Net



Please contact the office if you or a friend would like a prayer shawl. We have many shawls to share. Thanks to Connie Carlson for sharing her time and talents.

LOOSE COINS:

We collected \$49.23 in January for Northcott Neighborhood in Milwaukee. February we will collect for Bags of Hope

Special Offering:

February 7th:
Apportionment

March:
Umcor



Thanks for all the donations of shampoo and conditioner. They are well-appreciated!

Nan Bolar and Karen Parssinen are doing an incredible job each week leading Sunday School on YouTube. If you know a child that would like to participate, contact the office and Karen will take them materials each week. Adults would be blessed watching as well! You can find the videos on our Website under the Ministries/Children's Ministry drop down menu. You can also find the videos on our YouTube channel "River Of Life UMC Beloit."



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



March 1

Judy Byers

March 2

Jim Churchill

Stephanie Longman

March 7

Bill Watson

March 13

Lynn Caple

Diana Merwin

Robert Novy

Hayley Rosenthal

Lois Ulvin

Kathy Weiser

March 17

June Divan

Lynn Fosler

Rev. Keith Putney

March 18

Frank Ward

March 20

Jeanette Waite

March 23

Jean Crawford

March 25

Derek Bergh

Dave Haas

March 29

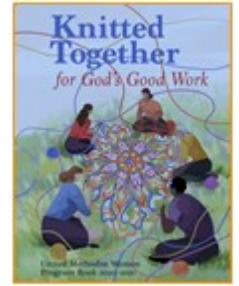
Carolyn Lynch

Marlene Holcomb



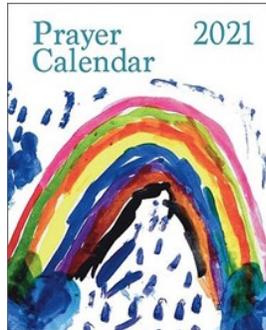
**United
Methodist
Women**
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Hello United Methodist Women!
Welcome to February the month of love!
I give you a new commandment: Love one
another. Just as I have loved you, so you must
love each other. John 13:34 CEB



Dates from the Prayer Calendar

Last month we listed
the birthday of a UM
missionary with the
idea of sending this
person a birthday
card.



The missionary suggested was Claudia Genung. It turns out that Claudia is the lead pastor for the Kobe (Japan) Union Church. If the size of a church is determined by the size of its pipe organ, then this is a large church. Claudia has been a missionary to Japan for 30 years. Her husband is also a pastor and they have two grown sons. Not only does Claudia do all the things pastors do, she also helps support a care ministry at the Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa Center. Toyohiko Kagawa was a very famous evangelist in Japan. If you google him, you will be astounded at the extent of his work. Pastor Claudia sends her greetings to the River of Life UMW and thanks us for our prayers.

The idea of sending a card to a missionary was to add to their happiness, but I received a greater blessing by learning the extent of this missionary work in Kobe, Japan.

Here is a suggested missionary for February.
Trisha Manns — February 14
tmanns@umcmmission.org

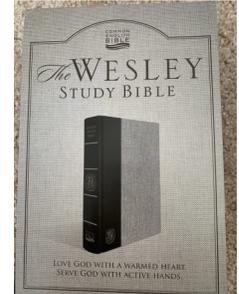
620 Glen Iris Drive NE
Unit 320
Atlanta, GA 30308
There is a blessing waiting in a mailbox.
—Carol Connors

Book Review

The Wesley Study Bible
WSB © 2012 CEB ©2011
www.CommonEnglishBible.com
christianbook.com \$27.99

Features

- Weights and measures
- Study notes
- Concordance
- Index
- Maps by National Geographic
- Wesleyan Core Terms
- Holiness of Heart and Life Articles
- Extended references to works by John Wesley



The CEB is a new translation with easy readability for readers of all ages. A team of over 120 scholars from over 24 faith traditions worked on this translation. Five different denominational publishers are involved with Abingdon Press as the sales distribution partner.

I have several study Bibles, but this is definitely my new favorite. It is so easy to read and understand in today's world. The features and study material are excellent. The typeface and size are easy on the eyes, however the pages are quite thin so must be turned with care. If you are looking for a new Bible, this might just be the one for you.—Carol Connors

February Program for Circles

Knit Together Against Violence
Objective: To learn about the structural sin of racism
and how it affects young women and girls.
Scripture for Reflection: Judges 11:9-40



How about a Freebie?

Ecards are popular, quick and postage saving.
Here is a free source for ecards with a Christian message

Go to **crosscards.com** and you will find a great variety of Christian ecards. Cross cards is a ministry of Salem Web Network which has been connecting Christians for over 25 years. —Carol Connors



Apportionment Giving Where Does All That Money Go?

A few years back when I became interested and heard the call from the Holy Ghost to become involved deeper in the church as a Lay Speaker, in one of the seminars that I had signed up for, Dan Dick, Director of Connectional Ministries, put together “The Apportionment Exploration Guide”, 2015, for the Wisconsin Annual Conference. In the guide he has an article that I have referenced to for our monthly newsletter. He writes:

Too many people misunderstand where apportionment money goes. The vast majority of apportioned funds stay within the annual conference where the local church is located. For all those who feel that the conference could do a better job with our mission giving if it was spent locally, well, good news! They do. Conference apportionments pay the salaries of the men and women who organize, develop and promote a plan for living our mission and performing our ministry. The Conference offers to the local church and each community ministries, programs and projects that individual congregations cannot manage alone. Conference camps and retreat programs, campus ministries, mission projects, new congregational development, social justice opportunities, celebration events, archive and history preservation, and a host of other services are paid by all our local churches to benefit everyone. Health and Welfare ministries offer healing, counseling, safety, training & education, assisted living, disaster relief, food and clothing receive critically import support. When we don't give, they suffer, and the people they serve suffer most.

In Wisconsin, through our apportionment giving, fifteen health and welfare ministries are funded. There are two camps and dozens of camp programs. Nine campus ministries are assisted. All are life-changing. There are support ministries that fight domestic violence, racism, sexism, economic injustice, alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse and educational inequality and bullying are also funded. Laity and clergy leadership are trained for ministry, as well as church planners, social workers, cross cultural and multicultural leaders, and chaplains. There are support efforts to combat hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and violence. Our Wisconsin Conference champions support efforts to defend the elderly, the disabled and challenged, the marginalized, and oppressed. We educate and advocate for immigration justice, and the elimination of institutional racism and sexism, and community organizing. Though our apportionment giving, the state of Wisconsin is transformed in meaningful and positive ways!

Each of the ministries the Wisconsin Conference provides and supports translates to pennies a day per member. Over eight hundred ministries are supported locally, conference-wide, nation-wide, and globally through United Methodist giving. The costs per member per week to fully fund our apportionments is about equal to a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop, or a value meal at the local fast food restaurant, each of us can support more than eight hundred expressions of Christian love, mercy, kindness, justice and compassion. This is where our money goes. WOW! So many lives are touched through our apportionment giving.

Thanks Be To God,
Thomas C. Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson

Calendar

2021 MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	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			

Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship Service
Online & Facebook

Sunday School

Available anytime!!
See the link on our website

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 Bible Study (Zoom)
with Pastor Brenda

Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
Bible Project with Bob P.

Calendar of Events

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- Feb 15 6:30 pm Stewardship (Zoom)
- Feb 17 11:00 am Ash Wednesday On-line Devotional
Noon Drive-thru Prayer, circular Drive in Beloit
2:00 pm Drive-thru Prayer at Clinton
- Feb 22 6:00 pm Trustees (Zoom)
- Feb 23 6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)
- March 9 6:30 pm Task Force (Zoom)
- March 16 3:00 pm SPPRC (Zoom)

Be sure to look on page 5 for the Lenten Study Groups

Issue deadline:

March 5th
The next issue of the
Current will be available
March 14th



Just a reminder

River of Life Beloit and Clinton Campus Buildings and Office Buildings
are closed due to the public health emergency.