

The Current Of The River Of Life

February 13, 2022

Vol. 39 Issue 24



**Happy
Valentine's
Day**

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

BELOIT CAMPUS

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Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866

OFFICE

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Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866
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Clinton, WI
 608.676.4646

CLERGY STAFF

Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021
 pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com
 Tom Alverson, Lay Minister 608-362-8866
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 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 2022

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

Pat Sands

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!

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

William Brown
Rev. Lance Herrick

People we have prayed for....



Claire,
Kerri,
Nan



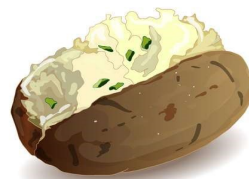
Periodically, we will send a VoiceShot with an announcement to the Congregation. If you feel you have missed a call, you may want to check your settings to allow this type of call to ring through. Thank you.



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



March 20
Baked Potato Bar
following
Beloit Worship

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.

From the Pastor's Desk



Well, here's a surprise! It is the beginning of February and the geraniums are blooming! My husband Dan decided we should bring in one of our potted plants that has a kind of spiky plant and geranium plants in it. Actually, the geranium plants nearly died from frost, but Dan decided to see what would happen if we brought the pot inside.

Dan put the pot in front of the sunny patio door. After cutting away what was dead, there was very little geranium left alive. But it soon began to grow! A few weeks ago, flower buds began forming, and it has four flower heads on it now! It is very bright and cheerful in front of the patio door that has snow beyond it!

We will soon be celebrating Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday we remember that from dust we have come, and to dust we will return. This reality makes it very important that we have our Savior that saves us from eternal dust. In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus the Christ brings us to himself and bring us eternal life. Like that geranium that seemed lost, and is now flowering again, even if we feel lost, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to bloom again as well.

It may be winter, but we are only a month or two away from spring flowers. We talk about the new life of Easter and the new life of spring. It seems like winter is a time of lack of life. But there is new life around us now, if we just look for it. As I enjoy pink geraniums, I hope you enjoy the newness in your life today.

Praying beauty into the lives of each of us,

Love, Pastor Brenda

Building Security



Just a quick friendly reminder. The alarm system for the office and church are set for the protection of the office and the church and for the protection of the people of the church. This past week we have had three activations of the alarm during off peak hours. Please text or call Tom Alverson so he is aware that you are going into the church. If the alarm is on, he can remotely deactivate, and he can activate the alarm. For those who have been assigned a passcode, if you haven't used your passcode for awhile, contact Tom and he can verify what your code is. Thanks for your help and understanding.

Tom Alverson



Lenten Sermon Series and Small Group Studies

During Lent we will be looking at the messes in our lives through the eyes of God. Within the grace of Jesus Christ, we will find redemption and restoration.

As a resource, you are welcomed to read the book *Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess* by Tom Berlin.

Book studies:

Wednesday Mornings 10:30am on Zoom beginning March 9th.

Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm in person beginning March 9th.

Sermon series begins March 5th/6th.

The book is currently \$12 on sale (through Cokesbury), \$15 if the sale ends (through Amazon), \$10 on Kindle. Let Pastor Brenda know if you would like to participate in one of the book studies and if you would like her to purchase your book.

Three Video Cameras and Switcher System

We are in the process of purchasing and installing a system that will improve the quality of online worship. Instead of moving one camera back and forth, we will be able to switch between cameras for a smoother experience. Thanks to all who have contributed to this so far. We need another \$520 to meet our \$2500 goal.

A Note from Pastor Brenda....

It is important to me that each person who made a pledge on their estimate of giving card receive a handwritten thank you note from me. Due to some circumstances, the thank you cards are taking longer this year. They will all be mailed at the same time, so please ignore the date on them, as some say December, some January, and some February. As always, thank you so much for your generosity!

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022



NOON - Clinton Worship

WATR Dinner 5:30pm (\$5.00 donation)

Worship Beloit Campus 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday worship is always a meaningful worship service, as we consider that we come from dust and to dust we will return. It is a reminder that it is through the grace of Jesus Christ that we are able to be made right with God.

Committee Accomplishments for 2021 & Goals for 2022

FINANCE

Accomplishments in 2021:

1. Budget for 2022 completed in time to present to Annual Charge Conference
2. Able to keep expenses in line with revenue received.

Goals for 2022:

1. Review duties of Finance Committee
2. Develop priority list
3. Develop procedures for handling deposits
4. Develop procedures for money counters

-Jesse Calkins

2021 SPPRC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(STAFF PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE)

Wrote two new Church Policies – Safe Sanctuary and Armed Intruder. Both policies were approved by Administrative Council. Reviewed and revised 19 policies. Many with minor changes.

Updated the Pay System by adjusting pay ranges, pay increase matrix and reviewed the CPI (Consumer Price Index) as guidance in determining pay increases for staff for 2022. Upgraded Director of Music pay grade to reflect supervisory responsibilities and updated the job description to reflect new responsibilities. Upgraded Receptionist position to a Secretary/Receptionist position and revised job description. Approved the Director of Children and Youth Ministry position and wrote job description. Wrote job descriptions for Lay Minister (Clinton church) and revised Organist/Pianist job description.

Adjusted employee hours to accurately reflect what they were working.

Conducted two Search Committee meetings. Recruiting for an Organist/Pianist and Director of Children and Youth Ministry.

-Marlene Erickson

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021

Hospitality Committee helped to find greeters for our outdoor services, and snacks were coordinated for our in-person services. Special thanks go to Carol Allen for her inspirational holiday gifts! Our church brochure has been updated for our guests and members. Thank you to everyone who contributed snacks for Sunday mornings and helped in the kitchen!

-Diane Gemignani

MISSION COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2021

After having to cancel our 2020 Adult Mission Trip, we were able to return to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in September! Collections for Caritas, pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, clothing and food cards for 16:49, Blankets of Warmth, Bags of Hope, and all of the loose coin offerings continue to be delivered. The monthly pancake breakfast has continued in conjunction with the Clinton Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone for your contributions! Plans are set for a Mission Fair in February and an Adult Mission Trip in March!

-Diane Gemignani

Committee Accomplishments for 2021 & Goals for 2022

UMW ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2021

- 1) We completed the plastic mat project for the homeless.
- 2) We created a UMW library in Fellowship Hall
- 3) We said goodbye to long-time board member Delores Hahn and welcomed Barb Kuska to the board.
- 4) After much prayer and discussion, we reorganized three circles into two circles: Martha Circle which meets in the morning and Mary Circle which meets in the afternoon. We also increased the number of UMW Members At Large.
- 5) Provided support to members and missionaries of the UMW with personal contact through letters and visits.

UMW Giving Report for 2021

Income 2021

Rummage Sale	\$1875.25
Cookie Walk	\$1103.00

Mission Donations

Heifer International	\$275.00
Midwest Mission Distribution Center	\$225.00
UM Children’s Service	\$160.00
Family Services	\$160.00
Family Promise of Beloit	\$160.00

UMW Goals for 2022

- 1) Continue inviting interesting and relevant speakers to our unit meetings.
- 2) Implement a VoiceShot method of notification
- 3) Continue our two large fundraisers, the rummage sale and the cooking walk.
- 4) Continue looking for ways to keep moving forward in missions and social justice.
- 5) Pray using the UMW Prayer Calendar at Unit Meetings.
- 6) Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors from other UMW Units.
- 7) Present at least two (2) programs from the UMW Program Book at Circle Meetings.

-Marlene Erickson

DECORATING & FURNISHINGS REPORT

Through the ups and downs of the pandemic in 2021, the Decorating and Furnishings Team continued to do our best to meet and move things forward. Some of our accomplishments include: filling the planters near the entrances with beautiful summer flowers, providing seasonal table decorations in Fellowship Hall, selecting and purchasing new paraments for the Sanctuary, purchasing a new storage unit to serve as a wardrobe unit for the pastor and bridal parties, cleaning and reorganizing the storage room, and organizing Hanging of the Greens for the Advent season. We are grateful to all that volunteer to help keep our church looking and functioning at its best!

Committee members include: Carol Allen, Sheryl Horvath, Tracy Maxwell, Kathy Smith, and Kathy Weiser.

-Tracy Maxwell

I Wonder.....

It has been a couple of months since I have been able to say hi and update my church family about how things are going for Gary and I since our cancer journey began. I've been wondering a lot of things lately and I thought I would share them with you.

I wonder if... I have remembered to share my newest updates. On January 14th I was scheduled to have the next step in my treatment, a difficult surgery called the Whipple. Dr.'s remove certain digestive parts including part of the pancreas with the tumor and then reconnect the digestive system a bit differently. It is a difficult procedure with a difficult recovery. Even though they began the procedure laparoscopically without finding any trouble, during the main surgery they found a couple of spots where the cancer has spread. Once they discover something else, the Whipple cannot be completed. Not the best news, but in my mind I tried to put a better thought to it figuring I might not have done well with the rest of the surgery or the recovery and this was the best outcome for me. I am recovering very well and will meet with the Oncologist for the next plan of treatment which will probably include more chemo. Thank you for your encouraging words and prayers before, during and after the surgery.

I wonder ifmy church family knows how much I miss being in church. My faith and my church families from the very beginning (no matter where I have lived) have always been such an important part of my life story. I miss seeing everyone and sharing your smiles. Wait...I was able to attend in person on February 6th and loved every second. My favorite hymns, the beautiful choir, and so many smiles and well wishes and some "fresh air friendship" afterwards. A perfect Sunday!

I wonder ifmy mailman knows about all the love inside the cards he has been delivering to my mailbox since June. Typically the Bolar's have a pretty boring mailbox experience ...a few magazines, more than a few bills, and enough publisher clearing house entries to cover the Beloit Memorial High School Football field...nothing really for a rural mail delivery guy to get excited over. I wonder if he can feel the special unique creativeness in each one. I wonder if he notices the colors of the envelopes, the special stamps and stickers, and the postmarks from all over the United States. I wonder if he knows how we (both Gary and I) enjoy opening and reading each one. I wonder if he can imagine the strength and encouragement each one provides.

I wonder if...the team of doctors and nurses at the UW can feel the support we have from family and friends and the faith I carry into each appointment and treatment day. If it wasn't for the drawings and cards from my kids and grandchildren, my flat Jesus, and your encouragement and support, the days would be much harder. I hope my confidence in my faith and the love and support of my Lord and Savior shines through me for others to see even at my worst moments.

I wonder if....we will ever find the words to say thank you to everyone for the amazing meals, the prayers, the gifts and cards, the phone calls, and the friendships during this difficult time. We have been able to get to know everyone a little better even if we have been apart and we are so grateful! Thank you for being GOD's message, light and love to each day and to those that you encounter. God Bless you all.

Gary and Nan Bolar

Financial Corner

Month of:
January 2022

Current month :

Operating Income \$ 53,965.14 Operating Expense \$ 23,938.02

Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$ 53,965.14 Operating Expense \$ 23,938.02

Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$ 930.00
Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,051.76
Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 5,693.70
Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$ 1,536.78

**Please watch out for
March's Financial Corner!!!**

**I will have a 2021 breakdown, year end
summary, missions update and more!!**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT ARE
FULFILLING PLEDGES EARLY.**

**Statements have been mailed. If
you have questions or concerns,
please email me. I can correct it
and email it back to you right
away.**



March 12
Shenia & Tyler Crandall
March 25
Jerry & Sarah Parsons

Happy Birthday

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

Dave Haas

March 29

Carolyn Lynch
Marlene Holcomb



ADULT MISSION TRIP NEWS

Introducing...

Our wonderful team of nine people to travel and serve at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) March 30 – April 1:

Ellen Butchart

Margaret Hansen

Bruce and Lora Cawkins

Mary Alice Harris

Diane Gemignani

Jerry and Sarah Parsons

Joanne Johnson

If anyone else is interested in joining us, please contact Diane Gemignani at 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com. She will check with MMDC to see if they can accept any more volunteers.

LOOSE COINS FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER BELOIT

Our Loose Coins for the month of February will go to **Family Promise of Greater Beloit**. This emergency shelter program for homeless families is affiliated with the national Family Promise organization, which provides a successful model for helping families in crisis -- by providing temporary housing when needed, case management, housing and job-seeking support, and the food and hospitality provided by partner churches.

Partnering with church congregations makes it possible for Family Promise to host 3-4 families at a time, 365 days a year. Congregations provide space in their buildings for one week at a time, offering food, hospitality, and temporary night shelter for families going through a difficult time. During the day families go the Family Promise day center to shower and receive support services.

The mission is to get families out of temporary shelter into a better future. Sometimes rent or transportation assistance, or mediation with a landlord, or assistance securing a job or housing placement is all that stands between homelessness and security.

We all know the need is great in the stateline area, and Family Promise is a vital organization that knows how to make a difference. Our local Family Promise is on the cusp of growing its program. Watch for news, and please give generously -- of your loose coins, or bills/checks marked for Loose Coins.

-- Ellen Butchart

**YOUTH MISSION
TRIP UPDATE**

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2022 IS ON:
WE WILL BE GOING TO COPPERHILL, TN.
JUNE 25-JULY 2.
COST IS \$550.00
OPEN TO THE FIRST 35 PEOPLE TO
REGISTER WITH ME
LORA CAWKINS. 608-314-5086.**

**Sunday, February 20
Following 9:30 am
Beloit Worship**



Donations needed:

**1 lb. Boxed Unsweetened Cereal
(Cheerios, Special K, etc)**

Diaper Cream

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



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!!



Hello UMW!

Happy February -
The month of love.

Pray Without Ceasing

Each month we feature a story about using odd moments to pray thus following Paul's admonishment in I Thessalonians 5:17 to "Pray without ceasing."

As for prayer bits, whenever I hear a siren I pray for the care givers, the care receiver and their loved one. Living near the hospital gives me fertile opportunity to pray! When I see the American flag blowing in the wind I thank God for allowing me to be born in the United States of America, flawed as we may be I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

—Pat Sands

UMW Calendar

February :

- 09 UMW Executive Board Meeting
- 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

March:

- 16 Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.
- 16 Mary Circle 1:00 p.m.



©DESIGNALIKIE

ROL UMW February Unit Meeting February 23, 2022



Defy Domestic Abuse, under a variety of names, has been a program in Beloit since 1996.

Defy Domestic Abuse is more than a shelter. They serve the City of Beloit in many ways.

Defy Domestic Abuse champions the inherent dignity of all people, and restores safety and dignity to all those affected by domestic abuse and violence while interrupting and dismantling the personal, communal and cultural catalysts of domestic abuse and violence.

You will want to attend the February 23 Unit meeting of the ROLUMW to hear Kelsey Hood-Christenson tell more about this program of help and hope.

Social Justice/Social Action: What is it?

The United Methodist Women are committed to Social Justice, which is described by the organization as Social Action. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action>.

Broadly speaking, the idea of social justice is that all people should have equal rights, equal opportunity and equal treatment. <https://www.sdfoundation.org/news-events/sdf-news/what-is-social-justice/>

This is not the same as a government that distributes the wealth of a nation. This is not about the possession of wealth, but rather, equality in everyday existence. The UMW work through Service and Advocacy.

The current Social Action Campaigns of the UMW are Climate Justice, Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration. Past Social Action Campaigns have been Economic Inequality, Maternal and Child Health, Human Trafficking, Global Migration, Domestic Violence, Climate Change, Gender Justice, Racial Justice, Economic Justice, Health Care, Food Justice.

Each month we will take a look at the history of Social Action by UMW, the Biblical basis for Social Action and current efforts of UMW for Service and Advocacy.



Flat Jesus On the Move...



Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so. But
Jesus loves us everywhere,
even at the gas station.

Something Extra

If you are viewing the Current online, any links that appear in in the UMW section are clickable. If you want more information, just click on the link. (The link is blue,)

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator

Write a Valentine or love themed word that starts with each letter below.

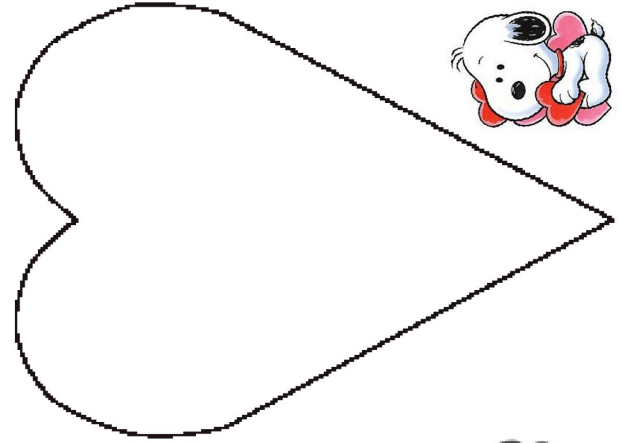
V _____
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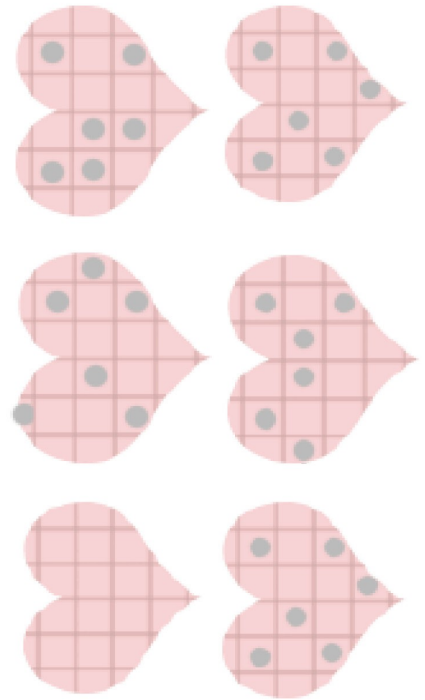
Trust
in
the
Lord
with
all
your
heart

W K B F W L N T
L Z W L J L D G
W W I T O A C T
K L T Y R R N S
L L H U I D U
Z T F O P V W R
L R Y T H E V T
X R H E A R T C

We love
because
He first
loved us



Which two hearts have the same pattern?





Faithful Stewardship in a Time of Uncertainty



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

This has been a time of dramatic disruption and ongoing uncertainty, as the novel coronavirus COVID-19 continues to take thousands of lives, requiring social distancing that upends the global economy, and prevents us from coming together in response to crisis, as we ordinarily would. The challenges to our faith and religious practice are very real. All of our ways of being faith communities together have been paused, discontinued, or rearranged. Meetings, pastoral care, and worship are all being conducted remotely, online or asynchronously, as we isolate in our homes. Every day we read or hear about people who are sick, dying, or vulnerable, as well as about the sacrifices made by healthcare workers and those in other essential professions who enable this large-scale response. In this circumstance, we are beginning to ask about an unknown future, returning to “normal” seems nostalgic, and even identifying a “new normal” may be beyond the scope of our current position. Yet, we cannot help but look ahead to a time when we resume activities of daily life. How can we be faithful stewards in this season of uncertainty?

Faithful stewardship may require patience, endurance, and sacrifice, and it may not always match our ideals or ambitions. Yet there can be new life that comes from what appears to be fallow time or a makeshift solution. Faithful stewardship can also be dynamic and responsive to external challenges, recognizing the opportunity in difficulty, and opening us to the gifts of the season. In this sense, stewardship is not primarily a strategy, or a marketing plan, even if it calls us to new practices. Online worship, emailed bulletins, Zoom meetings and electronic giving apps instead of offering plates might feel tactical, but they can be holy expressions of our faithfulness in a time of change. We may find that faithful stewardship in this season bears unexpected fruit far beyond our current crisis. Faithful stewardship in a time of uncertainty can allow us the time and freedom to discern the purpose God has for every aspect of our lives, and to encourage our communities and institutions to do the same.

Let us continue with our Faithful Stewardship not just in our monetary giving, but reaching out to each other.

In God We Trust,
Thomas Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson

EVENTS



- Sunday**
9:30 am Beloit Worship
10:00 am Clinton Worship
- 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)
- 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)

- February 15 6:30 pm Finance (FH)
- February 16 9:30 am Martha Circle (FH)
1:00 pm Mary Circle
- February 20 10:30 am Mission Fair (FH)
- February 21 6:30 pm Stewardship (Zoom)
- February 22 4:00 pm Hospitality (FH)
- February 23 9:00 am UMW Unit Meeting (FH)
23 1:00 pm Knitting With A Mission (Office)
23 3:30 pm Tutoring (FH)
- February 27 10:00 Clinton Worship & Potluck
- February 28 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
- March 2 Noon Ash Wednesday Service (Clinton)
5:30 pm WATR Meal
6:30 pm Worship Service
- March 9 10:30 am Lenten Book Study begins (Zoom)
6:30 pm Lenten Book Study begins (FH)

SAVE THE DATE.....

- March 20 Baked Potato Bar following Beloit Worship

Issue deadline:
March 4th
The next newsletter will be available March 13th

SPECIAL OFFERING:
February 27
Apportionment

