February 1, 2023

Vol. 40 Issue 02

"We love because God first loved us."

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

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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



From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this, I am in Pompano Beach, Florida. Dan and I are in a cottage two blocks from the ocean. I love the ocean. My favorite thing to do in Florida is sit on the beach, hearing the sound of the waves wash over me, and feeling the wind blow against my skin. I think about Ruah – the Holy Spirit, hovering

over the waters at creation, and the Holy Spirit bringing power to the disciples at Pentecost. I also enjoy watching people as they play in the waves.

A couple of days ago, I watched a little boy, probably about 2, adorned in his life jacket complete with water wings, approach the water with his dad. He didn't want to go into the water – it looked scary. I couldn't hear what the dad was saying: the waves make a lot of noise on the beach. Eventually the boy took dad's hand and got his feet wet. The waves were gentle that day, and maybe came up to the boy's knees.

As the boy became braver, still holding his father's hand, he took a step further. Then he took another step further. Dad must have told him to try to jump over the waves. At his stage of gross motor development, he usually had the jump timied wrong, but he was having a lot of fun.

Several minutes later, dad picked up the boy, and walked out deeper, perhaps up to his waist, as the boy pointed out to sea. The waves came up to both the dad's and the boy's chests. I could see the boy throw his head back, giggling with delight. Even with his life jacket, the boy might have drowned in the waves with water that deep, but his father would not let him go.

As I watched them, I thought about our Father God, who calls us into the waters of ministry. We are afraid at first. Ministry can be frightening even though we are excited to begin. But God is holding our hand. When the waters get deeper, and we feel like we might drown, God lifts us up and holds us tightly.

God will never let us go!

As you think about what God has called you to that you are currently doing, or the new thing that God is calling you to, remember that you are held. You are not alone. The one who calls you is always with you, making sure you are safe, so you can be bold.

I'll see you in church, where we encourage one another on this faith journey!

Love,

Pastor Brenda

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

+ Nicky+ Deena+ Tomas

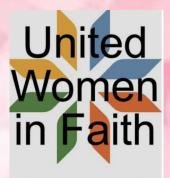
People we have prayed for....



- Austin
 Barbara
 Chuck
 Clem
 Daniel & Max
 Darla
 David
 Deb
 Don
 Jeff
 John
- † Joyce
- † Kennedy T.
- † Kerri

- **†** Kyleigh
- † Lisa
- **†** Marlene
- † Mary
- † Nan
- **†** Pastor Eduardo
- **†** Pastor Keith
- † Peggy
- † Sandie
- **†** Steve
- **†** Wally

The services and activities at River of Life United Methodist Church are videotaped, including adults and children. Nine people without internet have the bulletin and sermon mailed to them each week. Call the church office if you would like them mailed to you as well.





Hello River of Life UWF Welcome to February The Month of Love.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.— I John 3:18 NIV



UWF February Lesson Theme

Reconnecting with Our Sacred Bodies

The focus this month is getting in touch with the physical and spiritual dimensions of our bodies. Learning to listen to our own body's knowledge and wisdom is important. It is another way God speaks to us. Due to our busy lifestyle we often do not make time to do this. Often we become so involved in nurturing our spiritual nature that we forget to think about our bodies and physical senses. I Corinthians 15:44 reminds us that our bodies are part of our spirits.

—Source program handbook Mosaic of Faith pages 59-65

UWF and Social Justice

Support the health of women and youth through an organization such as Black Mamas Matter. blackmamasmatter.org/bmhw

Celebrate Black History Month Learn about the healthcare inequality that women and children of color face in our healthcare system.

Circle Calendar February 80 Executive Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. 15 Martha Circle 9:30 a.m. Mary Circle 1:30 p.m. 22 Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m. Election of Officers Program Pastor David Carlson Servers: Martha-Egg Bake/Place Settings Mary-Snacks/Beverage March 15 Sharing of the Bread at First Baptist 9:30 a.m.

Laugh A Little

A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22

Church Notes: The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter Ann, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.—Church Chuckles



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 608-299-8738

Mary Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. For details contact: Jacque Patch 608-362-7729

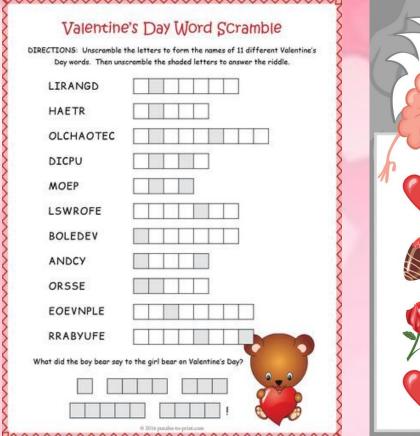
Circle Dates

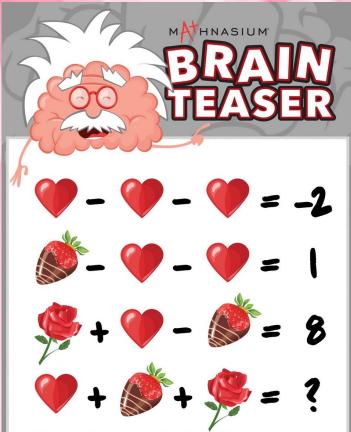
February 15

Martha Circle 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Program will feature "From Pennsylvania to Beloit" with Eleanor Burnside and "Prayer and Self Denial" with Joanne Johnson

(A collection will be taken)

February 15Mary Circle 1:00 p.m. at Marlene Erickson's home
Program will be on "Prayer and Self-Denial"
Weather permitting—Cancellation phone calls will be made if necessary







Mission Committee

Accomplishments from 2022 and Goals for 2023

Mission Committee would like to sincerely thank our generous congregation for their enthusiastic support of all our activities! Many people can make a huge difference in the lives of members in our community!

Last spring, we organized our first Mission Fair at both the Beloit and Clinton campuses. We highlighted various organizations in the stateline area to which our church contributed.

In March we sent a team of 7 adults to volunteer at Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). Another team will be going this May!

Mission Committee coordinated collections for supplies for 16:49 to help students get through spring break and supplies for In-gathering which supported MMDC. In the fall we hosted a shower for Family Promise as they relocated to their new location. Thank you to our congregation for your support for these projects!

Our goals for 2023 are to organize another Adult Mission Trip to MMDC, to continue to highlight missions that we can support, and to spotlight a local mission like we did with our Family Promise shower.





Hospitality Committee

Goals & Accomplishments

One of the goals of the Hospitality Committee is to make sure our visitors feel welcome. It takes a whole congregation to achieve this goal! Thank you to everyone who has reached out to our visitors with a kind word or with fellowship before or after service.

If any visitors have questions, we have visitor folders available on the bulletin board by the north entrance.

Whenever we don't have Sunday School, we have activity bags for any visitors with little kids.

Thank you to everyone who have brought snacks or made donations for our snack table. The Hospitality committee will continue to monitor the signup sheet in order to step in to make sure all of our Sundays are covered.

Our goal this year is to improve the signage inside our church. Our restrooms are really well-hidden for our visitors! We will also work toward consistent names for our rooms which will help when we need to reserve a room for a meeting.





Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group February 22, 2023 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions? Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

<u>Issue deadline:</u> February 27th The next newsletter will be available on March 5th ⁶⁶And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

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



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CANDY CARDS CUPID DEAR DOVES FEBRUARY FLOWERS FRIENDS HEART

TREATS VALENTINE SWEETHEART RED LOVE KISS PINK HUG JINXYKIDS.COM

Find

These

Words



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

The Loose Coin offering for January will go to **Stateline Works of Mercy,** a new faith-based aid organization the Mission Committee has identified that serves Stateline Works of MERCY

homeless adults in the Beloit area. Stateline Works of Mercy offers a day center where homeless individuals can come by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays to use laundry and shower facilities. There are also computers, a case management area, and a lounge area and small lending library.

Stateline Works of Mercy is an outreach of the five Catholic parishes of Beloit, South Beloit, and Clinton. It is run by volunteers in the building at 655 Bluff St., recently vacated by Family Promise.

The seed for this new outreach came from some volunteers with a prison ministry. They saw that many formerly incarcerated people ended up on the street, and in looking for ways to help them, they found that basic needs of showering and washing clothes were not being met. The goal of Stateline Works of Mercy is to provide a safe and nurturing place to meet basic physical needs of homeless individuals and also to show them God's love and be available to help with their spiritual needs as well.

We'd like to give them a hand as they grow this ministry to those in need. Please be generous with your loose coins offering and consider putting cash or a check in an envelope marked for

Loose Coins. Thank you!



www.rolumcwi.com



Wednesdays at the River

February 1th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

February 8th 4:00pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study

February 15th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

February 22th 4:00pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship

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.

*** Neither Bible Study will take place on Feburary 22, 2023—Ash Wednesday.



www.rolumcwi.com



Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Worship Clinton Campus 12:00pm

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

Worship Beloit Campus 6:30 pm

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 re member that it is through the grace of Jesus Christ that we are able to be made right with God, and have eternal life, for this life, and the life to come.







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

10 IDEAS FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL ASH WEDNESDAY

I. WORSHIP

Attend your churches Ash Wednesday Service or find a local church that offers one.

2. SERVE

On Ash Wednesday, we remember that we are part of the human family, making it a great day to service others. If possible, find a place to volunteer for the day. Or simply use your lunch hour to hand out sandwiches and sports drinks to the homeless in your city, take an hour to mow a neighbor's lawn, or shovel the snow from their driveway.

3. GIVE

We encourage you to give to your congregation but alternately, leave your server an above-and-beyond tip. Put money in the instrument case of a street musician. Purchase a paper from the homeless woman on the corner. Find ways to bless others with that which God entrusts you.

4. ABSTAIN/FAST

"Giving something up for Lent" is a common practice for many Christians. Often, we give up a favorite food or try to kick a bad habit during Lent. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is when this begins, but don't confine yourself to food or habits. Can you abstain from gossip or complaining for Ash Wednesday? What about defensive attitudes, fear, or anxiety? You probably won't be perfect at this, but when these attitudes begin to take hold of your day, pause for prayer.

5. PRAY YOUR DAY

Pray for the drivers of the vehicles and fellow mass transit passengers with whom you share your commute. Pray as you pass the hospital, police station, and government offices. Lift up the trash collector and mail carrier. Offer sentence prayers throughout the day thanking God for your coworkers.

6. MAKE SOMETHING

Some of us reflect and pray best when our hands are busy. Get back in the workshop and spend time cutting, sanding, and gluing. Sit at a piano and let the music flow. Take out the paints, glue, clay, and other supplies to create a work of art. As you create, give thanks to our Creator who longs to be in relationship with you.

7. BE STILL

Others find meaning in stillness. Light a candle and pause before the presence of God. Take a holy yoga class. Enjoy a cup of coffee on your deck. Listen for the voice of God.

8. CLEAN SOMETHING

Ash Wednesday is a good day to get a jump on your spring cleaning. Spend an hour with the junk drawer, that cabinet at work, or organizing the files on your computer.

As you remove things you no longer need and reorder those you do, be mindful of the ways God "cleans" us. The Bible tells us "As far as east is from west—that's how far God has removed our sin from us" (Psalm 103:12, CEB). As we get things in order, we remember that Jesus gave his life so that we might be free from our sins and know new life.

9. BURN SOMETHING

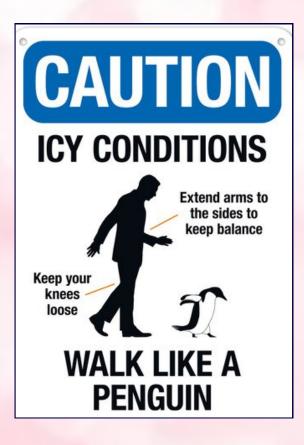
When you finish cleaning, take some of the papers you no longer need to the fireplace. Light them and watch as they turn to ashes. The ashes in the fireplace are not the same as the ones used in worship, but can serve as a similar reminder that your sins are forgiven. As the smoke rises up the chimney, know your prayers are rising to God as well.

10. FORGIVE AND SEEK FORGIVENESS

As we pray for God's grace, we should also seek forgiveness from those we have wronged. Ash Wednesday is a great time to go to those you have hurt.

It is also a wonderful day to forgive another. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us" (Matthew 6:12 CEB). Maybe while you are burning those old papers, you might also burn a grudge. If appropriate, let the person know you forgive them. Remember, however, that forgiveness has much more to do about us than the one who offended us.

Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact him by email or at 615-312-3733. This story was first published on February 21, 2017, updated January 2021 and February 2022.



Stay alert around your surroundings when you are at home or out and about. Icicles often freeze in incredible shapes and patterns worthy of our admiration and awe. But they also pose a danger to anyone walking underneath them. You should take caution by keeping a safe perimeter around your home or business.

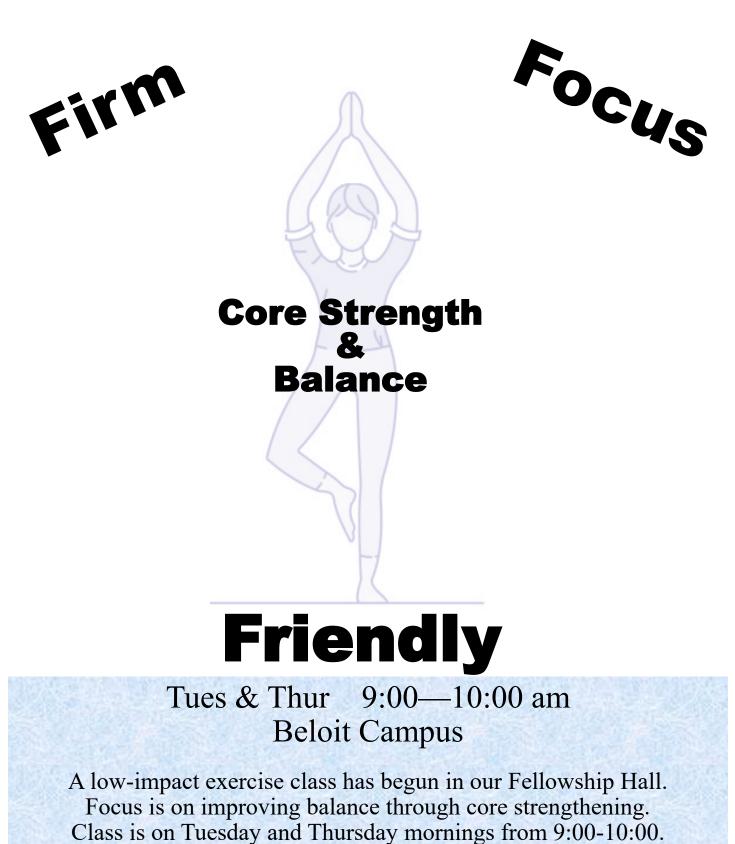
Icicles form during the warming and cooling process which occurs during winter days and evenings. They can become heavy enough to damage your gutters and roof and may also cause ice dams to form. They can fall loose at any given time. Had a neighbor who had shut his garage door and a large icicle broke loose, came down and knocked him down and he had to have several stitches on his face where the icicle had hit him.

Beware of how much snow is on top of your roof and awnings as well. Learn how to remove the snow or have it professionally removed.

Avoid icy spills: The National Council on Aging has lots of advice for avoiding slips and falls on ice. Proper shoes can help. You can add ice- and snow-gripper covers to the soles of your shoes, buy winter shoes with rubber soles and add spikes to a cane during winter months. Sprinkling the path ahead of you with sand or cat litter can also be helpful. Falls are a big risk in the winter.

Take extra caution when walking through parking lots and sidewalks





Individuals dress in comfortable clothing, bring their own weights,

and water. There is no cost.

Please remember to fill out your Connect Cards with your current phone number and email so that we can verify your information is accurate in our computer systems.

These phone numbers are used for our Voice Shot software which is used to notify members of upcoming meetings and church service cancellations.





What are Apportionments?

There are several times during the year, especially around Stewardship time, when someone will ask the question, "What are Apportionments? ".

I thought this would be a great time to write this article for all of us. Apportionments allow us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

What Are Apportionments?

The main way we support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church is through apportionments, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the church wide budget to conferences and local churches.

For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church's work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God's people.

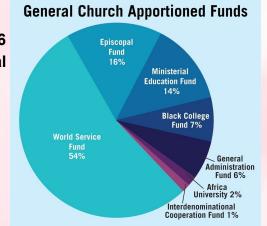
Our impact as 12.5 million United Methodists, in 136 countries, is phenomenal. Together we witness to the love of Jesus Christ for a hurting world and transform lives and communities in His name. The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations send some of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together. Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all – collective goods.

Apportionment Formula

Each United Methodist Annual Conference has the authority to decide its own formula for the apportionments to local churches within its boundary. Annual conferences can use different approaches to determining the formula; for example, some use membership, others use expenses or income. The Wisconsin Annual Conference uses a formula based one-third on professing membership and two-thirds on local expenses. Local church expenses are defined as pastor and staff salaries, church programming, church utilities, and other local church expenses.

GENERAL CHURCH APPORTIONED FUNDS

With over 12 million members working in 136 countries, The United Methodist Church's global reach is made possible through these 7 funds.



World Service Fund - 54% When UM congregations give to the annual General Church apportionments, they contribute to work that is done around the world. This fund supports all UMC general agencies and supports missionary personnel and administrative costs of many areas.

Episcopal Fund - 16% Provides for UM bishops worldwide, including salaries, housing, office expenses and travel costs of active bishops, and provide pension and health benefit coverage for bishops and family members in a bishop's household.

Ministerial Education Fund - 14% Provides funds for recruitment of clergy candidates and provides financial support for 13 United Methodist seminaries, including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Black College Funds - 7% Supports the programs and ministries of 11 historically black colleges and universities, including one medical school. These gifts reflect the value our Church has on education, especially those who have been historically excluded.

General Administration Fund - 6% Helps maintain a system of management oversight and fiscal accountability, and underwrites General Conference and the Judicial Council

Africa University Fund - 2% Supports the first fully accredited UM-related institution on the African continent. The University promotes independence and empowerment through a diverse student body from across the continent.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund - 1% Supports UMC's with ecumenical and interreligious partners such as the World Council of Churches, Churches Uniting in Christ, and World Methodist Council

If you have further questions as to what Apportionments are, please feel free to talk with Jesse Calkins, Pastor Brenda or myself.





<u>Sunday</u>

9:30 am Beloit Worship
10:00 am Clinton Worship
11:00 am "The Chosen" Movie Series w/ Bob Parssinen

<u>Monday</u>

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

<u>Tuesday</u>

9:00 am Exercise Group 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH) 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

<u>Wednesday</u>

10:30 am Adult Book Study (Zoom) 4:00 pm Tutoring (FH) (Starts at 2:30 on 1st and 3rd Wed) 5:30 pm WATR Dinner 6:30 pm Adult Book Study (FH)

<u>Thursday</u>

9:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

<u>Saturday</u>

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

CALENDAR (also posted on the Web & Facebook)		
7-Feb	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team (Zoom)
9-Feb	10:00 AM	Clinton Ministerial Meeting
11-Feb	8:30 AM	Community Pancake Breakfast - Clinton Campus
15-Feb	9:30 AM	Martha Circle (FH)
	1:00 PM	Mary Circle (Marlene Erickson's Home)
20-Feb	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting (FH)
21-Feb	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting (FH)
22-Feb	12:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service - Clinton Campus
	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission (Office)
	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service - Beloit Campus
27-Feb	6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting (FH)
		DEADLINE FOR MARCH CURRENT
28-Feb	6:30 PM	Ad Council Meeting

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



March 2 Stephanie Longman March 7 **Bill Watson** March 12 Meaghan Martin 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 Jim Churcill Jeanette Wait March 23 Jean Crawford March 25 **David Haas Derek Bergh** March 29 Carolyn Lynch



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



PLEASE CUT OUT AND SHARE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES FOR VALENTINES DAY!

