

BUT THE

Greatest
OF THESE
is LOVE

The Current of The River of Life

February 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #02

River of Life United Methodist Church

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

Worship Location - 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

Office Location - 2375 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

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Pianist

IT-Production Manager

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LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Annual Conference Lay Members

Bob Scheets & Carol Scheets

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Kathy Rodgers

Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

Finance Chairperson

Jesse Calkins

Hospitality Chairperson

Diane Gemignani

Lay Leader

Pat Sands

Memorials and Wills Chairperson

Marietta Axmear

Missions Committee Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Kelly Clark

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Pastor Brenda

Tech Team Chairperson

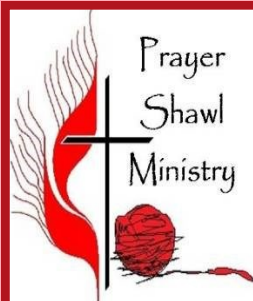
Derek Bergh

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

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

The Beloit Service is on the website, on Facebook, and also on our YouTube channel.



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

From the Pastor's Desk



I am so excited!!

We have been praying our Breakthrough Prayer for a year now. We have seen a few Holy Spirit Breakthroughs. But I am wondering if that is all. You see, I believe we have a number of church members who are either only have only half-heartedly prayed our Breakthrough Prayer, or who are not praying at all.

Do you believe that God wants to do something powerful through the River of Life United Methodist Church? Do you want it? Then let's take our Breakthrough Prayer up a notch!

This Lent, our entire congregation is going to read Dynamite Prayer together. Every church member is encouraged to buy a book (or accept a sponsored book). There is a daily reading along with a place to write your thoughts and your prayers. There is a daily Breakthrough Prayer, as well as a Prayer-Hold (see p. 7)

Here is what I especially excited about: the publisher has given us permission to video record the entire book!* Every day you will receive by email a video of the daily reading read by one of our church members! Each day you will be able to read along with a church member as we pray for the Holy Spirit to do something powerful through us.

The Church in the United States has been "dying" for decades. As a pastor I have been working on "church growth" for over twenty years with minimal success. I know that you have tried many things as a congregation. Maybe we are trying too hard. Maybe we need to stop struggling and let Jesus lead us in building his church the way God intends. Maybe what we need is some dynamite prayer.

I'll see you in church, where the power of God is waiting to explode!

Love, Pastor Brenda

**Please note: we have permission to video record the entire book under two conditions. First, we must purchase the books. Second, we cannot share the videos outside of our congregation.*

Super Bowl weekend is Souper Bowl weekend

Come be a part of the fun following worship services the weekend of Feb 10-11th



Our annual Souper Bowl of Caring event invites all to take part in soup sampling!

There are many ways to be a part of the fun:

Bring a batch of soup for all to sample
(heated in a Crockpot works best)
Bring the recipe to share, if able

Let's see how many fun flavors we can sample that weekend!

OR

Bring a dessert for the dessert table

OR

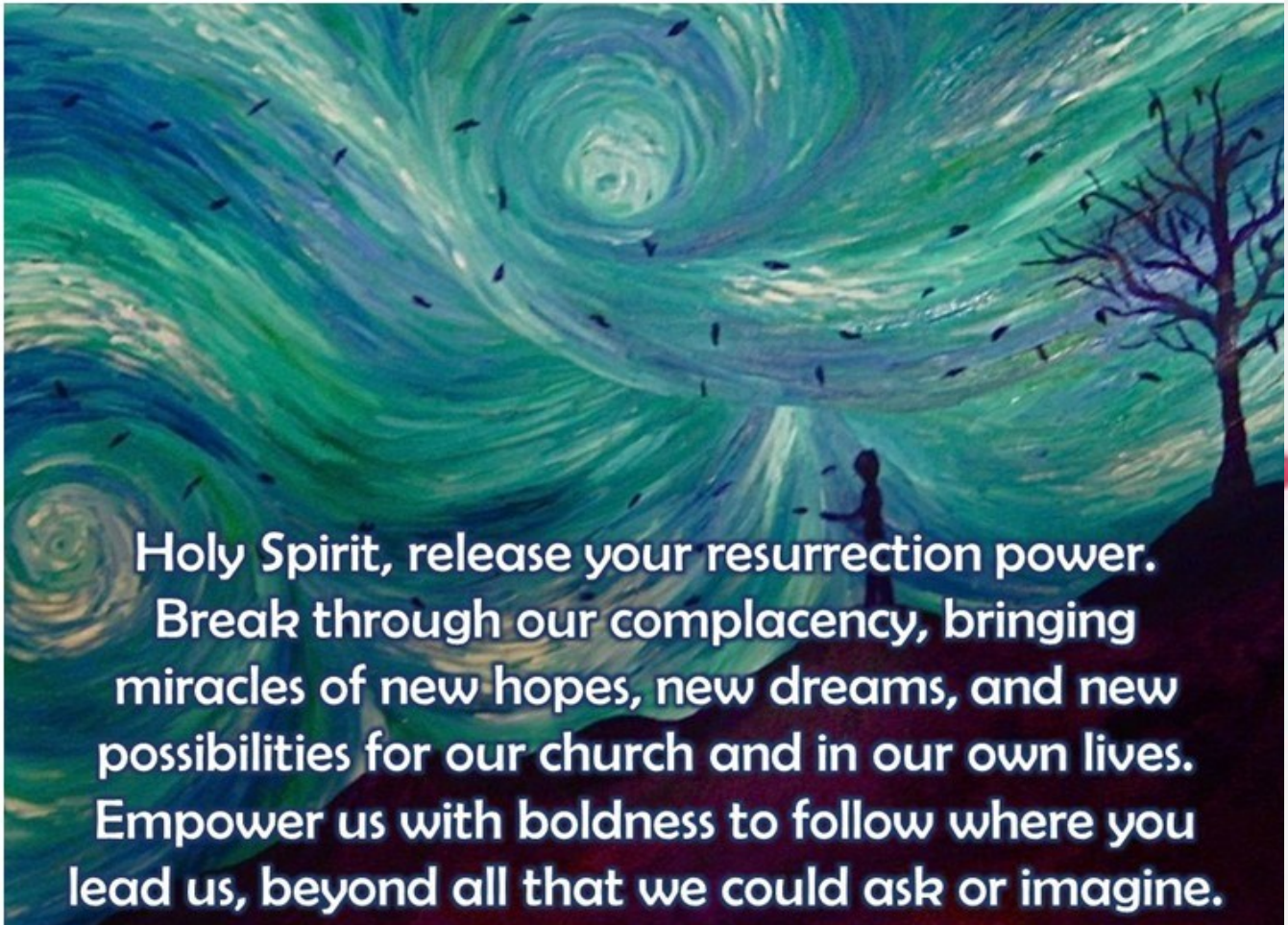
Donate "toppings"
(crackers, shredded cheese, sour cream, croutons, etc)

OR

Stay after worship and sample soup!

*Monetary donations will be accepted and donated to Caritas for those "that don't even have a bowl of soup to eat".

***Sign up is located on the counter in Fellowship Hall**
****Contact Tracy Maxwell (608)290-3597 with questions**



**Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power.
Break through our complacency, bringing
miracles of new hopes, new dreams, and new
possibilities for our church and in our own lives.
Empower us with boldness to follow where you
lead us, beyond all that we could ask or imagine.**



I am looking for a dog-lover to stay with our medium-sized dog in our home. Dharma is a rescue dog and has separation anxiety. Leaving her home alone or boarding is not an option. She is very friendly and we have a fenced-in back yard.

The times would be occasional on week days for about 2 or 4 hours with date and time known in advance. This is a paid opportunity and we are in the state line area.

If interested please call Kathy Allen at 815-978-8707.

People we are praying for



- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| † Ace | † Kyleigh |
| † Amber | † Linda |
| † Austin | † Linda |
| † Bob | † Marge |
| † Chuck | † Matt |
| † Daniel & Max | † Rose |
| † Doug | † Steve |
| † Jim | |
| † Kerri | |

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

-
- A soft-focus, pink-toned illustration of a white staircase with a red carpet, ascending through a sky filled with white and pink clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.
- † Darla Wenger
 - † Tammy Misiowiec
 - † Donald Graybill
 - † Alice Hamlett
 - † Pete Rumpel
 - † Don Welch
 - † Kenny Sands
 - † Pat Frederick
 - † Carol Schultz
 - † Michael Green

Circle Calendar

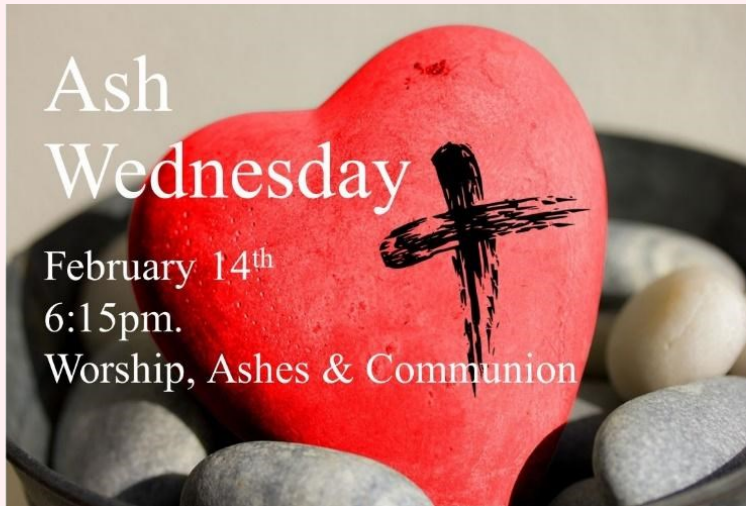
All women are invited to become a member of a Circle. We encourage you to come and enjoy fellowship with the ROLUMC women's community. Here are the meeting times, dates and contact persons. Please join us for a time of joy, learning and service.

Martha Circle will meet February 21 at 9:30
in Fellowship Hall weather permitting.

Mary Circle will meet February 21 at 11:30 am
for lunch at Marlene Erickson's home.



Ash Wednesday Service, February 14, 2023 at 6:15 PM



WATR Dinner at 5:30pm will be
Shepherd's Pie
(\$5.00 donation)

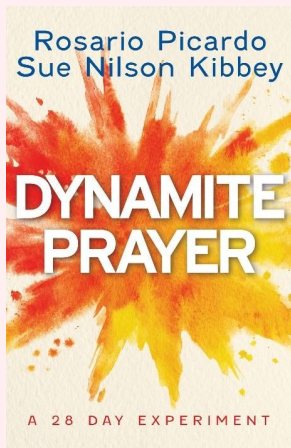
Worship service at 6:15pm.

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 time to remember 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.

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are the same day this year. This is another reminder that everything comes from the love of God.

Getting Ready For Our Dynamite Prayer Experience:



* Did you order your copy of the *Dynamite Prayer Book*? *Extras* were ordered, so let the office know ASAP if you need one. The cost is \$8 unless you would like one of our free sponsored books. Books will be available for pick-up Sundays, Feb 11th and 18th, before and after worship.

* People of all ages are needed to read and video record our daily readings. Let Pastor Brenda know if you would love to do this.

* What is a "Prayer-Hold?" Each day during our Dynamite Prayer Experience we will have a very short prayer called a Prayer-Hold.

You are encouraged to pray this several-word prayer multiple times that day. Perhaps set a timer so that you remember to pray it every hour!

* What is *dunamis*? *Dunamis* (pronounced *doo' na miss*) is the Greek word for the power of God. It is the power of Jesus' miracles and the power of Jesus' resurrection. It is the power of the Holy Spirit that we will be praying for during our Dynamite Prayer Experience.



**Adult Mission Trip to
Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Chatham, Illinois
April 3 - 5, 2024**

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 Wednesday, April 3, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thursday and Friday, and return to Beloit on Friday evening, Apr. 5.

If you stay in the dormitory, the cost of the trip is \$160 plus the cost of one lunch and three dinners at area restaurants. If you choose to stay at the motel, the cost of the trip is \$75 plus the cost your room at the Comfort Inn and the cost of the previous meals. The Comfort Inn room will be 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 February 1, 2024*

Balance due by March 31, 2004*

If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com).

If you would like to sign up for the trip, fill out the slip below, include the non-refundable \$50 deposit, and mail it to Diane Gemignani, 1005 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit, WI 53511.

The deadline to sign up is Feb. 1, 2024. – 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 April 3 - 5, 2024. (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.

Adult Mission Trip

Consider joining us on the Adult Mission Trip! The work we do is valued, but it is not back-breaking. We are given choices as to the jobs available. If you need to sit more or take extra bathroom breaks, you are welcome to. Dress comfortably, but be aware that you might choose a job that involves varnishing or working in the wood shop. We take a group break in the morning and in the afternoon, and we have an hour break for lunch.

Our dorm is a short walk from where we volunteer. It has a large community room with lots of comfy seating. They have a complete kitchen with a microwave, pots and pans, a refrigerator, oven, and coffee maker. There is a men's and a ladies' bathroom with approximately 3 stalls, 3 sinks, and 3 showers each. The bedrooms are simple with two sets of bunk beds, shelves, and mattresses. I don't assign anyone to the upper bunks, but you are welcome to sleep there if you want! We bring our own bedding and towels. There is also a Comfort Inn about 5 miles away that some of our volunteers stay at.

The cost of the trip includes supplies to make your breakfast or lunch at the dorm. For dinner, we eat out as a group and individually pay for our own meal. Typically, we go to a Cracker Barrel and the Chatham Café.

So far, the people attending are:

Darlene Breden
Ellen Butchart
Bruce Cawkins
Lora Cawkins

Doris Davis-Gaustad
Diane Gemignani
Margaret Hansen
Sheryl Horvath

Joanne Johnson
Sarah Parsons

In the past, some of us have invited a spouse, a family member or a friend to come along.

The deadline for us to commit to the number of rooms we need has passed.

You can still sign up, but we will have to check to see if there is a room available.

So if you are interested in coming with us this year, please contact

Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com)

and she will gladly find out if space is available.

We always welcome new people!





Office Angels

Are you interested in joining the "Office Angels"?
This new team will help in the office occasionally with folding, stuffing,
stamping, and sealing envelopes.

Sound like your area of expertise?

Please contact Kelly Lutzow to get added to the list!

She will contact you with any upcoming projects that she may need a
helping hand with! Thank you in advance!

Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com

608.362.8866

Firm

Focus



Core Strength & Balance

Friendly

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:00 am

A low-impact exercise class has begun in our Fellowship Hall. Focus is on improving balance through core strengthening. Class is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00. Individuals dress in comfortable clothing, bring their own weights, and water.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND

† Thanks to everyone who turned in their pledge cards. We have received 65 cards with pledges for \$247,320 for the General Operating Fund and Apportionments. It is not too late to return your pledge card.

† Offering Envelopes are available in the sign-up area of the Fellowship Hall. We did not purchase new ones for this year because we had a lot left over from previous years. The monthly ones have all been taken. If you wanted monthly ones and didn't get them, please take weekly ones and simply use the ones you need. We will order new envelopes next year.

† 2023 Contribution Statements were mailed mid-January. If you did not receive one, or if it does not match your records, please contact Kelly in the office.



We are going to the movies! The Saturday night folks, and the group that has been watching together on Sundays the first three seasons of *The Chosen*, would like to invite you to join them to watch the first three episodes of season four! We'll recline in heated seats at Classic Cinemas here in Beloit. Join us Thursday, February 8th at 7:00pm. Reserve your own tickets or ask Bob Parssinen to get some for you. Watch the announcements to learn when we will go to the theater to watch episodes 4-6 and 7&8.

The Chosen is a multi-season television show that tells the stories of Jesus and his disciples. "Back-stories" were made up, as were other details, making this a highly relatable, tremendously powerful show. Seasons 1-3 are available to watch for free online and on various television channels. Season 4 will be available to watch for free when its theater run concludes.

Missions

LOOSE COINS

Near the end of each year the Mission Committee meets to review our Loose Coins calendar for the coming year. Sometimes we add or drop an organization to meet what we see as the greatest needs or the current mission interests of our congregation.

Some changes we made for 2024 include adding a second month for Caritas (its needs have grown and our congregation really supports it!), and reducing Northcott Neighborhood House to a shared month so that we could add a new recipient that is very close to our congregation's heart

(Drum roll) Loose coins for February go to **Vacation Bible School!!**

VBS typically brings about 30 children (and some of their parents) to our church in August for a week of learning about Jesus, crafts, games, music, food, and fun. Some of the children are regular or occasional attendees, but some are friends and neighbors who may not have a church home and for whom VBS can open the door to experiencing God's love. VBS is one of the most important outreach programs of the church.

Karen Parsinnen and her hardworking planning team, plus many other volunteers, spend countless hours organizing, decorating, and preparing in order to provide the creative experience of Vacation Bible School. Our Loose Coins offering will help support the costs of curriculum, decorating and costume materials, craft items, and meals and snacks.

Please be generous with your Loose Coins contributions. Drop your change in the offering plate each week, and if you can, include a check or bills marked for Loose Coins. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart



WATR

Wednesdays at the River

- † **Tutoring** is up and running! It is from **4:00-5:30pm**. If you would love to be considered to impact a student as a tutor, contact Karen Parssinen.
- † **Dinner** is served every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. A donation of \$5 is encouraged but not necessary.
- † The **Adult Bible Study** continues at 6:15 pm.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 am via Zoom. We will be studying the book *Dynamite Prayer*.

Contact Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:15 pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall. We are doing an old-fashioned read and discuss model comparing John with the other three gospels.

Contact Pastor Brenda if you would like to participate.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Saturday Morning Bible study meets on Zoom at 7:30 am. Bob Parssinen leads the group using videos from *The Bible Project*.

Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.



Tutoring

Make a difference in children's lives on Wednesdays after school!



I would LOVE to be a tutor!



I would LOVE to provide snacks!



I would LOVE to teach a life lesson!

Let Karen Parssinen know today!!

Tutoring is a wonderful way that you can make an impact on children's lives. Sign up to be a tutor today!

WATR

Wednesdays at the River Dinner Menu

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| February 7 | Tater Tot Casserole |
| February 14 | Shepherds Pie |
| February 21 | Pulled Pork Sandwiches |
| February 28 | Goulash |

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

LOVE

CANDY

HUG

CRUSH

SWEETS

FLOWERS

FRIENDS

GIFT

CUPID

POEM

ARROW

CARDS

HEART

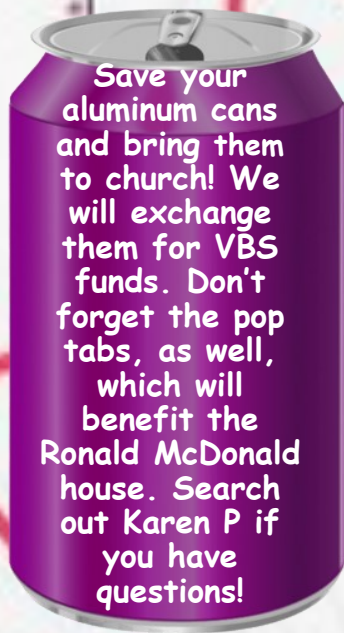
PINK

CHOCOLATE

VALENTINE

KISSES

ROSE



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group



February 28 at 1:00 in the Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

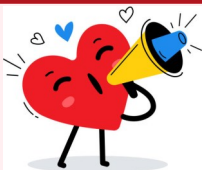


Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary

Would you like to provide flowers for worship?

You may bring in flowers for no reason, or there can be a sentence in the bulletin that states the special occasion for which the flowers are being provided.

Look for the flower sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Please remember to fill out your Connect Cards with your most current information 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.

Calendar

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| February 6 | 6:00 PM | Youth Ministry Meeting |
| February 14 | 6:15 PM | Ash Wednesday Service |
| February 21 | 9:30 AM | Martha Circle (FH Weather Permitting) |
| February 21 | 1:00 PM | Mary Circle (Marlene Erickson's home) |
| February 26 | 5:30 PM | Trustees Meeting |
| February 27 | 11:00 AM | Missions Meeting |
| February 27 | 6:30 PM | Finance Meeting |
| February 28 | 1:00 PM | Knitting With A Mission |
| February 29 | 11:00 AM | Memorials Meeting |
| March 5 | 6:00 PM | Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom) |

Issue deadline:

February 26

The next newsletter
will be available on

March 3

Sunday

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

Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
3:00 pm Tutoring
(1:30 1st & 3rd Wed)
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

Thursday

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

Saturday

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 2

Susan Kiser

February 5

Stephen Buckler

February 6

Bruce Cawkins

February 7

Raven Strother

February 8

Ann Hegge

February 9

Dave Buckler

Patti Novi

February 11

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

Candy Jacobson

Charles Weiser

February 22

Katie Parsons

February 23

Lonna Fields

Clay Ward

February 26

Stephanie Klett

Linda Lyman

February 27

Heather Buckler

Doris Davis-Gaustad

February 28

Kelly Lutzow

February 29

Mary Van Meter

March 1

Dawn Pozzani

Evan Peters

March 2

Stephanie Longman

March 7

Bill Watson

March 8

Christopher Garetson

March 12

Meaghan Martin

March 13

Hayley Rosenthal

Lois Ulvin

Lynn Caple

Kathy Weiser

Robert Novy

Diana Merwin

March 16

Susie Haas

March 17

June Divan

Lynn Fosler

Keith Putney

March 18

Frank Ward

March 19

Debora Kelly

March 20

James Churchill

Jeanette Waite

March 23

Jean Crawford

Kaitlyn Peters

March 25

David Haas

Derek Bergh

March 29

Carolyn Lynch

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

March 23

Tyler & Shania Crandall

March 25

Jerry & Sarah Parsons

Jesus says you are



**PURR-FECTLY
LOVED!**



Jesus thinks you are

A BLAST!

Jesus wants to



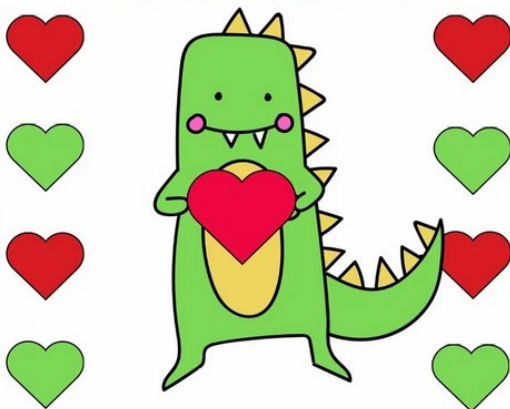
BEE YOURS!



Jesus is your

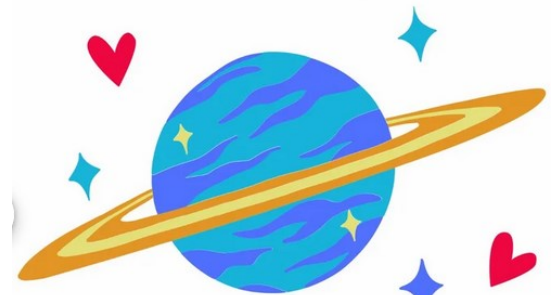
#1 FAN!

Jesus thinks you are



DINO-MITE!

Jesus thinks you are



**OUT OF THIS
WORLD!**