

# *The Current of The River of Life*

## **NOTICE:**

ROL Church is closed until further notice  
due to the public health emergency.

All services, meetings, and events are cancelled.

Daily Devotionals and a shortened simplified Sunday  
Worship Service can be found at:  
[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)

*“We do not know when the dangers will pass. What  
we do know is that we have God, we have each  
other, and we have a faith that will keep  
us strong through even the greatest challenges.”  
-Bishop Jung, Wisconsin Conference, UMC*



## *The River of Life United Methodist Church*

With Campuses in Beloit and Clinton, WI  
2375 Prairie Avenue, Beloit WI 53511  
608-362-8866  
Fax: 608-362-0554  
[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)

March 15, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of The River Of Life UMC,

Yesterday I met with several of our church leaders to discuss and plan our response to the health crisis due to COVID-19. I am writing to share those plans now.

### **IN-PERSON SERVICES TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Evers declared a public health emergency for the state of Wisconsin, encouraging leaders to cancel large gatherings. In conversation with church leaders, The River of Life UMC will cease worshipping in-person for the rest of March at both our Beloit and Clinton campuses. We will also suspend our Saturday Evening Service and Wednesday evening programming. We hope we will be able to begin gathering again on April 5, Palm Sunday.

There are many reasons for this difficult decision. It was not made in haste or without a lot of prayer, weighing options and seeking information. First, we have a social responsibility to be part of the solution to the situation. Slowing the spread of the virus is as important as stopping it. We do that by not gathering in groups through which the virus is spread. I might add, under the current guidelines during this emergency if someone in a church is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is mandatory that everyone who was in the building at that time will also be quarantined for two weeks.

### **CHURCH SERVICE INFORMATION:**

So how will we "do" church during these weeks?

On the Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, Pastor Carlson and the Tech Team will work to livestream a shortened simplified worship service. There will be a call to worship, prayers, a message and a few recorded songs. It is our hope that you will join us online to participate by listening, praying and singing. I will also be posting a daily devotional on the website. You can find them on our website at [www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com). Go to the website, click on services. There you will be able to pick the service.

For anyone without internet access, a printed copy of the message will be sent via regular mail or email so that you might read it at home. But you will have to request it by calling the church office at 608-362-8866.

(con't on next page)

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

We are not quarantining - only practicing social distancing to ensure everyone's health and safety. Social distancing does not mean isolation. If you know someone who does not have access to email/internet, please reach out and be church together. Pastoral care visits and home communion may be suspended until further notice. Because Hospitals and Nursing Homes are on Lock Down Pastor Carlson and others will check in via phone. In the case of extreme emergency or death, Pastor Carlson will make visits when possible.

Before you travel for any community meeting, we suggest that you contact the location. Several community support groups have suspended gathering in the coming weeks.

**BUILDING CLOSED INFORMATION:**

Please note that because of the corona virus, the church building will be closed to all use immediately after the worship service on Sunday March 15, 2020. On Tuesday March 17 it will be professionally cleaned and sanitized. The building will be closed with no access until further notice when we resume in person worship.

However, the church office will remain open during our normal office hours, Monday-Thursday, 10:00 - 3:00. We will be doing the recommended daily cleaning and sanitizing in the office.

Finally, though meetings and all group activities will be cancelled, our church and office will continue to operate and share ministry throughout the week. Keeping up with your financial giving makes that possible. We therefore encourage you to mail your offering to the church office. We want to make sure we can continue to support our staff, missions and building costs.

**PLEASE BE ASSURED:**

We are making the most careful informed decisions given the ongoing updates from public health officials and the Wisconsin Annual Conference. Please hold the community and our church in prayer as we navigate this unprecedented health crisis. If you have any questions, please check our website or contact the church office at 608-362-8866 or me directly at 608-487-2517.

In Christ, Rev David Carlson

# United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step with Jesus*

## **BELOIT CAMPUS**

2345 Prairie Avenue  
Beloit, WI  
608.362.8866

## **OFFICE**

2375 Prairie Avenue  
Beloit, WI  
608.362.8866  
Fax 608.362.0554

## **CLINTON CAMPUS**

402 Church Street  
Clinton, WI  
608.676.4646

## **LAY LEADERSHIP 2019**

**Chairperson** Shellie Olson

### **Lay Leaders**

Tom Alverson

### **Ad Council Chairperson**

Shellie Olson

### **Annual Conference Lay Members**

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

### **Board of Trustees Chairperson**

Lee Kuska

### **Decorating Committee Chairperson**

Tracy Maxwell

### **Finance Chairperson**

### **Homeless & Human Trafficking Chairperson**

Beverly Osborne

### **Hospitality Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

### **Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

Marietta Axmear

### **Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons**

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

### **Nominations Chairperson**

Pastor Dave Carlson

### **Nurture and Discipleship Chairperson**

Karen Parssinen

### **Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairpersons**

Julie Hartje & Ann Williams

### **Stewardship Team Chairperson**

Tom Alverson

### **Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

### **United Methodist Women Chairperson**

Marlene Erickson

## **CLERGY STAFF**

David Carlson, Pastor 608.362.8866

dcarlson@rolumcwi.com

Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

608.362.8866

Christina Bergh Office Manager

cbergh@rolumcwi.com

Tom Alverson Worship Leader

talverson@rolumcwi.com

Bonnie Moore Receptionist

bmoore@rolumcwi.com

## **MUSIC STAFF**

Lois Ulvin Director of Music

Judith Paddock Organist

Marge Johnson Pianist

Daily Devotionals and a shortened simplified Sunday Worship Service can be found at:  
[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)



Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Phyllis Sandahl  
Scott Weiser's Sister, Katherine  
Ada Watson

I want to thank everybody who sent  
birthday cards on my 89th  
valentine's birthday.

Bless you all!  
Annette Henz

*Thank You*

People we have prayed for....

Mary Rogers, Crystal Byerley, Lynn  
Kreisman, Doug Mitchell, Tony  
Bachim, Patty Lawrence, Peg Lund

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**April 3**

Bob Parssinen

**April 5**

Carol Allen  
Tom Alverson

**April 6**

Carol Scheets

**April 7**

Kim Kuska

**April 9**

Frankie Ward

**April 10**

Helen Mason  
Sarah Parsons

**April 11**

Sarah Buckler

**April 12**

Sheryl Horvath

**April 14**

Betty Jo Bussie  
JoAnne Edge

**April 15**

Donna Hammett

**April 16**

Ray Hartje

**April 19**

John Butchart  
David Clark  
Marvin Miller

**April 21**

Eva Andrews  
Sandy Hays  
Barbara Kuska  
Katherine Sibert

**April 23**

Joan Michels  
Krysta Smith

**April 24**

Kelly Clark

**April 25**

Judith Paddock  
Phil Story

**April 26**

Hannah Buckler

**April 30**

Joanne Johnson

He is  
**RISEN!**

**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

**April 11**

Dale & Diane Gemignani

**April 20**

Steve & Karen Knutsen

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



I would like to personally thank you for your consistent generosity throughout the year and helping us do the powerful ministry we have been called to at The River of Life United Methodist Church. Through your generosity we were able to touch many lives throughout the year in doing ministry together. Just as an example of one of our own missions that we do right here in our own communities is the Bags of Hope / Blankets of Warmth. This Mission alone, 1100 people were helped. It was heart wrenching to watch a little girl look up with bright eyes with tears forming knowing that she had her very own blanket. A blanket she could have and call her own, along with receiving a personal gift bag with items just for her. There are also other missions that have been accomplished. The great works through the Adult Mission trip; 30 Hour Famine that the Youth partake in. So many more, the list can go on and on. Thank You to each and everyone of you in the congregation that makes this happen through your generosity.

The Stewardship 2020 Pledge campaign was a good year. We had a lot going on in 2019. The Building Campaign, and the remodeling of the Beloit Campus. The building is now completed and many, many thanks goes to everyone that made this happen.

To be truthful, I was concerned about running the 2020 Stewardship Campaign. We had discussions about the campaign in our Stewardship Committee meetings. So much had happened in the year of 2019. We prayed about the campaign, and we received a message from God saying that it'll be okay. And okay it was. We have raised approximately 86.96% of the overall projection amount of \$300,000.00. Total pledged was \$260,867.80. Total amount pledged for the Operating Expenses came to \$238,986.80. (Note: These numbers do not reflect pledge cards that may have come in after this report has been completed.) I've been trained by a wise man, Pastor David Carlson. I used to get all concerned and fuss over that we didn't make campaign amount. To use his words, "the seed has been planted and now wait for the harvest." We have done well. There are other monies that come in during the year that aren't a part of the campaign year. We do meet our pledged campaign years on a positive balanced budget. Thanks to each and everyone of you for your generosity.

Blessings,

Tom Alverson and Stewardship Team

**Midwest Mission**



**Distribution Center**

**Adult Mission Trip to  
Midwest Mission Distribution Center  
Chatham, Illinois  
May 27 – 29, 2020**

Join our team as we serve at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center! We will leave Beloit the morning of Wednesday, May 27, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thursday and Friday, and return to Beloit on Friday evening, May 29. You have a choice of staying on site at the Midwest Mission dormitory or staying at a nearby motel.

If you are staying in the dorm, the cost of the trip is \$120. If you are staying at the Baymont Inn, the cost is \$75 plus the cost of your room at the motel. You will also be purchasing 1 lunch and 3 dinners at area restaurants. The Baymont Inn (217-529-6655) has a block of rooms under the name of "Midwest Mission May" for \$65.99 per room per night. You are welcome to arrange to share a room with another person on the trip.

Payment Schedule is:

**\$20 deposit and \$50 payment\* due when you sign up**

(after March 27, I will call them to make sure they can accommodate another person. It shouldn't be a problem.)

**the balance\* due Sun. May 17**

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or [dianegem23@gmail.com](mailto:dianegem23@gmail.com)). If you would like to sign up for the trip, please fill out the slip below and mail it to Diane Gemignani, 1005 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit, WI 53511.

**The deadline to ensure a spot on the trip is March 27, 2020.**

**(After March 27, I will just call them to make sure we can add another person)**

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I am interested in joining the Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on May 27 – 29, 2020. (I understand the \$20 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
email

\_\_\_\_\_  
address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone

# Mission News and Ministry Opportunities

## LOOSE



COINS

We collected \$247.43 for  
Northcott Bags of Hope last month

**THANK YOU!**

*March Loose Coins go to Meals On Wheels*

# SPRING



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




Not accepting donations at this  
time, due to possible  
contamination.  
**Monetary donations are  
encouraged.**





Would you like to make a difference in people's lives around our community and around the world? Mission Committee has lots of opportunities and is looking for more members. We are an active committee made up of Ellen Butchart, Robin Vieth-Austin, Clara Welch, Delores Hahn, Joanne Johnson, Margaret Hansen, and Diane Gemignani. We are willing to adjust our meeting time to accommodate new members. Please let Ellen (608-365-9625) or Diane (608-290-5274) know if you are interested! Many hands make light work!

A photograph of a desktop computer system including a monitor, a tower PC case, a keyboard, and a mouse. The monitor screen displays the following text:

Tune into the website: [www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com) for livestreaming, devotions and updates on what is happening around the church life. Also check out the Facebook pages:

- ⇒ The River of Life United Methodist Church
- ⇒ The River of Life United Methodist Church, Clinton Campus

- ⇒ The River of Life United Methodist Church
- ⇒ The River of Life United Methodist Church, Clinton Campus

## UMW CHANNELS OF GIVING

Through their generosity UMW members empower  
And improve the lives of women, youth and children  
in the U.S. and around the world.

About 70% of Mission Giving funds from members go to programs  
and projects supporting women, children and youth. Around 20-30%  
stays with the local, district and conference organizations of UMW  
for local missions. Only 9% covers administrative costs.

### 1. PLEDGE TO MISSION

An individual member's Pledge to Mission is the amount a woman  
gives to her local unit to help fulfill the Purpose of UMW.

The conference UMW pledges a specific amount to UMW's national  
office for mission with women, children and youth and retains a  
designated percent to be used for district and conference administra-  
tion and membership development expenses.

### 2. WORLD THANK OFFERING

Spontaneous gifts can be given out of gratitude for God's abundance  
and in celebrating the joys of life.

The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond  
to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude.  
The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried  
out through UMW's national office in the U.S. and around the world.

### 3. SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION PINS AND CERTIFICATES

These pins offer a meaningful way to honor members who have  
dedicated so much time and effort to service. Gift amounts range  
from \$40 to \$2,000. Each year we honor a person or persons at  
UMW Sunday services.

### 4. GIFT TO MISSION

A Gift to Mission is a gift to honor someone. Cards include Thank  
You, for a Baby, in the Service of Christ, a Special Day, Thinking of  
You, Happy Birthday and assorted Christmas cards.

### 5. GIFT IN MEMORY

A Gift in Memory can be for a member, a friend or anyone, in any  
amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards are available free, and  
may be sent to the family of the deceased.

-Marlene Erickson



Circles will meet again  
when the public  
emergency has ended.



## UMW GENERAL CONFERENCE LEGISLATION

UMW will bring four new petitions to General Conference in May this year in Minneapolis. Our hope is that they will be approved. The new petitions call on the church to prioritize women, children and youth. The four pieces of legislation to be included in the church's *Book of Resolutions*, is on observing Children's Sabbath, protecting the girl child, protecting voting rights and the status of women and realizing full human rights.

Children's Sabbath identifies the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October as the UMC U.S. observance of Children's Sabbath and adds it to the program calendar of the church. It encourage worshippers across the country to focus prayers, pro-grams, services and action on learning about problems facing children and on sacred teachings calling us to love and protect children. The petition does not seek for the observance to be one of the church's Special Sundays, so no offering collection is involved, just a call for the church to designate time to prioritize children.

The Girl Child focuses on the wellbeing of girls and the challenges preventing girls from living lives free of gender-based subjugation. This petition calls on the church to engage in advocacy to rectify conditions that limit girls from reaching their fullest potential in safe and healthy environments.

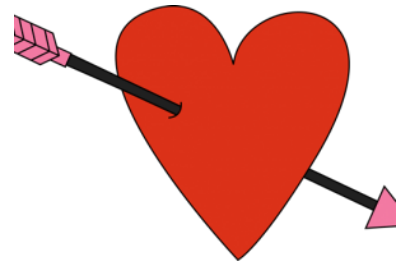
Voting Rights Protection - In 2020 the U.S. celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the right to vote. As we honor the work of the women's suffrage movement we also recognize and lament that women of color in many cases did not reap benefits from passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. Despite the active work of women of color for women's suffrage, many were left without the right to vote for many more years. Voting Rights Protections in the U.S. calls attention to the disproportionate impact of voter suppression and recruits the church into ensuring all communities have access to full and equitable rights in the voting polls.

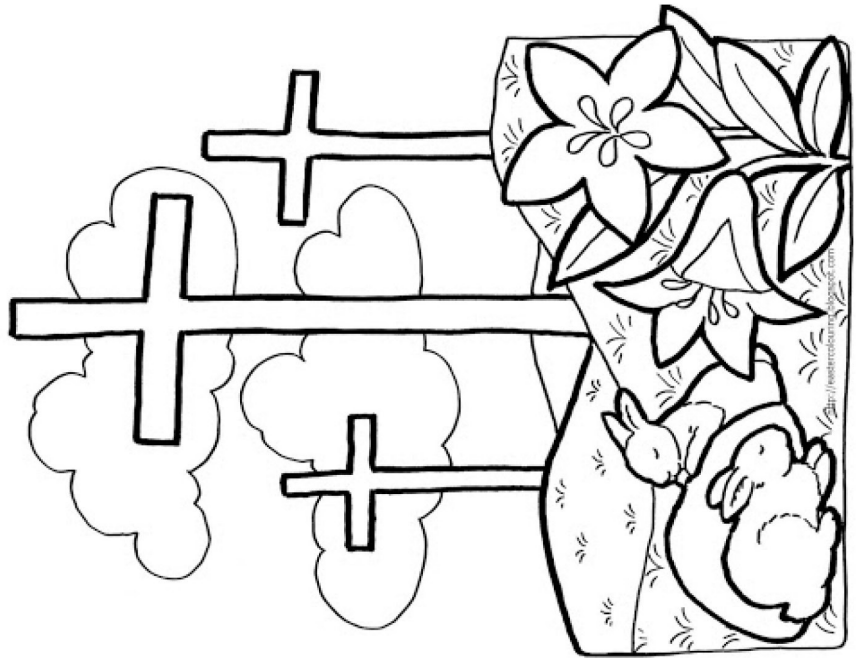
The Status of Women calls on the church to address rights of women and work toward women's equity globally in areas such as education, health, violence against women, migration, climate justice and media - work that moves us all toward Beloved Community.

What can we do? PRAY, CELEBRATE LEARN PROMOTE AND GIVE



# Photos from Dorcas Circle, making Valentines





## EASTER RESURRECTION ROLLS

from Yummy Healthy Easy site

### Prep Time

5 min.  
Serves 8

### Cook Time

10 min.

### Total Time

15 min.

### Ingredients

1 Tube of Pillsbury Crescent Rolls	8 large marshmallows
1 Small Bowl of Water	1 Small bowl of Cinnamon & Sugar mixed

### Instructions:

1. First, gather the everyone together. Get your ingredients out and preheat the oven. Read John 19 in the New Testament while the oven is pre-heating.
2. Preheat over to 375°. Spray a cookie sheet with cooling spray or line with parchment paper.
3. Unroll the crescent rolls, separating each section. Explain that this is like the cloth they wrapped Jesus in.
4. Give everyone a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus. It's white and pure because He was without sin.
5. Roll the marshmallow in a small bowl of water. This symbolizes the embalming oils.
6. Now, roll the marshmallow in the cinnamon & sugar mixture. This is like the spices used to prepare his body for burial.
7. Next up, wrap the marshmallow in the crescent roll dough, making sure to pinch the dough together securely on the sides. Don't worry about what they look like because they'll taste great no matter what! This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body.
8. Repeat with each marshmallow and place the rolls in the oven (symbolizing the tomb) and bake for the amount of time specified on the package – 8 to 10 minutes.
9. While the rolls are baking, read John 20:1-18.
10. When the cook time is up, open the tomb and remove the rolls. When they're cool enough to handle, open one and discover what happened to the marshmallow. It's disappeared! This signifies how Jesus has been resurrected.





# 2020

## April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			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		

April Issue deadline:

April 10

The next issue of the  
Current will be available

April 19

Reminder....

All services, meetings and events are cancelled at this time.

FACEBOOK and our website will be updated when we return  
to our regular schedule.

go to: [www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Sunday 9:30 am  
simplified service  
live-stream with Pastor Dave

