

The Current of The River of Life



Holy Week and Easter Schedule on page 8

March 14, 2021

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 18 Issue 14

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

BELOIT CAMPUS

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Clinton, WI
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LAY LEADERSHIP 2021

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Annual Conference Lay Members

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Kathy Rodgers

Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

Finance Chairperson

Jesse Calkins

Homeless & Human Trafficking Chairperson

Hospitality Chairperson

Diane Gemignani

Memorials and Wills Chairperson

Marietta Axmear

Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Covid Task Force Chairperson

Pastor Brenda Whitford

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

CLERGY STAFF

Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021

pastorbrenda@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

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MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music

Judith Paddock Organist

Marge Johnson Pianist



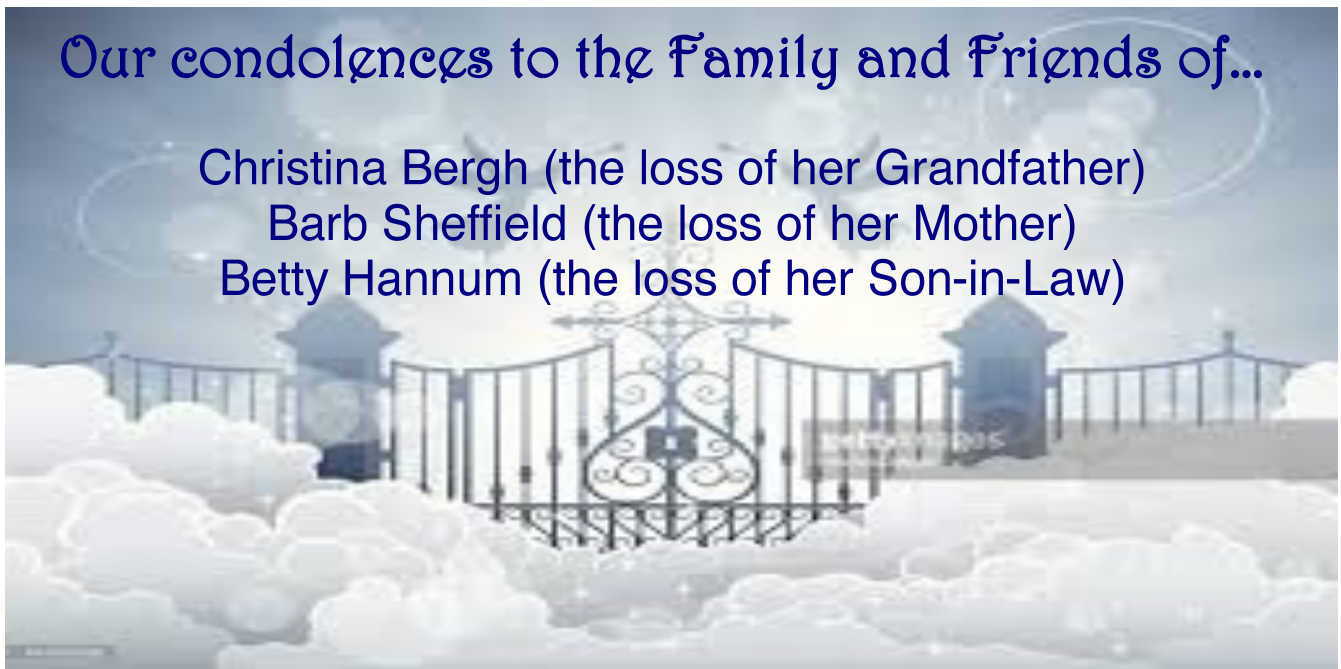
Seventeen people without internet currently have the bulletin and sermon mailed to them each week. Call the church office if you would like them mailed to you as well!

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Christina Bergh (the loss of her Grandfather)

Barb Sheffield (the loss of her Mother)

Betty Hannum (the loss of her Son-in-Law)



People we have prayed for....



Jess Calkins
Carol Scheets
Tim & Jean Crawford
Steve Rogers
Sarah Parsons
Gary Meier

UMW Mary Circle will meet at 1:00 pm
in Fellowship Hall on March 17th.
The Program will be
“Prayer and Self-Denial”

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care visits can resume! Pastor Brenda qualified under category 1a of the Covid vaccine distribution as a Spiritual Care Provider. She has completed her vaccination series and is available to resume in-person visits. If you or someone you love have received both vaccine doses and would like a home or facility visit, please let the office know so it can be scheduled.



Pastor's Desk



I love spring flowers! I am a fan of yellow daffodils and red tulips, but at my previous house I also had crocuses, pink and purple tulips and peonies as well. Each year I get excited when the shoots begin to come up and I always look forward to the first blooms.

I noticed when we bought our Beloit home that there were no spring flowers. I intended to plant some last fall, but then it occurred to me around Thanksgiving time that I didn't do it, and by then it was too late.

My thought after my disappointment was that is how my year has gone: one disappointment after the next. Covid itself has caused so many disappointments – no in-person worship, no inside gathering with church family at all, no grandchildren hugs, no large family gatherings, no restaurants or movies or so many other things. And now, I don't have spring flowers. Disappointing!

And yet, isn't that what Easter is all about? Easter is about new life coming out of disappointment.

I can't imagine the degree of disappointment the disciples felt. They left everything to follow Jesus and now he was dead. For many of us, our Covid year doesn't even begin to compare with what the disciples were going through on Good Friday, watching the person who they thought was the Messiah die. But Good Friday wasn't the end. The caterpillar becomes a butterfly; the egg becomes a chicken; the bulb becomes a flower; Jesus, who was dead is now risen! We will rise from the disappointments of Covid, into new life! And it will be sooner than later.

I'm disappointed that we couldn't have another Easter Cantata, and that I can't spend Easter morning with you in church. We will pray for good weather, and then Drive-In Worship at both campuses: Sunrise at Clinton and 9:30am in Beloit. It will warm up soon and we will again be able to meet outside. And the day will come soon when we can worship inside again.

That first Easter it took some time for the resurrection from disappointment to become realized. I pray for resurrection for all of us. Hold on. It is coming!

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



You can watch worship online in two ways:

- * On our church website
- * Through Facebook

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

A Thank-You Note From Nan

I remember walking by myself over to the Methodist Church in my home town for the very first time. I cannot say why I went..... I just know I went. It was the beginning of my spiritual journey and my life surrounded by Christian people who supported me through every occasion (good or bad) in my life. I had a church family everywhere I have lived, Iowa, California, Washington state, Rockford, and Beloit. Now I know why God guided those journey steps and provided "church families".

Many of you know my mom had been struggling with her health and being able to stay in her home for the past few years. Eventually, right as the true onset of COVID 19 hit, she moved to a nursing home. I don't have to describe the experience and what happened over this past year. She was also recently diagnosed with cancer. When she passed away three weeks ago, I felt your support, your prayers, and your spiritual guidance each day during our travels and during our time of good-byes. Thank you to all of you, for being a solid church family, even during unchartered times. Thank you for reaching out to me and for all of your cards and expressions of sympathy! May God keep you healthy and safe until we can "hug" again!

Nan Bolar
(February 11, 2021)

Judith Paddock is retiring as Organist effective immediately. Her skill and passion on the organ and piano have impacted us all. She will still play for special things, but we will all gratefully miss her weekly playing.

Blessings to you, Judy!!

**Judith L. Paddock
1700 So River Road—Apt 344
Janesville, WI 53546**

February 28, 2021

Dear friends,

When Sam and I moved to Beloit in the summer of 1961 we were blessed with the birth of our first son within one month. We became acquainted with Beloit Clinic and joined the First Methodist Church, later to become the First United Methodist Church when the denomination reorganized in 1968. Sam taught the adult Sunday School Class and served on Official Board committees, and I gradually began playing for various services.

Soon I was subbing for the Sunday morning services and played the piano with Eileen Currier at the organ for the cantatas twice each year. We were fortunate to have a Johannes two-manual electronic organ in the chapel, and a Ruffatti three-manual pipe organ and a Yamaha grand piano in the large sanctuary.

When Lois Ulvin joined us as the Chancel Choir director, she formed a chamber orchestra to accompany the choir for the outstanding cantatas that became a city-wide much anticipated staple of the Christmas and Easter seasons.

In 1986 the choir became a traveling troupe with performances that year in England followed with a Hawaiian and another England-Scotland tour in later years. I was privileged to accompany their concerts in several venues in England and Scotland, including Westminster Abbey in London and St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland.

But it was the Sunday morning services with the choir providing music that gave me so much joy. I love the musical terms rehearsal, allegro, key of E Major, etc. Accompanying our choir with Lois Ulvin directing is one of my greatest pleasures. Playing piano-organ duets and the occasional solo are in that class. It is hard to believe I won't be at the organ or the piano each Sunday morning, but sixty years is a long time even though those years have passed quickly. I must retire at this time although you will continue to see Sam and me at the ROLUMC. When we're able to be together once again I hope we can have an old-fashioned POT-LUCK.

I wish you the best in the future and please know that the church and its members remain high in my affection.



Mission News

March Loose Coins -- UMCOR

March Loose Coin offerings are going to **UMCOR**, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Equipped with communications technology, skilled personnel, and inventories of disaster supplies (packed by church volunteers), UMCOR is often first on the scene after a natural disaster. In addition, UMCOR is involved in global development work, addressing issues of health, sanitation, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security.

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

Looking Ahead....

April Loose Coins will go to Caritas and the Clinton Food Pantry.

Also in April and May, the Mission Committee will be collecting items for the Conference InGathering. The disaster response items our church will be collecting are the following:

- Adult tooth brushes (individually packaged)
- Bars of soap, 3-4 oz.
- Dish soap, 16-34 oz.
- Scrub brushes, with or without handles

These items, plus Loose Coins money received in May, will be delivered to the Annual Conference InGathering to be donated to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). Look for more details in the April Current.

-Ellen Butchart

If you know of anyone who can use a walker (free) please let me know.

Betty Hannum
608-462-3312

Arvilla Wentworth has moved, and would welcome cards:

Our House
820 17th Avenue
Menomonie WI 54751



River of Life United Methodist Church

2345 Prairie Avenue 402 Church Street
Beloit Clinton



March 28th - Palm Sunday Drive-In Worship Service!!

9:30am at the Beloit Campus.
We'll wave palm branches and sing Hosanna!

April 1st - Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Short devotional service with Holy Communion streaming at 7:00 pm

April 2nd - Good Friday

Beloit Ecumenical Worship Service streaming at 12:00pm
Clinton Ecumenical Worship Service streaming at 7:00pm



April 4th - Easter Sunrise Drive-In Worship!

6:30 am at the Clinton Campus.
Easter Breakfast at the Clinton Campus immediately following the Sunrise Service.
Free-will donations accepted. Breakfast will be delivered to your car.

April 4th - Easter Sunday Drive-In Worship!

9:30am at the Beloit Campus.

NOTE: If Palm Sunday and Easter Drive-In Services must be cancelled due to weather:
You will receive a Voice Shot phone call. Please let the office know if you have
never received one of these phone calls to make sure your phone number is on our list.
The Palm Sunday and Easter 9:30 am services will livestream.
Sunrise Service will air at 6:30 am.

Reopening Update:

The Reopening Team met February 9th to continue considering concerns related to opening the building for in-sanctuary worship and the meeting of small groups. They want you to be aware of the following decisions:

1. We set a target date of June 6th for our first in-sanctuary worship services. Our state-wide and county-wide Covid numbers have decreased dramatically, and immunization rates are progressing well. We need a little more time to make sure infection rates stay down, we give time for a much higher vaccination rate, and we have confirmation that the vaccines are effective on the variants. June 6th is a target date, not a set date, and will be subject to the numbers
2. Committees and small groups may now meet in the church, provided participants wear masks, stay distanced, and sanitize as they arrive and are leaving. Contact the church office to schedule your committee or group.
3. As we continue to anticipate returning to in-sanctuary worship, we will have more opportunities for drive-in and outdoor worship.
4. You will soon be receiving by mail a survey similar to the one sent out last June. We will be asking if you are vaccinated, if you feel safe returning to worship (we will be masked, distanced, etc.), and which service you would be attending. Please either mail the survey back, drop it off, or bring it to one of our drive-in Easter services.

Financial Corner

Month of:
February 2021

Current month :

Operating Income \$	11,422.50	Operating Expense \$	22,673.40
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Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$	79,395.85	Operating Expense \$	48,771.79
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Designated giving year to date:

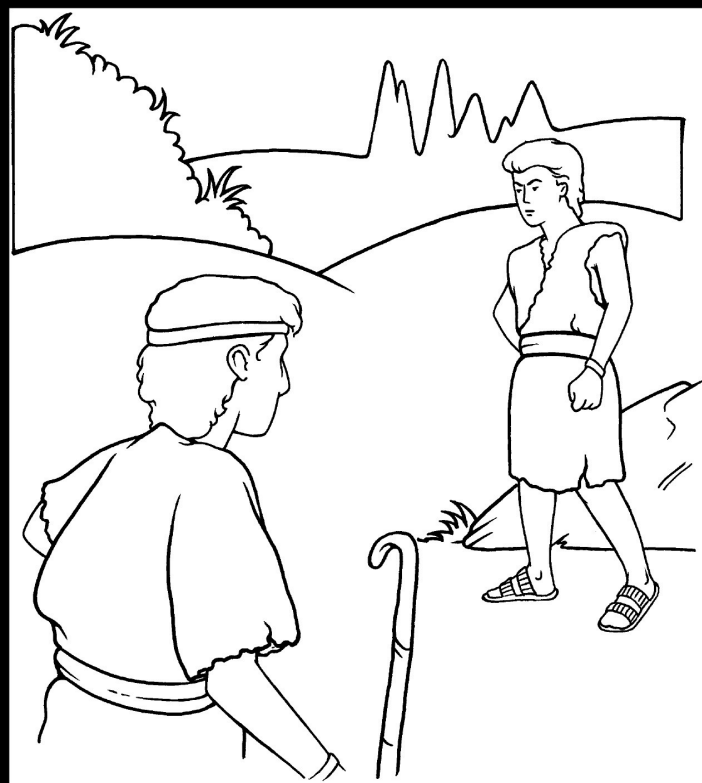
Apportionments: \$	1,321.00
Gods Fund Balance: \$	1,445.90
Bags of Hope Balance: \$	3,476.20
Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$	1,016.31

Thank you to those that donated to missions!!!

We have received:

Human Relations-	\$10.00
Caritas-	\$75.00
UMCOR-	\$175.00

**We are excited to announce that people
can now donate to the River of Life United
Methodist Church online!**



"Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him."
GENESIS 4:8

Let us Not be like Cain and Abel and Love our brothers and sisters!!

MEMORY VERSE:

"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." **GENESIS 4:7**

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- "It came to pass that _____ brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD." **GENESIS 4:3**
- "_____ also brought of the _____ of his flock and of their fat." **GENESIS 4:4**
- "And the LORD respected _____ and his offering." **GENESIS 4:4**
- "But He did not respect _____ and his offering." **GENESIS 4:5**
- "So the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you so _____?'" **GENESIS 4:6**

TRUE OR FALSE:

- "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him." **GENESIS 4:8**
TRUE OR FALSE
- The LORD said to Cain, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." **GENESIS 4:10**
TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

- "So now you are _____ from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand." **GENESIS 4:11**
- "And Cain said to the LORD, 'My punishment is _____ than I can bear!'" **GENESIS 4:13**
- "Then Cain went out from the _____ of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden." **GENESIS 4:16**

5. CAIN AND ABEL

(GENESIS 4:1-17)

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

ABEL
 ADAM
 ANGRY
 BROTHERS
 CAIN
 CURSED

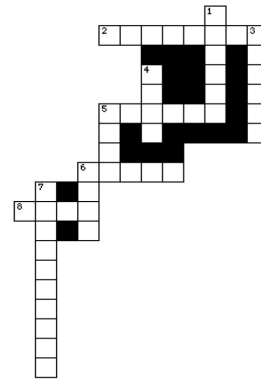
EVE
 FIELD
 FIRSTBORN
 FRUIT
 KEEPER OF SHEEP
 KILLED

LORD
 MARK
 OFFERING
 PUNISHMENT
 RESPECTED
 TILLER



5. CAIN AND ABEL

(GENESIS 4:1-17)



- ACROSS "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should _____ over it." **GENESIS 4:7**
- ACROSS "It came to pass that Cain brought an _____ of the fruit of the ground to the LORD." **GENESIS 4:3**
- DOWN "_____ also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat." **GENESIS 4:4**
- DOWN "And _____ was very angry, and his countenance fell." **GENESIS 4:5**
- ACROSS "So the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you so _____?'" **GENESIS 4:6**
- DOWN "Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose against Abel his brother and _____ him." **GENESIS 4:8**
- DOWN The LORD said to Cain, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the _____." **GENESIS 4:10**
- ACROSS "So now you are _____ from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand." **GENESIS 4:11**
- DOWN "And Cain said to the LORD, 'My _____ is greater than I can bear!'" **GENESIS 4:13**
- DOWN "Then Cain went out from the presence of the _____ and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden." **GENESIS 4:16**

LOOSE COINS:

Last month, we collected \$407.40
for Bags of Hope. Thanks!
MARCH Loose Coins
will go to UMCOR
APRIL Loose Coins will go to
Caritas/Canton Food Pantry

Special Offering:

MARCH: Umcor
APRIL: Native American Ministries



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



This month we are collecting:
Soup (with pull-tabs)
Baby Wipes

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

Sarah Parsons

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 30

Joanne Johnson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 5

Dan & Pastor Whitford

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.



Hello United Methodist Women!

Mission Focus: UMW support the Sara Alarcon College in Mexico.

Women Want Their Rights

That could easily be a trailer along the bottom of any current TV news report. However, it was headline news about 3000 years ago!

You see, way back in the time of Moses, there were five sisters named Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. These girls and their father, Zelophehad, had been wandering around in the wilderness with Moses and many others for about 40 years. Finally the day arrived when all these people could move into the land that the Lord God had promised them. Moses and the other leaders got the people together and started giving out parcels of land to the father of the families.

Oh, oh! Now there was a problem, because Zelophehad had died back in the wilderness and he had no sons to represent him and get some land for the family. "Wait a minute!!" said Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. "Our father did not join the group that had no faith in the Lord, he died in the wilderness for his own sins. Why should our father's name be removed because he had no sons? We should get the land."

Moses thought this over. "Hmmm," he said. "I'd better ask the Lord about this."

The Lord said, "The women are right in what they are saying. Give them the inheritance. Furthermore, in the future, if a man dies without a son, the daughters get it. If he has no daughters, his brothers get it. If he has no brothers....and so on. This will be a rule and a case law for the Israelites." (The complete story is in Numbers 26-27.)

For 150 years UMW have been championing the rights of women. Each year UMW observe a time of prayer asking God to help women become leaders who can in turn teach other women to become leaders and learn self-help skills. While UMW pray for these things, they also act by denying themselves of things they want and giving money to support the National Mission Institutions.

This year the money will support a program called Training for Transformation in The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. When women are trained for transformation these things happen:

- Improved education for women, their families and their communities

- Better care for children and the community

The necessary confidence and knowledge to face issues and skills that will help them stand up for justice.

Your prayers and offerings will do all that.

Offerings should be sent to Jacque Patch, Treasurer, ROLUMW.

Do it today! You will enjoy the happiness that follows praying and giving.

More information can be found in the special Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2021 lesson by Grace Musuka

She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference.

Pages 109-114, UMW Program Book 2020-2021.

Please note: The Prayer and Self Denial study is usually completed in February.

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



UMW Hopeful to Resume Fund Raising Events in 2021

August 18-19 is the tentative date for the **fall rummage sale**.

Start looking over the things that you can live without, but might be just what someone else needs. While things to sell are a given, help to set up, work at the sale, and take down are very important. Hopefully you will be able to help at this event.

Saturday, December 4 is the tentative date for the **Christmas Cookie Walk**. Start planning to bake your favorite items and perhaps looking over some new recipes. Who doesn't love to read recipes?

Opportunities for Giving

Day of Giving

March 23, 2021 has been designated as **Day of Giving**. The national office recently sent a post card containing the following information.

On Day of Giving - March 23, 2021 - Let us honor our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund to ensure UMW can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years.

Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received for day of Giving. Ways to Give:
Online at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

By phone: 800.278.7771

(8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Mon-Fri.)

By check to: United Methodist Women
Attn: Development, Legacy Endowment Fund
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor,
N.Y.N.Y. 10115

Write Day of Giving in the memo section.
TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING OUR LEGACY!



Good News for Circles!!!

You can now meet at the church if you desire.

Before you go — Call Bonnie and let her know the date and time for the meeting.

When you get there— You must wear a mask and socially distance.



Before you leave— Do the necessary housekeeping which includes:

*Wiping down the table and chairs used

*Wiping down commode and door handles if used



The necessary cleaning supplies are located on the kitchen counter in the Fellowship Hall.

The Black Church

This PBS series traces the 400 year history of the Black Church in the United States. The Methodist Church is an important factor in the black church. This is an extremely informative series to view in light of today's serious racial problems in the United States.

This program is available on demand through the free PBS APP. The APP works on the following platforms: iOS, Android, ROKU, Samsung Smart TV, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV and Chromecast

Africa's Great Civilizations

This is another PBS series which includes and describes in detail the African slave trade. It is time well spent to view this series, as there is more to the slave trade than most folk know.

This program is also available on the free PBS APP, however you must also have PBS Passport to view this particular series. Passport is available to donors to PBS.

Calendar

April 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	

Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship Service
Online & Facebook

Sunday School

Available anytime!!
See the link on our website

Tuesday

10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)
1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)
5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday

10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
6:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
with Pastor Brenda

Saturday

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

Calendar of Events

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- March 15 6:30pm Stewardship (Zoom)
- March 16 6:30pm Finance (Zoom)
- March 17 1:00pm Mary Circle (FH)
- March 22 6:00pm Trustees (Zoom)
- March 23 3:00pm SPPRC (Zoom)
6:30pm Ad Council (Zoom)
- March 28 9:30am Palm Sunday Drive-In Service @ Beloit
- April 1 7:00pm Maundy Thursday On-line
- April 2 Noon Good Friday Service On-line
7:00pm On-line Clinton Tenebrae
- April 4 6:30pm Drive-In Easter Sunrise Service
& Breakfast @ Clinton
9:30am Drive-In Easter Service @ Beloit

(see detailed schedule of Holy Week & Easter on page 8)

Issue deadline:

April 9th

The next issue of the
Current will be available

April 18th



Just a reminder

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