

The Current Of The River Of Life



Palm Sunday - April 10th

9:30 am at Beloit Campus
10:00 am at Clinton Campus

Maundy Thursday Worship Service - April 14th

7:00 pm at Beloit Campus

Good Friday - April 15th

Noon Worship at Beloit Campus
Clinton Ecumenical Worship:
Noon Worship at Emmanuel Community Church
7:00 pm Tenebrae Service at Jefferson Prairie Church

Easter Eve - April 16th

5:30 pm Worship Service at Beloit
6:00 pm Easter Vigil at Clinton

Easter Sunrise - April 17th

6:30 am at Clinton Campus
Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday - April 17th

9:30 am at the Beloit Campus
10:00 am at Clinton Campus

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

BELOIT CAMPUS

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Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866

OFFICE

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Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866
 Fax 608.362.0554

CLINTON CAMPUS

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Clinton, WI
 608.676.4646

CLERGY STAFF

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 Tom Alverson, Lay Minister 608-362-8866
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 Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

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 Bonnie Moore Secretary/Receptionist
 bmoore@rolumcwi.com

MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music
 Marge Johnson Pianist



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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Annual Conference Lay Members

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Kathy Rodgers

Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

Finance Chairperson

Jesse Calkins

Hospitality Chairperson

Diane Gemignani

Memorials and Wills Chairperson

Marietta Axmear

Missions Committee Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

TBD

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Pat Sands

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

Be sure to participate in worship on our church website or on Facebook. The River of Life website and Beloit Facebook page now have the Beloit service and the Clinton Facebook page has the Clinton service, so you can watch two services each week!

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

**Brian Lutzow
Margaret Holcomb
Carol Braukhoff in the loss of her Grandson Kyle**

People we have prayed for....



Phyllis Carpenter has just moved to
Assisted Living in Kaukauna
Her address is:

C/O The Landings of Kaukauna
793 Tarragon, Room C23
Kaukauna WI 54130



What is Lent?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. It is a time of reflection and asking for forgiveness, and when Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus's resurrection at the feast at the end of Easter, which comes at the very end of Lent.

As a Lenten Discipline this year, I will be repeating what I did last year. I will be praying over each family and individual of our congregation personally, and then I will write each family or individual a card. If you do not receive a card from me sometime between now and Easter, please let the office know, as you may be in our database incorrectly.

~Pastor Brenda

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

From the Pastor's Desk



You are a beautiful, beloved child of God! You were created in the Image of God. You don't look like God, but you were created with God's characteristics. You were created to be love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness and gentleness.

You are also a sinner. You can never be good enough to earn God's love.

Both of those statements are true. Which one do you have a harder time believing? For some people, believing that they are a beautiful, beloved child of God is almost impossible. For others, because they try so hard to be good, they don't want to hear that they are sinners.

There is a confirmation lesson that I particularly like. I tell the students that we are going to see if they are a good enough person to get into heaven. The students begin adding up points for doing good things like helping a parent when you aren't asked, and doing something nice for a friends or teacher. I don't remember all of the things students get points for, but by the time we tally up all of their good works points, they are feeling pretty good about themselves. Then we add up points for doing bad things, like not doing what your parents ask you to do, or sassing or lying to them, or fighting with your siblings. It doesn't take long before all of the students have negative points. Then I ask the question: are you good enough to get into heaven by what you do? The answer is no.

We were created beautiful, beloved children of God, but we are not very old before the mess of sin begins making that beauty hard to see.

During Lent, we are talking about this very thing. We are created in the image of God, but we sin. We are in need of a Savior. Good thing for Jesus!

As we progress through this series, we will see how Jesus saves us for an eternity with God. We will also see how God's grace helps us clean up our messes so that, through the way we live, people can see that image of God within us. As we grow to become more like Jesus, doing good things will flow from that love of God within us. When we do good things, people will see Jesus!

I hope you will join us in person or online as we continue to explore how the grace of God restores that beautiful image of God within us.

I'll see you in church, where we all draw nearer to God together,

Love, Pastor Brenda

A Little Poem For Seniors, so true it hurts!

Another year has passed And we're all a little older.
Last summer felt hotter And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago When life was quite a blast
Now I fully understand About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings, Football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes And after funeral brunches.

We used to go out dining And couldn't get our fill
Now we ask for doggie bags, Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel To places near and far
Now we get sore bottoms From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night And watch the evening news.

That, my friend is how life is, And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up... Before you're too darned old.

A poem shared with us by Tom Alverson

It's BAAAAAAAACK!

Baked Potato Luncheon

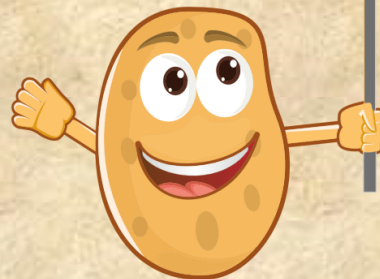
Sunday, March 20th

Following worship—Beloit

Sunday, March 27th—Clinton

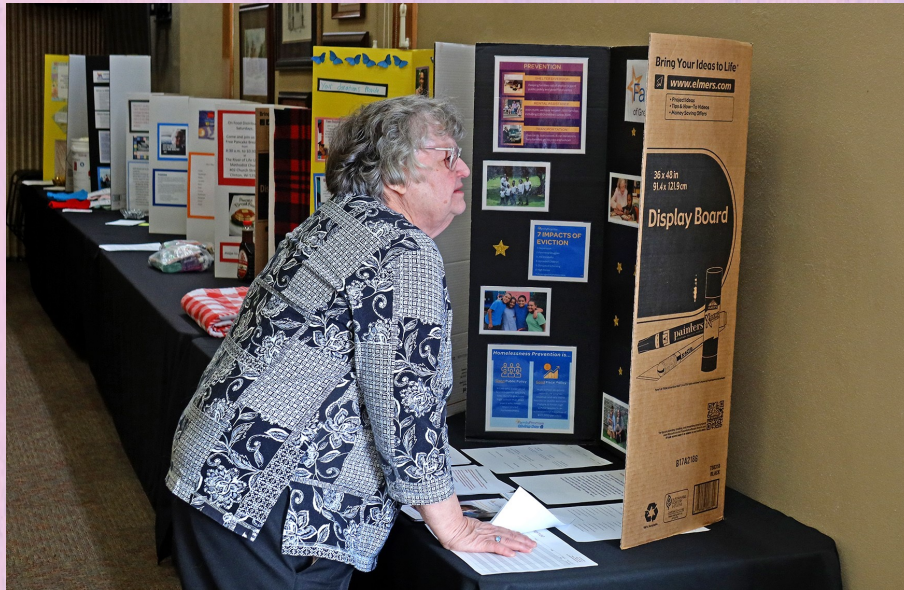
Come hungry, or take a loaded potato to go!
Free will donations will be accepted to support
special spring events organized by the
Youth Ministry Team.

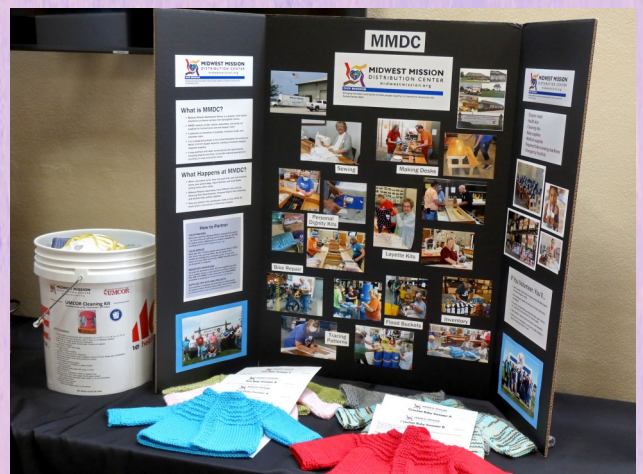
Contact: Tracy Maxwell 608-290-3597 with questions

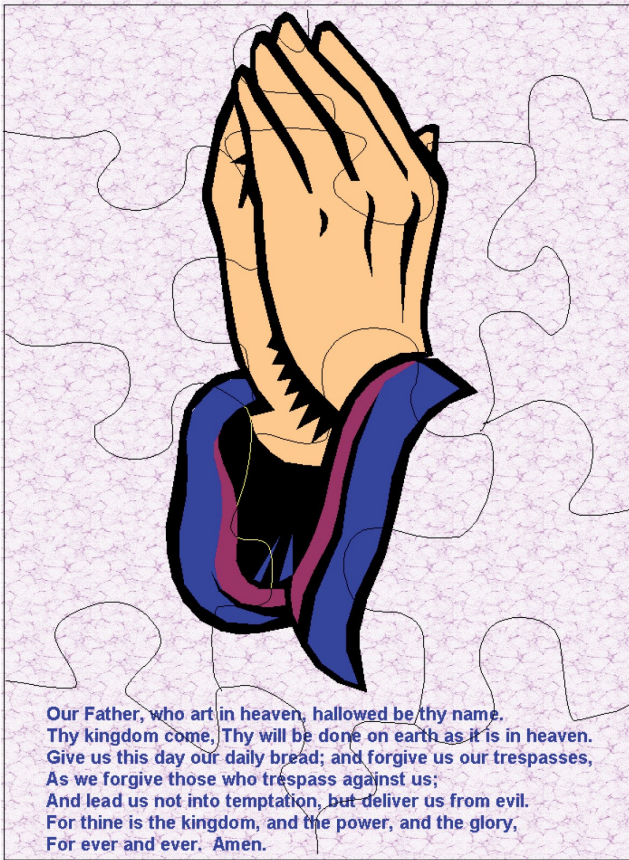


Where do all of our Loose Coin offerings go?

To highlight some of the many agencies River of Life UMC supports in our Loose Coin Offering each month, the Mission Committee presented a Mission Fair. It was displayed for two Sundays in February at the Beloit Campus and will be moved to the Clinton Campus to be on display beginning March 13. Some of the agencies highlighted include Family Promise, DEFY Domestic Abuse, Meals on Wheels, Bags of Hope and Blankets of Warmth, Caritas, the Clinton Food Kitchen, 16:49, and Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC).







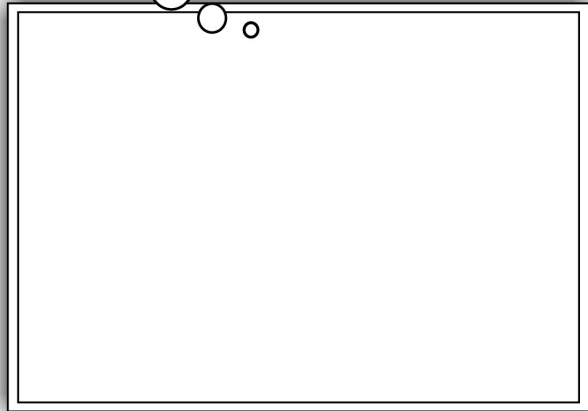
<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?r=http://www.dltk-bible.com/crafts/images/cpuzz1e5.gif>

cut apart the puzzle and put it back together again.



Think of others

Luke 10:30-37



Draw a picture of yourself doing something kind

Find the words in the square and draw a line around them.
It helps if you shade in the boxes that have an X, Y or Z.

X	Z	X	S	H	A	R	E
C	A	R	E	X	I	X	Z
Z	X	Y	R	Z	D	Z	X
X	Z	X	V	X	Z	X	Y
Z	X	H	E	L	P	X	Z
X	Y	Z	X	O	X	Y	X
Z	X	G	I	V	E	X	Y
X	Y	X	Z	E	X	Z	X

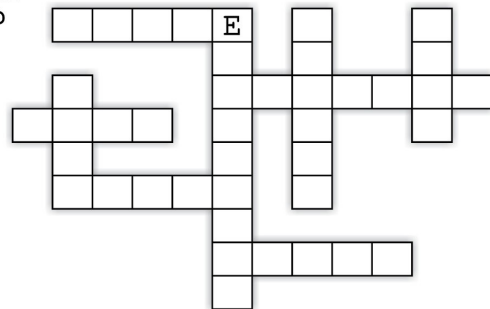
- SERVE
- CARE
- AID
- LOVE
- GIVE
- SHARE
- HELP

Even though we cannot see Him, God as the Holy Spirit lives inside every person who has been born again and made new on the inside.

The words below remind us of the Holy Spirit.

Can you find the right place for them in the crossword?

- ENCOURAGE
- COMFORT
- REMINDE
- POWER
- GUIDE
- WARN
- REAL
- HELP
- GIFTS



Ephesians 1:13-14, Acts 2:3-4, Romans 8:9

Happy Birthday

April 3

Bob Parssinen

April 5

Carol Allen

Tom Alverson

April 6

Carol Scheets

April 7

Kim Kuska

April 9

Nora Cudney

Frankie Ward

April 10

Sarah Parsons

April 12

Sheryl Horvath

April 14

Betty Jo Bussie

April 15

Donna Hammett

April 16

Ray Hartje

April 19

John Butchart

David Clark

Marvin Miller

April 21

Sandy Hays

Barbara Kuska

Katherine Sibert

April 23

Joan Michels

Krysta Smith

April 24

Kelly Clark

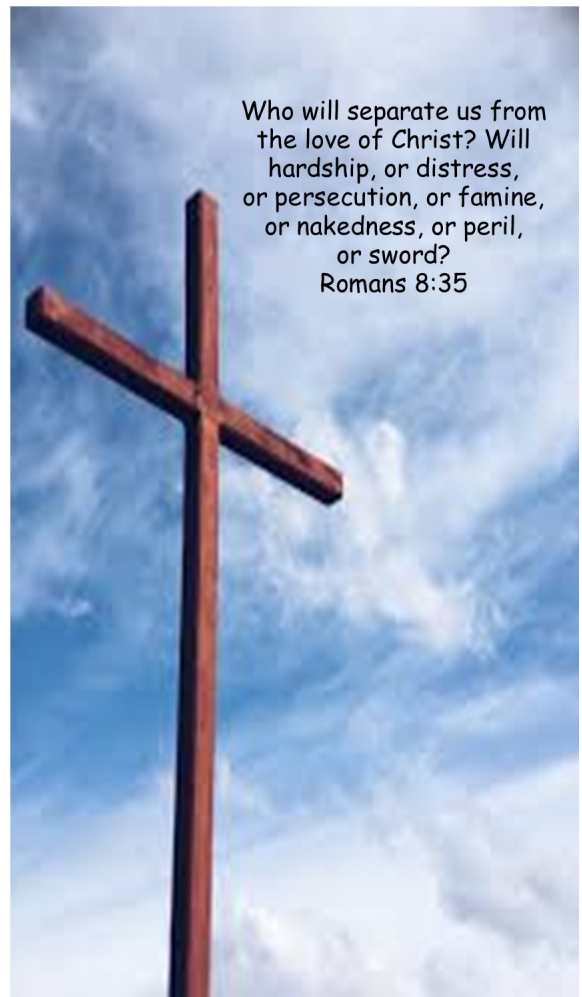
April 25

Judith Paddock

Phil Story

April 30

Joanne Johnson



April 5

Pastors Dan & Brenda Whitford

April 11

Dale & Diane Gemignani

April 20

Steve & Karen Knutsen



Loose Coins

March Loose Coins will go to **Beloit Meals on Wheels**. This volunteer-supported program delivers hot meals 5- or 7-days/week, including holidays, to Beloit-area seniors whose diminished mobility makes it hard to shop for food, prepare meals, or even socialize with others. Hot, nutritious meals, prepared by Best Events, are delivered during the midday, with the option of receiving a cold supper in addition.

Meals on Wheels is a life-line to countless individuals, in terms of both nutrition and human interaction. Funding for the program comes from community donations, federal funds, and client contributions. A single meal costs the organization \$10, but no one is denied service due to inability to pay.

The volunteers who drive and deliver consider it a ministry to others, and those of us who can contribute to support it are helping make that ministry possible. Please be generous with your loose coins!

Note: "Loose coins" are considered any coins (not bills) dropped in the offering plate. To contribute bills, put them in an envelope marked "Loose Coins," or write a check with "Loose Coins" in the memo line. Include your name and offering-envelope number to record it in your church giving record.

Looking ahead.....April Loose Coins will go to Caritas

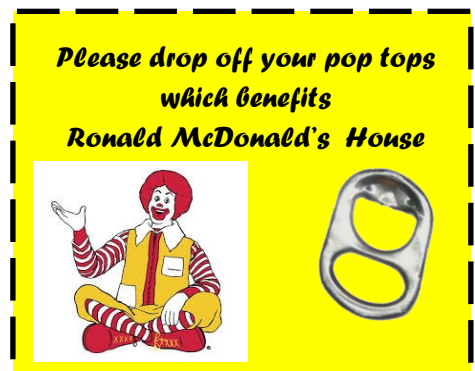
-Ellen Butchart



Donations needed:

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

Diaper Cream



Adult Mission Trip News

Please keep our Adult Mission Team in your prayers as we serve at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) March 30 - April 1. We look forward to a productive and meaningful experience as we become the hands and feet Jesus and help provide relief to people throughout the world.

Ellen Butchart
Bruce and Lora Cawkins
Diane Gemignani
Jerry and Sarah Parsons

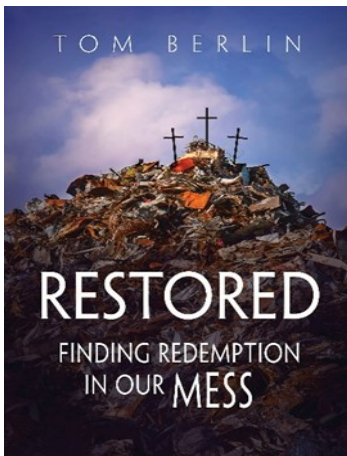
Margaret Hansen
Mary Alice Harris
Joanne Johnson

-Diane Gemignani

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is March 30th at 1:00 pm in the Office Workroom. We welcome all knitters and crocheters, no matter what skill level, and anyone wishing to learn. If you have any questions call Sandy Ovist: 608-362-6583.

Please join us!!



Lenten Sermon Series and Small Group Studies

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

As a resource, you are welcomed to read the book *Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess* by Tom Berlin. Book studies have begun but your are welcome to join:

Wednesday Mornings 10:30am on Zoom
Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm in person

The book is currently \$12. Let Pastor Brenda know if you would like to participate in one of the book studies and if you would like her to purchase your book.

Three Video Cameras and Switcher System

We are in the process of installing a system that will improve the quality of online worship. Instead of moving one camera back and forth, we will be able to switch between three cameras for a smoother experience. 18 people have enabled us to meet our goal of \$2,500. Thanks to all who have donated! We are saving many thousands of dollars by doing this ourselves, so it will take a little longer to install and get the bugs out. Thank you for your generosity and your patience!

Hello UMW

Prayer can get you out of a prickly situation.



Good News

First Baptist Church is once again presenting Breaking of the Bread on March 16 at 9:30 a.m. All UMW are invited to this event which is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Christian women from the Beloit area and share in fellowship as well as learn new information from a guest speaker. Don't miss this wonderful event. Reservations required, please call Pat Sands: 608-921-6755.

Remember...

If you are viewing The Current online, you can click on the BLUE links to go directly to the source of the information and to read more about it.

UMW Calendar

March 16	Breaking of the Bread 9:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church
April 20	Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.
April 20	Mary Circle 1:00 p.m.
April 23	Unit Meeting 9:30 with Larry Correll "Witch Doctors & Wooly Critters"

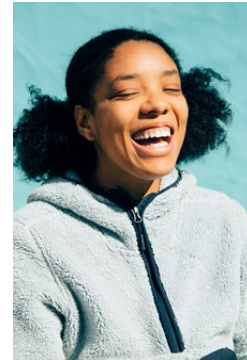
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

St. Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing. Here is the story of how one United Methodist Woman uses odd moments to pray:

My husband enjoys having the radio on in the car; however, the first thing I do when alone in the car, is to turn the radio **off** and silently say to myself, "God this is our time together." The drive is used as my time to pray and communicate with our Heavenly Father. (One can always tell who was the last one to drive the car--radio on: husband, radio off: myself)

I also utilize other bits of otherwise idle time as prayer time, such as walking to the mailbox, waiting in check-out lines, waiting time for appointments, waiting for the computer to come on, going up and down the basement stairs, etc. God is so great and gives us to us all the time, we need to use each minute for thanks and praise.

—For His glory, Marlene Bachim



Laugh A Little

Baseball season is coming, maybe! Here is a little Bible Baseball:
Question: Where is the first baseball game in the Bible?
Answer: In the big inning. Eve stole first, Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel. The Giants and the Angels were rained out.

SOCIAL JUSTICE/SOCIAL ACTION AND UMW

Each month we will feature information about UMW and Social Justice/
Social Action.

March-The Foundation of Campaigns as United Methodist Women
April-Our Biblical Foundations
May-Our Methodist Heritage
June-Get Involved in Campaigns



The following information is taken directly from the Social Resources as provided by <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/whyunitedmethodistwomenengageinsocialaction.pdf>

“Foundation of Campaigns as United Methodist Women

For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, improve women’s health, raise women’s status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families and adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

Today, we continue to build on this foundation as we work to end maternal mortality, attain a living wage for all, interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure energy that is just for all. As United Methodist Women of the 21st century, we are called to be bold in our witness, working to dismantle systems of oppression and build, together, a better world.”

Flat Jesus on the Move

Flat Jesus was in New Mexico when he saw this sign, and he wanted you to be reminded that there are plenty of references in the Bible about snakes. You might want to take a bit of time and reread the following passages:

Genesis 3:1-15
Matthew 7:9-10
John 3:14-15
II Corinthians 11:3

Prayers from the Upper Room

Dear God, teach us to value and love ourselves. Help us not to compare ourselves to others and instead to walk with confidence as the unique people you made us. Amen.

Perla Yaneth Upper Room December 20, 2021

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



Financial Corner

Month of:
February 2022

Current month :

Operating Income \$ 24,493.64 Operating Expense \$ 27,726.47

Year to date: 2022

Operating Income \$ 78,458.78 Operating Expense \$ 51,664.49

Designated giving year to date:

We raised \$150.00 for family promise
this month!!!

Apportionments: \$ 1,491.50
Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,506.20
Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 6,170.08
Tickets of Warmth Balance: \$ 1,335.76

Year End Update!!!!!!!

*Amounts are as of 12/31/2021

Total Operating Income:

Pledged Income:	#####	Total Mission Income:	\$ 13,319.02
Non-Pledged Income:	\$ 60,992.26	Total Trustees Income:	\$ 26,415.29
Loose Cash:	\$ 4,190.00	Total Building Income:	\$ 7,986.21
Apportionments:	\$ 12,997.77	Total Memorial Income:	\$ 117,332.86

Total Operating Expense:

Operating Expense:	#####	Total Mission Expense:	\$ 12,829.01
Payroll Expense:	\$ 171,641.13	Total Trustees Expense:	\$ 63,096.66
Apportionments:	\$ 49,020.00	Total Building Expense:	\$ 11,439.92
		Total Memorial Expense:	\$ 115,314.23

The missions we have sent money to are: Salvation Army, Sparrows Nest, RYCP, UMCOR, UMW Student, Family Promise, Dom Violence Center, MMD, Meals on Wheels, Caritas, Clinton Food Pantry, Project 16:49, Human Relations, Peace with Justice, World Communion, Native American Sunday, Northcott. Don't forget our in house missions that were supported as well. Thank you to all who donate and support our wonderful community.

Blessings Joy
Hope Life
Love Peace
Happiness Faith



Blessed to be a Blessing

As I was reading our newsletter that is written by Jason Mahnke, Director of Programming & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, I'd like to share with you what he wrote on how to help parents teach financial practices to your children; he writes;

In his book *Creating Generous Congregations*, David Heetland tells a story about an 8-year-old girl who often gave more than a tithe from her nickel and dime allowance. She once gave her grandmother 38cents in small coins "for missions." Her grandmother then asked her, "Do you want this to go for homeless people, hospitals in Africa, or buying fish to stock ponds to feed the hungry?"

Her granddaughter replied, "Just a minute," and returned shortly with 29 cents more, making a total of 67 cents to be divided three ways. She found each mission so important that her initial gift was instantly almost doubled so she could support all three. Too often, we worry that when we ask someone to support a ministry with either their time or their money, the request will be taken as pushy (at best) or offensive (at worst). And there are certainly people who would take it that way.

On the other hand, I believe that not inviting people to support a ministry I'm excited about excludes them from being a part of something that may be transformational for them, and the people touched by the ministry.

Finally, there are many people who are just waiting to be asked to be a part of something bigger than them. They may not be the first to raise their hands when a general invitation goes out but would love to be personally invited to be a part of what God is doing through the church.

Too often, we shield our children from our financial practices because they're "personal" or "private." Of course, that means our children will have no model for understanding how to handle their finances except for what our culture teaches. I would argue that this is a dangerous practice that often leads our children down the path of discontentment and debt.

What if our stewardship and finance teams spent time teaching parents how to talk to their children about money from the perspective of our faith? How does our earning, spending, saving, and giving reflect our values?

Here are two books that can aid you in that conversation: *Smart Money, Smart Kids*, by Rachel Cruze and Dave Ramsey. *It's Not Fair! A Book About Having Enough* by Caryn Rivandeneira.

Have a great rest of the month! Stay Safe! Stay Well! Stay Warm!

Blessings,
Thomas C. Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson

EVENTS

2022
April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					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

CompanyPioneers.Com

<p>Sunday 9:30 am Beloit Worship 10:00 am Clinton Worship</p>
<p>Monday 1:00 pm Card Club (FH)</p>
<p>Tuesday 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH) 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)</p>
<p>Wednesday 10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)</p>
<p>Thursday 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>Saturday 7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30 pm Saturday Worship</p>

Issue deadline:
April 8th
The next newsletter will be available April 17th

- Calendar**
(also posted on the Web & Facebook)
- March 15 4:00 pm Hospitality (FH)
6:30 pm Finance (FH)
 - March 16 9:30 am Breaking of the Bread UMW @ First Baptist
 - March 20 10:30 am Bake Potato Bar (Beloit)
 - March 21 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
 - March 22 6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
 - March 23 3:30 pm Tutoring (FH)
5:30 pm WATR Meal & Bible Study (FH)
 - March 27 Deadline to order your Easter Flowers
10:00 am Clinton Worship Potluck
 - March 28 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
 - March 30 9:00 am Adult Mission Trip
1:00 pm Knitting With A Mission (O)

SPECIAL OFFERING:

March 27th
UMCOR

