

The Current of The River of Life

March 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #03

Upon This Rock

An Easter Cantata

The Passion, the Question, the Call

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 3:00 pm

and

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 9:30 am

No Cost — Offering will be collected

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

STAFF

Brenda Whitford

608-482-0021

Kelly Lutzow

608-362-8866

Lois Ulvin

David Newman

Derek Bergh

Keith Putney

608-774-3162

Pastor

pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com

Office Manager

Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com

Director of Music

Pianist

IT-Production Manager

Teaching Pastor

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

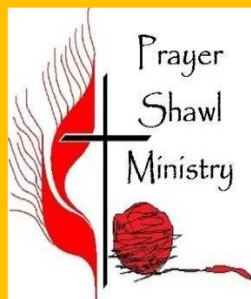
Derek Bergh

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 very pleased with how our Dynamite Prayer Experience is going! We bought 80 books, which is about our average worship attendance! People are sharing that the daily video recordings are very meaningful. I am certainly inspired by them!

At newsletter distribution date, we will have had two weeks (10 days) of readings. Is anything stirring within you? It might be, or it might not be yet.

You may be wondering what the next step will be. I don't know yet. It is too early to tell. It is my hope that in the next couple of weeks the *dunamis power of the Holy Spirit will empower us in a way most of us never considered.*

So what do we do while we are waiting? Keep reading the daily devotionals and watching the videos. If you are not receiving the videos, please reach out to the office to let Kelly know your correct email address and that you are not receiving them. Pray the Prayer-Hold multiple times a day.

By doing these things, most of us are spending more time with God than we usually do. By focusing so intently, God knows he has our attention, and will break through in ways we haven't imagined.

But it begins with what we are doing now. Just do the work. Just spend the time. I am excited about what God may want to do through us in his dunamis power!

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

Love, Pastor Brenda

A Dynamite Prayer reminder: we have permission from the publisher 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.



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

Thank you in advance!

Spring Flower Order Form

Three varieties of spring flowers are available to purchase to help
decorate our churches at Easter. *Please note the early deadline.*

If you would like to donate a flower to honor a loved one, please fill out the form below.
Please turn the form in to the church office, accompanied by a check for \$20.00 by
March 11, 2024.

I would like to furnish a Lily, Jonquil, or Kalanchoe (circle one)

In **Honor** of: _____

In **Memory** of: _____

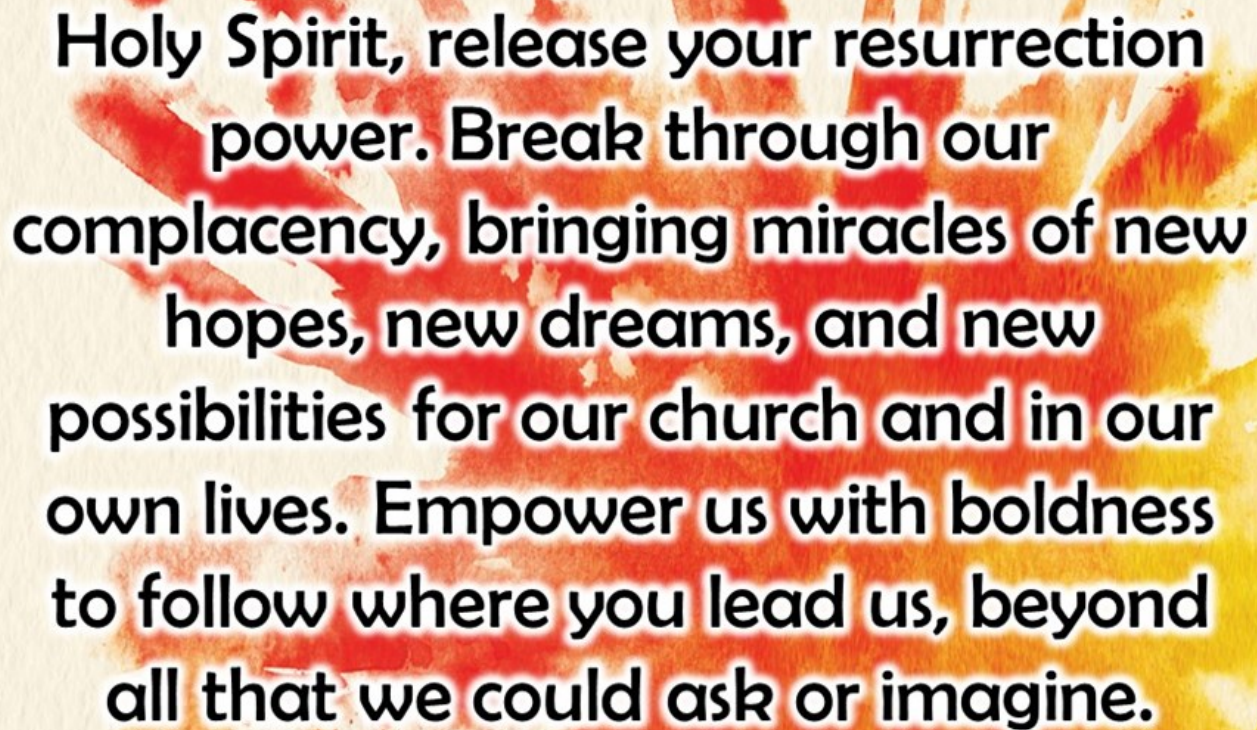
Donated by: _____

Payment must accompany order form.
Make check payable to: The River of Life UMC
With a notation: "for flowers"

Paid (cash/check) # _____



Please cut out this Breakthrough Prayer Card and keep for your reference. People we prayed for this month will be conveniently listed on the back of the card once cut out.



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.

**DYNAMITE
PRAYER**

Please join us at any of our upcoming Holy Week services:

Saturday, March 23, 2024

“Upon This Rock” An Easter Cantata at 3:00 pm

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

“Upon This Rock” An Easter Cantata at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

March 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Good Friday

March 29, 2024 at 12:00 pm

Easter Eve

March 30, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024 at 9:30 am

People we are praying for



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

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

† Pete Rumpel
† Sam Paddock
† Linda Longman

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 March 20 at 9:30

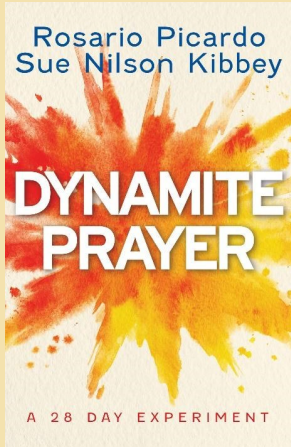
at First Baptist Church for the "Sharing of the Bread"

All are invited to attend the "Sharing of the Bread" but please RSVP by March 15 by calling First Baptist at 608.365.8455



Mary Circle will meet March 20 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall

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.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND

"Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

These are the three basic points of John Wesley's sermon, "The Use of Money." Wesley made note in 1789 that the Methodists of his day were ignoring the third part of his sermon. In fact, Wesley argued that the primary reason for the ineffectiveness of the Methodist movement was due to their failure to give all they could. Wesley came to the profound conclusion that "If Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough." Wesley's admonition for Methodists to give all they can was no pious rhetoric designed to increase contributions to the church budget. It was a plea for generosity and a plea for compassion for the poor and needy.

What difference could each of us make, independently, and all of us together, if we really gave all we can? Something to think and pray about!



**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 is 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.

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

***We have 12 people going on the trip,
and we still have room for more!***

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
Cheryl Funk
Diane Gemignani
Margaret Hansen

Sheryl Horvath
Joanne Johnson
Kelly Lutzow
Sarah Parsons

You can still sign up! We have the whole dorm reserved for us. So if you are interested in coming with us this year, please contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com).

We always welcome new people!





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.

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.



Thank you so much, my ROL friends, for the amazing support that you continue to give to the children's programs at our church! Most recently, the bake sale items completely disappeared, and over \$400 was raised for the tutoring program! This money will go to a super fun and messy pottery-making experience for these students, an opportunity that would not have existed, had it not been for you. We will make sure to take lots of pictures! Love you all!

~ Karen P.

COME CHILL WITH YOUR PEEPS

at the ROL Eggs-ellent Adventure!

**FREE Dinner, Games, Crafts,
and a Finale Egg Hunt!**

March 27, 5:30-7:00
River of Life United Methodist Church
2345 Prairie Ave., Beloit



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.

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE LUNCH

March 10, 2024 | 1-3PM

Dine-In & Drive Thru
2000 Wesley Ave., Janesville

\$15 IN ADVANCE/\$16 AT THE DOOR

All proceeds to go Missions such as
ECHO, GIFTS, YWCA and more

RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED

Questions/Signup - Janet Dow 608 201-0965
You can also sign up by scanning here →



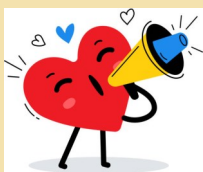
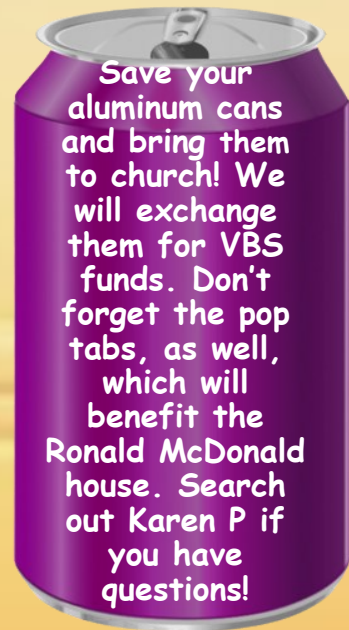
Drive Thru orders pickup
at the Kitchen Doors (# I2)

Included in the
meal will be:

Corned Beef
Cabbage
Potatoes & Carrots
Soda Bread
Dessert



United
Women
in Faith



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.



March 10, 2024

UMCOR SUNDAY

(Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

Through your generous gift today, you share the goodness of life with those who hurt.

UMCOR SPECIALIZES IN SOLUTIONS THAT HELP PEOPLE BECOME SELF-RELIANT



Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group



**March 27 at 1:00 in the
Office Workroom**

**All knitters & crocheters
are invited! Questions?**

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583



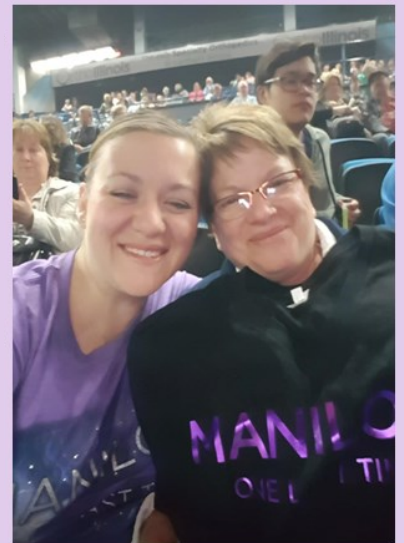
Nan Bolar loved Barry Manilow and Tish Polzin, Nan's daughter, is hoping to get a group together to see Barry Manilow on his "One last tour".

Tish was lucky to have gone to a couple shows with her mom and wants to continue in her honor.

Show date is
July 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm
Rosemont, IL

If interested in joining Tish, please contact her before April 1 so she can purchase tickets as a group!

1-608-295-8144
ptishauna@yahoo.com





SOUPER BOWL OF CARING®

Thank you to all who joined in this year's Souperbowl of Caring. Eleven flavors of soup were available for tasting, along with an overflowing table of bread and fixings. The dessert table was a spread of delicious home-baking, and we all went home with full bellies to watch the big game. Together, we raised \$447 to donate to Caritas and help those in our community "Without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Some thoughtful suggestions have been made for next year's big event - one we all certainly look forward to!





Missions

Loose Coins Meals on Wheels

It's March, and you know what that means! March Madness, yes, but I was thinking more about the March for Meals Campaign of Meals on Wheels.

Our March Loose Coins will go to **Beloit Meals on Wheels**. This amazing, volunteer-driven (literally!) organization delivers daily nutritious meals to the homebound elderly, ill, and disabled. Clients can choose to receive a hot noon meal, and optional supper, either 5-days or 7-days per week, including holidays. For many it's the only social contact of the day, and it can be an important safety check.

Did you know:

- 76% of clients are 70 years or older
- 79% live at very low to extremely low income levels
- 32% are veterans or spouses of veterans
- 44% increase in total meals served last year
- 10% increase in total clients served

Funding for Meals on Wheels comes from community donations, city and government funds, and client contributions. Those unable to pay the full cost are encouraged to make a contribution, but no one is denied service due to inability to pay.

Please be generous with your loose coins, or consider putting a check or cash in an envelope 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

- | | |
|----------|---------------------|
| March 6 | Chicken & Dumplings |
| March 13 | Sub Sandwiches |
| March 20 | Chicken Nuggets |
| March 27 | Hopping Tacos! |



EASTER

WORD SEARCH



APRIL FLOWER
BASKET HUNT
BUNNY JELLY BEANS
CANDY MARCH
CHICK SPRING
DYE SUNDAY
EASTER TREATS
EGGS

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

Medium Easter I-Spy!



Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 10, 2024

Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 11.



March Calendar

| | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| March 5 | 6:00 PM | Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom) |
| March 11 | | Easter Flower Order Forms Due |
| March 12 | 6:30 PM | Finance Meeting |
| March 18 | 5:30 PM | Trustees Meeting |
| March 19 | 6:30 PM | Ad Council Meeting |
| March 20 | 9:30 AM | Mary Circle- Sharing of the Bread |
| March 20 | 11:30 AM | Martha Circle- Fellowship Hall |
| March 23 | 10:00 AM | Cantata Rehearsal |
| March 23 | 3:00 PM | Cantata - Upon This Rock |
| March 24 | 9:30 AM | Cantata - Upon This Rock |
| March 27 | 1:00 PM | Knitting With A Mission |
| March 27 | 5:30 PM | Youth Easter Event- ROL Eggs-ellent Adventure |
| March 28 | 6:30 PM | Maundy Thursday Service |
| March 29 | 12:00 PM | Good Friday Service |
| March 31 | | Easter Sunday |
| April 2 | 6:00 PM | Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom) |
| April 3 | | NO TUTORING - Spring Break |

Issue deadline:

March 25

The next newsletter
will be available on

March 31

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

March 1

Dawn Pozzani
Evan Peters

March 2

Stephanie Longman

March 6

Jon Condon

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

April 3

Bob Parssinen

April 5

Carol Allen
Tom Alverson

April 6

Carol Scheets

April 7

Kim Kuska
Paige Parish
Pam Parish

April 9

Nora Strother
Frankie Ward

April 10

Sarah Parsons

April 11

Sarah Buckler

April 12

Sheryl Horvath

April 14

Bettie Jo Bussie

April 15

Donna Hammett

April 16

Alexis Garetson
Ray Hartje

April 19

John Butchart
David Clark
Marvin Miller

April 21

Kathy Allen
Katherine Sibert

April 22

Tom Hamlett

April 23

Joan Michels

April 24

Kelly Clark

April 25

Judy Paddock
Phil Story

April 26

Hannah Buckler

April 29

David Robinette

April 30

Joanne Johnson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

March 23

Tyler & Shania Crandall

March 25

Jerry & Sarah Parsons

April 11

Diane & Dale Gemignani

April 20

Steve & Karen Knutsen

Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!

1 = green

3 = blue

5 = pink

7 = purple

2 = brown

4 = orange

6 = yellow

8 = red

