

# *The Current Of The River Of Life*



## Easter Egg-A-Palooza

Dinner Games Egg Hunt

FREE

April 13, 5:30-6:30 PM

River of Life Church

2345 Prairie Ave., Beloit



April 10, 2022

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

Vol. 39 Issue 26

# United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

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Beloit, WI  
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## **MUSIC STAFF**

Lois Ulvin Director of Music  
David Newman Pianist/Organist  
Marge Johnson Pianist



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

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 Women of Faith 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...

**Marlene Holcomb**

(apologies, incorrect name was listed last month)

**Brian Maxwell Family in the loss of his Brother, Tom**

### People we have prayed for....



Cliff  
Harry  
Jan  
Jane  
Kerri  
Kim  
Kim  
Marjorie  
Nan

Seven 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.

Thank you for all your prayers, love, concern, cards, flowers and support during my hospitalization March 15-22. Your thoughtfulness warmed my heart and wrapped my spirit in love. God heard your prayers and I was blessed with a pain-free surgery! (No pain medication needed! Oh, what joy! 😊 Miracles do happen! God is so good.  
Marlene Bachim

As a Lenten Discipline this year, I have been praying over each family and individual of our congregation personally, and I have written them a card. I will not succeed in praying over and writing a card to all church members and friends by Easter. If you have not received a Lenten prayer card, you should receive one in the next few weeks.

In the 21 months that I have been here at the River of Life, I have written over 1,000 cards. You should have received birthday cards, anniversary cards, thank you cards for pledging, and two Lenten prayer cards, among others. If you are not receiving these types of cards from me, please call the office to make sure we have the correct information for you.

~Pastor Brenda

# From the Pastor's Desk



This newsletter is planned to be distributed on Palm Sunday. I love Palm Sunday! I love shouting “Hosanna!” and waving palm branches! The following Sunday is Easter. I love Easter! I love the Easter hymns and the promise of new life! But, in between those two Sundays, is a tough week. It is several days of heartbreak. Maundy Thursday begins nicely, but then ends in confusion and fear. Good Friday is gut-wrenching. Holy Saturday feels hopeless. Can't we just go from Palm Sunday to Easter?

Many Christians, do just that. For some it's a time issue. Some don't see the importance. Some don't want to sit through the pain. Still others don't like the theological idea of the blood of the substitutionary atonement.

Whether or not you were planning on attending worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, I think you should. We worship a God who came to Earth at Christmas as God With Us. He was our example, our teacher, our miracle worker and showed us who God is. When the religious leaders turned against him, and conspired with the Romans, he allowed himself to be put to death. More than that, he made it so that through his horrible, agonizing death, it took away our sins once and for all, and we were made right with God. If that were not enough, he rose from the dead three days later, in his resurrection body, and made it so that we can have new life in him now and forever! This is really amazing stuff!

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are important parts of the story. Yes, God does love YOU that much. Come on Thursday night at 7:00 at the Beloit Campus to have dinner with him (just bread and wine/juice for us). Come on Friday to sit at the cross with him – 12:00pm at the Beloit Campus, 12:00pm at Emanuel Community Church in Clinton and 7:00pm at Jefferson Prairie Church in Clinton.

May experiencing these difficult days make Easter especially miraculous!

I'll see you in church, where we come together in sorrow and in resurrection,

Love, Pastor Brenda

## Memorial Gifts – Paraments

We have four new sets of paraments to adorn our altar. There is one set for each liturgical season. Quality paraments (altar cloths) are quite expensive, so we are grateful for the number of people who designated their memorial gifts for this purpose. We are also grateful for Tracy Maxwell and the Decorating Committee for their research is choosing the paraments. They are beautiful!



### **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

#### **Three Video Cameras and Switcher System**

Things often take longer than we hope, and the three video camera system is no exception. We are saving many thousands of dollars by installing this ourselves, and we are making sure we are planning this well. Then, we will have to get the bugs out. Hopefully we will have this up and running in a number of weeks. Thanks so much to the 18 people who donated so we could meet our goal of \$2,500. Thank you for your generosity and your patience!



# United Women in Faith

## Name News

In a press release dated March 2, 2022, the United Methodist Women became United Women in Faith on March 3. While the change came as a surprise to many, the press release stated that the change had been under consideration for five years and that more than 24,000 UMW and women of other Christian traditions were part of the research.

During the 150 year existence of this mission group, the name and programs have been changed at least five times to match changing times and needs. UMW are rebranding themselves with a new name, a new website and new programs. The current change was pushed by public perceptions, declining membership and schism threats. Although the name has changed, the goals of caring for women, children and youth remain unchanged.

Changes coming with the new name include:

- A new website which is supposed to be easier to navigate
- “All-access” national membership which does not require membership in a local UMC
- Soul Care Retreats focusing on nurturing women’s bodies, minds and spirits
- Innovations to Mission with new curricula each year for each age group but focused on a shared biblical theme
- More targeted giving options and new interactive online resources.

United Women in Faith believe that love in action can change the world.

Further reading:

<https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/umc-future/united-methodist-women-rebrands-with-new-name-website-progra/>

<https://novaumc.org/united-women-in-faith/>

<https://baptistnews.com/article/facing-schism-and-decline-united-methodist-women-rebrands-as-united-women-in-faith/#.YkOuyy-B3uw>

Martha Circle will meet Wednesday April 20th at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Betty Hannun will talk on her Salvation Army experiences.

Mary Circle will meet on Wednesday, April 20th at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. The program will be Prayer & Self-Denial and they will take up an offering for that.

## Social Justice/Social Action and UWF

Each month we have been looking at why UMW engage in Social Action

This information was taken from the UMW website. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/whyunitedmethodistwomenengageinsocialaction.pdf> Since the name change the old website is no longer available and the new website does not contain this exact information. Assuming that these reasons have not changed, the information from the old website will be reprinted here.

### Our Biblical Foundations

The Bible teaches us that all creation is God's and "very good" in and of itself (Genesis 1:31). It teaches that God created humankind in God's image—all humankind (Genesis 1:27).

We don't yet live in a society that treats God's creation with dignity and respect. We still live in a world where institutional structures and social relations oppress people and defy the will of God. Yet the Bible tells the story of God always and everywhere at work for liberation and healing, justice and peace. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered:

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

To love our neighbor—and ourselves—means more than just providing care and comfort in times of suffering; to love our neighbor as ourselves we must change the systems that do harm in the first place.

This was a vital message of Jesus' ministry, challenging the existing social order, proclaiming God's reign:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

The early Christian community recognized the vitality of this call. Christianity is not just something we believe, it is also something we practice. We are called to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers" (James 1:22). We are called to a living faith—a faith that makes itself known by its fruits.

Indeed, God is always at work to make change in the world, appearing in unexpected ways and reversing the norms of "polite" society to ensure abundant life and wholeness for all.

United Methodist Women Social Action Campaign. All Rights Reserved

### UWF Calendar

April 20	Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.
April 20	Mary Circle 1:00 p.m.
MAY 18	Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.
May 18	Mary Circle 1:00 p.m.
MAY 25	Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m.
	Larry Conrell "Witch Doctors & Woolly Critters"
	Servers: Martha-Place settings/snacks; Mary-Beverage

## Flat Jesus On The Move

This young man was a maintenance worker at a Rest Area in New Mexico. He offered to help my son and I take a picture and then he spied Flat Jesus. He got very excited and wanted to know if that was Jesus. He wanted to hold Flat Jesus and was very pleased when we offered to take his picture. He told us how he loved and praised Jesus. He was so happy to talk to us and told us how his job was supposed to end and had now been extended for two months. We were happy to share his joy and love of Jesus. He gave us his phone number so that we could send him the picture.

However, the story does not end here. At Christmas time he called to wish us a Merry Christmas. I shall call him this Easter to rejoice in the risen Jesus. Who knows how much joy and encouragement Flat Jesus brings to those around us.



## Laugh A Little

If Moses had received the 10 Commandments via text message:

no1 b4 me. srsly.  
dnt wrshp pix/idols  
no omg's  
no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)  
pos ok ur m&d r cool  
dnt kill ppl  
:-X only w/ m8  
dnt steal  
dnt lie re: bf  
dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.  
  
ttyl, JHWH.



-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



**happy  
birthday**

**MAY 1**

Dennis Boschma  
Elzbieta Cudney  
Shelby Ward  
Liam Woody

**MAY 2**

Alan Wilson

**MAY 4**

Jacob Christensen  
Kathy Smith

**MAY 5**

Linda Mathews

**MAY 7**

Laverne Hays

**MAY 8**

Mindy White

**MAY 12**

Peggy Lund  
May Opperman

**MAY 13**

Diane Mitchell

**MAY 16**

Trey Caple

**MAY 19**

Julie Day

**MAY 23**

Steve Austin

**MAY 24**

Jacque Patch  
Mark Tudor

**May 26**

Eva Hoff

**MAY 29**

Tony Bachim  
Dale Gemignani

**MAY 30**

Kennedy Maxwell  
Claire Parsons

*Happy Anniversary!*

**May 1**

Doug & Tina Henthorn

**May 26**

Tom & Joan Michels

**May 31**

Robert & Patti Novy

**Katie Sibert turning 103**

Let's wish her a  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
April 21st  
and shower her with  
cards!

Autumn Lake Healthcare  
132 Vista Hall  
2121 Pioneer Court  
Beloit WI 53511

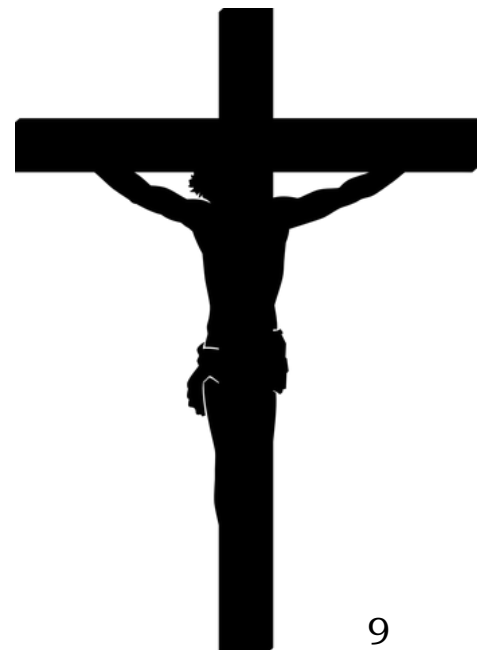


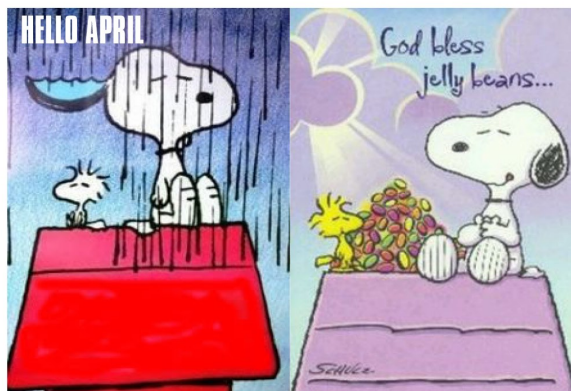
Midwest Mission 2022 Volunteers  
Next Trip: May 2023!

*Thank You*  
for your words  
of sympathy,  
Your voice of *Concern*,  
your gesture of Caring,  
and the *Love*  
you offer.

*Also to those who sent  
cards to me for the loss  
of my grandson, Kyle.  
God Bless You!*

*Carol  
Brankhoff*





## Color Me



### Fill in the Vowels

B\_NN\_\_S \_R\_ BR\_WN

B\_NN\_\_S \_R\_ WH\_T\_

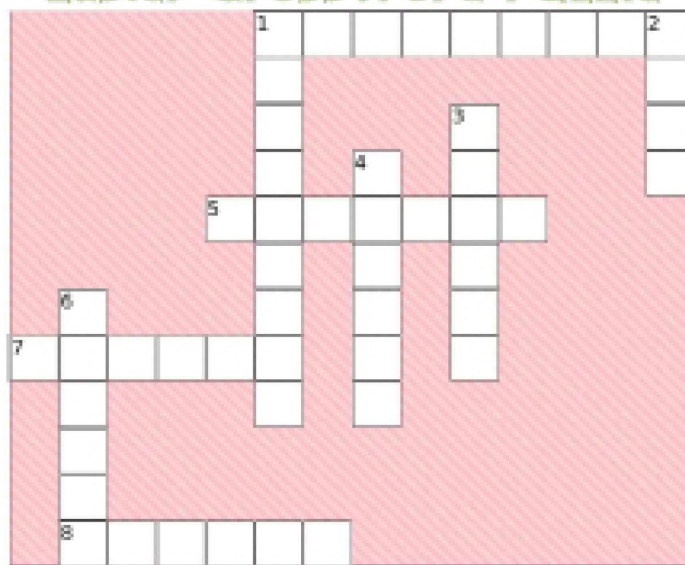
B\_NN\_\_S \_R\_ \_LW\_Y\_S

\_N \_\_ST\_R D\_L\_GHT

Free printable courtesy of wasootch.com  
Note: For personal use only

<http://partysimplicity.com/2013/02/free-easter-printables-kids-coloring-pages-and-more/>

## Easter Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1 WHAT PEOPLE DO ON EASTER
- 5 RHYMES WITH SHOPPING
- 7 A WOVEN CONTAINER TO HOLD OR CARRY THINGS
- 8 A LONG EARED ANIMAL THAT HOPS

### DOWN

- 1 A FAVORITE EASTER TREAT
- 2 THESE ARE DECORATED FOR EASTER
- 3 EASTER IS ON THIS DAY OF THE WEEK
- 4 ONE OF THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE YEAR
- 6 A HOLIDAY IN THE SPRING

## Easter Word Search Puzzle

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

BASKET BUNNY CANDY CELEBRATION CHICKS CHOCOLATE  
 DAFFODIL EASTER EGGS FAITH FAMILY FLOWERS  
 HOLIDAY HUNT RABBIT SPRING SUNDAY TULIPS





## Holy Week at The River of Life United Methodist Church Beloit and Clinton Campuses



Gosh, where does one start! The excitement of being part of a phonemical church that has so much to offer this Holy Week. Both of our campuses have a lot to offer to our members and to our communities. This is a time to step out of your comfort zones and be a part of your faith. “For too long, we’ve called unbelievers to ‘invite Jesus into your life.’ Jesus doesn’t want to be in your life. Your life’s a wreck. Jesus calls you into his life. And his life isn’t boring or purposeless or static. It’s wild and exhilarating and unpredictable.” — Adam Hamilton, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* . I can associate this quote with Adam Hamilton to the recent Sermon Series / Bible Study that we are currently finishing up from Tom Berliln’s book: *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess*.

We’ve started our Lenten time with Ash Wednesday, and now we have journeyed to the beginning of Holy week. The Maundy Thursday service will be held at ROL Beloit campus at 6:30pm. Good Friday services will be held at ROL Beloit campus at Noon; Clinton Campus: at Emmanuel Community Church, 381 East Street, Clinton at noon; Tenebrae Service at Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church, Poplar Grove IL, 5 miles south of Clinton at 7pm; Saturday Night Service at 5:30pm Beloit Campus and we’ve added a new service this year: A Holy Saturday service, Easter Vigil. This will held at Clinton Campus, April 16 at 6pm.

 During the Great Three Days, from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day, we celebrate the saving events of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. In the development of Christian worship, each event came to be remembered on a separate day. In the earliest centuries, however, these events were celebrated as a unity in an extraordinary single liturgy that began Saturday night and continued until the dawn of Easter Day. It was known as the great Paschal (Easter) Vigil. Preceded by a fast day, it was the most holy and joyful night of the entire Christian year, for it proclaimed and celebrated the whole of salvation history and Christ's saving work. The Easter Vigil is the First Service of Easter. The following service is an adaptation of the ancient Paschal Vigil service and consists of four parts: (1) The Service of Light, (2) The Service of the Word, (3) The Service of the Baptismal Covenant, and (4) The Service of the Table. Thus we celebrate God's saving work in Christ through the symbols of light, word, water, and the heavenly banquet. This service leads us up to Easter Sunrise service being held at Clinton Campus, beginning at 6:30am with Breakfast to follow.

 In this dramatic Easter monologue, The Little Drummer Boy has grown up and comes to a crisis of faith as he witnesses firsthand the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. How his parents had passed when he was very young, no close relatives to live with, how he found himself going out to the fields and living with the Shepherds, witnessing the time of the census, seeing Baby Jesus for the first time at the manger where he lay, looking into those baby eyes, bonding with Jesus, then plays his drum for him as his gift to him; then he was asked several years later to play his drum on that dreadful day; A day that he could not understand why he was there, a day he again came face to face with Jesus, a day he looked into this man’s eyes, a day of..... A Drummer boy Pum PumPum Pum.....



He Has Risen!! Easter Services will be held at both campuses at their normal times: Beloit at 9:30am and Clinton at 10am. Have a great journey during this Holy Week!

Peace, Joy and Love  
Tom Alverson



### Loose Coins

April Loose Coin offerings will go to **Caritas**, a community resource center for families in need in the state line area. Caritas is, first of all, a food pantry, focusing on nutritious, healthy food – fruits and vegetables, whole grains, dairy, protein, and basic staples. Families can receive three days' worth of meals – breakfast, lunch, and dinner – twice a month.


In addition, the center offers a diaper bank, including infant and toddler clothing and baby accessories, which can be used by families once a month. There is a community garden program, where people receive seeds, plants, tools, training, and a plot in the community garden, so that families can learn how to provide their own food.

Caritas was founded 45 years ago by four ministers and their churches, including our own Rev. Jerry Krause and the downtown First Church. In the beginning it was housed in our church and run by volunteers from the four churches. Within three months there was enough support to hire a coordinator, and before long they acquired a building. Today Caritas is in its third building, with a very committed paid director, part-time staff, and 100+ volunteers. This truly grassroots agency still receives all of its funding from donations – churches, businesses, community groups, and grants.

Caritas serves more than 18,000 people a year in the state line area. It goes without saying that the need is great. To contribute to the Loose Coins offering, you can put coins in the collection plate, or write a check to the church with "Loose Coins" on the memo line, or put cash in an envelope marked for Loose Coins. Please be generous!

--Ellen Butchart

**Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group**  
Our next meeting is April 27th 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!!



**Donations needed:**  
1 lb. Boxed Unsweetened Cereal  
(Cheerios, Special K, etc)

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



# Potato Luncheon at Beloit & Clinton



## MISSION FAIR

Members of the Mission Committee moved the Mission Fair display from Beloit to the Clinton campus in March. The Mission Fair highlighted some of the many agencies and local missions supported by our Loose Coins Offering throughout the year. They include Caritas, the Clinton Food Kitchen, Bags of Hope and Blankets of Warmth, Meals on Wheels, DEFY Domestic Violence, 16:49, Family Promise, and Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC).

-Ellen Butchart



## Kellyse Lutzow Crowned Miss Beloit's Outstanding Teen 2022

On March 26 Kellyse competed for the title of Miss Beloit's Outstanding Teen 2022 and earned the opportunity to represent Beloit for the year! Kellyse will also compete at Miss Wisconsin's Outstanding Teen in June.

The scoring criteria is: 40% Talent, 30% Interview, 20% Formal Wear and On Stage Question, and 10% Lifestyle and Fitness.

Kellyse won:

- Overall teen interview award
- Veterans Award for knowing 7 out of 7 questions related to Veterans and
- Love of America Essay that was sponsored by our very own Joann Klett

We will be having a brat sale coming up to help raise money for her state pageant on May 7th, 10am to 3 pm at church. A portion of the funds raised will go towards her platform that she will be promoting throughout her rein, #HiddenVictims : The Impact of Incarceration on Families .

-Kelly Lutzow



# Financial Corner

Month of:  
March 2022

## Current month :

Operating Income \$ 21,643.67      Operating Expense \$ 25,624.84

## Year to date: 2022

Operating Income \$ 100,102.45      Operating Expense \$ 77,289.33

## Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$ 3,099.50

We raised 270.84 for meals on wheels!!!!

Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,506.20

Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 6,245.08

Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$ 1,335.76

We raised over \$900 for Umcor/Ukraine!!!!

**We are updating our database, and would like your assistance to verify your birthdate, including year, and contact information. For children/grandchildren who attend or visit ROL, it is important that we have their grade as well as birthdate. Please return to:  
River of Life UMC, 2375 Prairie Avenue, Beloit WI 53511  
Thanks for your help with this project.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
street city zip

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

CHILD \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Add comments on other side)

4/2022



## Stewardship of Lent and Holy Week



"Lent, he said, is the season that the church has set aside for us to intentionally reflect on our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. It is a time to reflect on those things that bring us closer to God and others, and those things that keep us alienated from God and others." Pastor Gregg.

I remember in my younger years growing up in a small town. When Lent and Easter rolled around, our small church, like the other churches in town, things started to become lively like it was Christmas time in spring. You'd hear folks talking about how the Sanctuary was going to be decorated on certain days of the week and how they were working on special events for the adults and children of the church. Even the Sunday School teachers had plans for us each week. I remember one week going to Sunday School and the teachers handed each of us a small church card board box with a slit on top. The teacher explained to us that during the time of Lent, is the season that the church has set aside for us to intentionally reflect on our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. It is a time to reflect on those things that bring us closer to God and others, and those things that keep us alienated from God and others. Our teacher also explained to us that the time of Lent is a time where we give something up. WOW! I couldn't do that. I didn't want to. I was so upset that I told my Mom that I didn't want to Sunday School anymore. She thought about it and talked with Pastor Gregg about me being so upset like the other kids in my Sunday School class. Pastor Gregg came into our class the next Sunday. He explained why we should try to give something up. He said that we aren't necessarily giving something up, that we needed to add something new during the Lent time. Maybe with adding something new during Lent, we'd learn to give something else away. It was like the church box with the slit on the top. We were putting loose coins in the box to help those in need through our giving at church.

When I started my journey on being on the Stewardship committee years past, I thought about how could we help those in need during Lent. Back in my Sunday School years, our teachers passed out a coin folder. This folder was to collect quarters and once the folder was full, we turned them to church. It was exciting to see how soon we could fill up that folder and how many we could get turned in within six weeks of Lent. Another time I gave away old grievances, and rebuilt some relationships. Having the Sunday School teachers and Pastor Gregg teach us about Lent was a great thing for many of us. Especially for me. Learning to give and to help others to help walk with Jesus during their difficult time in their lives.

We are here as God's stewards. You and I are called to learn generosity by giving. We are called to model it for children.

Have a great Lent and Easter journey!

Peace, Love and Grace,  
Thomas C. Alverson  
Stewardship Chairperson



## Welcome, David Newman

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, River of Life UMC, and the Chancel Choir in particular, are excited to welcome David Newman as our new church pianist. We have heard over the past few weeks the high caliber of David's playing, but the story of his impressive background will attest even more to how lucky we are to have him.



Listed in *Who's Who Among American Keyboard Artists*, David began playing the piano at the age of 3 in Rochester, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance at the State University of New York at Fredonia, where he also won the annual Concerto Competition. He continued his studies at the University of Michigan and then accepted a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. There he earned the highest performing honor, the Concert Recital Diploma. Returning to the U.S., he followed his Michigan teacher to Rutgers University, graduating with a Master of Music degree in piano performance. As a teaching assistant at Rutgers, David taught piano to under-graduates and was pianist for the Princeton Ballet Theater. He also served as organist and pianist for the school's student ministries, as well as teaching piano and music appreciation classes at neighboring community colleges.

Moving to Chicago, David began a career as a much-in-demand musician at venues all around the city, including the Steppenwolf Theater Company, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, DePaul, the Chicago Cultural Center, and many others. He served as staff accompanist in the studios of several Chicago Symphony members and served on the faculties of St. Xavier University and the Merit Music Program (a subsidized music education program for inner-city children). For many years he served as Music Director at St. John's United Church of Christ in Evanston.

Since moving to Beloit (where he has family) in 2008, David has performed widely in solo and chamber recitals, has performed a number of concertos with area orchestras, including the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra and the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, and is the pianist for the Choral Union in Janesville. He founded the chamber ensemble Zephyr, which many of us heard in concert recently in the Musica Maxima series at First Congregational Church.

And we have him! We feel incredibly blessed to have David's high level of talent, and look forward to continuing and growing our music ministry following the retirement of Judy Paddock. River of Life is a singing church, and our congregation appreciates good music. Not only does David bring that, but he brings kindness, humility, and a willingness to adapt to anything we need him to do. David has indicated that he hopes to serve here for many years, and we couldn't be more thrilled!

-Ellen Butchart



We spent Lent talking about how God's grace helps us clean up the mess of sin in our lives and restores the image of God within us. During May we will talk about how all of this makes us Different. Be sure to attend worship in person or online as we share the ways that we are intentionally being Different.

# EVENTS

**Sunday**  
 9:30 am Beloit Worship  
 10:00 am Clinton Worship

**Monday**  
 1:00 pm Card Club (FH)

**Tuesday**  
 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)  
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

**Wednesday**  
 10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)  
 6:30 pm Bible Study (FH)

**Thursday**  
 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

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

**Issue deadline:**  
 May 6th  
 The next newsletter  
 will be available  
 May 15th

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS:**  
 Apportionment  
 April 10th  
 Native American Ministries  
 May 1st

## APRIL 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

### Calendar

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- April 13 3:30 pm Tutoring (FH)  
 5:30 WATR Meal & Easter Egg-A-Palooza
- HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE—PAGE 5**
- April 18 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
- April 20 9:30 am Martha Circle (FH)  
 1:00 pm Mary Circle (FH)
- April 24 10:00 am Clinton Communion/Potluck w/Pastor
- April 25 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
- April 26 1:00 pm Missions (FH)  
 6:30 pm Finance (FH)
- April 27 1:00 pm Knitting/Crochet With A Mission (O)  
 3:30 pm Tutoring (FH)

