

# United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

## BELOIT CAMPUS

2345 Prairie Avenue  
Beloit, WI  
608.362.8866

## OFFICE

2375 Prairie Avenue  
Beloit, WI  
608.362.8866

## CLINTON CAMPUS

402 Church Street  
Clinton, WI  
608.676.4646

## STAFF

<b>Brenda Whitford</b> 608-482-0021	<b>Pastor</b> <i>pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com</i>
<b>Tom Alverson</b> 608-362-8866	<b>Lay Minister</b> <i>talverson@rolumcwi.com</i>
<b>Keith Putney</b> 608-774-3162	<b>Teaching Pastor</b>
<b>Kelly Lutzow</b> 608-362-8866	<b>Office Manager</b> <i>Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com</i>
<b>Lois Ulvin</b>	<b>Director of Music</b>
<b>David Newman</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>Derek Bergh</b>	<b>IT-Production Manager</b>

## LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

**Lay Leader**  
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**  
Kelly Clark

**Stewardship Team Chairperson**  
Tom Alverson

**Tech Team Chairperson**  
Derek Bergh

**United Women of Faith President**  
Pat Sands





# From the Pastor's Desk



*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.*

It's time!! Have you been praying? It's time we see the miracles God is doing in our midst.

Of course, that depends. Have you been praying our Breakthrough Prayer every day? Have you been praying as though you really want the Holy Spirit to release his Resurrection Power? Have you been praying as though you expect more than we can ask for or imagine?

We don't just go from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, or in our case, from our Cantata Sunday to Easter Sunday. In between we have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Those were confusing and painful days for the followers of Jesus. They are still confusing and painful days for us, even though we are fortunate in that we know how the story ends. We know that death was not the end for Jesus. We know that there is Resurrection Power.

For many, they celebrate that Resurrection Power of Jesus on Easter, but don't really believe that God can bring new life to their lives or to our church. We serve a limitless God! Our God can do anything! I hope that you have been praying for it!

I hope you will join me at our Beloit Campus, or with Tom at our Clinton Campus, for our Holy Week services. Pray our Breakthrough Prayer more fervently than ever.

Let's see what amazing Resurrection Power God brings to us!!

I'll see you in church, where pray for amazing things to happen,

Love, Pastor Brenda



*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.**

## **Easter Egg-A-Palooza**

At The River of Life Church  
2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit

**FREE  
EGG  
HUNT!**

**FREE  
DINNER!**

**FREE  
GAMES!**

**APRIL 5  
5:30-6:30**





## People we



† Austin  
† Barbara  
† Chuck  
† Daniel & Max  
† Darla  
† David  
† Don  
† Jeff  
† John  
† Kerri  
† Kyleigh  
† Linda

† Lisa  
† Marlene  
† Nan  
† Pastor Eduardo  
† Pastor Keith  
† Priscilla  
† Sandie  
† Scott  
† Sharon  
† Shirley  
† Stephanie  
† Steve  
† Wally & JoAnn

## Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

† Joyce Beals  
† Don Condon  
† Jean Schrader

The services and activities at River of Life United Methodist Church are videotaped, including adults and children.

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





## *The River of Life*

United Methodist Church

### **Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

9:30 am at Beloit Campus— "Come to the Cross and Remember"  
An Easter Cantata

3:00 pm at Beloit Campus—"Come to the Cross and Remember"  
An Easter Cantata

### **Maundy Thursday Worship Service—April 6**

6:30 pm—Beloit Campus

### **Good Friday, April 7**

12:00 pm—Beloit Campus

12:00 pm—Clinton Campus

7:00 pm—Tenebrae Service at Jefferson Prairie Church

### **Easter Eve, April 8**

5:30 pm Worship Service at Beloit Campus

### **Easter Sunrise, April 9**

6:30 am—Clinton Campus

Easter Breakfast immediately following this service

### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

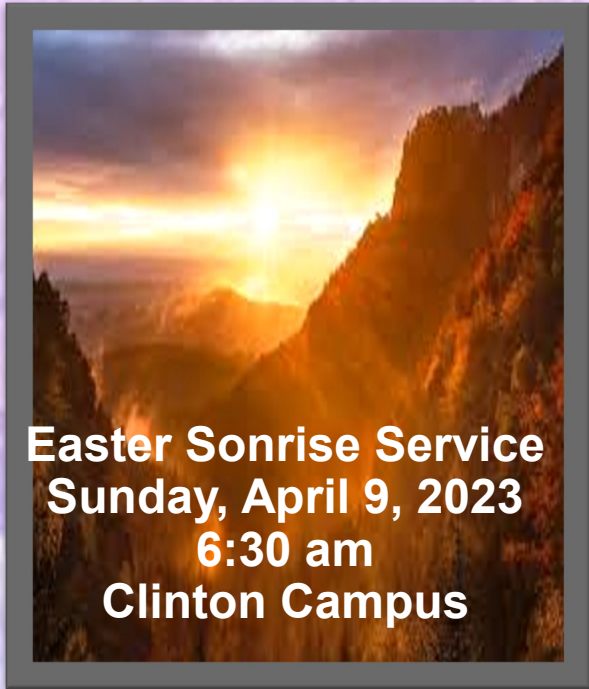
9:30 am Worship Service at Beloit Campus

10:00 am Worship Service at Clinton Campus

River of Life United Methodist Church  
2345 Prairie Avenue                      402 Church Street  
Beloit    Clinton







Even as we celebrate Easter, we often feel the weight of the world's brokenness and our own struggles and lose sight of the fact that the victory has already been won.

The resurrection amounts to the Father's clear signal that Jesus is the powerful Son of God who has conquered death and reigns as Lord of all. The resurrection demonstrates that Jesus' "blood of the new covenant" saves His people from their sins.

Our Easter Sunrise homily invites the congregation to focus on the hope and the power of the resurrection of Christ.

Come and join us for service and stay for breakfast afterwards. Breakfast menu is homemade egg bakes, homemade sweets, juice, water, coffee and fruit.

See you at service.

Tom Alverson



**Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group**

**April 26 1:00 - Office Workroom**

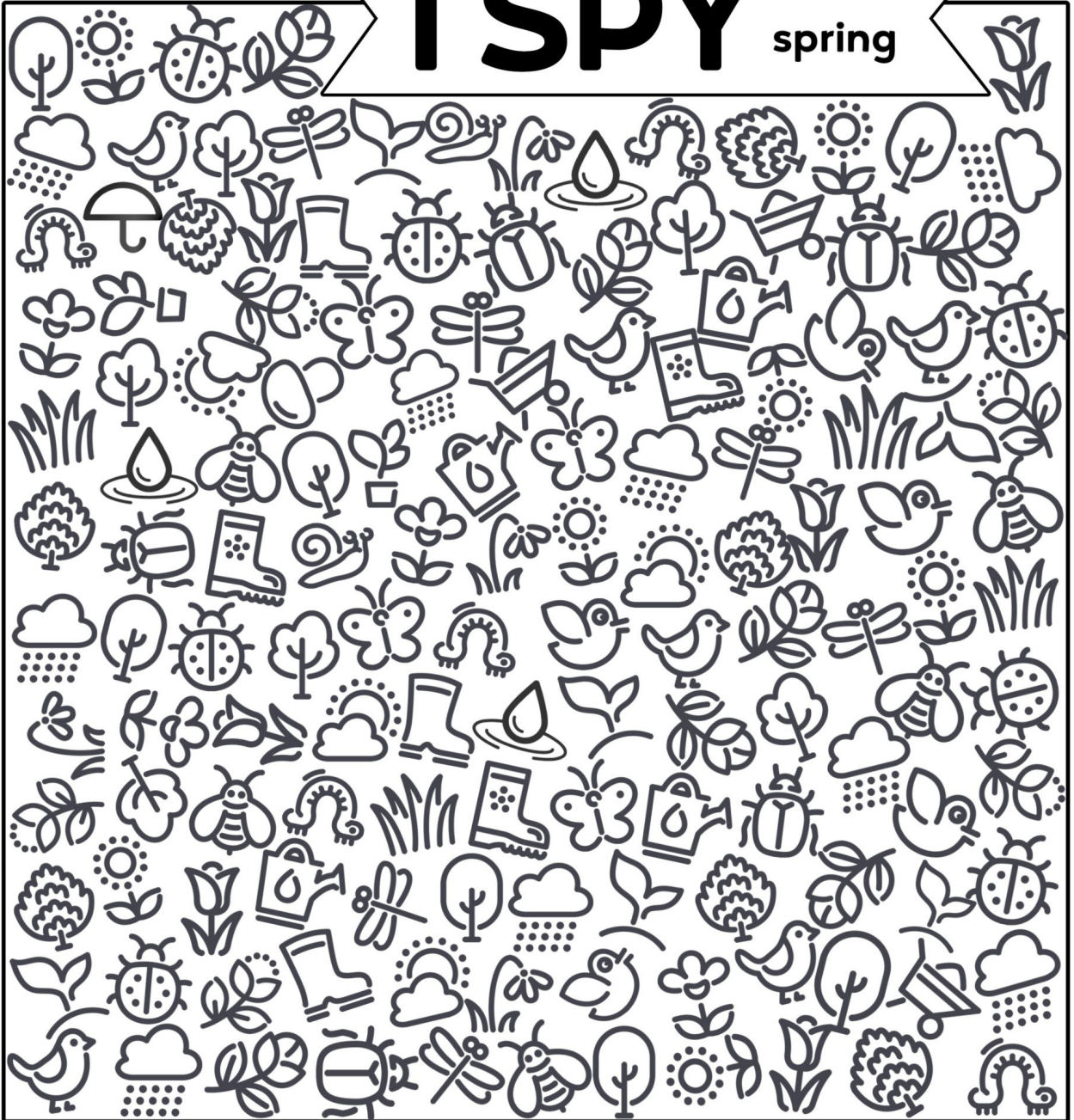
**All knitters & crocheters are invited!**

**Questions?**  
**Call Sandy Ovist at**  
**608-362-6583**



# I SPY

spring

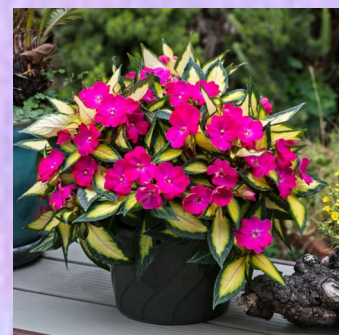
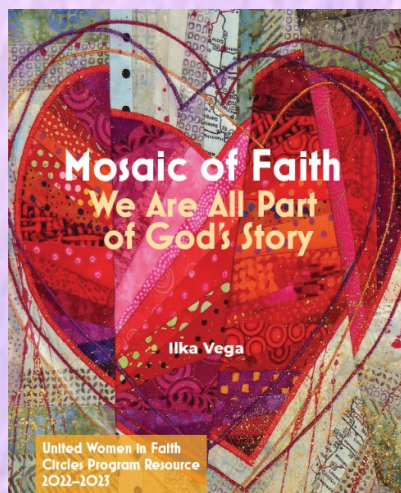


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## Hello April

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.” Romans 8:11*



Lesson Summary for April 2023  
Direct Quote Page 77-78 Program Resource Booklet

### Peacemakers and Justice Seekers Matthew 3:5-12

For this program we will explore the ways in which God calls us to work for justice and how justice is a necessary part of peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

No real peace can be achieved without justice and love. And no one knows greater injustice or greater love than Christ, who suffered to reconcile our relationship with God.

To understand our role as peacemakers and justice seekers, we must center our actions on seeking reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

This will challenge our understanding of peace as simply the absence of violence and encourage us to think about our relationship with others. It will also spur us to be informed about our context and take others' points of view into our understanding.

### What is life like for people living close to the US/Mexican Border?



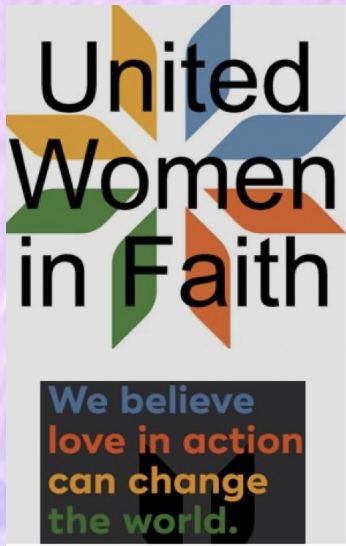
AZ-CA  
HUMANITARIAN  
COALITION

We hear and see pictures on the news about people illegally crossing the Mexico/US border. After hearing a speaker from the Arizona-California Humanitarian Coalition, the UWF of the First United Methodist Church, Yuma, Arizona decided to visit the border and see for themselves what is happening.

I spend the winter in this border city of Yuma, Arizona and had the privilege of hearing the speakers from this humanitarian group. I also am able to visit with the ladies who actually went down to the border. Next month I will present a report on what it is like to live in a border city, what the UWF found and how they now help.

—Carol Connors





We all have things to do, places to go, people to see.

One of the greatest skill sets in life is being able to adapt and meet new challenges, both large and small and in between.

One of my favorite Bible verses is one you don't see in lovely calligraphy hangings on someone's wall, stenciled on tote bags, or on coffee cups. It is the verse where Jesus said, "In this world, you will have trouble."

Some translations say tribulation.

I find that verse affirming and reassuring on those nights I fall into bed exhausted spent and completely wrung out.

Even better than knowing difficulty is part of the landscape is the second part of the verse: "But take heart, I have overcome the world." The affirmation that life is hard, for days or for seasons, is followed by encouragement and hope.

They say the race belongs to the swift and we duly shower awards and medals on those with lightning speed and incredible strength. But never, ever, ever count out those who move slowly, navigating life's trials and tribulations one radiation treatment, one round of chemo, one physical therapy appointment at a time, one step and one day at a time, courageously leaning into changing circumstances and new challenges. It is the plodders and the overcomers who are the truly strong among us.

*Source: Wisconsin State Journal on October 6, 2022. It was written by Lori Borgman. "When Plans Sour and Wind Howls."*

### Circle Calendar

#### April

- 07 Good Friday
- 09 Easter
- 19 Martha Circle Meeting  
9:30 a.m.

*Sarah Parsons presenting "Adoption101" in FH  
Treats provided by Joanne Johnson & Louise Junig*

- 19 Mary Circle Meeting  
1:00 p.m.

*(Program at Clara Welch's home)*

#### May

- 10 Ex. Board Meeting  
1:00 pm
- 17 Martha Circle Meeting  
9:30 am
- 17 Mary Circle Meeting  
1:00 pm
- 24 Unit Meeting

### Circle Times

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:** 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.  
*For details contact: Carol Braukhoff  
608-299-8738*

**Mary Circle:** 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.  
*For details contact: Jacque Patch  
608-362-7729*

### Laugh a Little



A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22

A Sunday school teacher described how Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. James interrupted: "My mommy looked back once while she was driving, and she turned into a telephone pole!"  
—Church Chuckles





## Adult Mission Trip May 17 – 19, 2023

We have our largest group going to Midwest Mission Distribution Center this spring! Our group also includes two friends from Iowa.

Darlene Breden  
Ellen Butchart  
Bruce Cawkins  
Lora Cawkins  
Doris Davis-Gaustad

Amy Geiger  
Diane Gemignani  
Margaret Hansen  
Mary Alice Harris  
Sheryl Horvath

Joanne Johnson  
Allison Larson  
Bob Novy  
Sarah Parsons

**\*\* We have room for one more person to join our group! Please contact Diane Gemignani \*\***

(608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com) if you are interested.

In 2024: We will be going to MMDC April 3 – 5, 2024

In 2025: We will try for a September date.



### REMEMBER TO "LIKE US"

Our Facebook pages are active and there you'll find current postings on upcoming events, activities, church happenings, and lots more.

### OUR FACEBOOK PAGES ARE:

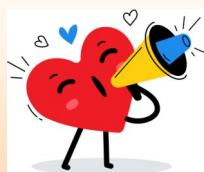
The River of Life United Methodist Church, Clinton Campus

[www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumcClinton](http://www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumcClinton)

and

The River of Life United Methodist Church.

[www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc](http://www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc)



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.





# Mission Committee

## April Loose Coins

Loose Coin offerings for April will go to **Caritas**, our locally supported food pantry and diaper bank for families in need in the state line area. Our church has a long history with Caritas of volunteerism and donations, going back to its founding in the 1970s. Pat and Roger Sands are our church's liaisons to Caritas, and Pat provided this update:

Caritas is bustling. While the number of visitors so far this year has been less than in 2022, the households are larger, so they are actually serving more people. Caritas expects to serve more people and households than ever throughout 2023 due to several COVID-19 emergency allotments ending.

The financial footing of Caritas is good at the present time. The new roof is paid for, the warehouse is full, and the bank account is in good shape. Max Dodson, the Director, continues to look forward to opportunities for future funding to cover the anticipated increase in need this year. He is constantly writing for grants from various companies. Recently Max completed the third step in the Campbell Soup grant application, which was a personal interview. Campbells will award a \$20,000 grant soon, and we are in the running.

The diaper bank handed out 2,522 diapers in January and 2,280 in February.

Soon the community garden program will start up for the year. It provides families with seeds, plants, tools, and training, along with a plot in the community garden so that families can learn how to provide their own food.

The challenges will be great in 2023; however, with good management and generous donors, Caritas will continue seeing to the needs of the community. Your generous support is appreciated!

-- The Mission Committee

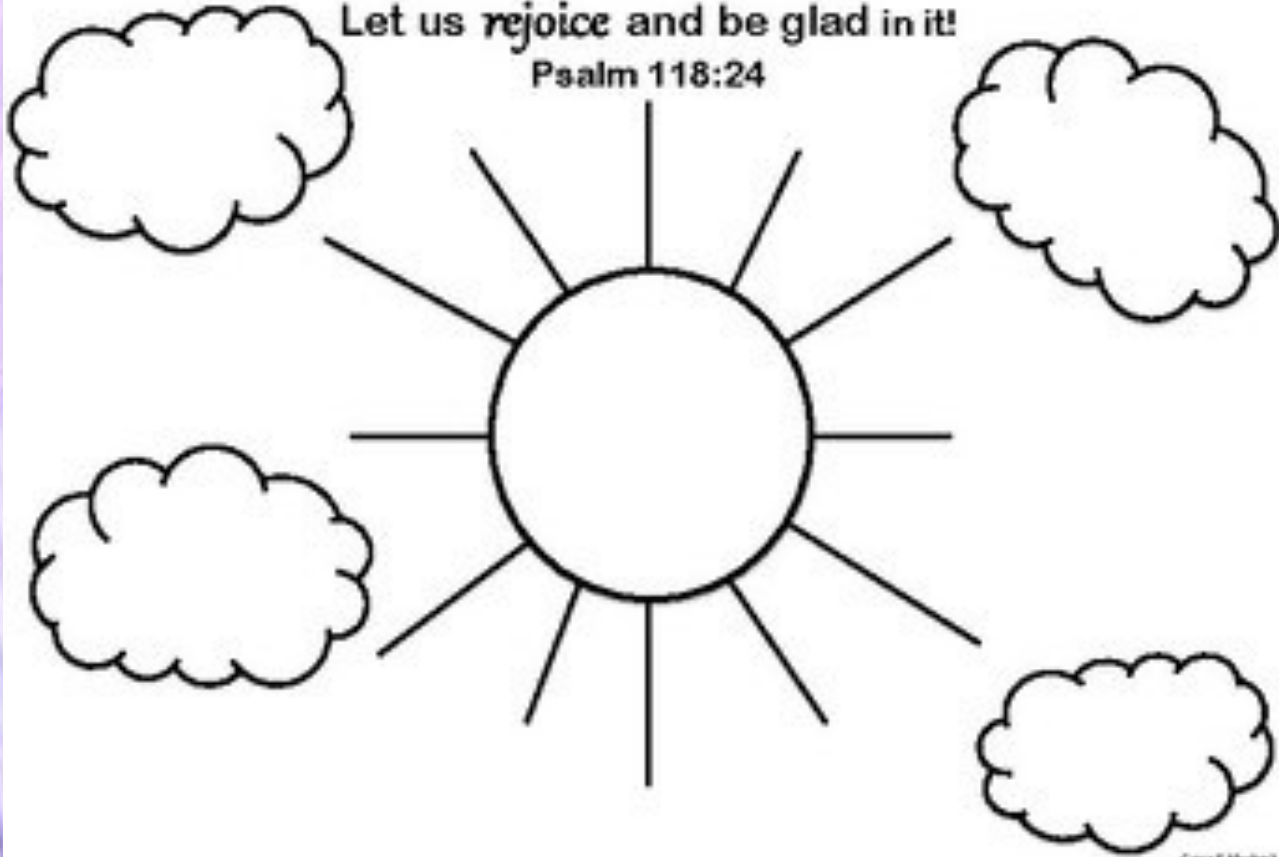




This is the day that the Lord has made,

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118:24



Write something you are thankful for on each ray of the sun! In each cloud, write your goals for the spring season!

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# Today is a great day to join a Bible Study!

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30am via Zoom. We are currently studying the Bible Book of *James*. Contact Pastor Brenda if for the Zoom

## WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:30pm 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 3 gospels. Contact Pastor Brenda if you would like to participate.

## SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Saturday Morning Bible study meets on Zoom at 7:30am. Bob Parssinen leads the group using videos from *The Bible Project*. Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.

# WATR

Wednesdays at the River

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Easter Egg-A-Palooza

April 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm Tutoring, 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study

April 19<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

April 26<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm Tutoring, 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study





**Firm**

**Focus**



**Core Strength  
&  
Balance**

**Friendly**

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:00 am  
Beloit Campus

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.



## Stewardship and the Holy Spirit



Often, when the word “stewardship” is uttered in the church, we think of money, giving, and budgets.

With the celebration of Earth Day, April is one of many occasions when we can remind ourselves that Christian stewardship is broader than just money. Here are just a few teachings on creation that have been passed on through the ages.

How would you define stewardship? Stewardship is another way of talking about ministry, and it would revolutionize ministry if people could think of it in terms of stewardship. We are accountable to God for what we do and with what he has trusted to us.

The word stewardship comes from the Greek word, oikonomos, which means somebody who manages a household. A person doesn't own the household but manages it. And stewards in the ancient world, of course, were trusted with everything from seeing that the floors were clean, to the finances, to the public face of that household. Joseph is a good biblical example of that.

We are not the owners, but have been trusted with resources and the care of everything—Creation, gifts and talents, money, time, the gospel—for the sake of God's purposes in the world.

Stewardship is another way of talking about ministry. The word ministry in both Greek and Hebrew is the same word as servant. And servants are people who are at the disposal of another. And so once we replace the word ministry with the word service, we begin to see that stewardship is ministry in the sense that all of us, not just pastors, are responsible to do what God wants and are accountable to him. Of course, we hope to do that in the power of the Spirit, with the anointing touch of God. But it's a service to God and to the world simultaneously. So, the word ministry points to the source and the ultimate goal, and the word stewardship implies the care of people, resources, gifts and talents, and the grace of God.

Is our accountability to God just individual? We do have an individual responsibility. In the home, family, neighborhood, local church, workplace, etc. But we as individuals and the church could undertake the idea of stewardship much more holistically than we do. We think of stewardship as fundraising to pay off the building and to cover the pastor's salary and other expenses that keep the church going. But we should see that we're trustees of talents, gifts, time, treasure, and the culture and values in the society around us. We have great missionary examples that have been giving to those in need in our own backyards and beyond.

Even though we are good stewards of what God has given to us, and maybe we need to improve on being better stewards, are times when we need to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit so the Spirit can work through us. There are times when we come to face a situation when we need to pray about the outcome. I've spoken to several folks about the time we were looking to expand the camera operation for better online streaming. I went to Pastor Brenda and told her that I was exhausted working on the project for the week and that I had put it into God's hands. This was a Thursday and when I saw Pastor again when I returned from Clinton that preceding Sunday, she had great news from a person on where to find the system that we needed and how folks stepped up to help fund the project. God took the situation, heard my prayers and other folks as well and guided us to complete the project.

We need to continue praying the Breakthrough Prayer each and everyday. Let the Holy Spirit continue to work through each and everyone of us.

Blessings to each of you!  
Thomas C. Alverson  
Stewardship Chairperson

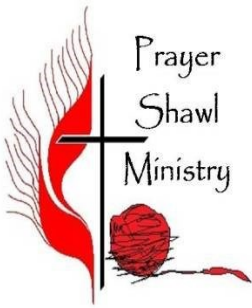


## Donations for the Adult Mission Trip

Every year, we encourage people to sign up for the adult mission trip. We always tell them,

*“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.”*

Every year, we have one or two people who are helped by that fund. This financial assistance fund could use some replenishing. If you would like to contribute to this fund to allow others to participate in the mission trip, please make out a check to ROL-UMC with Adult Mission Trip in the memo. This check can go into the offering, but please let Diane Gemignani know that it's a donation. (Otherwise, she will actually sign you up to go on the trip!) You can contact Diane by phone: 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity!



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

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

**Issue deadline:**

**April 24**

**The next newsletter  
will be available on  
May 7**

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

**The Beloit Service is on the website  
and both Beloit and Clinton are on  
Facebook**



**Sunday**  
 9:30 am Beloit Worship  
 10:00 am Clinton Worship  
 11:00 am "The Chosen" Movie Series  
 w/ Bob Parssinen

**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)  
 4:00 pm Tutoring (FH)  
*(Starts at 2:30 on 1st and 3rd Wed)*  
 5:30 pm WATR Dinner  
 6:30 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

# Calendar

April 4	All Day	Election Day - Church Closed for Meetings
April 4	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
April 5	5:30-6:30 PM	Egg-A-Palooza
April 6	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
April 7	12:00 PM	Good Friday Services at Clinton & Beloit Campuses
April 7	7:00 PM	Tenebrae- Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church
April 8	8:00 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
April 9	6:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service - Clinton <i>Breakfast to immediately follow</i>
April 17	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
April 18	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
April 24	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
April 26	8:00 AM	<b>**MAY CURRENT ARTICLES DUE**</b>
April 26	1:00 PM	Knitting with a Mission
May 1	6:00 PM	Liturgist/Lay Speaker Meeting
May 2	6:00pm	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
May 11	10:00 AM	Clinton Ministerial Meeting
May 13	8:00 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
May 13	10:00 - 3:00 PM	Kellyse's Brat Sale Fundraiser





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

**May 1** Dennis Boschma  
Beth Cudney  
Shelby Ward  
Liam Woody

**May 2** Alan Wilson

**May 4** Jacob Christensen  
Kathy Smith

**May 5** Linda Matthews

**May 7** Laverne Hays  
Fran Patch

**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

**May 26** Eva Hoff

**May 29** Tony Bachim  
Dale Gemignani

**May 30** Kennedy Maxwell  
Claire Parsons

**June 1** Carol martin  
Sandra Long

**June 5** Pat Sands  
Julie Christensen

**June 6** Donald Welch  
Ryley Woody

**June 12** Roger Sands

**June 13** Bob Scheets

**June 19** Melanie Gray  
Carson Bishop

**June 24** Mason Lee Bishop

**June 25** Wanda Haas

**June 28** Patricia Lawrence

**June 29** Maci Gamble  
Keegan Cawkins

**June 30** Kathy Dearth



**May 1**  
Doug & Tina Henthorn

**May 26**  
Tom & Joan Michels

**May 31**  
Robert & Patti Novy

**June 6**  
Stephen & Mary Wadle

**June 8**  
Dave & Peggy Buckler

**June 10**  
Julie & Ray Hartje

**June 13**  
Don & Clara Welch

**June 18**  
Bob & Karen Parssinen

**June 22**  
Mark & Donna Hammett  
Judy & Bill Pollard