

The Current of The River of Life

April 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #04



April
Showers
Bring
May
Flowers

River of Life United Methodist Church

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

Worship Location - 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

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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...



♪♪ Do you love me?
Yes, Lord!

If you love me, if you truly love me, feed my lambs. ♪♪

Yes, I still have cantata on the brain!

If you received this newsletter when it was first distributed during worship, it is Easter Sunday! We sing Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! We sniff the fabulous smell of Easter Lilies. It is a glorious Sunday! But, as we said on Cantata Sunday, the story isn't over. The story continues with us.

The "Do You Love Me" song from the cantata is taken from the book of John. After the disciples had seen the resurrected Jesus, Simon Peter and several of the other disciples decided to go fishing again. They didn't catch anything. Jesus yelled to them to put the net down on the other side of the boat, and they caught more fish than would fit in the boat! After sharing some of that fish for breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter three times if Peter loved him - corresponding to the three times Peter denied him. Jesus told Simon Peter three times to feed his lambs.

People often say that is what pastors are supposed to do. I would argue that it is for all of us to do. But what does it mean to feed Jesus' lambs?

I think our vision statement speaks beautifully into this question. We have said that we love people into taking their next step with Jesus. For some of us within the church walls, we are quite a way along on our journey with Christ. We need to be loved differently that someone who is near the beginning of their journey. That person needs to be loved differently that someone who hasn't yet begun their journey.

Easter may be one day in the life of the church, but that feeding people, that loving people is our daily task. I am grateful that we are doing it together.

I'll see you in church, where we strengthen together, then go into the world, loving people into taking their next step with Jesus!

Love, Pastor Brenda



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!



Dynamite Prayer

Our Dynamite Prayer emphasis has concluded. The videos will remain available
through the end of the month for those who haven't completed the 28 days of
devotionals.

A huge thank you to our readers: Kathy Allen, Eleanor Burnside, Ellen Butchart,
Jesse Calkins, Lynn Caple, Lora Cawkins, Kelly Clark, Jon Condon, Carol Connors,
Diane Gemignani, Tom Hamlett, Sheryl Horvath, Diane Kittelson, Kennedy Max-
well, Tracy Maxwell, Tom & Joan Michels, Sarah Parsons, Bob & Karen Parssinen,
Cindy Peters, Even & Kaitlyn Peters, Tish Polzin, Bill & Kathy Rodgers, Pat Sands,
Nadine Stoner, Lois Ulvin & Ann Williams.

Would you be willing to share how the Holy Spirit moved within you during this
time? What difference did this emphasis make in your life? How do you see the
Holy Spirit moving afresh in our church?

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**

1st Brigade Band Coming June 23

Sunday during worship: the Band will lead worship, playing civil war era instruments and focusing on the history of hymns. It should be very interesting and meaningful worship.

Sunday Afternoon: There will be a concert on the church grounds at 2:00 pm. We will be planning a yard party! If you would like to help in the planning, please let Pastor Brenda know.

The 1st Brigade Band, directed by choir member Jon Condon, **MAKES HISTORY LIVE** by presenting period brass band music, performed on antique instruments. Attired in uniforms and gowns, the Band's musicians, color guard, and costumed ladies take you back to the 1860's; to that turbulent era known as the Civil War. A nostalgic portrayal of the atmosphere of days gone by is generated by a unique form of showmanship that blends the sights and sounds of the period with historical anecdotes.

People we are praying for



† Ace
† Amber
† Austin
† Chuck
† Daniel & Max
† Doug
† Ellen
† Jim

† Kerri
† Kyleigh
† Linda
† Marge
† Matt
† Rose
† Steve

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

† Pete Rumpel
† Sam Paddock
† Linda Longman

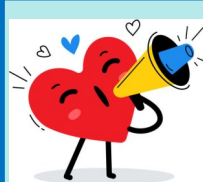


Circle Calendar

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 April 17 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Mary Circle will meet April 17 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall



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.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND

The average tax refund last year was \$2,753. How will we spend our tax refunds this year? We know that some taxpayers do not receive a refund. But, of those who do, how do they spend it? The most popular answers are: 1) Pay off Debt; 2) Have fun - do something special or buy something special and 3) Save it. On most lists of ideas the thought of 4) Giving it Away to a favorite charity is either last on the list or never makes the list!

If we're going to "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God," what are we called to give away? As people of faith we may wish to consider giving a tithe (10%) or some portion of our tax return to the church to say thank you to God for the jobs we have and the earnings we receive.

Consider tithing. If the average refund is \$2,753, and 20 people tithe their refund at \$275 each, the total giving to our church would increase \$5,500. That would pay much of the heating bill for the winter or help us do some kind of wonderfully creative ministry. What is God calling you to give?

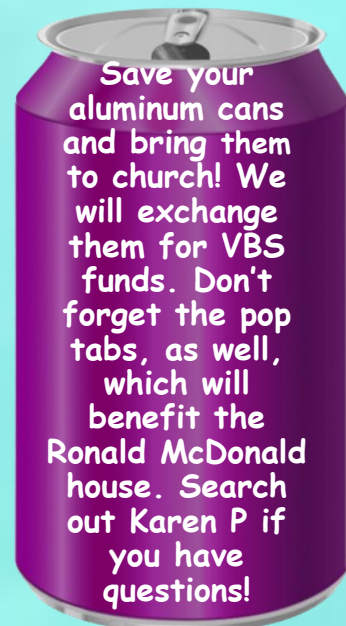
Adapted from "A Stewardship Message For Your Church" from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, April, 2016



The adult mission team will be in Chatham, Illinois April 3 - 5.

Please keep us in your prayers as we travel to Chatham, Illinois, to serve at the Midwest Mission

Distribution Center. We have a team of 10 people. Please pray for safe travels, teamwork, and spiritual growth as we work to serve the needs of people around the corner and around the world.



Hospitality Fellowship

Thank you to all the people who signed up to bring snacks this past winter:

Joanne Johnson	Jacque Patch	Joan Michels	Carol Allen
Diane Gemignani	Pastor Brenda	Sarah Parsons	Kathy Allen
Karen Parssinen	Cindy Peters	Karen Morris	Lois Ulvin
Cindy Ferger	Lora Cawkins	Tish Polzin	Kaitlyn Peters
Tracy Maxwell	and all the people who contributed to the Souper Bowl		

*(I'm sorry if I missed your name. I went by the signup sheet for bringing snacks.
Diane Gemignani)* -

Your generosity and time provides our congregation with valuable Fellowship time and helps us become an even more closer-knit and more welcoming congregation. Thank you so much!

There are lots of opportunities to sign up to bring snacks this spring. The clipboard is either on the counter by the recycle bin or at the end of the snack table. When you sign up, it helps to pair up with someone. Or you can sign your name, and soon someone else will sign up. You don't have to completely fill the table with food. Keep it simple. It's a snack table (not a buffet), but we will gladly eat and enjoy whatever you bring! Thank you for considering this!



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.



**Knit & Crochet With A
Mission Group**

**April 24 at 1:00 in the
Office Workroom**

All knitters & crocheters



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.

Missions

April -- Caritas

April Loose Coins will go to Caritas, the community resource center founded 50 years ago by several Beloit churches, including ours. Caritas offers the largest food pantry in the area, a diaper pantry, and community garden.

Our Caritas representative, Pat Sands, reports that collections are coming in, but the needs are greater than ever. Caritas serves over 700 families per month, providing healthy food offerings, like fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and a variety of protein sources. Families can access the food pantry and the diaper pantry twice a month.

Please be generous with your Loose Coins contributions. Drop your change in the offering plate each week, and if you can, include a check or bills marked for Loose Coins.

May -- Conference Ingathering for Midwest Mission

We're giving you a heads up on the May Loose Coins so you can plan ahead!

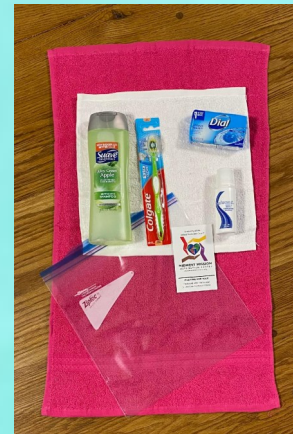
During the month of May we will be collecting both cash (Loose Coins) and toiletries items for the Conference Ingathering, to benefit Midwest Mission.

The Ingathering is a collection sponsored by the Wisconsin Annual Conference to aid a charity selected by the Conference. They have chosen Midwest Mission again this year. Each church is asked to collect cash and in-kind donations in May and deliver them to Annual Conference in early June.

The items we will be collecting are toiletries for the Personal Dignity Kits that Midwest Mission sends out. They are listed below, and will be listed in the bulletin throughout the month of April. All items must be new, and toothbrushes and bars of soap must be individually packaged.

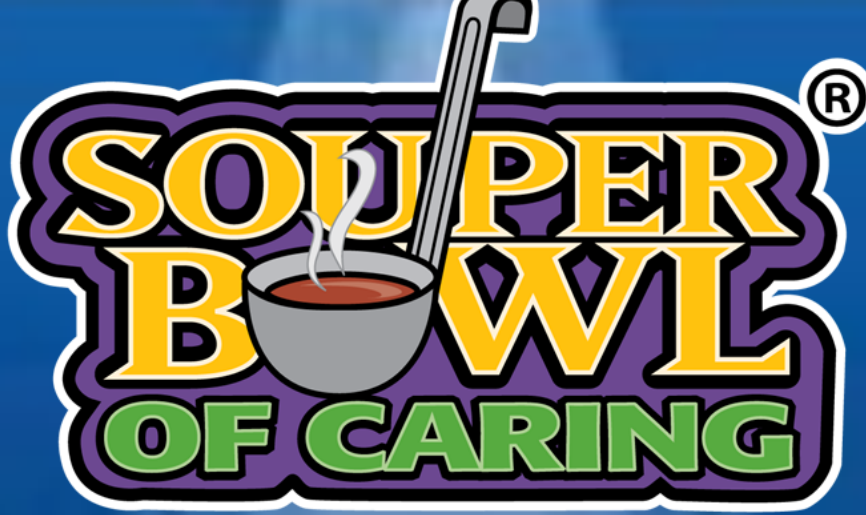
Personal Dignity Kit items:

- 1 Hand Towel - No kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - No dishcloths
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multi-packs
- 1 Bar Soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo - 12-19 oz.
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz. stick, roll-on, or pump
- 1 Lotion - 8-10 oz.
- 1 1-gal. Resealable Plastic Bag



Note: You do **not** need to bring a complete Personal Dignity Kit (although some people enjoy doing that). You might bring just a few items, or multiples of one or more items. For example, you might want to give 12 bars of soap, or 5 adult toothbrushes.

We'll remind you throughout April so you can start shopping, and the collection will begin in May. Thank you!



THANK YOU!

River of Life UMC's 2024 Collection

raised:

\$447

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



**TACKLE
HUNGER**

February 11, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Reese".

Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

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*.

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*.

WATR

Wednesdays at the River Dinner Menu

April 3	NO WATR—Spring Break
April 10	Taco Casserole
April 17	Loaded Baked Potatoes
April 24	Beef Stroganoff



April Calendar

April 2		VOTING LOCATION
April 2	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
April 16	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
April 17	11:00 AM	Martha Circle
April 17	1:00 PM	Mary Circle
April 17	11:00 AM	Memorial Committee
April 22	5:30 PM	Trustee Meeting
April 23	2:30 AM	Hospitality Meeting- Church Office
April 23	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission

**Pastor Brenda will be on vacation April 29-May 5.
Please contact the office if you have a pastoral emergency.**

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

Issue deadline:

April 29

The next newsletter
will be available on

May 5



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

May 1

Shelby Ward
Dennis Boschma
Liam Woody
Beth Strother

May 2

Alan Wilson

May 4

Kathy Smith
Jacob Christensen

May 5

Linda Mathews

May 7

Laverne Hayes
Fran Patch

May 8

Mindy White

May 9

David Carlson

May 13

Diane Mitchell

May 16

Trey Caple

May 19

Julie Day

May 23

Steve Austin

May 24

Jaquie Patch

May 26

Eva Hoff

May 29

Tony Bachim
Dale Gemignani

May 30

Claire Parsons
Charlotte Jacobson
Kennedy Maxwell

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April 5

Brenda & Dan Whitford

April 11

Diane & Dale Gemignani

April 20

Steve & Karen Knutsen

May 1

Doug & Tina Henthorn

May 26

Tom & Joan Michels

May 31

Robert & Patti Novy