The Current of The River of Life



In-Sanctuary Worship Beginning June 6th 9:30 am Sunday Worship at Beloit 10:00 am Sunday Worship at Clinton 5:30 pm Saturday Worship Beloit

May 16, 2021

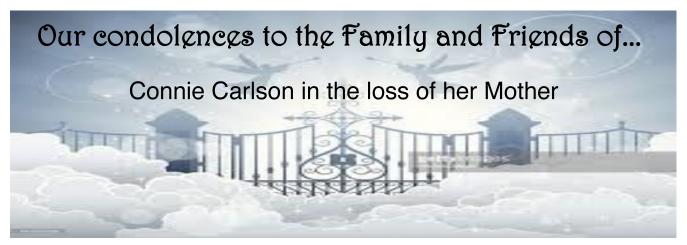
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Vol. 18 Issue 16

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step Wth Jesus

2345 Prairie Avenue 2375 Pr Beloit, WI B 608.362.8866 608	DFFICE rairie Avenue seloit, WI 8.362.8866 08.362.0554 CLINTON CAMPUS 402 Church Street Clinton, WI
LAY LEADERSHIP 2021 Lay Leaders Tom Alverson Ad Council Chairperson Shellie Olson	CLERGY STAFF Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021 pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162
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	CHURCH OFFICE608.362.8866Christina BerghOffice Manager cbergh@rolumcwi.comTom AlversonWorship Leader talverson@rolumcwi.comBonnie MooreReceptionist bmoore@rolumcwi.com
Hospitality Chairperson Diane Gemignani Memorials and Wills Chairperson Marietta Axmear Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart Youth Ministry Team Chairperson Karen Parssinen	MUSIC STAFFLois UlvinDirector of MusicJudith PaddockOrganistMarge JohnsonPianist
Karen ParssinenStaff Pastor Parish Relations ChairpersonMarlene EricksonStewardship Team ChairpersonTom AlversonCovid Task Force ChairpersonPastor Brenda WhitfordTech Team ChairpersonDerek BerghUnited Methodist Women ChairpersonMarlene Erickson	Please contact the office if you or a friend would like a prayer shawl. We have many shawls to share.

Seventeen 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.







Congratulations to Tom Alverson! Tom just completed the "Leading Public Prayer" Lay Servant class. It is his 7th and final course in the Lay Servant Ministries program. Tom is now eligible to be credentialed as a Certified Lay Speaker. Tom leads worship at our Clinton Campus and does a lot of volunteering for our Beloit campus. We are very proud of you, Tom, for your hard work!



May 23rd is Pentecost Sunday. Please wear red for our lawn chair services.

Pastor Brenda will be on vacation from May 10th – 24th. Pastor Keith will be available for pastoral care emergencies.

From the Pastor



The River of Life United Methodist Church is one church with two campuses. It is one church that has a total of four worship services. It is one church with three worship leaders. Each campus and each worship service has a unique culture, and each worship leader has a unique style. Within that diversity, we continue to be one church, so it is important that we keep our focus on our unified mission and vision. It is my understanding that there hasn't been much coordination of theme or message between the services and campuses, and I would like to experiment with that. I have asked Tom Alverson and Bob

Parssinen to coordinate with me as we plan primary themes together. Since each of the four services are different, each worship leader will create their worship service experience based on our unified theme and the needs of the group that typically attends that service, while keeping in mind that we always need to stretch a little, and make room for new ideas from new people. I am excited to see how this unity in diversity will unfold.

When we come back to worship in the sanctuary on June 6th, it will have been nearly 15 months since we were able to worship in the sanctuary. Covid has taken a lot away from us. As a church, it has interrupted how we experience community. Although we won't be able to be "normal" – we won't be able to shake hands, hug, or eat together - it will be good to be together again. We will need to offer one another grace as we remember how to be in community together. That leads to our first worship series back in the sanctuary: Better Together.

Beginning June 6th all of our worship services will explore the way the church began, the importance of each member, the importance of a unity that is not uniformity, and the way the Bible teaches us to love one another. This worship series is still in its planning stages, but again, I am excited to be working with a team to create meaningful worship.

It is my hope, that as we near the end of Covid, because of all we have been through, that our church community will become the strongest it has ever been. I hope that more than ever we will live out our commitment to *love people into taking their next step with Jesus*.

Holding you in my heart until we are together again,

Love, Pastor Brenda



Happy Birthday

June 1 Gary Bolar Sandra Long Carol Martin June 2 Carol Lang June 3 Maguire Maxwell June 5 Julie Christensen Patricia Sands June 6 Don Welch Ryley Woody June 9 **Riley Smith** June 12 Roger Sands June 13 Bob Scheets June 17 Connie Carlson Dallas Jacobson June 19 Joyce Beals Carson Bishop Melanie Gray June 24 Mason Bishop **June 28** Patricia Lawrence <u>June 29</u> Keegan Cawkins Maci Weiser



June 6 Stephen & Mary Wadle June 8 Dave & Peggy Buckler Mark & Dawn Tudor June 13 Don & Clara Welch June 22 Mark & Donna Hammett Judy & Bill Pollard

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

The thieves are at it again. Pastor Brenda would never text or email you asking for "a favor" that turns out to be buying gift cards and sending the card numbers. Do not respond to a text or email like this. Our Beloit Police Department has confirmed that this has become a very common scam to steal from generous church people. Nobody's information has been hacked. These requests



are not from Pastor Brenda's phone number or email address. Just delete the text or email.



River of Life UMC Masks Coming Soon

Sport your very own River of Life UMC mask, available just in time for in sanctuary worship! They are blue with the River of Life Logo and church name. They are made from two-ply 100% polyester with an inner non-woven interfacing. They have adjustable ear loops. Masks will be sold at cost for \$11.00 and will be available for purchase beginning May 30th while supplies last.

Have You Heard the News?



There is a celebration being planned! As we begin to worship together again in June, we want to celebrate returning to a small sense of "normal" worship!

So, help us reconnect, after service, in a continued socially distanced manner with Family Friendly GAME FUN!

This is an event for <u>everyone</u>! There will be outdoor (user friendly) yard games that will not require a helmet or swimsuit. Inside the church there will also

be table games (which may include BINGO!). If you just want to relax and watch, you can do that too! Finally.....there will be **ICE CREAM!**

Mark your calendars! Spread the news and bring a friend!

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th 10:30 A.M.

(Right after services)







Loose Coins

May Loose Coin offerings will go to the Conference InGathering for delivery to **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** (MMDC), where our adult mission trips go. We'll be collecting both cash and disaster response items for MMDC's emergency kits. Following are the items our church will be collecting:

> Adult tooth brushes (individually packaged) Bars of soap, 3-4 oz. Dishwashing liquid, 16-34 oz. Scrub brushes, with or without handles



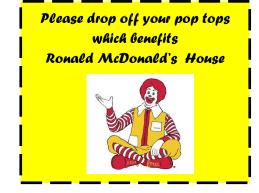
Loose Coin offerings and item donations may be turned in at the end of our drive-in worship services, or items may be left in the outside bins at both churches. You may also leave them in the Coatroom on the collection table if you are inside the Beloit church building.

Looking ahead.....June's Loose Coin offering will go to **Blankets of Warmth**. And a reminder, Margaret Hansen (Clinton campus) is still looking for more volunteers to sew blankets. For more information, call Margaret (608-774-1802), Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274), or Ellen Butchart (608-365-9625).

Knit & Crochet With & Mission Group

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







Can It Really Be???

After a long, long year, UMW will be having a unit meeting! It promises to be a wonderful meeting with all the joys of actually seeing each other as well as a wonderful program.

Place a big STAR on your calendar for May 26.

Pastor Brenda will be our featured speaker. This is wonderful as we will finally get to meet her in person. She will not only introduce herself, but share with us some of her past experiences with various UMW units.

WHAT	The United Methodist Women Unit Meeting
DATE	May 26
TIME	9:30 am
SPEAKER	Pastor Brenda
SPECIAL NOTES	All Covid precautions are in effect:
	No food or beverages at this time.
	Check for latest mask wearing policy.
	Social distancing is still in effect.
	Necessary housekeeping includes wiping down all tables and chairs
	used as well as wiping down commode and door handles if used.

See you there!!!!

Important Dates

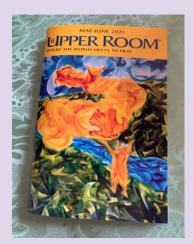
May 13	UMW Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
May 26	UMW Unit Meeting 9:30 Fellowship Hall
August 12-13	(tentative) Fall Rummage Sale
September 22	Unit Meeting 9:30 Fellowship Hall
December 4	(tentative) Cookie Walk



When Grandpa read the lesson...

My Grandpa Ben read the lesson every morning while my grandmother hustled and bustled around the kitchen making breakfast. First he read the Bible passage for the day, and then he read the lesson from the **Upper Room**. As a child, I always found it interesting that the daily devotional could go on at the same time as grandma was working in the kitchen.

Back in the early 1930's Frances Craig, a Sunday school teacher at Travis Park MEC in San Antonio, Texas, saw how people suffering great losses from the 1929 stock market crash were comforted by reading short Bible centered devotionals. My grandpa could certainly identify with that, for he had lost his purebred holstein herd of cattle and his farm in 1929. Here he was, financially destitute with eight children.



Meanwhile Frances suggested that her pastor, Dr., Paul Kern, include devotionals in the weekly church newsletter. In 1934 Grover Emmons was assigned to the MEC Board of Home Missions in Nashville, Tennessee. In December of that year he made a motion to the board that a quarterly devotional book be published. The idea was expanded to all denominations as a gift from the Methodist Church to the entire church. The first edition of 100,000 copies was published in 1935 and sold out immediately. Goods and possessions were gone, but my Grandpa's faith was steadfast. I don't know if he purchased one of the 1935 copies, but I know he was reading it aloud to the family by 1940.

Today I, like my grandfather, find great comfort in reading the **Upper Room**. I pass it on to my neighbor, who in turn, passes it on to a retired minister who shares it with those whom he visits. You can read the entire story of the Upper Room at http://www.companionsinchrist.org/en/about/history, but you will have to talk to me to hear more stories about my grandpa, Ben Rabenhorst.

Mailbox Birthday Blessings

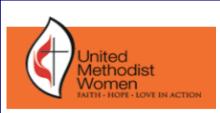
Serna Samuel, our UMW missionary for April needs our continued prayers as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, her field of service, is continuing to suffer from heavy rains, flooding and mud slides as well as an erupting volcano. A cruise ship is helping evacuees.

The May Mail Box Birthday Blessing is **Nora Marke**r. Nora belongs to the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioer, working in San Franciso. According to the UMW 2020-21 Prayer Calendar, the DHMR serves the world as a full-time worker of servant ministries of love, justice and service. Her birthday is May 18 and greetings may be sent to:





-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



This story reflects the diverse ways mission dollars are used within United Methodist Women to put faith, hope and love into action.

> Limitless: Young Women's Event Nicole Nokness, Cal-Pac Conference Team

Limitless has provided me with countless opportunities in my personal, professional and spiritual life with Christ. Not only have I grown as an individual, I have grown to know more about God and have found a sisterhood to support me. Limitless has taken me to a whole new level from being mentored to becoming the mentor for other Limitless young women. It has taken me to events that were life changing and part of a much bigger picture. I have signed petitions, been at rallies and found new ways to speak for important causes. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would be part of a rally for a living wage with other United Methodist Women sisters— twice! This organization is empowering and makes me want to serve more in my community through United Methodist Women.

My Limitless journey began when God called me at a time that I was figuring out what I wanted to do with my future. It started in 2012 with the national United Methodist Women Redefine Tomorrow event in North Carolina, and I was excited again in 2016 when I was called to help with Limitless in my California-Pacific Conference. My light comes from those before me who have mentored me to be the United Methodist young woman I have become. It is because my mentors passed their light to me that my own light shines bright and strong today. I am proud to be counted as a member of United Methodist Women!



Knitted Together and Reaching Out

-Marlene Erickson

UMW and Social Justice

Church & Society has joined the UIMC in its commitment to Net-Zero Emissions by 2050. Church and Society provides a number of Justice Talks through Zoom. More information is available on the UMC website. Voices from the Field involves conversations with at least four missionaries in the field via Zoom. More information is available from the UMW website.

Adult Mission Trip Details

Our annual Adult Mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Springfield, Illinois, is scheduled for Sept. 15 - 17, 2021. A signup sheet is included in this issue. The MMDC staff is fully vaccinated, and Covid protocols are in place. Temperatures will be taken each day as we arrive to work. Masks must be worn in the kit room and warehouses at all times. If you need to remove your mask for any reason, you need to exit the building to do so.

The staff is looking forward to our arrival. We may be assembling personal dignity kits and flood buckets, inventorying donations, shellacking or assembling desks, repairing bicycles or sewing machines, or mending sheets and blankets. The staff will tell us what jobs need to be done, and we volunteer for which ones we feel we can do. We go to serve. We come home amazed at their organization and humbled by the difference we make in the short time we are there. They have amazing stories to share about how God works with them to touch the lives of people all over the world. Check out their website at www.midwestmission.org.

The Adult Mission trip departs from the church parking lot at 9:00 am on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Our carpool will stop for a picnic lunch at Miller Park in Bloomington, IL. Our next stop will be Washington Park in Springfield. Washington Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park features walking trails, a botanical garden, large duck pond, rose garden, and a carillon. You can walk as little or as much as you like.

You have a choice of staying in the dormitory at Midwest Mission Distribution Center or at the Baymont Inn. At the dorm, there are two bunk beds in each room, but you will be assigned the room for just yourself unless you want to pair up with anyone (and receive a discount). You need to supply your own towel and bedding. The dorm has a full kitchen, men's and women's showers, air-conditioning, and wifi. At the present time, three of the dorm rooms will be occupied by another group.

If you choose to stay at the Baymont Inn, they will have a block of rooms set aside for Wednesday and Thursday nights at a discounted rate.

We look forward to you joining us this year!







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Financial Corner

Month of: April 2021

Current month :		
Operating Income	\$ 21,972.00	Operating Expense \$ 18,007.99
Year to date: 2021 Operating Income	\$ 160,257.07	Operating Expense \$ 106,755.83
Designated giving year to date: Apportionments: \$ Gods Fund Balance: \$ Bags of Hope Balance: \$ Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$	3,572.75 1,370.90 3,973.20 1,016.31	Thank you to those that donated to missions!!! So far we have received \$ 72 for Native American Sunday, \$1,140 to split between Sparrows Nest and RVCP, also have received \$111 dollars for UMCOR in April!!!

We are excited to announce that people can now donate to the River of Life United Methodist Church online!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nan Bolar and Karen Parssinen are doing an incredible job each week leading Sunday School on YouTube. If you know a child that would like to participate, contact the office and Karen will take them materials each week. Sunday School will wrap up on May 23rd. Adults would be blessed watching as well! You can find the videos on our Website under the Ministries/Children's Ministry drop down menu. You can also find the videos on our YouTube channel "River Of Life UMC Beloit."

You can watch worship online in two ways:

- * On our church website
- * Through Facebook

The benefit of a "Facebook Premiere" (similar to a Facebook Live) is that we can comment in real time. So, as we watch at the same time, we can interact with the video together. This gives at least a little more sense of the community of our church family as we see each other's comments.



Who, What, When, Where and How is this light going to shine to the ending of the Covid-19 pandemic? Many folks have chosen to receive the vaccines offered, many have not chosen to do so as of yet needing more information on the vaccines. The numbers go up, the numbers come down for Covid-19. If we all can do our part to help rid this pandemic, the light will surely come faster and shine brighter in both our everyday living and in our Spiritual living.

I am including the article from Rev. Krystal Goodger, current Director of Programming, Stewardship & Campaigns.

How are You doing with each day that the Lord has made? How are you rejoicing in it?

Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Where and when do you stop and celebrate? How do you "rejoice and be glad" in the day the "Lord has made?"

Today I stop to rejoice in the rain that is coming down, that we very much need. I celebrate the sun from this weekend that brought so many smiles. I rejoice in all of our churches who have and are continuing to do ministry despite the difficulties of the times. I celebrate the faithfulness of our congregations to continue to give of their time, talents, and treasures.

How are you celebrating God's continued blessings in your lives? What is your response going to be?

How are you going to give to others because God has given to you?

We are so blessed. So, we are called to be a blessing to others. Volunteer in ways you feel comfortable. Attend church, in whatever format you wish. Donate to your church, other nonprofits, and causes close to your heart. Pray. Always Pray.

Celebrate! Because, "This is the day that the Lord has made."

-Rev. Krystal Goodger, Director of Programming, Stewardship & Campaigns, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation.

Thank You Rev. Krystal Goodger.

Celebrate the Little Things. There is light at the end of the tunnel. 2020 is gone and 2021 is brighter. Do we see the light? Or are we just as forlorn as before? Let us jump up and out of the rut we are in. How can we do that? By stopping to rejoice and celebrate!

I'd like to take this time to Thank each and everyone for any and all that you have done to help keep our ministries going throughout 2020 and into 2021. Without You, we wouldn't be completing our mission statement: 'Loving people into taking their net step with Jesus'.

Blessings! Thomas Alverson Stewardship Chairperson



Jhe River of Life United Methodist Church

With Campuses in Beloit and Clinton, WI 2375 Prairie Avenue, Beloit, WI 53511 608-362-8866 Fax 608-362-0554 www.rolumcwi.com

Worship and Small Group Covenant Summary During Covid-19

As we gather together again in our church buildings during this Covid-19 pandemic, we covenant together to abide by the following guidelines to keep one another safe:

Masks: Masks covering nose and mouth will be worn in both church buildings and the office common areas at all times. People are asked to bring their own masks. If they do not have one, a limited supply will be available.

Distancing: People will maintain a 6-foot distance from others when seated, and attempt when moving throughout the buildings. People who live in the same household, or people who drove to the church together may sit near one another.

No Food or Drink: <u>NO</u> food or drink may be served or consumed inside the churches. People may bring their own water bottle but must keep their mask on when not sipping.

Scheduling: All groups must be scheduled through the office using a Building Use Form.

Wellness: If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

Worship Protocols:

- Worshipers will enter and exit through designated doors.
- Temperatures will be taken, and hand sanitizer will be offered.
- Paper bulletin, Connect Card and pen will be offered. Take the bulletin and pen home with you.
- A Connect Card must be completed. Turn it in with your offering in the basket.
- Hymnals, pew Bibles and attendance pads will not be used. Everything you need will be in the bulletin and projected.
- People may hum or sing along with hymns very quietly only.
- Communion will be served via individual pre-packaged communion cups.
- Please refrain from handshakes and hugs.
- Attendance in the sanctuaries will not exceed 50 people. After we reach 50 people at the Beloit Campus, people will be guided to sit in the Fellowship Hall.
- Online worship will continue to be offered. Signals from the FM transmitter will be available at the Beloit Campus if people want this option.

These guidelines will be updated as the CDC updates their guidelines. Please see our full Covenant if you desire more details. Approved May 3, 2021

Loving people into taking their next step wit Jesus.



Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center Chatham, Illinois Sept. 15 - 17, 2021

Join our team volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center! You can choose to stay on-site at the dormitory or stay 5 miles away at the Baymont Inn in Springfield, IL. We leave Beloit the morning of Wed., Sept. 15, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thurs. and Fri., and return to Beloit on Friday evening, Sept. 17.

If you stay in the dormitory, the cost of the trip is \$180 plus the cost of one lunch and 3 dinners at area restaurants. If you choose to stay at the motel, the cost of the trip is \$95 plus the cost your room at the Baymont Inn and the cost of the previous meals. The Baymont will have a block of rooms under the name of "Midwest Mission Distribution Center" for approximately \$75 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 Schedule is:

\$50 deposit* due when you sign up

balance* due Sun. Sept. 5

If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or <u>dianegem23@gmail.com</u>). 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. **The deadline to sign up is July 16, 2021.** – We can add people after this date only if there is room at MMDC.

I am interested in joining the Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on Sept. 15 – 17, 2021. (I understand the \$50 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable if someone else can take my place.)

Name

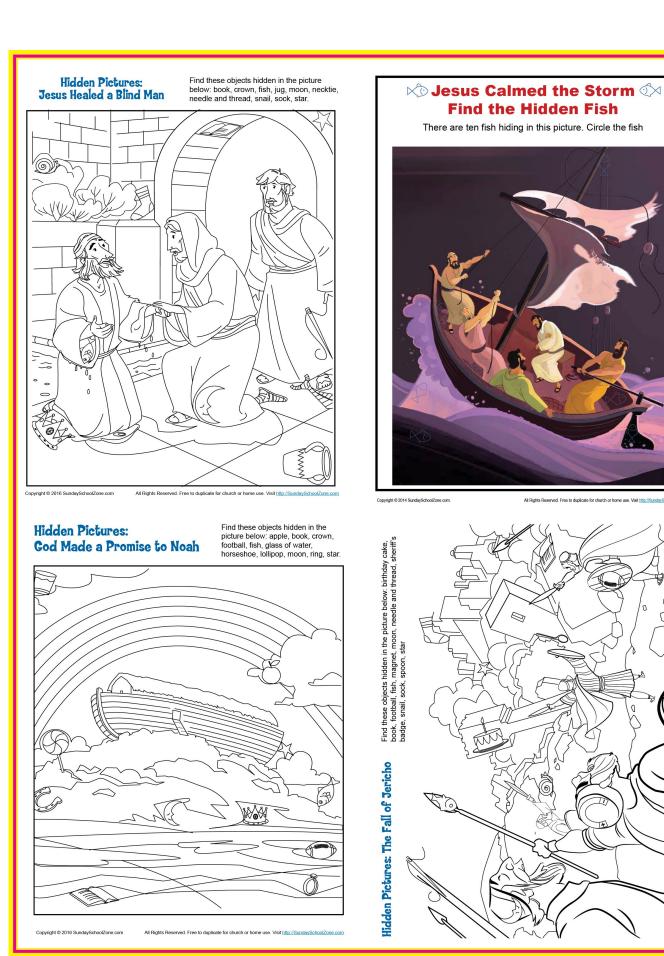
email

address

Home phone

Cell phone

* Please make checks out to ROL-UMC with "Adult Mission Trip" in the memo.



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Calendar

June 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0	/	0	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Calendar of Events (also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- May 17 6:30 pm Stewardship (Zoom)
- May 19 9:30 am Martha Circle (FH) 1:00 pm Mary Circle (FH)
- May 24 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
- May 25 3:00 pm SPPRC (FH) 4:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
- May 26 9:30 am UMW Unit Meeting (FH)
- May 31 Memorial Day—Office Closed
- June 1 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Team (Zoom)
- June 4 Deadline for next Current
- June 5 5:30 pm In-sanctuary Saturday Worship (Beloit)
- June 6 9:30 am In-Sanctuary Worship (Beloit 10:00 am In-Sanctuary Worship (Clinton)

9:30 am Beloit Worship Service Online & Facebook

Sunday School Available anytime!!

See the link on our website

Monday 1:00 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH) 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

<u>Wednesday</u>

10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom) 6:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom) with Pastor Brenda

<u>Saturday</u>

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)Bible Project with Bob P.5:30 pm Saturday Worship5:30 pm Clinton Worship

Issue deadline:

June 4th The next issue of the Current will be available June 13th

Special Offering:

MAY: Peace With Justice JUNE 13: Apportionment

Just a reminder

River of Life Beloit and Clinton Campus Buildings and Office Buildings are closed due to the public health emergency. In-sanctuary worship re-opens June 6th.