

# The Current Of The River Of Life

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**AUGUST 1,2,3**  
**5-8PM**



**COLESBURY'S VBS**

**FOOD TRUCK PARTY**

**ON A ROLL WITH GOD!**

**VBS!**  
**GRADES 4K-5TH**

ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS AVAILABLE



eGiving  
NOW AVAILABLE

**VANCO**



# 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  
Fax 608.362.0554

## **CLINTON CAMPUS**

402 Church Street  
Clinton, WI  
608.676.4646

## **CLERGY STAFF**

Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021  
pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com  
Tom Alverson, Lay Minister 608-362-8866  
talverson@rolumcwi.com  
Teaching Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

608.362.8866

Christina Bergh Bookkeeper  
cbergh@rolumcwi.com  
Bonnie Moore Secretary/Receptionist  
bmoore@rolumcwi.com

## **MUSIC STAFF**

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



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 President**

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. You can watch two services each week!

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

Jonel Ankrum  
Mary Jo Whitford  
Carl Disrud

## People we have prayed for....

Kelly  
Kerri  
Kim  
Kristen  
Lucille  
Marjory  
Nan  
Pastor Eduardo  
Steve  
Thomas  
Wally

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



In worship during May we are talking about how being followers of Jesus should make us Different.

- \* May 8: Who We Are
- \* May 15: What We Do
- \* May 22: How We Love
- \* May 29: How We Be The Church



Write on 3x3 sticky notes how you are different because you are a follower of Jesus. Bring them in so we can glorify God with the ways God works within our lives to make us different.

# From the Pastor's Desk



In a couple of weeks we will celebrate our one year anniversary of being back in the building after 15 months of online and drive-in services because of Covid. We had to close down for a couple of weeks in January, but otherwise, it has been so good to be together again!

Since we have settled into a new normal, it has me thinking: how well are we living into our mission and vision?

Sometimes we may think that it might be nice if church was a clubhouse where we could do what we want, the way we want it. But we all know that isn't what church is. The church is a group of people who follow Jesus. The church is to live out the Great Commandment: love God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind and love others as you love yourself, and to live out the Great Commission: go and make disciples. This is the mission of the church. It is not negotiable.

It is our job to discern how Jesus wants us as a church to live out that mission in our neighborhood. That's our vision. The River of Life United Methodist Church has a wonderful vision statement: loving people into taking their next step with Jesus. In my opinion, it is a perfect combination of the Great Commandment and Great Commission. I don't know who was involved in creating that statement, but it is excellent.

So then, I am drawn back to my question: how are we living into our mission and vision? Who is being loved? How are they being loved? Where are they being loved? What are the next steps that people are taking?

A couple of Saturdays ago, five people from ROLUMC went to a workshop on "Being the church in the post-pandemic world." They were excited about what they learned, and will be inviting others into conversation about how we live out our mission and vision. Statements are lovely – and ours is a great one – but what are actually doing to live it out?

I believe the River of Life United Methodist Church has a great future ahead of it, for the glory of God. May we keep looking to Jesus and follow his lead to help us love people into taking their next step with Jesus.

I'll see you in church, where we love and encourage one another,

Love, Pastor Brenda

## Covid-19 Update

The bad news: there has been another surge in Covid cases.

The good news: in Beloit and all over the country most people are not getting severely sick, meaning, they are not needing to be admitted to hospitals. There are still people who are dying from covid, but that number has declined dramatically.

What does this mean? We still have people in our congregation who, if they caught Covid, would get very sick. If you have Covid symptoms, even if you test negative, please stay at home. If you have been exposed to Covid, please wear a mask around others. You are welcomed to wear a mask at any time.

We have worked so hard over the past two years to keep people safe from Covid. Covid isn't over. Let's continue to think about the health of ourselves and others.

# Financial Corner

Month of:  
April 2022

### Current month :

Operating Income	\$	23,186.24	Operating Expense	\$	22,579.58
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### Year to date: 2022

Operating Income	\$	123,288.69	Operating Expense	\$	99,868.91
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### Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments:	\$	3,963.50	We raised 368.21 for Caritas
Gods Fund Balance:	\$	1,506.20	
Bags of Hope Balance:	\$	6,320.08	Thank you everyone!!!!
Blankets of Warmth Balance:	\$	1,335.76	



# Hello United Women in Faith

We believe love in action can change the world!

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

—Jesus  
John 13:34 NIV

## UWF Calendar

- May 18 Martha Circle 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- May 18 Mary Circle 1:00 p.m. at the home of Barb Kuska
- May 23 Executive Board Meeting 1:00 pm (new date)**
- May 25 Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Larry Conrell “Witch Doctors & Woolly Critters”  
Servers Martha-Place settings/snacks; Mary-Beverage
- June 15 Martha Circle Lunch TBD
- June 15 Mary Circle Lunch TBD

## Unit Meeting May 25

Witch Doctors?

Wooly Critters?

The May Unit meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall, and you won't want to miss it. Larry Conrell will present the program titled “Witch Doctors & Woolly Critters.”

Larry has been in Christian ministry work for over 55 years. He has served as a church pastor, college professor, chaplain and conference speaker. He and his wife served as missionaries for 25 years in Europe and Africa, where he was also President of Kum Bible College in South Africa and was the founding President of Timothy Ministries, an international training mission.

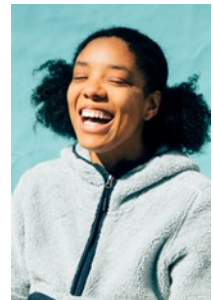
## Laugh A Little

Our God enjoys laughing as we are told in Psalm 126:2 “Our mouths were filled with laughter.”

**Question: Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?**

**Answer: When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.**

Picture credit: Photo by Marcus Lewis on Unsplash



## Pray Without Ceasing

We have been sharing how women use odd moments in their lives to pray. If you are willing to share such moments, please contact Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator for UWF.

The First United Methodist Church of Yuma, Arizona includes prayer requests from the kids that attend the Sunday morning children's group. Here are some of the children's requests for prayer:



**Nadine** - pray for the next state that she lives in; pray for her family that is coming to visit.

**Maxine** - pray for her mom.

**Jesse** - pray that he can be Batman.

**Andrew** - pray that his dad gives him milk.

**Nate** - pray for Patrick's leg and his doctors appointment tomorrow.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6 NIV

(Image credit: <http://cliparts.co/clipart/2570259>>Clip arts</a>)

## Social Justice/Social Action and UWF

Social Justice/Social Action has always been an important part of the UMW, now named UWF. Each month we have been looking at why UWF engage in Social Action. We have looked at the Foundations of campaigns as UMW, Our Biblical Foundations and now Our Methodist Heritage.

This month's information was taken from the UMW website. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/whyunitedmethodistwomenengageinsocialaction.pdf> Since the name change this 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. The new website for United Women in Faith is <https://uwfaith.org>. The Social Action news seems to be located on their new blog. <https://uwfaith.org/news/blog/> If you are reading this online, links should be active with the exception of the old UMW website as noted above.

### Our Methodist Heritage

Our United Methodist heritage reflects a history of commitment to vital discipleship and social action. John Wesley strongly emphasized the Christian life as a combination of faith and love put into practice.

The United Methodist Church affirms these same beliefs today:

By joining heart and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing. Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world. (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, ¶102)

# CIRCLE NEWS

## Martha Circle

May 18 meeting features "Celebrate the Small Stuff!" given by Sandra Long plus recognizing "Call to prayer and Self Denial," (a collection will be taken.) What is the Little Stuff? Find out at the meeting!

## Mary Circle

May 18 meeting features The New is Here! Really? Are we supposed to like it? What's happening June 18?



-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



We are updating our database, and would like your assistance to verify your birthdate, including year, and contact information. We have received about 40 responses, but are waiting for others.

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

NAME _____	DATE OF BIRTH	____/____/____
SPOUSE _____	DATE OF BIRTH	____/____/____
ADDRESS _____		
street	city	zip
PHONE # _____	ANNIV.	____/____/____
E-MAIL _____		
CHILD _____	GRADE _____	DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____
CHILD _____	GRADE _____	DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____
CHILD _____	GRADE _____	DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____
(Add comments on other side)		
4/2022		



## 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,  
and The River of Life United Methodist Church.  
Remember to "Like" us to stay up-to-date.



### June 1

Gary Bolar  
Sandra Long  
Carol Martin

### 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 25

Wanda Haas

### June 28

Patricia Lawrence

### June 29

Keegan Cawkins  
Maci Weiser

### June 30

Kathy Dearth

## Fellowship and Crafting

Saturday, June 11th

10:00-noon

Adults, bring your own craft to work on.

A craft will be provided for those children that sign up.

(Craft determined by interest and ages)

To sign up for a children's craft please call or text

Sarah Parsons 608-921-5953

leave a message with your child's name and age.



### June 6

Stephen & Mary Wadle

### June 8

Dave & Peggy Buckler  
Mark & Dawn Tudor

### June 10

Julie & Ray Hartje

### June 13

Don & Clara Welch

### June 18

Bob & Karen Parssinen

### June 22

Mark & Donna Hammett  
Judy & Bill Pollard

GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD;  
HIS LOVE ENDURES  
FOREVER.

PSALM 107 1

# Palm Sunday was fun and festive!



**Bob had a wonderful Easter shirt!**



**Tutoring is sweet!!! The cotton candy was sweeter!**





## Loose Coins

Loose Coins for May will go to the **Conference Ingathering**. Every year as our ministers and lay delegates gather for the Wisconsin Annual Conference in early June, they are asked to bring donations from their home churches for people in need. This year, again, the donations are going to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC), and they are collecting items for emergency response kits. They are also receiving monetary donations, which are used to purchase kit items and to send shipments to those in need in the U.S. and around the world.

Our church will be collecting items for the Personal Dignity Kits (see list below), in addition to the Loose Coins and other cash donations, through **Sunday, June 5**, and then they will be delivered to our pickup point at Janesville Asbury UMC.

The conference representatives for this project have told us that they are "hoping to receive complete kits," but individual kit items are also accepted. **All items must be new**. If you are able to purchase all the items for a kit, place them inside the 1-gallon resealable bag. Or you may prefer to buy just a few items, or multiples of one or more items.

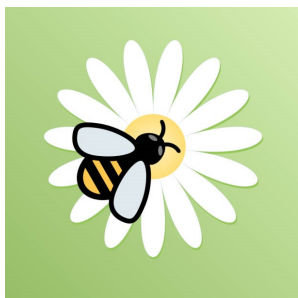
**Note:** "Loose coins" are the coins (not bills) dropped in the offering plate. To contribute bills to this cause, put them in an envelope marked "Loose Coins," or write a check with "Loose Coins" in the memo line. Include your name and offering-envelope number to record it in your church giving record.

### Personal Dignity Kit (\$15 Value)

- 1 New Bath Hand Towel (Not kitchen)
- 1 New Bath Washcloth (Not dishcloth)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush (Single pack)
- 1 Bar Soap – 3-4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo – 15-18 oz.
- 1 Deodorant – 2-3 oz. stick, roll-on, or pump
- 1-Gal. Resealable Plastic Bag

**Looking ahead.....June** Loose Coins will go to Rock Valley Community Programs (RVCP), which provides transitional housing and addiction and mental health treatment to adults in the Rock County area. The 115- bed facility focuses on homeless veterans and individuals transitioning out of the criminal justice system. More information in the next Current.

--Ellen Butchart



## HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee appreciates all the people who have contributed to our Fellowship Time after service at the Beloit campus! Thank you to the people who have brought snacks to share, those who have contributed money for the purchase of snacks, and to everyone who has helped clean up in the kitchen afterward! The fellowship time helps our congregation and visitors connect as a family, and it's a great time to touch base with people.

As we get closer to summer, some of our consistent helpers will be traveling. We would like to see our fellowship time continue through the summer. Please consider signing up to bring snacks some Sunday. There is a clipboard on the serving table by the plates and napkins. It helps to sign up with someone else, but some people prefer to do the snacks by themselves. Either is fine.

Since covid numbers are down, we do not need to individually bag the snacks. You can lay out the snacks right before church starts, or you can leave the service during the last hymn to set up. Keep it simple. Two choices are fine. Cheese and crackers, veggies, fruit, and/or cookies are always popular, but you can get as creative as you like! We generally have about 50 people stay for snacks. But remember, if you run out of snacks, they can always buy some donuts on the counter.

We do ask that you wash up the serving dishes. We really appreciate it if you can rinse out the coffee urns as well. Plates and napkins are available in the hospitality cabinet in the kitchen. Plasticware is in the pantry. Thank you so much! If you have any questions, please ask Betty Hannum or Diane Gemignani.

-Diane Gemignani

## Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is May 25th 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!!**



# Easter Egg-A-Palooza



# Dinner & Fun!





## Stewardship of the Church

The devout investment or use of money, time and ability, in biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God's children, we deem God the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God and desire to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10a)

We use the word "stewardship" in the church as a way of talking about our responsibility for the faithful use of all the gifts that God has given us: our time and our abilities, our money and possessions, the environment, and our relationships.

We believe that everything we have is a gift from God, and God wants us to use it to make our world a more just and compassionate place for all God's people.

There are many ways to contribute financially to the church, here are some ways that you may, or may not considered.

### Pledging & Tithing



What is pledging? Is it is making a commitment to contribute financially each week (month/year) to the church. As your commitment to Christ and his church continues to grow, pledge to Grow One Step in your giving. This year, we are challenging ourselves to Grow Towards Tithing. To do this, you can consider raising your giving by 1 percent of your income (or growing a step in a dollar amount that makes sense in your situation.)

What is tithing? It is giving 10% of your income back to God. It is a gift returned to God as a way of giving thanks and expressing our faith that God will continue to provide for our needs. The Hebrew people gave God their "first-fruits" – the best and most choice of their crops and herds. We are invited to give a tithe (10%) of what we have received to our local church or church related programs. Some give the literal tithe, some give a certain percentage of their income, others have a plan for increasing their giving by a percentage until they reach the full tithe, and others give more than a tithe.

The congregations of The River of Life United Methodist Church have been grateful and generous stewards. You have helped many folks throughout Rock County and globally. Through your generous giving to the loose coin offerings, your help has gone to support many lives in need. Not just through your monetary givings, the givings of donated items such as food, clothing, and plastic bags to make cushions for the homeless to sleep on. The food items donated to the Food pantries of Beloit and Clinton. Loose Coin offerings that have helped such programs as Family Promise, the vets, G.I.F.T.S , Domestic Violence Center and many more. Monies pledged that help purchase personal items with the new programs that shelters are starting to help their clients to get their lives back on track. Learning skills such as cooking, laundry, social skills and many more. The outreach to a disaster such as Ukraine. The monies that were sent to UMCOR for aid to the folks in need in Ukraine.

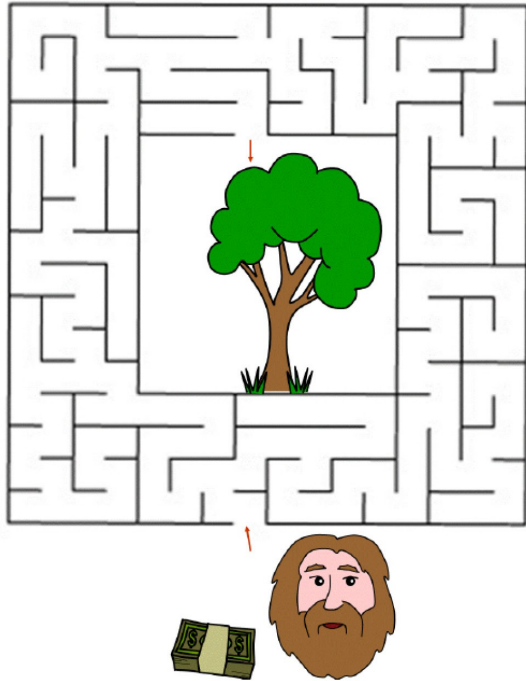
Thank you to each and everyone one YOU!

Thomas C. Alverson  
Stewardship Chairperson



# Zacchaeus Maze

Help Zacchaeus get to the tree so he can see Jesus.



<http://www.dltk-bible.com/1.asp?http://www.dltk-bible.com/mazes/c-maze-zacchaeus.gif>

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Zacchaeus Anagram

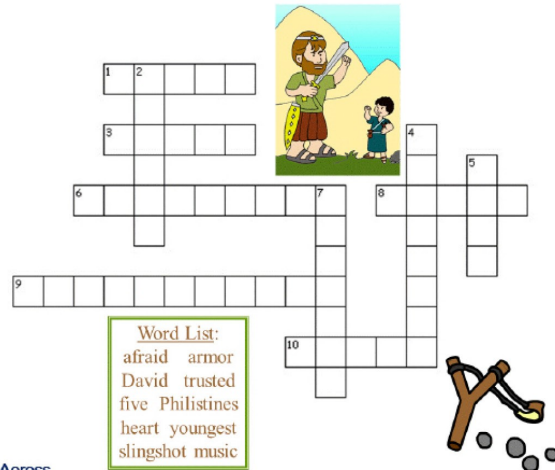
**Word List:**  
cheated, climbed, house, Jericho, money, salvation, short, sinner, sycamore, tax collector



- cehijor \_\_\_\_\_
- atx ccelloort \_\_\_\_\_
- einrrs \_\_\_\_\_
- acemorsy \_\_\_\_\_
- acdeeht \_\_\_\_\_
- ehosu \_\_\_\_\_
- ailnostv \_\_\_\_\_
- bcdeilm \_\_\_\_\_
- horst \_\_\_\_\_
- emnoy \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/1.asp?http://www.dltk-bible.com/anagrams/c-zacchaeus-easy.gif>

# David and Goliath Crossword



**Across**

1. Samuel anointed this young shepherd to be king someday.
3. David chose not to wear this it, was too heavy and he trusted God.
6. This was David's main weapon for defeating Goliath.
8. While David would watch the sheep he would make this.
9. The Israelites didn't get along with these 'giant' people.
10. God didn't choose a king by his size but by his \_\_\_\_.

**Down**

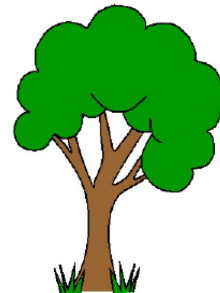
2. All the men were \_\_\_\_ to fight the giant Goliath.
4. Out of eight brothers, David was the \_\_\_\_.
5. This is the number of smooth stones David picked out to fight Goliath.
7. David wasn't afraid to fight the giant because he \_\_\_\_ God to keep him safe.

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/1.asp?http://www.dltk-bible.com/crossword/c-crossword-with-words-david.gif>

# Zacchaeus Word Search

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

cheated people  
 climb salvation  
 collector save  
 four seek  
 house short  
 Jericho sinner  
 lost sycamore  
 money welcomed



<http://www.dltk-bible.com/1.asp?http://www.dltk-bible.com/word-search/c-wordsearch-zacchaeus.gif>

# EVENTS

<p><b>Sunday</b>            9:30 am Beloit Worship            10:00 am Clinton Worship</p> <p><b>Monday</b>            12:30 pm Card Club (FH)</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b>            10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)            1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b>            10:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)            6:30 pm Bible Study (FH)</p> <p><b>Thursday</b>            4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Saturday</b>            7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)            5:30 pm Saturday Worship</p>
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**Issue deadline:**  
 June 3rd  
 The next newsletter will be available June 12th

**SPECIAL OFFERING:**  
 Peace With Justice  
 June 12th



**CALENDAR 2022**  
**05 MAY**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	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	31				

**CALENDAR**  
 (also posted on the Web & Facebook)

May 16	6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
May 17	6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)
May 18	9:30 am Martha Circle (FH) 1:00 pm Mary Circle @ Barb Kuska's (736 Holiday Drive) 6:30 pm Bible Study (FH)
May 22	10:00 am Pastor @ Clinton for Communion & Potluck
May 23	1:00 pm UWF Executive Board Meeting (FH) (rescheduled) 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
May 24	6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
May 25	9:30 am UWF Gathering of Circles (FH) 1:00 pm Knitting/Crochet With A Mission (O) 3:30 pm Tutoring (FH) 5:30 pm WATR Meal 6:30 pm Bible Study (FH)
May 30	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

**SAVE THE DATE....**

Youth Mission Trip - June 25  
 VBS - August 1,2,3  
 UWF Rummage/Bake Sale - August 11 & 12  
 Adult Mission Trip - May, 2023