

The background of the entire page is a teal color with intricate, swirling gold marbled patterns that resemble veins or currents. The patterns are dense and cover the entire surface.

# The Current of The River of Life

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

May 2025

Vol. 42 Issue #05

# River of Life United Methodist Church

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

*Worship Location - 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511*

*Office Location - 2375 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511*

## STAFF

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**David Newman, Pianist**

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## LAY LEADERSHIP 2024

**Ad Council Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

**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**

Open

**Hospitality Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

**Lay Leader**

Pat Sands

**Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

Marietta Axmear

**MCCI Implementation Team**

Pastor Brenda

**Missions Committee Chairperson**

Open

**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson**

Kelly Clark

**Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

**Youth Ministry Team Chairperson**

Karen Parssinen



### **Sick or out of town for the weekend?**

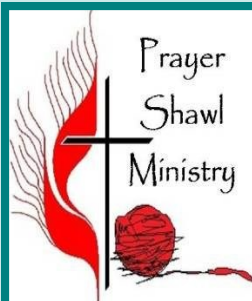
The Sunday morning Service is on the website, on Facebook, and also on our YouTube channel.

**Remember to "Like" us on Facebook at**

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

**And on Youtube at**

<https://www.youtube.com/@riveroflifeumcbeloit4853/streams>



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



I don't really like to garden, so I don't have a vegetable garden. I like perennial flowers because I don't have a lot of time to take care of flowers. Actually, I like planting things. I just very much do not like weeding!

And yet, there I was, trying to clear the weeds out before they completely take over the daffodils and daylilies. I barely made a dent. The weeds came up fierce this year. I primarily have grass with extremely

long, well connected roots that travel only a couple of inches below the surface. I pull on a tuft of grass and 6-10 inches of root follow along before the root breaks. Sometimes they are well over a foot long. Occasionally, one tuft of grass connects to another tuft of grass through that root.

It got me thinking: how are your roots? How strong are you below the surface? How connected are you?

Every metaphor breaks down: you are not a weed. But you are meant to have strong roots of faith. How is life pulling at you? In what ways do you feel connected to God? How are you tending to your spiritual life? Are you praying? Are you reading your Bible regularly? Are you watching for Confluence Moments?

I have been trying to rid this particular flower bed of this grass for five years. I don't think I will ever succeed. I pray that your roots are so strong, that no matter what happens in your life, you will continue to always grow strong!

I'll see you in church, where we grow together,

Love,

Pastor Brenda

You're invited to Robert & Patti Novy  
50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!



May 31, 2025 at 1:00 pm

McKearn Park

2711 Park Ave, Beloit, WI

RSVP to help us plan for food please

608.752.8954

We look forward to celebrating this special time with our church family.

**\*\*In lieu of gifts please bring non perishable food items for Caritas\*\***

**Fellowship Hall Table Decorations**



The Decorating & Furnishings Committee would like to acknowledge and thank Carol Allen for sharing her gift of creativity and providing decorations for our Fellowship Hall tables. One can always see the thought, heartfelt intention, and time Carol devotes to making our tables look festive and beautiful. Thank you!

The committee is looking for others interested in taking on the decorating of the Fellowship Hall tables for a month at a time. Carol has set the bar high, please know that a simple bud vase with a flower will suffice! Some supplies are available for use, and you are welcome to bring additional materials as well.

If you are interested in helping with this task and willing to "Adopt a Month" of table decorating, a sign up is available on the counter in Fellowship Hall.

Feel free to contact Tracy Maxwell (608) 290-3597 or

[TracyMaxwell41@gmail.com](mailto:TracyMaxwell41@gmail.com) with questions!

**Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power. Break through our doubts and hesitations, 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.**



## **Rice Meals at River of Life!**

I'm so excited!!!

We have the money for the Blessing Bags (Rice bags)!!!

We are going to do 960 bags.

Bruce Cawkins is planning on going to pick them up July 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to go down with him, please let Lora Cawkins know. Our first day of setup will be July 12<sup>th</sup>, with a second day of July 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have two lines. We will need 8 people a line. So we'll need 16 people for the day. There will be a training video you will need to watch. Time will be from 9:00-12:00 both days, unless we get them all done the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see the signup sheet that will be passed around during service.

Just think, with this accomplishment the Blessing Bag will feed 5760 people!!!!

Donations are still being accepted to fund a future Rice Meal Event at River of Life!

**Thank you!!**

**Lora Cawkins**

## People we are praying for



† Ace

† Ace

† Austin

† Barb

† Charley

† Doug

† Doug

† Jerry

† John

† Kerri

† Linda

† Lyfe

† Matt

† Michelle & Isaac

† Roger

† Ron

† Rose

† Shirley

## 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

**April 30th at 1:00**

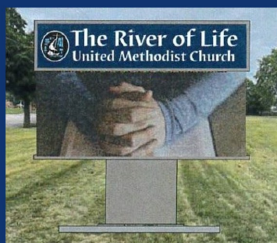
**Office Workroom**

**All knitters & crocheters are invited!**

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



**Our new electronic sign is being put on hold due to an expected change in ordinances in the City of Beloit.**



## Issue deadline:

**May 26**

**The next newsletter will be available on**

**June 1**

## HOBBY CLUB UPDATES!

Carol Connors will be our presenter on May 18. We always look forward to her presentations and are looking forward to welcoming her home!

Flex your knee, and you might kick someone!

Flex your muscles and you might be called a show-off.

Flex a piece of paper, and you will astonish everyone in sight!

We will be cutting, coloring, gluing and folding.

After all that work, we will play with it!

In April Bob Parssinen showed us his Miniature Electric Race Cars and fun was had by all ages! Thanks so much Bob!!

Future leaders include Patti Novy, who will teach us a small quilting project, Kelly Lutzow will lead a diamond painting craft, and hopefully YOU will find a hobby to share with us all too.

If you have a craft or hobby to share and would be willing to lead, please contact Kelly Lutzow or Pat Sands to get on the schedule. We look forward to seeing you May 18 at 12:00 !



# Kellyse's 7th Annual Brat Sale

**May 24, 2025 at River of Life Circle Drive  
11:00 am—2:00 pm**

Kellyse is 18 and a graduating senior at BMHS and has been doing pageants for 10 years. The skills she has learned in these pageants are limitless, from friendships made, public speaking skills, interview skills, confidence, and leadership skills.

She was Miss Beloit's Teen 2022 and is currently Miss Foot of the Lake's Teen 2025. This is her 4th time earning a spot at Miss Wisconsin's Teen and she will be competing in June. Please join us at our annual brat sale to help raise money to pay for expenses leading up to the pageant in June. We appreciate all the continued support of her pageant endeavors!

Kellyse's will be performing "What A Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong on Trumpet and her Community Service Initiative is "Crowned With Confidence" where she teaches people how to use their voice, presence, and purpose to instill self-worth and confidence in themselves and others, no matter their background, struggles, or where they come from.



# Hop Scotch Easter Jam

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make another successful Easter event at The River of Life United Methodist Church! Fun was had by all and we couldn't do it without the volunteers who make it all happen! Thank You!!





### **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 am via Zoom.  
***Contact Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.***

This group is studying the book of Daniel.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:15 pm in person,  
in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall.

***This group is watching and discussing "Jesus And His Jewish Influences"  
by Great Courses.***

### **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."

***Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.***

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:00 am in the Middle School Room. Video clips from "The Chosen" and "The Bible Project" combine with scripture to fuel lively discussions.

### **Stewardship Second**



You're not just giving  
to a church budget.  
You're giving to hope,  
healing, and  
transformation in  
real lives.

***Thank you for that.***

## Bill Rodgers is going with Vets Roll!



On May 18-21 Bill Rodgers will be participating in Vets Roll! He will be travelling to Washington in a caravan of buses with other qualifying veterans. He is proud and honored to be chosen to attend.

Bill served our country for 22 years in the Army. He saw active service in Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield and Desert Storm from 1990-91. During that time, he missed Kathy and their sons, Jeff and Dan, who were in elementary and middle school. Jeff was finishing up his confirmation classes, and fortunately Confirmation Sunday was postponed until he came home. The church was very supportive of Bill and the family, for which we are so grateful.

Please say a prayer for a safe and inspiring trip to Washington D.C.

## Hospitality Fellowship

Thank you to all the people who helped with snacks this past April!

Lora Cawkins	Joan Michels	Tish Polzin
Marlene Sturdevant	Kaitlyn Peters	Cindy Peters
Diane Gemignani	Sarah Parsons	Patti and Bob Novy
Carol Allen	Cindy Ferger	Karen Parssinen
Sheryl Horvath	Everyone who donated to our Cantata Sunday	



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



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Our 16th Year* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Find us on Facebook! 



All Honorably Discharged Veterans, Active Duty by 12/31/1969 & 'Rosie-the-Riveters'

# VetsRoll® 2025

## May 18-21, 2025

### CLOSURE • GRATITUDE • RESPECT



Help Us Transport our Senior Veterans  
To See Their War Memorials

**Donate to VetsRoll® Today!**



Transporting Veterans (& 'Rosies') that served active duty 12/31/1969 or earlier and were honorably discharged, onboard luxury Badger Charter Coaches to Dayton, OH and Washington D.C. at **NO COST** to the participant.

**ALWAYS ACCEPTING INTERESTED ...**

Volunteers ★ Medical & Trip Assistants ★ Donors

If you served active duty 12/31/1969 or earlier, (honorably discharged with a DD-214), or a 'Rosie-the-Riveter' of WWII, **PLEASE** contact us to apply!



For Donations or More Information:

Mark Finnegan (608) 207-8319 ★ [Mark@VetsRoll.org](mailto:Mark@VetsRoll.org) ★ [VetsRoll.org](http://VetsRoll.org)  
Veterans age 85+ (as of May 1, 2025) by-pass the waiting list!!

Vets Roll, Inc.® dba VetsRoll.org is a WI Non-Profit Corporation and an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

**Your Country Thanks You!**



# EASTER CANTATA



## Guess Who We Heard From?! \*\*



*Kaycee, Linda, Krissy, and Jana*

Dear members of the River of Life,

Thank you to each of you for your many prayers these past couple of years. I believe that my top-notch medical team, the care of family and friends, and prayers have added bonus days to my life since my stem cell transplant. I am grateful and have hope for many quality of life days to come! Take care! Enjoy the beautiful spring days at this blessed Easter season.

With gratitude,

Linda Lyman

\*\* If anyone gets to see a former church member or a church member who participates from home, please ask them if they would like their picture shared with the congregation. We love to see how people are doing and we love to reminisce! Just send the photo to Diane Gemignani with a brief description, and she can get it ready for the next Current.

Send the information and photo through email [Dianegem23@gmail.com](mailto:Dianegem23@gmail.com) or text 608-290-5274. \*\*

### 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:** 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

## 2026 Adult Mission Trip

Our mission trip is scheduled for May next year. We will again offer a long trip and a short trip during the same week.

The people who want to volunteer for the whole week will leave Beloit on Sunday afternoon, May 3.

The short trip people will leave Beloit Wednesday morning, May 6. Both groups will return Friday evening, May 8.

We have 5 rooms reserved at the Midwest Mission Lodge. Another group will be there in the remaining 3 rooms. The rest of us can stay at a nearby motel.

Signup will begin in September. In the meantime, Mark Your Calendars!



## Mission Trip 2025

The mission trip team had a fantastic time at Midwest Mission in March. Diane reported that the MM staff loved our cheerful work ethic, camaraderie, and generosity. We learned how to do a rice meal pack, and Lora and Sarah were inspired to bring that mission back to our church.

Volunteers did a huge variety of projects, including prepping wood planks, building desks, packing personal dignity kits, checking and folding quilts, and sorting supplies.





# Sleeping Mat Work Days

**Twenty One** sleeping mats have been woven and taken off the looms!!

**Seventeen** mats have been delivered to organizations who serve people in need in our community.

**Four** will be delivered soon.

Our sleeping mat group will be meeting:



† Friday, May 2nd,  
† Friday, May 9th,  
† Wednesday, May 14th,  
† Friday, May 23rd,  
† Wednesday, May 28th.



We meet from 9:30-11:30 but feel free to come late or leave early if you need to. You can be a regular, coming every time you are available or you can come once in awhile or you can come one time. We will teach you what you need to know.

Other ways you can help with the sleeping mats:

† Prayers for the sleeping mat ministry

† Saving plastic bags. We only need shopping type bags like Wal-Mart or other store plastic bags. We do not use fruit and veggie bags from the grocery store. Please drop the bags off in the bins in the coat room. At this time we are getting enough bags from our congregation members. Please don't feel the need to bring bags from your friends.



## MAY LOOSE COINS

### Conference Ingathering

Our Loose Coin offering for May will go to the **Conference Ingathering**, the mission collection sponsored by the Annual Conference. Each local church is asked to collect cash and donations during the month of May to be delivered to Annual Conference in early June.

Again this year the collection is for Midwest Mission, but we've received new information since the last Current, so the items we will be collecting are slightly different than stated last month. The donations we will be collecting, in addition to cash, are the following:

- Onesies and Sleepers -- 0-6 months
- Toothbrush (single pkg.)
- Bar of soap -- 3-4 oz.
- Deodorant -- 2-3 oz. (stick, roll-on, or pump)
- Box of 1-gal. resealable plastic bags

The congregation is invited to purchase any combination of items you wish -- multiples of one thing, one of each, etc. They do not make up a particular kit; they are items always in need at Midwest Mission. Also in need is funding to purchase more supplies, cover shipping costs, and support Midwest Mission in its work helping those in need, globally and locally. Let us join with the entire conference to make an impact!

Items may be placed in the collection bin in the coat room during the month of May. Checks or cash marked for Conference Ingathering may be placed in an envelope in the offering plate, along with your Loose Coins. Or you can click on the Donate button on the church website (<https://www.rolumcwi.com>), or scan the QR code below with the camera on your cell phone. Thank you for supporting this vital mission!

-- Ellen Butchart



# May Calendar

May 2	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 4		Special Sunday: Native American Ministries
May 6	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
May 9	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 14	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 15	11:00 AM	Memorial Meeting
May 18	12:00 PM	Hobby Club - Carol Connors Presenting
May 20	5:00 PM	Finance Meeting
May 23	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 24	11:00 AM	Kellyse's Brat Sale
May 27	4:00 PM	Hospitality Meeting
May 28	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
May 30	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
June 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team

## Sunday

9:30 am Sunday Worship  
11:00 am "The Chosen" Bible Study

## 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)  
3:30 pm Tutoring  
5:30 pm WATR Dinner  
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

## Thursday

9:00 am Exercise Group  
4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Friday

—

## Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## May 1

Shelby Ward  
Liam Woody  
Beth Strother

## May 2

Alan Wilson

## May 4

Kathy Smith  
Jacob Christensen  
Dallas Conniff

## May 5

Linda Matthews

## May 7

Laverne Hays  
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

Jacque Patch

## May 25

Diane Kittelson

## May 26

Eva Hoff

## May 29

Tony Bachim  
Dale Gemignani  
Corrine Jersild

## May 30

Claire Parsons  
Charlotte Jacobson  
Kennedy Maxwell

## June 1

Sandra Long  
Gary Bolar  
Carol Martin  
Nancy Konopa

## June 3

Maguire Maxwell

## June 4

Carol Pozzari

## June 5

Pat Sands  
Julie Christensen

## June 6

Ryley Woody  
Ashley Conniff

## June 9

Riley Smith

## June 11

Casey Collins  
Linda Simpson

## June 12

Roger Sands

## June 13

Bob Scheets

## June 17

Connie Carlson  
Dallas Jacobson

## June 19

Melanie Gray  
Carson Bishop

## June 24

Mason Bishop

## June 25

Wanda Haas

## June 28

Patricia Lawrence

## June 29

Maci Gamble  
Keegan Cawkins

## June 30

Kathy Dearth

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## May 1

Doug & Tina Henthorn

## May 12

Dallas & Ashley Conniff

## May 26

Tom & Joan Michels

## May 31

Robert & Patti Novy

## June 6

Stephen & Mary Wadle

## June 9

Bob & Karen Parssinen

## June 10

Ray & Julie Hartje

## June 12

Jesse & Mindy White

## June 19

Bob & Wanda Haas

## June 22

Mark & Donna Hammett  
Bill & Judy Pollard

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