The Current of The River of Life



Don't forget.....

Pick up your copy of the July/August Upper Room devotionals and the June issue of *The Current*.

Beloit: outside back door **Clinton:** on the ramp going into the narthex

Or..... visit www.rolumcwi.com and click on "The Current"

(If you need to drop off something to the Beloit Office, use the mail slot in the front door.)



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

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MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music Judith Paddock Organist Marge Johnson Pianist

Amount received for May, 2020 offerings: \$17,491.20

We also received: \$650 for Caritas & \$220 for Clinton Community Outreach Food Pantry

Christina Bergh

Office Manager cbergh@rolumcwi.com W:608-362-8866

Dear Members and Friends of River Of Life UMC,

Our time together is drawing to a close. With my retirement, Tuesday June 30 will be my last day as your pastor. Your new pastor, Rev. Brenda Whitford, will begin her ministry with you on July 1.

With this in mind, I would like to spend a few moments reflecting on our ten years together. To say, "We have been through some change" would be putting it mildly. We have faced a lot of challenges together.

Some have been difficult because they were painful. Grieving, we have laid to rest many friends over the years. Bidding farewell "until we meet again" in heaven is never easy. We had to say goodbye to our Daycare center when we had to close it. We had to give up and leave our downtown church building. It was incredibly painful to watch the building being torn down.

Yet, sometimes, the pain was of a very different sort, the pain of labor as we gave birth to something new. We bid farewell to our Hispanic members as we gave birth to the new Hispanic congregation at Henderson Ave UMC. Moving to Prairie Ave. led us to give birth to new ministries. It made possible our Tutoring ministry with Aldrich Middle School, right across the street. This allowed us to touch and bless lots of young lives as we built new relationships with young ones we just met.

Of course the biggest change was challenging because of all the little decisions we had to make. These choices were actually the fun kind. Each one pointed to a future, a new life, for us as a congregation. We had to choose between carpet colors, paint colors, new lights, color of the siding, how the sanctuary would be set up and even the shape of rooms. It too was a difficult test for us, but the result was worth it. We have a beautiful facility that is efficient and allows us the flexibility to do new ministries. Entering this next stage debt free is a bonus that allows us more choices.

I believe facing all these challenges prepared us for our most recent one, COVID-19. It forced us to look at things from a different perspective and do ministry in new ways. When we began livestreaming our services as part of our renovations we never realized it would make possible what we are doing now. When we were not able to worship in person, we were able to continue worshipping, doing Bible Study and meeting online.

The point is, all the challenges we met in the past prepared us for any dilemmas we would face in the future. Because of it, we are a strong congregation walking with the Lord. As you move forward with your new pastor, the same Lord will continue to be with you, as He has in the past, each step of the way.

It was a good ten years and Barb and I would like to thank you for them. As we go our separate ways, go in peace knowing Barb and I are praying for you.

In Christ, Barbara and David Carlson





Daily Devotionals and a shortened simplified Sunday Worship Service can be found at: www.rolumcwi.com

SAVE THE DATE:



Drive-in Retirement Celebration for Pastor Dave Sunday, June 28th at 11:00 am

More details will be communicated at a later date before the celebration on how this will work utilizing social distancing guidelines.

Julie Hartje & Ann Williams, SPPRC Co-Chairs



Welcome Pastor Brenda Whitford

River of Life UMC is so fortunate to have Pastor Brenda join our church family. She begins serving July 1st but her first Sunday leading worship will be July 12th. Retired Pastor Keith will preach the first Sunday and serve communion. If you need to reach Pastor Brenda, her cell phone number is 608-482-0021. As a reminder, please call Pastor Dave until June 30th and Pastor Brenda starting July 1st.

Reverend Brenda Whitford has been the pastor at UMC-Platteville since January of 2011. Her passion is to help people come to know the deep love that God has for them, to help them grow to become more like Jesus, and to help them reach out to the community in faith. She is thrilled to be able to be in ministry with a congregation that loves God, is growing in love of one another, and is committed to making a difference in the world in the name of Jesus Christ! Pastor Brenda is an ordained Elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. Her Master of Divinity Degree is from the University of Dubugue Theological Seminary, Pastor Brenda previously served Centenary United Methodist Church in Shullsburg, WI. Before becoming a pastor, Brenda taught 5th & 6th grades at Merrill School in Beloit, WI and 4-year-old preschool in Janesville, WI. Brenda loves music, and especially loves to sing and dabble on the piano. Brenda's husband Dan is a licensed local pastor serving the Darien UMC church. Their daughter Elizabeth is also a pastor serving First UMC of Appleton. Their son and daughter-in-law make a difference in the lives of people outside the church. They have two grandchildren.

We are planning a welcome celebration as soon as she gets settled in and we know where we stand with gathering during the COVID19 situation. ROL is blessed to have her join our congregation!!



THANK YOU PASTOR DAVE

It is with heartfelt thanks that UMW extends to Pastor Dave for leading us in worship for years. There have been some very trying times for him and all of us as we transitioned to our current location, selling the old church on Prairie Avenue, remodeling our new church, going through and meeting our needs during Covid - 19 and so much more. I was privileged to serve as Chair of the SPPRC for several years and as a result I grew to know him and appreciate all that he has done for us. What a challenge it must be to Pastor a congregation with many and various needs, yet he met that challenge with courage, patience and grace. WITH GRATITUDE THANK YOU PASTOR DAVE for making your mark on our church and in our lives. You will missed but not forgotten!!!

Marlene Erickson, President, UMW

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

• Jacob Christensen, graduate of Beloit Memorial High School, will be starting a job in the Madison area next Monday; working for QBC, a construction company.

Emily Hartje graduated from Turner High School and will be attending UW Green Bay, majoring In Education or Psychology; she will be on the dance team there.

Destiny Knutsen graduated from Clinton High School.

Hannah Buckler graduated from Oregon High School, Oregon, Illinois.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Katie Parsons graduated from UW- Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Science Disorders.

Savanna Henthorn graduated from Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa, with a degree in Management and a Minor in Asian Studies.

Andrew Wadle graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Chemical Engineering.









Loving Creator, you formed my being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. To my flesh and blood you gave the breath of life. O Loving God, renew me this day in your love. Grant me hope to sustain me. May this wrap, woven with words of prayer, be for me a sign of your soothing presence. May it warm me when I experience the chill of anxiety. May it surround me with comfort to ease my suffering. May it encircle me with caring when I am lonely. May your comforting spirit support me through all that I endure this day. And may your gentile healing touch reach out to soothe broken and hurting people and places in the world. Thank you, Loving God, for the warmth of your love. Amen

Thanks to Connie Carlson and Carol Connors for recently providing our lovely shawls. If you are aware of someone in need, please contact the office at 608-362-8866.



Luke 6:38 NIV

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Sure has been a long thirteen weeks without seeing each other in church face to face worshipping. I'm hoping that each and everyone has received the update from Pastor David dated June 09, 2020. If not, please call the office and we will get one out to you.

Our time of giving keeps on giving. Even though we are not able to be in church together, our Giving Mission locally has been great. Since March 18, 2020, we have helped four families with food, clothing and furniture needs. A big THANKS goes to those who have helped out in this time of need. The last family received a flat screen t.v. that was donated. When I delivered the t.v. to the house, the little 3-year old young man says, "Gee, big t.v. Now I can see my toons".

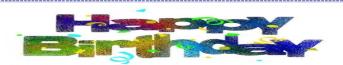
I have read in another church newsletter received in the office about one of the Shelters that we provide donations to are in need. It's great to hear that we can start to drop things off again to those in need.

Thanks to each and everyone that has been so diligent in sending in your pledges.

In God's love, Tom Alverson Stewardship Team Chairperson



One Nation Under God



Phyllis Dooley Shana Listenbee

July 2

Ellen Butchart Wanda Dixon

Margaret Hansen

July 3

Barbara Sheffield

July 4

Marlene Sturdevant Andrew Wadle

July 5

Nell Adams

Marge Johnson

July 6

Kathy Cornford

July 7

Shellie Olson

July 8

Tyler Caple Marjorie Gray

July 11

Joni King Jul<u>y 14</u>

Marlene Bachim

July 16

Robin Vieth-Austin Vicki Boschma Liz Rosenthal Zacary Woody

July 17

Ehron Bishop Betty Hannum

Savanna Henthorn

July 18

Patty Listenbee

July 22

Lynda Moon

July 25

Aubrey Maxwell

July 26

Emily Hartje

Reid Parssinen

July 27

Christina Bergh Gretchen Dixon

July 30

Tim Crawford

July 31

Alex Wilson

2



Clem & Mary Jane Kellicut Diana & Craig Merwin

<u>July 11</u>

Dave & Kelly Clark

J<u>uly 23</u>

Brian & Tracy Maxwell

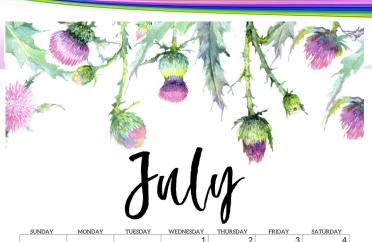
July 30

Dennis & Sandy Hays

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







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			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	

Special Offering Weekly: Financial donations for

Caritas

Clinton Community Outreach Food Pantry

Issue deadline:

July 10th The next issue of the Current will be available July 19th



Just a reminder.....

ROL Church is closed until further notice due to the public health emergency.
All services, meetings, and events are cancelled.
Daily Devotionals and a shortened simplified
Sunday Worship Service can be found at:

www.rolumcwi.com