

# *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](http://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.)



*June 14, 2020*

[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)

*Vol. 17 Issue 6*

# United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step with Jesus*

## **BELOIT CAMPUS**

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## **CLINTON CAMPUS**

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### **LAY LEADERSHIP 2019**

**Chairperson** Shellie Olson

#### **Lay Leaders**

Tom Alverson

#### **Ad Council Chairperson**

Shellie Olson

#### **Annual Conference Lay Members**

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

#### **Board of Trustees Chairperson**

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#### **Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

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Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

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Pastor Dave Carlson

#### **Nurture and Discipleship Chairperson**

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Julie Hartje & Ann Williams

#### **Stewardship Team Chairperson**

Tom Alverson

#### **Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

#### **United Methodist Women Chairperson**

Marlene Erickson

### **CLERGY STAFF**

David Carlson, Pastor 608.362.8866  
dcarlson@rolumcwi.com  
Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

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Bonnie Moore Receptionist  
bmoore@rolumcwi.com

### **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](mailto:cbergh@rolumcwi.com)  
W:608-362-8866



Follow us on Facebook

June 9, 2020

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

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Lillian Gelbach

People we have prayed for....

Phyllis Dooley,  
Carol Allen  
Doug Mitchell  
Peg Lund  
Ellen Butchart

Daily Devotionals and a  
shortened simplified  
Sunday Worship Service  
can be found at:  
[www.rolumcwi.com](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> but her first Sunday leading worship will be July 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Brenda starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 Dubuque 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.





# PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



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 gentle 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



# Happy Birthday

## July 1

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

## July 14

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



## July 3

Clem & Mary Jane Kellicut  
Diana & Craig Merwin

## July 11

Dave & Kelly Clark

## July 23

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.





# July

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	

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



Special Offering Weekly:  
 Financial donations for  
 Caritas  
 †  
 Clinton Community Outreach Food Pantry

**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](http://www.rolumcwi.com)