The Current of The River of Life



United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step Wth 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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2021

Lay Leaders

Tom Alverson

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Annual Conference Lay Members

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Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons

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Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

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Pastor Brenda Whitford

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

CLERGY STAFF

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pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com

Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

CHURCH OFFICE

608.362.8866

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Tom Alverson Worship Leader

talverson@rolumcwi.com

Bonnie Moore Receptionist

bmoore@rolumcwi.com

MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Marge Johnson Director of Music Pianist



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.



Pastoral Care

It's been over a year since we were able to have the pastor visit. If you would like Pastor Brenda to make a home or facility visit, please let the office know so it can be scheduled.



River of Life UMC masks are still available!

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 are available while supplies last.

4th of July Activities

As of newsletter deadline time we have just begun putting a team together to plan something on our church lawn for the 4th of July. Fireworks this year will be at Telfer Park, but only for a limited number of people. Certainly people will be parking in our parking lot and sitting in our lawn as well. So let's use this to invite the neighbors for some fun! Be watching for more details, and let Kelly Clark know if you would like to help CLARKMBL@yahoo.com



From the Pastor

This morning, when I was reading my Bible and praying on my patio, my backyard neighbor let out her dog. The dog immediately ran to the fence that their house shares with the house next door to see if his dog friend was out. He wasn't. He did his business, then went back to the fence, barked a little, ran around the yard, then went back to the fence. After a few minutes of going back and forth to the fence, he was called back inside.

Not more than five minutes later, the kitty-corner neighbor let out their dog. He immediately went to his side of the same the fence. But his dog friend wasn't there. He barked, ran around his yard, did his business and came back to the fence. He ran up and down the fence looking for his friend. After a few minutes of coming back and forth to the fence, he too was let back inside.

These dogs do play together in one yard once a week or so, but because people's lives are busy, they are often let out when the other dog is not out. Yet, still, they always go looking for the other dog.

As I thought about these two dogs, and how they never give up on each other, I thought about our relationship with God.

Sometimes when we go looking for God, we don't see him. Sometimes we feel that God has left us, when he is actually nearby, but out of sight. Sometimes we give up on God, when in reality, he is out, looking for us when we aren't noticing.

I could say, "Go be like a dog!" But metaphors always fall short, and that seemed silly to say.

Even so, how would our lives be different if we trusted that God is always there, even when we don't see him? How would our lives be different if we believed that God is regularly searching for us? How would our lives be different if we expected God to meet us every single day, and when we don't see him that day, we trust that he is nearby.

Keep looking for God to show up in your life. He is there, looking for you. And when you are able to see him face to face, enjoy your time!

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

Love, Pastor Brenda



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 7

Shellie Olson

July 8

Tyler Caple Marjorie Gray Lynn Whalen

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 Hartie

Reid Parssinen

July 27

Christina Bergh

Gretchen Dixon

July 30

Tim Crawford



July 3

Clem & Mary Jane Kellicut Diana & Craig Merwin

July 6

Maci & Tevin Gamble

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.



In our current worship series, all three worship services each week are talking about being a community of faith. See you there!

Trustees' Notes:

Minor roof repair needed on the office garage - seeking donation of a few leftover light colored shingles (Do you have any hiding in a back corner that you don't need? Give the office a call or talk to a trustee.

Trustees:

Dennis Boschma, Jim Churchill, Dave Clark, Dave Haas, Sheryl Horvath, Lee Kuska, Kathy Rodgers



Mini 3-Day VBS August 16, 17, and 18 5:30-8:00 pm

Are you ready to get SMORE of Jesus in your life? If you love the outdoors and the camping scene...OR if you just love to sit in your backyard and enjoy the view....we are looking for you! As we begin to plan, please remember that your hidden talents/passions are a gift from GOD and so important to the success of our community outreach activities.

Your contributions no matter what, make reaching children and families so much fun. Things like art work and decorations, food ideas and prep, help at VBS, teachers and group leaders, music leaders, all important components of our VBS. YOUyep...each one of you...have something to share and give.

I can be reached at 608-365-5738 with any questions OR your "I definitely want to help" reply! I have missed you all and can't wait to work with you again.

NOTE: If you have any "stuff" that might help our decorations, let us know!!!!!!

-Nan Bolar

A huge thank you goes out to the 18 people participated in our All-Church Work Day in May! They accomplished a lot of work!

The garage was cleaned and organized.

The plastic windows in the canopies at the two entrances were cleaned.

Bushes were trimmed outside of the Beloit Office, weeds were removed on north side, debris was raked and it was all hauled away.

The back gutter over the office ramp was sealed.

Nicks in walls were repaired and painted.

The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were cleared out for carpet cleaning.

The Choir Room was organized.

The facia was put back on at the garage in Clinton.

You made a wonderful difference! Thank you!

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.

Mission News

Loose Coins

June Loose Coins offerings will go to **Blankets of Warmth**. This mission project, started by members of the Clinton congregation, provides homemade blankets to area shelters and support agencies. Prior to the Covid pandemic we had distributed 125 Blankets of Warmth, and there were requests for more.

If you would like to help with sewing, here are brief instructions: The blankets are made by machine sewing two pieces of fleece together inside out with an opening, and then turning them right side out and sewing around all the edges. Call Margaret Hansen (608-774-1802), Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274), or Ellen Butchart (608-365-9625) for more information.

To contribute to the Loose Coins offering, we can now drop our coins in the offering basket in person (yay!) at the close of worship. The offering basket will be on a table at the back of the sanctuary. To contribute paper money, put it 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.

A big thank you to those who donated disaster relief items and money to the Conference InGathering. Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) will be using those gifts to continue aid to southwest Louisiana, which was hit by two devastating hurricanes during the pandemic.

Looking ahead.....July Loose Coins will go to Project 16:49.

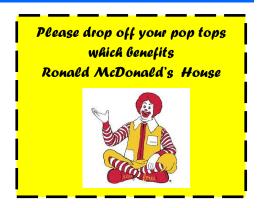
-Ellen Butchart

Knit & Crochet With A 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!!







Hello United Methodist Women

And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days; Then heaven tries earth if it be in tune, And over it softly her warm ear lays:

—James Russell Lowe

Calling all UMW and Supporters of UMW

We need help for the August Rummage Sale!

August 11 12:00 pm-4:00 pm Accept and sort sale items

Pick up tables at the Clinton Campus Set up the tables at the Beloit Campus

August 12 7:00 am -12:00 pm Accept and sort sales items

August 12 12:00 pm -5:00 pm Sale Hours August 13 9:00 am-4:00 pm Sale Hours

August 13 4:00 pm- Pack unsold items for Goodwill,

Pack unsold books for the library Return tables to Clinton Campus

August 14 8:00 am People to load and deliver leftovers to Goodwill and the Library.

Contact Marlene Erickson at 362.0830 or merickson1@charter.net to offer your time and talents.

Robin Austin will serve as lead person on Thursday, August 12.

We need someone to serve as lead person for Friday, August 13.

UMW Dates to Remember

August 11, 12, 13 Rummage Sale:

We need your donations and help!

September Circles resume meeting

September 22 Unit Meeting

Amiee J. Leavy, Janesville YWCA will speak on Social Justice

December 4 Cookie Walk

Martha Circle

Wednesday, June 16th at 9:30 am at Bessie's Diner.

Mary Circle

Wednesday, June 16 at 11:30 am at Bessie's Diner.

Comings and Goings

Kennedy Maxwell, a past recipient of the UMW scholarship, recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania and has returned to her family in Beloit. While at Muhlenberg, Kennedy majored in Theater with a minor in Music. We have heard that she hopes to relocate in Chicago. However we hope to see her often, because when a Chicago resident is asked what they do on weekends, the usual answer is, "Go to Wisconsin!" Congratulations to Kennedy on her graduation and best wishes for success in the future.



Delores Hahn, a very active UMW member is leaving us June 23 to live near her family in Colorado. Delores has served many years on the board of directors as our Sunshine Communicator. All of you have received a birthday card from her every year, as it was the board's way of staying in contact and acknowledging member birthdays. We have always been fortunate to benefit from her hard work at all our rummage sales, cookie walks, hospitality times in fellowship hall after Sunday Worship service and funeral lunches. Delores has also ushered at UMW Sunday services, contacted UMW members-at-large to help with various functions, partnered with Joanne Johnson to make mats for the homeless and volunteered for many other church activities. Delores has not only been a hard worker, she has also been a great friend. She will not be forgotten and will be missed by all of us. We pray that she will keep in touch after the move to Colorado. Bon Voyage, Delores, we love you!!!



Mailbox Birthday Blessings

Kerri-Ann Broussard is the random birthday choice from the June Prayer Calendar Kerri-Ann is the Director of Human Resources Business Partner working in Finance and Administration as part of the Global Ministries of the UMC. Wouldn't it be great to shower someone in the Finance and Administration department with a whole lot of colorful birthday cards?

Email kbroussard@unmcmission.org Kerri-Ann Broussard C/O Global Ministries of the UMC 458 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE Atlanta, GA 30308









UMW Library Open

The UMW of River Of Life invite you to borrow books from our new library. A book sign-out sheet is located on top of our new bookcases. Our collection is just starting, and we look forward to adding more books in the future.



COME TO THE LIBRARY

BORROW A BOOK

READ AND ENJOY

RETURN THE BOOK

BORROW ANOTHER!

UMW Social Justice Opportunities

June 22 Legislative and call-in day information from UMW national office:

"People from all states are encouraged to call their Congressional representatives at any time on June 22, 2021. You can use this link, which provides a script and will connect you directly to your elected officials: https://p2a.co/FpD9Ujd"

June 10, 17, 24 More information here: https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/reparations-remembering-repairing-and-re-imagining



Webinar Series
June 10, 17, and 24
1:00 p.m. EST on Zoom





UMW May Unit Meeting

Pastor Brenda was our featured speaker for the May meeting. Pastor shared some of her experiences with various UMW Units, and her experiences were not quite what you would expect.

Our local Unit strives to be the most friendly, active and pleasant Unit she will ever meet.

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



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 \$80 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 dianegem23@gmail.com). 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

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

Home phone

Cell phone

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!



Are You Going On Vacation?

Many of our church families are planning to get away for some summer fun and relaxation in the next few months, let it be for a long vacation, or just a vacation around home. Time for golfing, taking in sports, let it be attending a professional ballgame or being present at your child's or grandchildren's ballgames.

We pray for that your vacation time will be safe and a source of many happy memories. However, please don't take your church offering with you. Each summer our church office struggles to juggle the bills as Sunday offerings decrease significantly. If you find that you tend to forget your envelope more often during the less structured weeks of summer, please consider our electronic giving program. If you would like to make your giving easy and consistent this summer, please consider signing up with our new on-line giving through Vanco. You'll be in control with your giving. Signing up for Vanco is as easy as signing up for paying anything online Pastor Brenda and I use Vanco. You can give weekly or you can set it up for automatic giving to your account. If you want to contribute to other programs, you can do that too. It's safe! And it keeps God at the top of your giving list even when you are away. If you would like to learn more about Vanco, please contact Christina Bergh, Office Manager, at 608-362-8866.



Loving people into taking their next step with Jesus.

UMW MOVING TO TWO (2) CIRCLES

A determination was made at our last UMW meeting on May 26th to go forward with two circles instead of three. We will have a 9:30 a.m. meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, except in January, and a 1:00 p.m. meeting on the 3^{rd} Wednesday of the month. The date of this change will be determined at a later date. Everyone must call (362.0830) or email (merickson1@charter.net) Marlene Erickson to indicate which meeting you prefer to attend.

When we have established everyone's preference the members of each circle will vote on the name of their circle.

UMW is open to all women. We encourage members at-large, supportive members and others to join a circle. There are UMW brochures, providing information about UMW, in a pocket on the slat board at the Beloit Campus and brochures will be sent to our Clinton Campus with Tom. We would warmly welcome and encourage women from the Clinton Campus to join us.

We would love to establish an evening circle for those women who work or have other obligations during the day. We welcome everyone at any age to join us. Let Marlene know if you have an interest in the establishment of an evening circle. In June all circles go out for lunch and discontinue meeting until September at which time we start up again.

PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

PLEASE JOIN US NOW!



-Marlene Erickson



I wish to thank the many, many friends who sent me prayers and wonderful get-well wishes after my recent surgeries. And they worked: I am now again cancer free! Thank you, thank you, thank you. Joanne Johnson

Read Daniel 6 to hear a story of Daniel in the Lions Den

Daniel and the Lions Bible Craft

This unique handprint craft will help your child remember the miracle God performed in saving Daniel from the lions.

Supplies List:

- Construction paper
- · Orange and yellow paint
- Craft eyes
- · Permanent marker
- Glue
- Baby wipes for cleanup

Instructions:

Step 1.

Give your child a piece of construction paper and assist them with painting the palm of one hand orange and yellow. Try to avoid mixing the colors so portions of the hand



are just yellow and other portions are just orange. Have your child make careful hand prints in a circle on the paper.

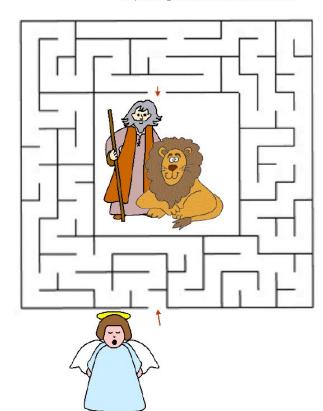
Step 2.

When the paper is dry enough (a hair dryer can assist with this), have your child draw a lion's face in the middle of the hand print circle and glue on craft eyes.



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Help the angel find Daniel in the lion's den.



Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

Daniel & the Lions Anagram

Word List: angel, blameless, brave, closed, jealous, laws, lions, mouths, prayed, rescued



abeellms <u>s</u>
aejlosu
hmostu
aberv
alsw
ilnos
adepry
cdelos
aegIn
cdeersu

On May 29th the River of Life United Methodist Church had the honor of hosting the prayer service for the Quinceaňera of Leslie Baez Garcia. Pastor Brenda officiated, Karen Parssinen spoke, and several tutoring volunteers attended. Leslie attended our tutoring program for several years and stayed for the WATR supper, worship and youth group. Congratulations, Leslie!









Armed Intruder

Sadly we live in a time where we hear almost daily accounts of mass killings and woundings. Even churches have not been immune to such incidences. In order to be prepared, River of Life has a committee actively working to prepare our congregation to respond to an armed intruder. An approved policy has been adopted and copies of this policy will be made available to all members. The policy is based on a response of "Run, Hide, Fight" that is recommended by Homeland Security. On May 8th Officer Jason Kelley of the Beloit Police Department gave very enlightening presentation to church leadership persons. We feel that all members should hear this same content and will plan to schedule another time for Jason to present this content sometime this summer.

One of the most effective ways for us to call for help and notify others is via cell phone. We would like to ask all members who have cell phones to let the church office know your cell number so that mass notifications can be sent.

Some updates to the facility will be made so that doors can be locked and windows can be obscured in church rooms where people could take shelter. Training in how to control bleeding will be offered to those who are interested and willing to take on this kind of help to a wounded person. We will also be purchasing trauma kits. These kits will contain tourniquets and dressings that can aid in stopping bleeding. Having people who know how to respond will make us all safer in case the need to "Run, Hide, Fight" arises.

Please watch for an announcement for the trainings and participate as much as you can. Knowing what to do can prevent panic in a scary situation.

-Barb Kuska, Active Intruder Committee

Financial Corner

Month of: May 2021

Current month:

Operating Income \$ 15,335.71 Operating Expense \$ 25,344.26

Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$ 197,564.78 Operating Expense \$ 150,108.08

Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$ 3,948.75 Thank you to those that donated to missions!!!

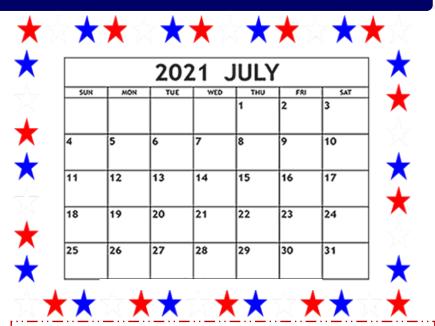
Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,295.90 We received \$886 dollars for UMCOR and a

Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 3,973.20 total of \$1900 that has been split between

RVCP and Sparrows Nest!!!!

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

Calendar



Calendar of Events

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

June 15 4:00 pm Hospitality (FH)

6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)

June 16 9:30 am Martha Circle @ Bessie's Diner

11:30 am Mary Circle @ Bessie's Diner

June 20 5:45 am Youth Trip to Lancaster

June 21 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)

June 22 3:00 pm SPPRC (FH)

June 27 10:00 am Pastor Brenda @ Clinton

June 28 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)

June 30 1:00 pm Knitting/Crochet With A Mission (Office)

July 4 Neighbors to church lawn to watch fireworks

SAVE THE DATE.....

August 12-13 UMW Rummage/Bake Sale **Mission Fundraiser** August 16-18 Mini VBS

Issue deadline:

July 9th The next issue of the Current will be available July 18th

Sunday 9:30 am Beloit Worship 10:00 am Clinton Worship

Monday

1:00 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Saturday

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



