



Hello Summer

The Current of The River of Life

June 2023

Vol. 40 Issue 06

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

CLINTON CAMPUS

402 Church Street
Clinton, WI
608.676.4646

STAFF

Brenda Whitford 608-482-0021	Pastor <i>pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com</i>
Tom Alverson 608-362-8866	Lay Minister <i>talverson@rolumcwi.com</i>
Keith Putney 608-774-3162	Teaching Pastor
Kelly Lutzow 608-362-8866	Office Manager <i>Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com</i>
Lois Ulvin	Director of Music
David Newman	Pianist
Derek Bergh	IT-Production Manager

Not ready to come back to in
person worship yet?
Or out of town for the weekend?

The Beloit Service is on the website
and both Beloit and Clinton are on
Facebook

LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

Lay Leader
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
Kelly Clark

Stewardship Team Chairperson
Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson
Derek Bergh

United Women of Faith President
Pat Sands

From the Pastor's Desk



A few days ago, I had an interesting conversation with my husband Dan, daughter Elizabeth, and her husband Shane. We were driving somewhere together and I saw a sign that said, "Believe the Good News and Be Saved!" I expressed that I find that kind of thing annoying: people who are not followers of Jesus don't know what that means, so it just makes Christians seem out of touch with other people. I think the sign meant: believe in Jesus and you will go to heaven when you die. We decided to each give our definition-of-the-day of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Shane was the first to answer. He said the Good News is that "God loves everybody, no matter what." Elizabeth said one word: hope. She said, "There is never anything so bad that we can't hope that God will make something good of it." Dan also said one word: salvation. "Jesus Christ has saved us for this life and all of eternity." My answer in the moment was, "God came to earth to be a human being, and then sent his Spirit, so that we could always have God with us."

Martin Luther said that the Gospel in Miniature is John 3:16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* If you Google the question, website after website will give very lengthy answers. Theology books have multiple chapter answers.

So, what's the correct answer? All of them, and yet they all fall short. It's simple, yet complicated.

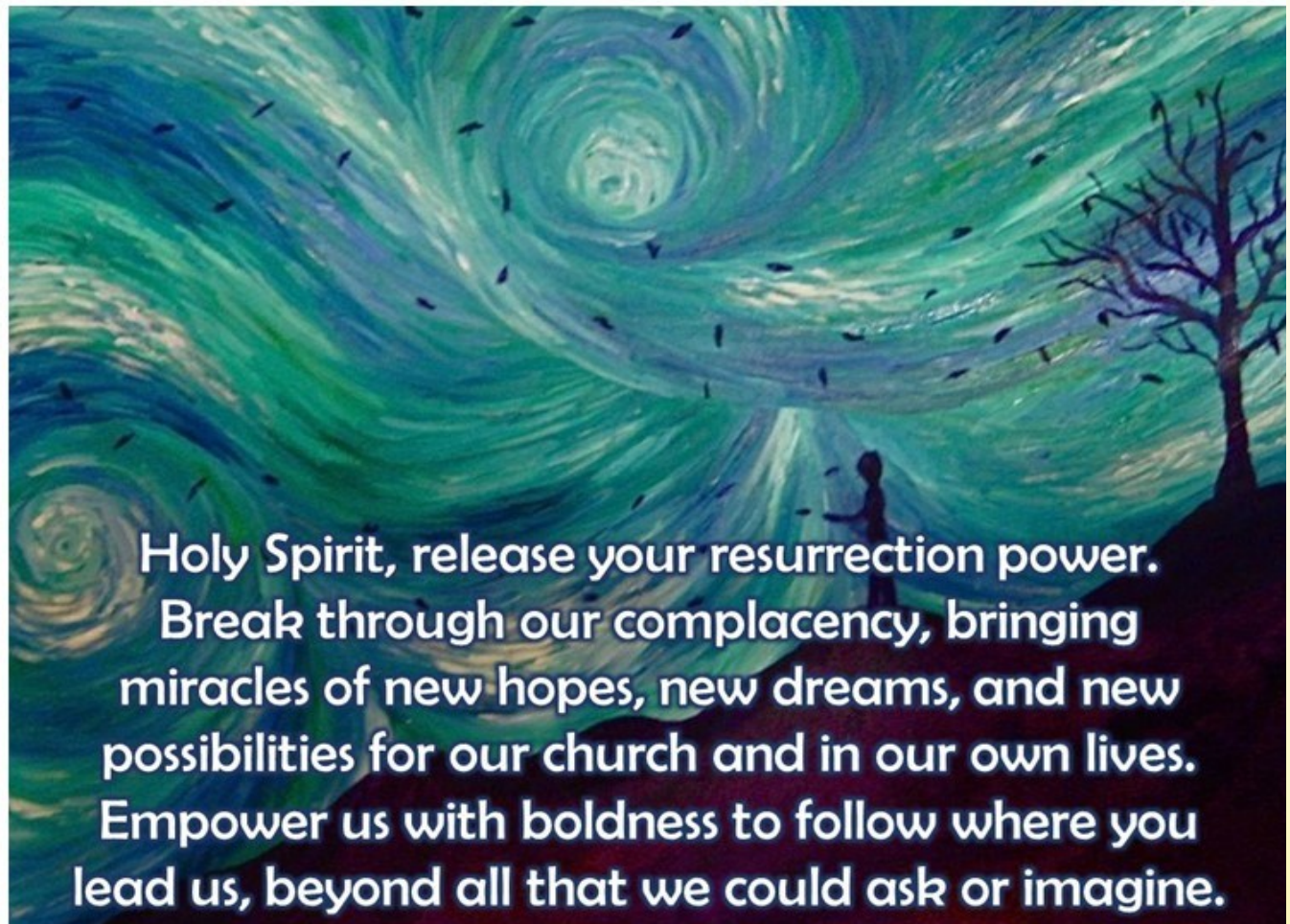
I feel that what is most important is how you would answer this question. In his first letter, the Apostle Peter said: *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.* What about the Good News of Jesus Christ is important to you? What would you say if someone asked you what you believe? What if someone asked you: why Jesus? What if someone asked you why you go to church, why you give so much to the church, why read your Bible, why go to Bible Study, why pray, why Jesus? Your answer doesn't have to be "right." It needs to be your answer to, why is Jesus Good News?

Your faith story is important. Be sure that you are ready to share your hope, and peace, and joy and love.

I'll see you in church, where we celebrate that Good News of Jesus Christ,

Love, Pastor Brenda

Please cut out this Breakthrough Prayer Card and keep for your reference. People we prayed for this month will be conveniently listed on the back of the card once cut out.



**Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power.
Break through our complacency, 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.**

A big thank you to Carol Allen for planting and maintaining the flower pots at each entrance to the Beloit Sanctuary. She selects the perfect flowers each year to welcome all who enter our church. She tends to them through out the growing season with tender loving care.



Thank you also to Wes Brill for planting and maintaining the beautiful spring garden by the office. They bloom at the time of year when we all need a reminder that winter will turn to spring.

Thank You Carol and Wes for the joy you bring!

People we are praying for



† Amber
† Austin
† Daniel & Max
† Darla
† David
† JoAnn & Wally
† John
† Kerri
† Kyleigh
† Leon
† Linda

† Lisa
† Pastor Eduardo
† Rose
† Sandie
† Sarah & Bella
† Shirley
† Skip
† Steve



Our condolences to the
Family and Friends of...

† Nan Bolar
† Don Weiss



**Pastor Brenda will be at Annual Conference and
then on vacation June 5th - 18th.**

Contact Tom with pastoral care emergencies.

The services and activities at
River of Life United Methodist
Church are videotaped,
including adults and children.

Nine people without
internet have the bulletin and
sermon mailed to them each week. Call
the church office if you would like them
mailed to you as well.

Adult Mission Trip

During our two work days, we built three desks and polyurethaned many desks, assembled 470 personal dignity kits and 160 menstrual hygiene kits, matched hundreds of towels and washcloths, wrote thank you notes, and prepped supplies for churches to do rice meal assembly at their church. Our bodies were exhausted but our hearts were full! Our next Adult Mission Trip will be April 3 - 5, 2024. We'll begin signing up this fall.

If you have any questions, ask anyone you see in the photos!





Donations for the Adult Mission Trip

Every year, we encourage people to sign up for the adult mission trip. We always tell them,

"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."

Every year, we have one or two people who are helped by that fund. This financial assistance fund could use some replenishing. If you would like to contribute to this fund to allow others to participate in the mission trip, please make out a check to ROL-UMC with Adult Mission Trip in the memo.

This check can go into the offering, but please let Diane Gemignani know that it's a donation. (Otherwise, she will actually sign you up to go on the trip!)

You can contact Diane by phone: 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity!

SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 7, 8, 9; 5:30-8:15 PM



Vacation Bible School

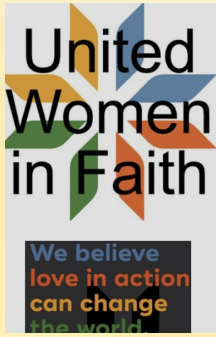
River of Life Church

Come join us on a cosmic quest where we will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! Three days of out-of-this-world adventures that include music, stories, crafts, games, dinner, and light years of faith-building fun! All free! Grades 4K through 6th grade

You can register online at <https://rolumcwi.com/> or in person.

2345 Prairie Avenue, Beloit
402 Church Street, Clinton

www.rolumcwi.com
608-362-8866



Hello UWF June 2023

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:17 KJV



Circle Times

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*



Circle Calendar

June	21	Martha Circle will meet at Road Dawg Family Restaurant
	21	11:30 am Mary Circle will meet at The Rock
July	05	Executive Board Meeting

Summary May 24 Unit Meeting

Pastor Keith Putney gave an interesting lecture on organized religion. He listed the components of organized religion: belief in a deity, document of salvation (pleasing the deity), a code of conduct, the use of sacred stories and taking part in religious rituals.

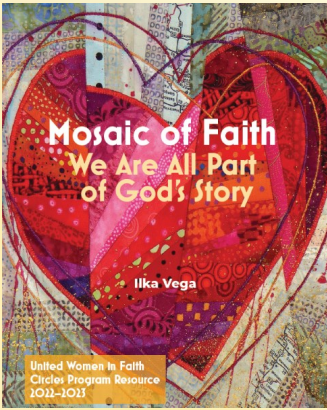
In the 1960's a type of "do it yourself religion" became popular. People just wanted to be completely individual and not connected with a group. This idea has grown and expanded during the recent pandemic.

³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
—Ephesians 4:32 KJV

A classic text on the subject of Christianity is **A History of the Christian Church** by Lars P. Qualben of St. Olaf College. (Note that a copy of this text is available for free downloading from archive.org.)

Another interesting note was that when the Methodist Church was organized in America, Wesley patterned it after the United States Constitution.

Pastor Keith emphasized the bottom line; if we don't live out Ephesians 4:32, it doesn't matter how organized we are.



Lesson Summary for June 2023

Direct Quote Page 96 Program Resource Booklet

Read John 2:13-20 (NIV)

In this program we will be learning about bringing down systems of oppression and structures that are not aligned to God's love for her children. In this month that we commemorate Juneteenth (June 19), the day in 1865 when enslaved Black Americans in Texas learned that they were free, it is particularly important that we recommit ourselves to anti-racist work and fight against the legacy of enslavement and racism in our culture, society, and institutions of power such as our governments, churches, schools, and businesses. As part of this work, United Women in Faith is committed to the work of ending the school-to-prison pipeline that leads to the mass incarceration of communities of color. For this month we will explore different ways in which together we can do our part in the work for racial justice.

In our time together today, we will open the conversation on when should we change structures and when is it better to tear them apart and recreate them completely.

We Shall Overcome Page 533 The UM Hymnal

We shall over come, we shall over come,

We shall over come some day!

Oh, deep in my heart I do believe.

We shall over come some day!

We'll walk hand in hand....

We shall all be free....

We shall live in peace....

The Lord will see us through...



A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22

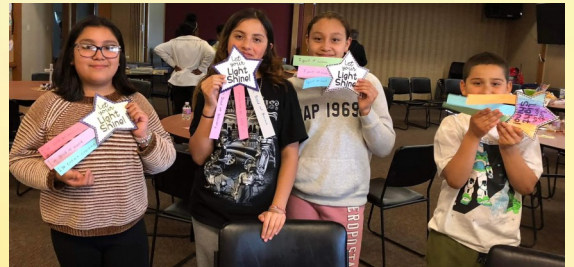
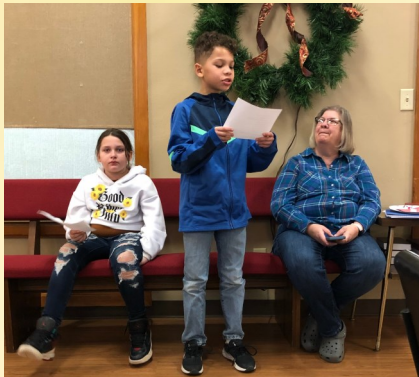
Struggling to make ends meet on a first-call salary, the pastor was livid when he confronted his wife with the receipt for a \$250 dress she had bought. "How could you do this?"

"I was outside the store looking at the dress in the window and suddenly I found myself trying it on," she explained. "It was like Satan was whispering in my ear, 'You look fabulous in the dress. Buy it!'"

Tutoring

Tutoring... it's not just about the academics. There are life skills to be shared, stories to be read, amazing snacks to be eaten, with friendships and memories to last a lifetime. Thank you to ALL who made this tutoring year the BEST one ever. Whether you contributed snacks (or money for them); taught a life skill (we had loads: napkin holder making/use of tools, poetry, ornaments, catapults, financial advice, Cinco de Mayo, thank you cards, positive affirmation activities...); tutored a student; made dinner; or did whatever I asked of you without any funny side looks.. I appreciate you so very much!!! Special thanks to the Snack Queens, Sarah and Kathy who made my world 100% easier by coordinating all of the snacks and making sure that my only contributions were plates and napkins! But none of this could be possible without the help of Aldrich Liaison Extraordinaire, Carolyn Lynch, who connected with teachers, distributed and collected registration forms, and was the voice of the tutoring program throughout Aldrich. Thank you all so much, my Friends! Who is in for next year?





Mission Committee

LOOSE COINS

Our **June** Loose Coins offering will go to **Rock Valley Community Programs, Inc. (RVCP)**, a non-profit agency serving the Rock County area that encompasses several different residential and outpatient programs to help clients transform their lives.

The RVCP campus's array of programs assist homeless veterans, people transitioning from the correctional system, clients dealing with addiction disorders, and those with mental health issues. The common denominator in all the programs is a recognition that clients' life complications develop out of multiple and complex paths. Treatment involves compassionate, inter-disciplinary approaches aimed at restoring them to fully human beings, able to transition into independent living.

Here are some of the RVCP programs our donations will support:

- **Housing 4 Our Vets** -- This is a residential program housing 96 male veterans referred and approved by the Veterans Administration. Veterans are allowed to stay for up to 24 months as they receive addiction and mental health treatment, supportive services to help them prepare for independent living and employment, and a safe and sober living environment where all their needs are met.
- **Residential Re-entry Program** -- This 100-bed residential program assists adult male and female residents transitioning from prison back into the community. They provide supports for educational advancement, obtaining stable housing, medical/treatment services, positive peer/family relations, and more. They work in cooperation with case managers and probation officers to help individuals make a successful re-entry into the community.
- **Compass Behavioral Health Clinic** -- CBHC is a state-certified outpatient clinic within RVCP for substance use disorder and mental health treatment. Treating adults, adolescents, and children, the clinic offers individual and group therapy, psychiatric services, and comprehensive behavioral health treatment.

The services that Rock Valley Community Programs offers are in many cases a lifeline to those who were at the end of their rope, people who were among "the least of these." The agency is committed to transforming lives, through compassion and professional care. Let's give generously and support this vital mission!

-- Ellen Butchart



Bible studies continue to meet!

Join today!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30am via Zoom. We are currently studying the Bible Book of *Romans*.

Contact Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

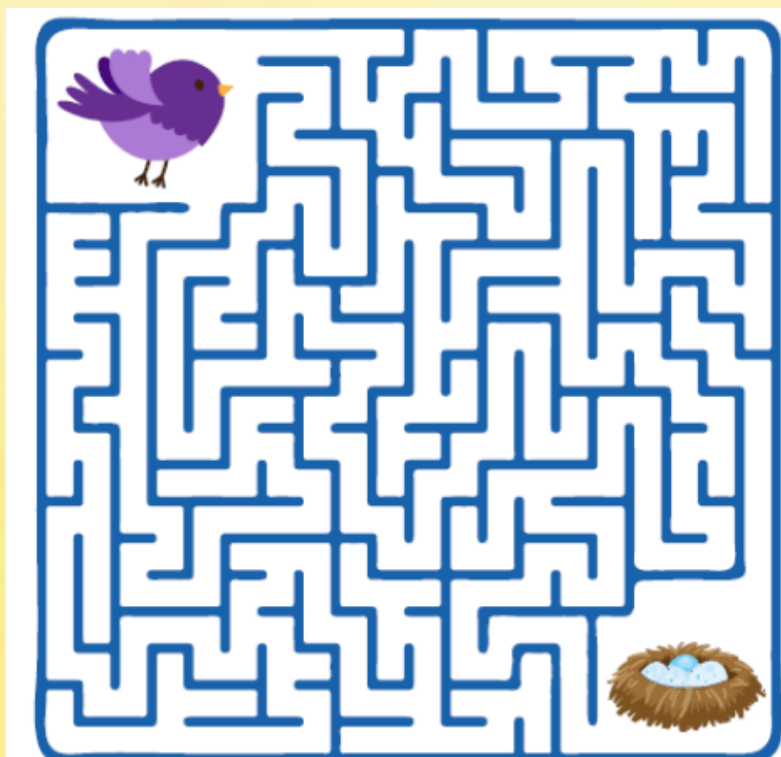
The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:30pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall. We are doing an old-fashioned read and discuss model comparing John with the other 3 gospels.

Contact Pastor Brenda if you would like to participate.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Saturday Morning Bible study meets on Zoom at 7:30am. Bob Parssinen leads the group using videos from *The Bible Project*.

Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.





SEASON TWO BEGINS!

We are beginning to watch Season Two of "The Chosen". We watch one episode each Sunday at 11:00 am in the middle school room at the Beloit Campus.

Participants have found this drama of the life of Jesus and his disciples to be incredibly moving. Biblical interpretation is good, and back stories have been added, making the characters and the stories come to life. You are invited to join this small group that watches an episode each week.

If you want to catch up, The Chosen is available for free on The Chosen website, the Angel Studios website, The Chosen App and the Angel Studios App. Bob P watches through his computer, plugged into his television. Pastor Brenda watches on The Chosen app (channel) through her Roku, which is plugged into her television. Episodes are also available at lower resolution on YouTube.

People are needed to take over this valuable ministry!



Summer is into full swing, and we don't have a Funnel Cakes Ministry Team!

Do you know someone who would be great at organizing a team? Or do you know someone who would like to work it?

This is a fabulous way to connect with people in the community, loving them into taking their next, or first step with Jesus! Contact Pastor Brenda if you would like to be on this new Funnel Cakes Ministry Team!

Firm

Focus

**Core Strength
&
Balance**

Friendly

**Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:00 am
Beloit Campus**

A low-impact exercise class has begun in our Fellowship Hall. Focus is on improving balance through core strengthening. Class is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00. Individuals dress in comfortable clothing, bring their own weights, and water.

There is no cost.



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

June 28 at 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

FAVORITES OF SUMMER!

Favorite Bible Stories! Favorite Hymns!



During the last four weekends of summer, we will be having a “Favorites of Summer” worship series. We will sing your favorite hymns/songs and hear your favorite Bible stories. To prepare for this, each Sunday during June you will “vote” for your favorites by writing them on your Connect Card. If you are here all 4 Sundays of June, either write the same ones down each week to get more “votes,” or write down different ones. The top “vote-getters” will be the ones chosen. The Saturday night, Beloit 9:30 and Clinton services will each focus on their attendees’ highest “vote-getters,” so you may want to attend more than one service each week in August to vote more than once for your favorites!!

Hospitality Committee

Thank you to everyone who has brought snacks or helped clean up the kitchen afterward the past few months! Your efforts make our



Fellowship time all the more special.

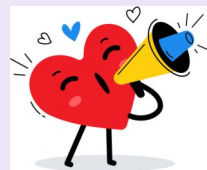
There is a clipboard on the snack table for anyone who would like to sign up. We have a particular need for the following Sundays:

July 9
July 23
July 30

Thank you so much!

WORD LIST

BEACH	FISHING	ICE CREAM	OUTDOOR	SUNGLASSES
CAMP	FLIP FLOPS	LEMONADE	POOL	SUNSCREEN
CARNIVAL	HEAT	MOVIES	RELAX	SWIMMING



Please remember to fill out your Connect Cards with your most current information so that we can verify your information is accurate in our computer systems .

These phone numbers are used for our Voice Shot software which is used to notify members.

Calendar

June 2		Special Offering Sunday : Peace with Justice
June 6	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
June 8	10:00 AM	Clinton Ministerial Meeting
June 10	8:30 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
June 13	11:00 AM	Mission Committee Meeting (FH)
June 19	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
June 20	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
June 26	6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
June 26		**JUNE CURRENT ARTICLES DUE**
June 28	1:00 PM	Knitting With a Mission (Office)
July 4		**OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**
July 8	8:30 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast



Issue deadline:

June 26

The next newsletter
will be available on

July 2



Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship
10:00 am Clinton Worship
11:00 am "The Chosen" Movie Series
w/ Bob Parssinen

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)

Wednes- day

10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
6:30 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

Thursday

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

Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
5:30 pm Saturday Worship



Don't Take a Summer Vacation from God



Sunshine, beaches, lakes, family, road trips, sports, no school, and no church? Summer is a great time to be with family. But, did you know summer months is also a very challenging time for many church members and the church itself?

#1 – Take a vacation from church!

Every summer people get out of the habit of attending church. It usually starts with “legitimate reasons” around family, work, or play. But, after awhile a thought enters the mind, “I don’t need church to have a relationship with God.” Obviously, we can walk with God outside of church, but we’re stretching this idea to benefit our self-centered interest as well. I’ve never seen a spiritually mature Christian who is not committed to their local church. During the summer months, when you are in town, attend your local church! When you’re out of town, watch their videos, church emails, etc. You will enjoy life more when you stay connected to the biblical community God has put in your life. There is no substitute for corporate worship, serving others on weekends, and encouraging others in person, who are walking by faith. Your presence at church encourages others! Incidentally, when you are out of town, go to church! It’s great opportunity to see God move in other churches! Maybe God has a word for you!

#2 – Take a vacation from giving!

Every summer there are people that stop honoring God with their finances. Usually the logic is, “I’ll pick it up again after summer ends.” So, they use their tithe or offering, that typically goes to God, and give it to beaches, road trips, lakes, or summer toys in their life. Sometimes there is a thought that, “I’ll catch up later.” Both thoughts are not realistic. Rarely, does someone come to church in September with a check for missed tithes in June, July, and August. It just doesn’t happen. Something practical you can do is set up automatic giving through your church E-giving program. This will ensure your giving stays strong during the summer, and you don’t take a break from honoring God with your finances. After all, who do you think has blessed you to the point that you can enjoy the good things of life? By the way, expenses do not change in the summer months in most churches! Enjoy your vacation. Honor your God.

#3 – Take a vacation from reading your bible!

Every summer trip involves a new routine. We are routine oriented people. When we’re out of our routine, it’s very easy to get out of good habits, like reading your bible and doing your daily devotions. Be intentional about spending time with God, even on your vacation! You will discover you will actually be more enjoyable to others, and you will have much more patience for others too! Most of all, maybe God has a word to share with you during that summer break! Some of my greatest moments with God happened while I was reading my bible on my vacation. When you open your bible, spend time with Jesus Christ. Don’t rush through scripture or prayer. Learn to talk to have conversation with the one who loves you.

Take time to reflect on your church’s vision statement; Loving people into taking their next step with Jesus.

Blessings,

Thomas C. Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson



Thank you so much for my Carry-All wagon. I've already used it on my last day of school, and I know that I will be able to fit at least 57 books for Tutoring in it! ❤️



A huge Thank You to Pastor Brenda and Pastor Dan for driving Kellyse, Miss Rock County's Teen in the Memorial Day Parade in Beloit! Thank you again!



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

www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumcClinton

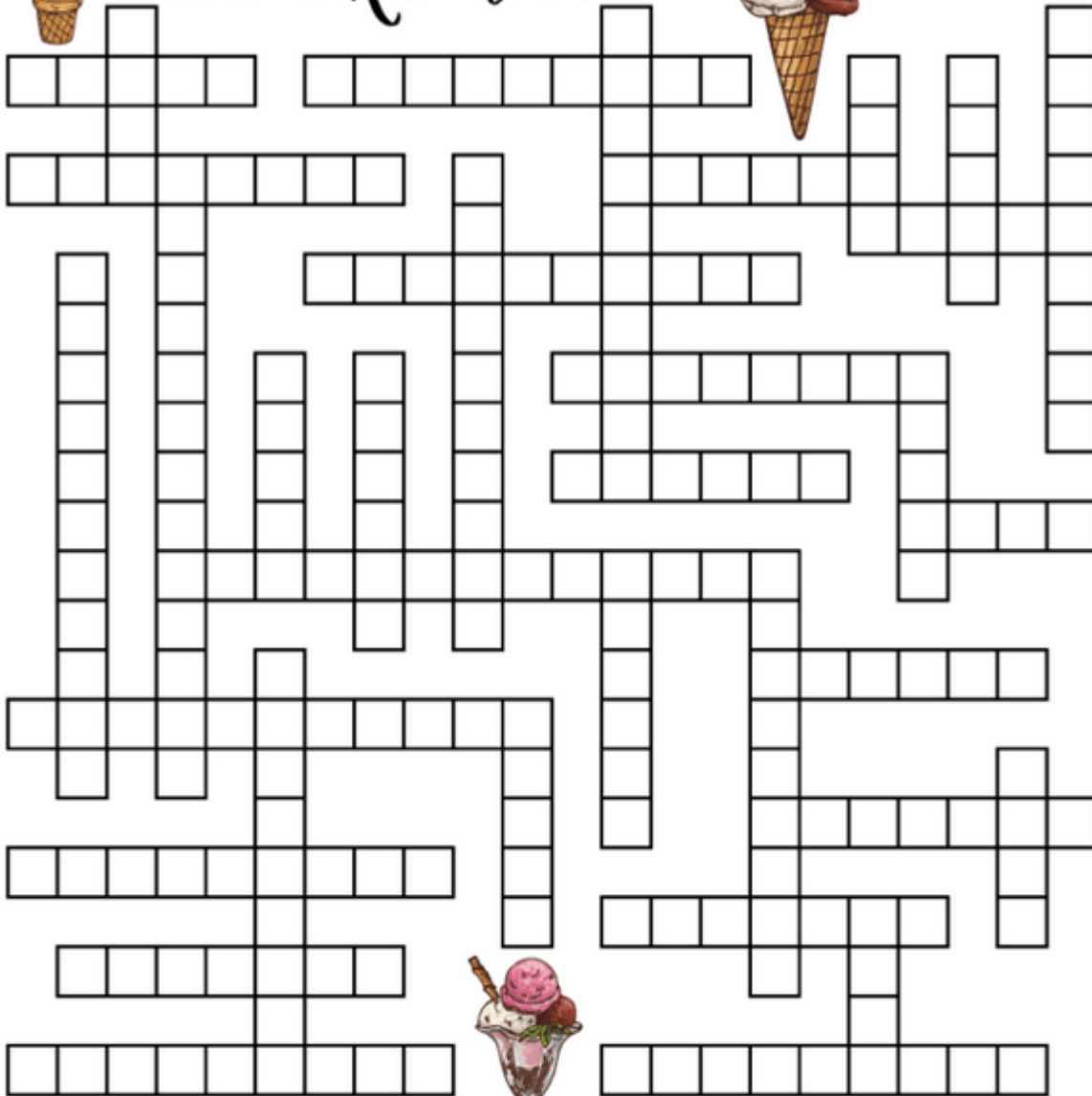
and

The River of Life United Methodist Church.





ICE CREAM



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4 letter words

- cone
- lick
- melt
- Mint
- Oreo

5 letter words

- fudge
- Mango
- scoop
- spoon
- Tiger
- treat

6 letter words

- carton
- creamy
- frozen
- gelato
- sundae

7 letter words

- caramel
- flavors
- Vanilla

9 letter words

- Bubble Gum
- Chocolate
- Pistachio
- Rocky Road
- sprinkles
- sugar cone
- wafer cone

8 letter words

- ice cream
- toppings

10 letter words

- Neapolitan
- Strawberry
- waffle cone

11 letter words

- banana split
- Butter Pecan

13 letter words

- Chocolate Chip
- Cookies N Cream





June 1	Carol Martin Sandra Long	July 1	Phylis Dooley Shana Listenbee	July 16	Vicki Boschma Robin Austin
June 5	Pat Sands Julie Christensen	July 2	Ellen Butchart Margaret Hansen		Liz Rosenthal Zacary Woody
June 6	Donald Welch Ryley Woody	July 3	Barbara Sheffield	July 17	Betty Hannum Savanna Henthorn
June 12	Roger Sands	July 4	Marlene Sturdevant		Ehron Bishop
June 13	Bob Scheets	July 5	Marge Johnson Nell Adams	July 18	Patty Listenbee
June 19	Melanie Gray Carson Bishop		Steven Martin	July 21	Thackery Woody
June 24	Mason Lee Bishop	July 6	Kathy Cornford	July 24	Michael Collins Tessa Collins
June 25	Wanda Haas	July 7	Shellie Olson	July 25	Aubrey Maxwell
June 28	Patricia Lawrence	July 8	Tyler Caple Lynn Whalen	July 26	Reid Parssinen
June 29	Maci Gamble Keegan Cawkins		Joni King	July 27	Gretchen Dixon
June 30	Kathy Dearth	July 11			
		July 12	Steve Martin		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

June 6	Stephen & Mary Wadle	June 18	Bob & Karen Parssinen	July 3	Diana & Craig Merwin
June 8	Dave & Peggy Buckler	June 22	Mark & Donna Hammett	July 6	Maci & Tevin Gamble
June 10	Julie & Ray Hartje		Judy & Bill Pollard	July 11	Dave & Kelly Clark
June 13	Don & Clara Welch			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.