

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

Adult class on August 7 & 8 led by Bob Parssinen.

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

The Current of The River of Life

July 2023

Vol. 40 Issue 07

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

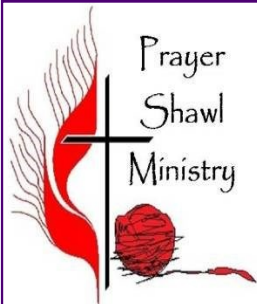
2375 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, WI
608.362.8866

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



Please contact the office if you or a friend would like a prayer shawl. We have many shawls to share.

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

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



The smoke! It is what people are talking about! People have never experienced smoke like this. We were told we were in the very unhealthy range. There were less people out – because it was recommended for people to stay home, and some people outside were wearing N95 masks. I turned the office air purifiers back on. By the time you read this, hopefully it will have moved away from us. (Of course, that just moves it to other people.) But as I am writing this, we continue to be under an Air Quality Alert.

As I look out my office window this morning, there is less smoke between the office and the Beloit Campus building. It's still there, but it is less. The sun is trying to peek through. I can see further down Prairie Ave. Our air quality is "only" unhealthy now. I am wondering if more people will be outside today because it is better, even though it isn't good.

This made me think about our faiths. For many people, their strongest prayers and their longest time in prayer is when they are in their darkest times. This is a good thing that people pray in their dark times. But then, when things begin to get a little better, it's like they tell God, "Thanks, I don't need you anymore, I'll take it from here."

Prayer is just talking with God. Listening meditation is being in the presence of God and opening up to the Holy Spirit. God wants this for us every day, multiple times a day. The Apostle Paul said to pray without ceasing! It is how our faiths can be peace and joy and life for us each day.

I encourage you to spend a lot of time with God. Walk with Jesus every day. Then, when there is a dark time, you are already used to spending a lot of time with God. Your prayers will be easier, and may last longer, bringing you greater hope and peace.

I'll see you in church, where we turn to God in all times in our lives,

Love, Pastor Brenda

From the Pastor's Desk continued...

Clinton Campus Information

It has been wonderful to have one church with two campuses for the past number of years. Neither campus has bounced back after being shut down for Covid, but the Clinton Campus has been struggling significantly with attendance and finances. Additionally, there is a homeless congregation in search of a building to buy, and they have reached out to us about the Clinton Campus building. After meetings with the Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, Trustees, Ad Council, and conversations with the Clinton Campus congregation, the Ad Council has decided to form an exploratory committee to begin considering selling the Clinton Campus building. Paul Dubler will be chairing this committee. At this time, the Clinton Campus congregation will continue to worship at the Clinton Campus as usual.

Nearly everyone at the Beloit Campus understands the pain of moving from their building. May the people who attend the Beloit Campus hold the people who attend the Clinton Campus, in prayer and in person, as these explorations are being made.

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.



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

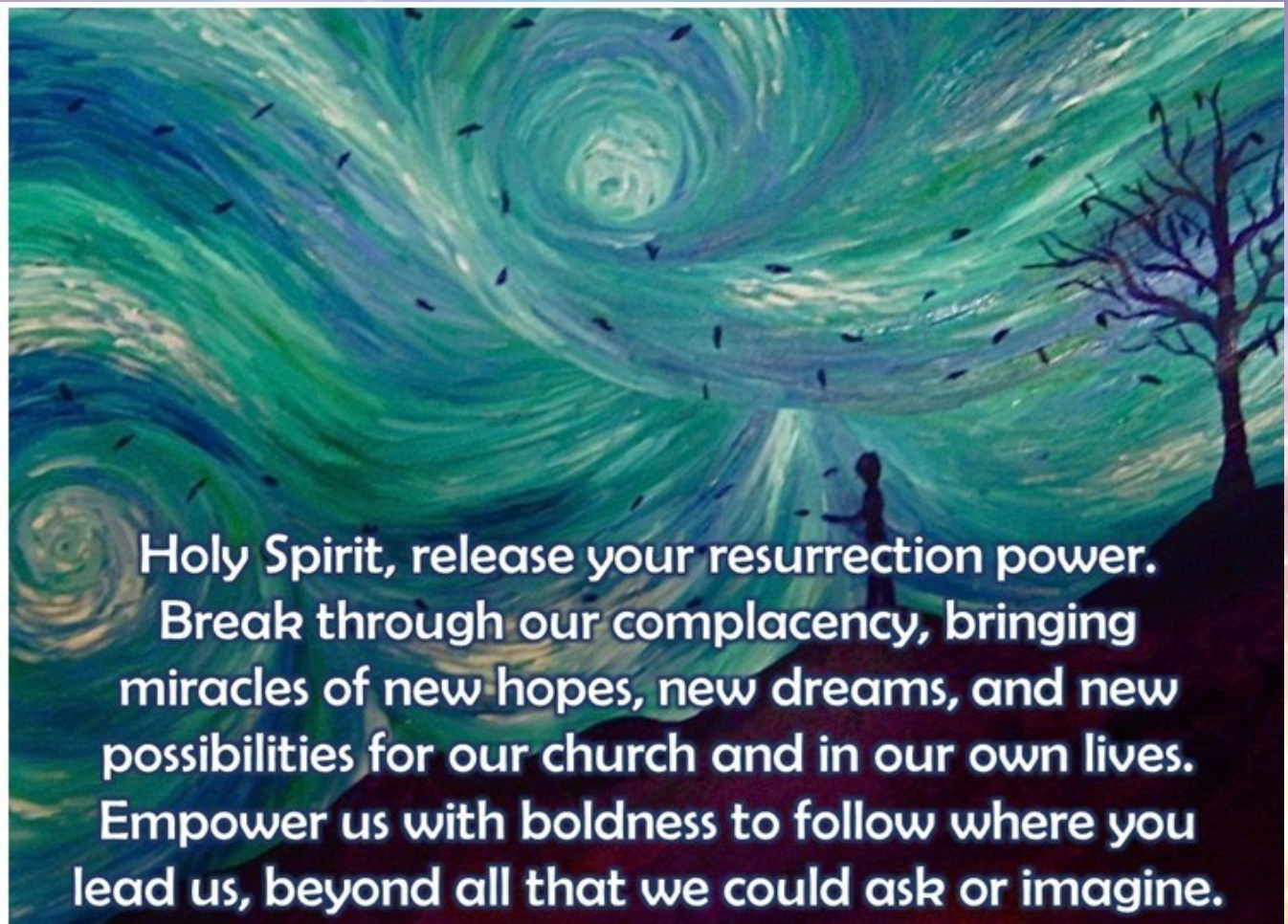
www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumcClinton

and

The River of Life United Methodist Church.

www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc

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.**



September is our month to "Stock the Shelves" with hair care products at Caritas. You can begin bringing your contributions of shampoo and conditioner now through September. There is a bin in the coat room designated for Caritas. Your donations are appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Sands.

People we are praying for



- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| † Ace | † Kyleigh |
| † Amber | † Lisa |
| † Ann | † Liz |
| † Austin | † Pastor Eduardo |
| † Bella | † Paula |
| † Bob | † Rose |
| † Daniel & Max | † Sarah |
| † Darla | † Shirley |
| † David | † Skip |
| † Helen | † Steve |
| † Kerri | † Wally & JoAnn |

Our condolences to the
Family and Friends of...

- † John Gray
† Peggy Lund

Mission Committee

Our July Loose Coins offering will go to the **Clinton Community Outreach Program (CCOP)**, formerly called the Clinton Food Pantry. The CCOP is a volunteer-run program designed to help those in need who reside within the Clinton School District boundaries. They have been serving the Clinton community for about 30 years. Each month they serve approximately 35-50 families.

The CCOP is supported by a network of area ministries and churches, and donations. In addition to providing food, the program makes the community aware of hunger related issues and works collaboratively with other agencies. They collect donations and raise funds to help alleviate hunger. They also provide food, clothing, health screenings and other assistance, or referrals, as needed.

The CCOP is housed in the First Presbyterian Church, which is a block away from our River of Life UMC Clinton church. The Food Pantry is open the second Saturday of every month from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. for families to come in and pick up food. Coinciding with the Food Pantry each month, our Clinton campus offers a free pancake breakfast open to the public. Church members from Beloit and Clinton are encouraged to come out and share fellowship on each second Saturday, from approximately 8:30 -- 10:00.

If you would like to be involved in the Clinton Community Outreach or its Food Pantry, contact the CCOP's on-call volunteer at (608) 295-9548. Donations are accepted the second Saturday of every month from 8 -- 9 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 312 Church St., Clinton, or by calling to arrange a drop-off time. Mailing address: PO Box 423 Clinton, WI 53525.

Notes on the May InGathering collection

We collected 11 Personal Dignity Kits from the Clinton campus, 16 kits from the Beloit campus, plus extra towels and soaps, and the Loose Coins total was \$529.61 for Midwest Mission. Thank you for your continuing support of our vital missions programs!

-- The Missions Committee

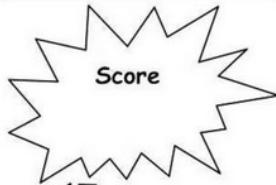


BOGGLE

Name: _____

T	E	E	L
S	N	F	I
T	Y	K	N
O	E	S	F

Points
 3 letters= 1 point
 4 letters= 1 point
 5 letters= 2 points
 6 letters= 3 points
 7 letters= 5 points
 8 letters= 9 points



- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 16. _____ | 24. _____ |

Summer

T I O W E E A R T H
 M A R T X E S W Q G
 U I N U S G A A N H
 S D R O W N N T U F
 R E P U S I D E F D
 L E V A R T V R B P
 L F U N T I M E S O
 I E B E A C H Z Z O
 F C Y W M X R P K L
 E S U M M E R N D P



beach
 extra
 travel
 pool

earth
 life
 sand
 sun

exciting
 fun times
 fun
 Summer

super
 words
 water

Name: _____

LOGIC PUZZLE #6

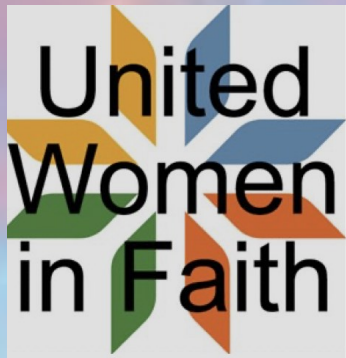
Five friends went to the water park on a nice summer day. Figure out what part of the water park each child is at and what color swimsuit they are each wearing

	Water Slide	Lazy River	Diving Board	Wave Pool	Fountains	Red	Blue	Black	Purple	Orange
Katie										
Josh										
Olivia										
Kevin										
Mya										

Red					
Blue					
Black					
Purple					
Orange					

- Olivia, who isn't wearing purple, doesn't like the water slide or wave pool.
- Kevin is either on the diving board or by the fountains.
- Mya, who's wearing red, isn't on the lazy river.
- The person wearing blue is on the diving board.
- Olivia is wearing orange, but is not by the fountains.
- One of the boys is in the wave pool and the other boy is wearing blue.
- Katie is not on the lazy river.
- The person in black is on the water slide.





We believe
love in action
can change
the world

UWF JULY 2023

It was you who set all the boundaries of
the earth; you made both summer and
winter.

Psalm 74:17



Circle Calendar



The Circles will not meet until
September.
Enjoy the summer with family
& friends.

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*

*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!'"

"You know how I deal with that kind of temptation, I say, 'Get behind me, Satan!'" said the pastor.

"I did," replied his wife. "But then he said, 'It looks fabulous from back here too!'"

—Church Chuckles page 71

July Program Summary

Material copied and edited from Pages 101-103 of the UWF lesson manual.

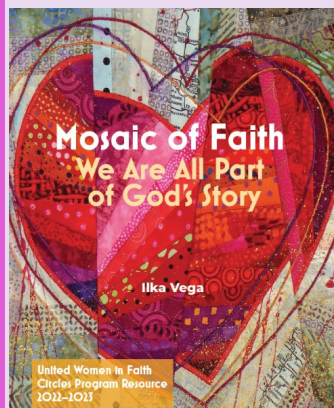
In this program, we will focus on healing and the power of touch. Touching is a way of connecting ourselves with the realities around us, both painful and joyful. Touch can be a form of knowledge and learning, and a form of healing. Healing is a form of stewardship, love, and relationship with one another.

In addition to community building, we can transform our world by imagining it differently, dreaming it passionately via all our senses, and willing it into creation. As we think inspiring, positive, life-generating thoughts and embody these thoughts in every act we perform, we can gradually change the mood of our days, the habits of years, and the beliefs of a lifetime.

In our work towards justice we must work to heal the wounds of the past and present and come close to touch each other's wounds and learn from them so that we can learn to heal ourselves and each other.

Changing the thoughts and ideas (the "stories") we live by and their limiting beliefs (including the national narrative of supreme entitlement) will enable us to extend our hand to others. When we give our hand to others we also have our heart and reason in hand. Individually and collectively, we can begin to share strategies on peaceful co-existence and spread forms of knowledge. Each of us can make a difference. By bringing psychological understanding and using spiritual approaches in political activism, we can stop the destruction of our moral, compassionate humanity. Empowered, we'll be motivated to organize, achieve justice, and begin to heal the world.

When we talk about healing, there are different mental images that come to mind. However, when we think of healing and caretaking, we often think of proximity and the warmth of touch. Touch such as the bleeding woman who approaches Jesus to find healing only by touching his mantle. (Mark 5:25-34)



VBS and UWF

Would you believe that one of the upcoming VBS Bible verses fits exactly with this month's theme of healing and justice?
Live in harmony with each other.

Romans 12:16

Great advice for everyone!

www.rolumcwi.com



SEASON THREE BEGINS!

We are beginning to watch Season Three 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!

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 6:00pm 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.

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!



Dear River of Life Church,

Thank you so much for our generous donation of six boxes of toiletries, wash clothes, and socks to our mission. Our guests really appreciate these items— they go fast! You are helping us to be able to give comfort and sustenance to those who need it most.

God Bless You!

Stateline Works of Mercy

“As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me”
- Matthew 25:40

Hospitality Committee



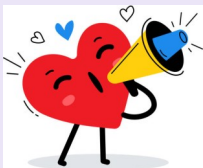
Thank you to everyone who has brought snacks or helped clean up the kitchen afterward the past few months! Your efforts make our Fellowship time all the more special.

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, 23, & 30

Thank you so much!



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. of upcoming meetings and church service cancellations.

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

July 26 at 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

Saying Good-bye.....

Members of the congregation and the choir gathered for a farewell open house for Shirley Sweet at The Bay on June 24, as she prepares to move to a facility in the Twin Cities area to be near her son Steven. Shirley and her husband Don moved to Beloit in 1959 and joined the choir at First Methodist downtown. She was the first of the "lady tenors" and has been a spark plug of the choir for all these years. She has also been an entertaining emcee, dedicated volunteer, caring friend, and (Did you know this?) serious donut-lover at ROL! She will leave a big hole. We send Shirley to her new home with love and prayers.



To My ROL UMC Family

You are amazing! Through these past four months you have kept my spirits high with your many visits, cards, goodies and prayers. Thank you for the special things, the Open House and the many errands you have run for me.

Now it is time for me to move to:

Autumn Glen

3715 Coon Rapids Blvd

Coon Rapids, Mn. 55433

I will be using a cell phone (sort of) 608-247-1688.

Try it - I may learn to answer.

Guess Who







Stewardship talent
planning
commitment vision LOVE PLEDGE time
blessing treasure faith caring
community

PERSPECTIVE



Some things are simply a matter of perspective. We can be reminded often how words can be used to skew the truth. For instance, an interoffice softball game was held every year between the marketing department and support staff of one company. The day of the game, as hard as the marketers tried, the support staff whipped the marketing department soundly.

In its best tradition, the marketing department decided to find the best "spin" they could on the dismal result. They showed how they earn their keep by posting this memo on the bulletin board after the game: "The marketing department is pleased to announce that for the recently completed softball season, we came in second place, having lost but one game all year. The support department, however, had a rather dismal season, as they won only one game all year."

On the other hand, hidden beauty can also be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."

I think Lauren is on to something. Our entire lives can be shaped by perspective. How would I approach money, "stuff," and giving, if I knew that God had already given me everything I need, rather than seeing all the things I "need" in the store windows? How would I treat others if I focused on the ways I could serve rather than making sure everyone respected my rights? How would my marriage change if it were based on being one another's servant rather than a struggle for power? What would my attitude be toward work be if I saw it as my God-given vocation rather than someplace I had to go to earn a paycheck? What if I saw Sunday as a true Sabbath . . . a time for connecting with God and family and rest . . . rather than a day to run the kids to more activities and the day I must get things done at home before I go to work?

Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it.

Blessings,

Thomas Alverson

Stewardship Chairperson

Calendar

July 4		**OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**
July 8	8:30 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
July 17	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
July 18	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
July 24	6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
July 25	6:30 PM	Tentative Ad Council Meeting
July 26	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
Aug 1	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting

Issue deadline:
July 28
The next newsletter
will be available on
August 6

<p><u>Sunday</u> 9:30 am Beloit Worship 10:00 am Clinton Worship 11:00 am "The Chosen" Movie Series w/ Bob Parssinen</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 12:30 pm Card Club (FH)</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 9:00 am Exercise Group 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH) 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> 10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 9:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30 pm Saturday Worship</p>
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 1 Phyllis Dooley
Shana Listenbee

July 2 Ellen Butchart
Margaret Hansen
Wanda Dixon

July 3 Barbara Sheffield

July 4 Marlene Sturdevant

July 5 Marge Johnson
Nell Adams
Steven Martin

July 6 Kathy Cornford

July 7 Shellie Olson

July 8 Tyler Caple
Lynn Whalen

July 11 Joni King

July 12 Steve Martin

July 16 Vicki Boschma
Robin Austin

Liz Rosenthal
Zacary Woody

July 17 Betty Hannum
Savanna Henthorn
Ehron Bishop

July 18 Patty Listenbee

July 21 Thackery Woody

July 24 Michael Collins
Tessa Collins

July 25 Aubrey Maxwell

July 26 Reid Parssinen

July 27 Gretchen Dixon

August 1

Elizabeth Wadle

August 3

Bill Rodgers
Tim Rosenthal

August 4

Glenda Churchill

August 7

Marlene Brandenburg
Brice Henthorn
Gary Meier
Deanna Parish

August 10

Clara Welch

August 13

Chad Dixon

August 17

Rebecca Folyer

August 18

Helen Oleston

August 19

Tina Henthorn

August 21

Bernie Holcomb

August 24

Duncan Woody

August 29

Cole Henthorn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 3

Diana & Craig Merwin

July 6

Maci & Tevin Gamble

July 11

Dave & Kelly Clark

July 23

Brian & Tracy Maxwell

July 30

Dennis & Sandy Hays

August 7

Bob & Carol Scheets

August 12

Doug & Diane Mitchell

Mark & Kathy Smith

August 17

Sam & Judy Paddock

August 20

Laverne & Sandra Hays

August 23

Roger & Pat Sands

August 29

Keith & Barbara Putney

www.rolumcwi.com

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