

The Current of The River of Life



**CAMP
OUT**

GETTING S'MORE OF JESUS

Mini Vacation Bible School
August 16, 17, 18
5:15-8:00 PM
Grades 4K through fifth

Register in person or online at
rolumcwi.com

Crafts *Games* *Stories* *Dinner*

FREE

August 15, 2021

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 18 Issue 19

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

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Beloit, WI
608.362.8866
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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

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

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Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

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Diane Gemignani

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Marietta Axmear

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Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

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Karen Parssinen

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Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Covid Task Force Chairperson

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Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

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Bonnie Moore Secretary/Receptionist

bmoore@rolumcwi.com

MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music

Marianne Peterson Organist/Pianist

Marge Johnson

Pianist



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

Six 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.

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Bruce & Lora Cawkins in the loss of her Mother



People we have prayed for....

Barbara, Bob, Connie,
Debbie, Doris, Doug,
Elizabeth, Evie, Joyce,
Kerri, Nan, Pam, Trinity



People have really been enjoying our Psalm 23 sermon series. If you have been away this summer and missed it, you can find worship services on our website and both of our Facebook pages.

Coming September 12th

The event formerly known as Rally Day will take on a new twist! We are not ready to disclose any details yet, but watch for an exciting outdoor event!

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. The River of Life website and Beloit Facebook page now have the Beloit service and the Clinton Facebook page has the Clinton service, so you can watch two services each week!

From the Pastor



Last weekend Dan and I traveled the 6-hour round trip to see our grandchildren. The town festival was going on, and we were planning on going to the parade together. Our granddaughter was very disappointed when it was raining and wouldn't stop, because she assumed we wouldn't go. But since they didn't cancel the parade, we decided to go in the rain!

Only about a third of the parade entries came. Dan and I, our grandkids, our son and daughter-in-law, and some of her extended family were the

only people watching the parade on the whole block where we were standing. But we each had an umbrella and we stayed fairly dry. As each parade entry went by, they threw an exorbitant amount of candy and everyone waved to the children. When the high school band marched by, they stopped directly in front of us and played us a song while standing in the rain. And then when the drumline from a nearby town walked by, they also gave a little show – just for us. You would never have thought they were performing in the rain by their enthusiasm. We clapped and cheered! I was expecting to be miserable, and it was a delightful time! The kids said they wanted it to rain again next year, so we could have the parade all to ourselves again!

Sometimes, when we think something is going to turn out miserable, we are surprised and what we thought was going to be negative, turns out to be what makes it special.

Our relationship with God is like that. Sometimes God asks us to do something we don't want to do, or a situation arises that would be good for our spiritual growth, and we avoid it. But it is often those times that God surprises us with something unexpected and it is a surprising blessing.

So do what God calls you to do, and put yourself in situations where God can shower blessings upon your life. You will find that God has a way of making things wonderful!

I'll see you in church, where we worship the God who surprises us,

Love, Pastor Brenda



thank you

A great big "THANK YOU" to the entire ROL extended family for all the prayers, cards and other support Karen, Reid and I have been flooded with following my sudden cardiac arrest event on July 16 while playing roller hockey. I have truly felt the peace and love of God pouring out from your hearts throughout this journey. I can also tell you first hand that your prayers really do make a difference. All the caring poured out (from the gang at roller hockey, to the EMTs, to the wonderful staff at OSF, to all the friends, family and others who have sent their prayers and well wishes) has been incredibly uplifting. It's been very tangible, but at the same time very spiritual and ultimately indescribable.

At a time when I could have been full of fear and doubt, I experienced nothing but peace and confidence in whatever the outcome would be – not at all what I would have expected. Our God is truly amazing! We don't know yet what caused this unsettling event, but I do know that it has helped deepen my faith and reliance on our Creator, Lord and Savior. To use a computer analogy, it has also "rebooted" my desire to grow God's Kingdom here on earth by sharing all that he has done for us! Hopefully my experience will also encourage you to continue to love others into taking their next step with Jesus, as you have done for us. Thank you again for being such supportive brothers and sisters in Christ!

Gratefully Yours – Bob (Karen, Annika and Reid) Parssinen

Financial Corner

Month of:
July 2021

Current month :

Operating Income \$ 14,752.24

Operating Expense \$ 27,504.94

Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$ 228,516.17

Operating Expense \$ 201,568.76

Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$ 5,393.75

Gods Fund Balance: \$ 1,345.90

Bags of Hope Balance: \$ 4,043.70

Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$ 1,083.19

Thank you to those that donated to missions!!!

[We received \\$783 for Project 16:49!!](#)

This will help a lot of kids in our communities!!!!

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



Meals on Wheels

Our Loose Coin Offering in September will go to Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels offers meal service 7 days a week including holidays. A single meal costs the organization more than \$10.00. Client contributions are a necessary resource, as are community donations. This program serves Beloit Area Seniors, 60 years and older, who are homebound and not driving, with the elderly and frail taking priority. Limited funding is also available for adults with disabilities. Let us be generous with our Loose Coin Offering in September to support Beloit Area Meals on Wheels.

-Diane Gemignani

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is July 28th 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!!



SOUP w/pull tabs
(but NOT tomato)

DIAPER CREAM

*Please drop off your pop tops
which benefits
Ronald McDonald's House*



River of Life UMC masks are still available!

Sport your very own River of Life UMC mask, available 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.

2021's Youth Mission trip was definitely different. Bruce and I went with Kellyse and Zekaeus Lutzow, and Shelby Ward. We stayed in Lancaster, Wi and helped with several projects for the people locally, painting, a retaining wall, and clean up in local parks. The kids worked hard and made friendships along the way. We had great speakers every night along with our favorite band who played all our favorite songs. Can't wait until next year!!

Sincerely, Lora Cawkins



More photos on page 8 & 9



Lots of Youth Trip photos!!



More Youth Trip photos!!



Our new sermon series beginning September 12th will be "That's Not in the Bible!" We will explore things people say that they think are in the Bible that aren't. Although people sometimes find comfort in some of these things, we will look to what the Bible actually says that is even better:

- Everything Happens For A Reason
- God Never Gives You More Than You Can Handle
- God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
- Money is the Root of All Evil

This will be a very guest friendly series, so be sure to invite your friends to church!



Mailbox Blessings

This month's featured UMW Missionary is Catherine Mudime Akale who is a regional missionary to Cameroon. (Cameroon is a country in west-central Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and six other countries.)

It is best to send email greetings to her at the following address:

cakale2001@yahoo.com

You may send a simple written email, an email with a picture or an e-birthday card. There are several free sources for cards such as:

<https://www.crosscards.com/cards/birthdays/>



UMW Calendar

September 15	Martha Circle 9:30 a.m.
September 15	Mary Circle 1:00 p.m. @ Jacque Patch's home, 9028 S. Butterfly Rd.
September 22	Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Amiee J. Leavy, Janesville YWCA "Social Justice" Martha Circle— Snacks Mary Circle — Beverage and place settings
September 26	UMW Sunday Speaker: Heidi Careaga
December 4	Cookie Walk



It's Circle Time Again

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 of joy, learning and service.



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Martha Circle:	3rd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Contact for details: Carol Braukhoff 608-299-8738
Mary Circle:	3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Contact for details: Jacque Patch 608-362-7729 or Sue Kiser 815-624-1134

Lost!

Luke 15:4-7

Draw a ☹️ or a 😊 to complete the story.

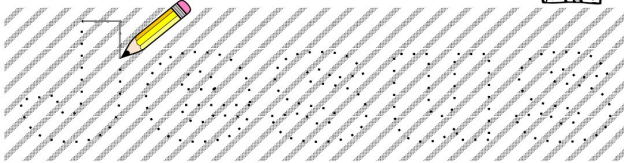
One day, when a shepherd found out that one of his sheep was missing, he was very ☹️. So he decided to go look for the lost sheep. He went over the hills and down into the valleys.

After a long, long time, he suddenly heard a noise in the bush and ran over to have a look. There was his sheep! The shepherd was very 😊. He carried the little sheep all the way home. Then he called his friends and said, "Come! Let's have a big party. I have found my sheep that was lost. All his friends were 😊 too.

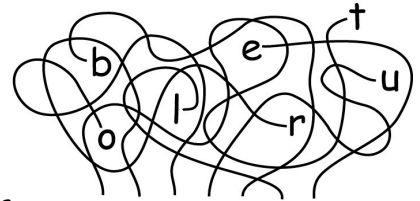
When we have lost our way because of our disobedience to God, He is very ☹️. But Jesus came to the world to look for those who are lost and bring them back to God. When we follow Jesus, He leads us to God. That makes God very, very 😊.



Find out who the Good Shepherd is by following the dots of the letters with your pencil.



Follow the lines to the letters, then write the letters in the spaces to complete the word.



In the day of my _____
I will call to you, for you will
answer me. Psalm 86:7

Write in the first letter of each word using the code given under the word.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p
q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x
y	z						

Morse code

Help! - Save me = S O S (... --- ...)

ur od s od ho aves: e s he
ord, ur ord, ho escues s rom eath.
salm 68:20

God made me special!

What is your name?

What is the color of your hair?

How old are you?

What color eyes do you have?

What are you good at doing? (for example; drawing, helping, baking, playing sport, singing)

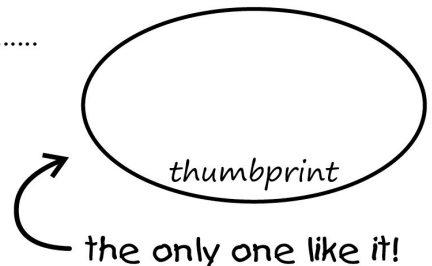
.....

What is your favorite food? (mmm!)

What would you like to do (be) when you grow up?

.....

"O LORD, You have examined me and you know me. You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts. You see me, whether I am working or resting; you know all my actions" Psalm 139: 1-3.



my hair

...and even the very hairs of my head are all numbered! (Matthew 10:30)



UMW Sunday 2021 One Heart

The theme for UMW Sunday 2021 is One Heart. This theme fits nicely with our church theme of Community: Better Together.

Our speaker this year is Heidi Careaga of Janesville, Wisconsin. Heidi wears several hats: she is a mother, a pastor's wife, the finance chair for the UMW Board of Directors, and District Administrator for the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Heidi was adopted from Guatemala and came to the United States when she was 10 years old. When her high school sweetheart told her he planned to become a UM minister, she started to study Methodism. She was especially interested in the UMW and became very involved with the organization. Heidi is also very partial to Mission-u as that program helped her develop leadership skills and spiritual growth.

Sheryl Horvath will again be the liturgist and Carolyn Lynch will give the children's message. Many thanks to both of them for their willingness to do so.

River of Life United Methodist Women are looking forward to UMW's Sunday and the message that Heidi Careaga will be sharing with the congregation.



The UMW committee for the August rummage sale gives a great big shout out to

the people who used muscle and strength to transport and set up tables.
the people who set aside their treasures and lugged them to the church.
the people who tirelessly sorted and priced all those wonderful treasures.
the people who got out their baking pans and ingredients for a mini bake sale.
the people who gave a gracious welcome and smile to all the customers.

UMW Lesson for August

The Title

Generous Hearts and Strong Threads

This lesson concludes the 2020-2021 theme of Knitted Together for God's Good Work Although circles do not meet in August, the material in this lesson is very interesting and worth exploring by yourself.

The Objective:

To understand the role of women behind the scenes in building the tabernacle, and to commit ourselves to valuing the work of all women through advocacy for fair-wage practices.

The Scripture:

Exodus 35:4-29 and Acts 9:36-42

The Lesson

God gave Moses specific directions for building the tabernacle, the furnishings, the sacred objects and the vestments worn by the priests. These things were made of the finest materials by the finest of craftspeople. Women have always been involved with the production of fabrics from the spinning of the thread to the weaving of the finished articles.

The building of the tabernacle was a community affair, each producer of the materials and each producer of the finished articles was important. They all worked together to the glory of God. In Acts we read the story of Tabitha who made garments for the needy. Later we see the needlework of women in producing fabrics for the Winchester Cathedral in England.

This has not changed today. UMW supports woman's initiatives in many countries, teaching them to become self-sufficient with the works of their hands. UMW women complete blankets, scarves, hats, mittens, sweaters and other garments for use in our local community. You can support efforts to improve the lives of women afar with your gifts of money and improve lives of women here with the work of your hands.



Closing Litany (abbreviated)

One voice: O God of the mountains, concealed in mystery and majesty, hear us now.

Many voices: We have seen your glory and grace revealed in the lives of women, children and youth; we have seen your manifold gifts in their skills and labor.

One voice: We ask for your guidance,
We ask for your joy,
We ask for your mercy,
We ask for your compassion,

All voices: Gracious God, you have knit together your people in one communion and fellowship, the mystical body of Christ. Give us grace to follow and to live boldly as your children.

Amen

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator

Hello from the Trustees!

The job of the Trustees Committee is to "oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property." This includes the exterior and the interior of the church. We keep very busy doing what is needed to maintain our church property.

Much of what we do is volunteer work done by members who work behind the scenes to minimize costs.

We have also had to make some very important decisions that required careful planning on how to spend designated monies. We are happy to report to the congregation on two of the more major improvements:

1. All church buildings (Clinton Campus, Beloit Campus, and the Office) now have new and updated furnaces, air conditioning, and air purifiers. All the units in each building were starting to show their ages, and parts would soon be unavailable. We feel very fortunate that we could make sure that they were replaced before an emergency happened to force a quick and more costly replacement.
2. The garage roof in Clinton was replaced.

We are thankful that both projects could be accomplished before winter set in and before materials became even more costly and became even harder to get. We thank the congregation for trusting in our judgements. We thank the office for their support. Every month we begin and end our meetings with a prayer asking for guidance to make good decisions on behalf of the entire congregation. We thank God for His guidance.

-Kathy Rodgers

The Adventurers have had several outings this summer. Here is their latest fun!



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. 2

Irma Davis

Sept. 4

Wesley Brill

Dawn Dray

Kathy Warren

Sept. 5

Cindy Ferger

Scott Weiser

Sept. 7

Ann Williams

Sept. 9

Nicholas Wadle

Sept. 10

Mary Robinette

Sept. 11

Sandy Calkins

Sept. 12

Kathy Rodgers

Sept. 13

Samuel Rosenthal

Sept. 18

Brandie Bishop

Sept. 19

Jenna Buckler

Sept. 21

Tracy Maxwell

Sept. 22

Don Graybill

Sept. 23

Diane Gemignani

Sept. 25

Bob Fosler

Annika Parssinen

Sept. 27

Julie Hartje

Cole Weiser

Sept. 28

Diane Meier

Sept. 29

Steve Knutsen

Sept. 30

Clem Kellicut

Happy Anniversary

Sept. 1

Brandie & Ehin Bishop

Sept. 8

Gary & Diane Meier

Sept. 14

Tim & Liz Rosenthal

Sept. 16

Lee & Barb Kuska

Sept. 19

Steve & Robin Austin

Sept. 20

Bob & Lynn Fosler

Sept. 24

Tony & Marlene Bachim

Sept. 26

Dave & Vicki Cornford

Bruce & Bernie Holcomb

Sept. 28

Glenda & Wayne Bottger

65 people enjoyed a fabulous catered dinner and learned how to respond in the event of an armed intruder situation. Thanks to Officer Kelly from the Beloit Police Department, thanks to our Armed Intruder Committee for organizing this, and thanks to an anonymous donor for paying for it!



Calendar of Events



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

Monday
 1:00 pm Card Club (FH)

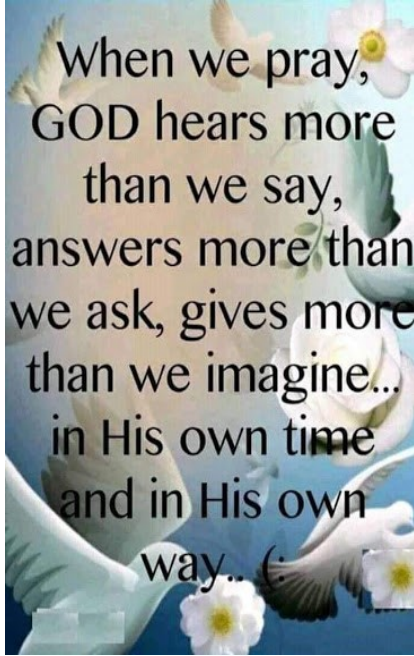
Tuesday
 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

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

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



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



- Calendar of Events**
 (also posted on the Web & Facebook)
- August 16-18 5:15 pm VBS
 - August 17 6:30 pm Finance (Office Workroom)
 - August 22 11:00 am Clinton Potluck
 - August 23 6:00 pm Trustees @ Clinton
 - August 24 4:00 pm Hospitality (FH)
6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
 - August 25 1:00 pm Knitting/Crocheting With A Mission (O)
6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
 - Sept. 6 HOLIDAY—Office Closed
 - Sept. 8 1:00 pm Armed Intruder (FH)
- SAVE THE DATE:**
September 12 Exciting Outdoor Event @ Beloit 10:30 am