

The Current Of The River Of Life



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. 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!

Beloit Campus 9:30 am service:

August 14th : Favorite Story: Ruth; Favorite hymns: Precious Lord, Take My Hand, Hymn of Promise, Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

August 21st : Favorite Story: Mary and Martha; Favorite hymns: Morning has broken, In The Garden, Lord of the Dance

August 28th : Favorite Story: Loaves and Fishes; Favorite hymns: Fairest Lord Jesus, Holy, Holy, Holy, This is My Father's World

September 4th : Favorite Story: The Lost Sheep; What a friend we have in Jesus, How Great Thou Art, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

During June, worship participants were asked their favorite hymns. The top 5 "vote-getters" were:

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
Hymn of Promise
In the Garden
Lord of the Dance
Fairest Lord Jesus/Beautiful Savior

We will sing the most popular 12 hymns during our Favorites Series. If your favorite didn't make the top 12, people will "vote" again next year.

August 14, 2022

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 39 Issue 30

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

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Teaching Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

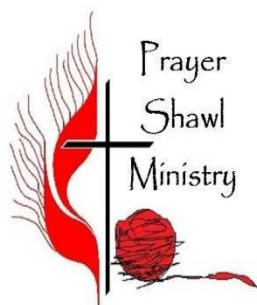
CHURCH OFFICE

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bmoore@rolumcwi.com

MUSIC STAFF

Lois Ulvin Director of Music
David Newman Pianist/Organist
Marge Johnson Pianist



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

Lay Leaders

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

TBD

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Women of Faith President

Pat Sands

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. You can watch two services each week!



Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Phyllis Carpenter

People we have prayed for....

**Amy, Ann, Arlene, Betty,
Chuck, Daniel & Max,
Darla, Jeanne, Kerri, Kim,
Kristin, Marjorie, Marlene,
Nan, Pastor Eduardo, Su-
san, Wally**

Seven 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

Thanks for the returning the Emergency Contact Forms recently.

We received 41 updates, and new Roster's will be available soon.

*Happy 65th Anniversary
to
Sam & Judith Paddock*

*Happy 70th Anniversary
to
Ron & Jean Schrader*



From the Pastor's Desk



I'm tired! Are you tired? We have had three major events in two weeks! Vacation Bible School was fabulous! The *Our Father* cantata was fabulous! As I am writing this, the UWF Rummage Sale hasn't happened yet, but if it is anything like last year, it will be fabulous! So many people did so much work, doing things to help people take their next step with Jesus! You are all quite amazing! We had a time of amazing work – amazing ministry and mission.

Now it is time to rest.

When I began pastoring over 20 years ago, I would find these rest times discouraging and almost depressing. The church wasn't DOING anything. But I have learned over the years that there is an ebb and flow to ministry and mission. There must be times of rest and renewal if there are to be times of hard work. There must be times of just BEING in the presence of God.

More wonderful things will be coming. Sunday School will begin before we know it. Tutoring will begin in October and then Trunk or Treat. In the fall we will begin rehearsing for the Christmas Cantata, and the UWF will begin preparing for their tasty Cookie Walk.

But for right now, for many of you, for the month of August, take a breath. Know that you have done wonderful work. Rest for the next work. Continue to come to worship. Continue with your personal devotion time, your small group study, and other spirit-renewing things. Make sure to rest in Jesus.

I am grateful to you. I praise God for you. Good and faithful servants, you have done well. Now Sabbath. Rest. BE with Jesus. Let Jesus fill your spirit. Live your faith every day. We will again soon have great work to do for the Kingdom of God. For today, be still, and know that God is God.

I'll see you in church,

Love, Pastor Brenda





Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:22-32 speaks about Jacob wrestling with God. Let us look at “What is the meaning of Jacob wrestling with God? “ To know Jacob’s story is to know his life was one of never-ending struggles. Though God promised Jacob that through him would come not only a great nation, but a whole company of nations, he was a man full of fears and anxieties.

But only then did his real struggle begin. Fleeing his family history had been bad enough; wrestling with God Himself was a different matter altogether. That night an angelic stranger visited Jacob. They wrestled throughout the night until daybreak, at which point the stranger crippled Jacob with a blow to his hip that disabled him with a limp for the rest of his life. It was then that Jacob realized what had happened: “I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared” (Genesis 32:30). In the process, Jacob the deceiver received a new name, Israel, which likely means: “He struggles with God.” However, what is most important occurred at the conclusion of that struggle. We read that God “blessed him there” (Genesis 32:29).

When you are deciding how do complete your Estimate of Giving Card to the church, this can be a hard process for some, for others, not as hard to. Remember that pledging to the church is between you and God. No one can tell you how much you should give or what to give towards. Give generously to what you feel is needed to fulfil your pledge. Your church family has worked hard towards giving for a balanced budget for the church to work from. Within the budget we are able to do the ministries we can through your generous giving.

I was in a deep conversation with a member the other day on “How do we pledge and what to pledge to.”

We discussed what programs we are doing in the church. What expenses the church has, and what Outreach are we accomplishing in the church. This includes the Mission trips for Adults and Youth. Through the generous giving of our members, not only monetary, but through their faith and time, we have a strong Outreach, Missions, Education programs through Bible Studies and our Church services. There is always room for improvement and strengthening of all that we offer and do here at The River of Life United Methodist Church, Beloit and Clinton. We made it through the hardest part of the COVID-19 Pandemic by taking care of each other as well as ourselves and the support to your church was stronger than ever. I also mentioned that as a congregation we need to start looking at the size of our congregation. We have lost strong pillars along the way. How do we as a church family rebuild the loss of those pillars? These are examples of what we face “Wrestling with God.”

What we learn from this remarkable incident in the life of Jacob is that our lives are never meant to be easy. This is especially true when we take it upon ourselves to wrestle with God and His will for our lives. We also learn that as Christians, despite our trials and tribulations, our strivings in this life are never devoid of God’s presence, and His blessing inevitably follows the struggle, which can sometimes be messy and chaotic. Real growth experiences always involve struggle and pain.

Jacob’s wrestling with God at the Jabbok that dark night reminds us of this truth: though we may fight God and His will for us, in truth, God is so very good. As believers in Christ, we may well struggle with Him through the loneliness of night, but by daybreak His blessing will come.

The wrestling drew Jacob out of his fearful preoccupation and forced him to focus on God. There are multiple blessings in the wrestling. You may not need soft words of comfort, you may not need to be left alone with your thoughts, you may not need sleep, you may not even need a healthy hip! What you need is God’s blessing!

Blessings,
Thomas C. Alverson
Stewardship Chairperson

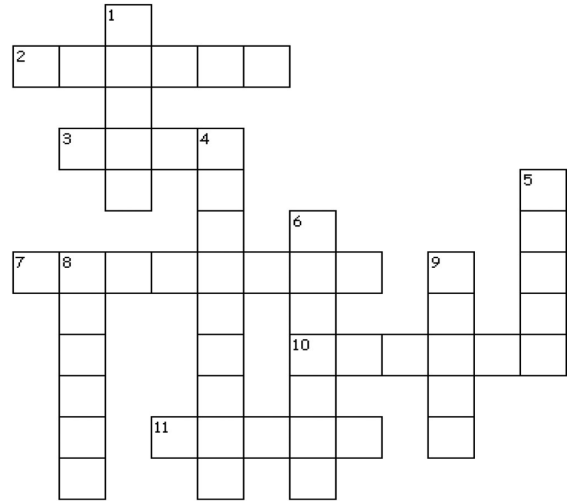
Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Philippians 4:6 NLT



www.hideandseekministries.com

THE 12 DISCIPLES CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 2. Asked Jesus to show him the Father. (Read John 14:8-9)
- 3. Jesus told him to care of His mother, Mary.
- 7. Replaced Judas Iscariot
- 10. Doubting _____
- 11. He denied Jesus after the rooster crowed

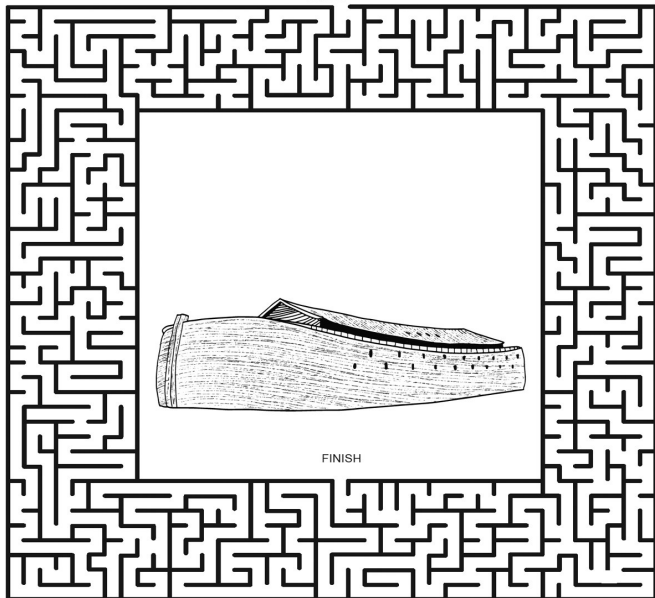
Down

- 1. Another name for Peter
- 4. Philip told him he had found Jesus. Jesus said He saw him under a tree.
- 5. _____ Iscariot
- 6. Tax collector
- 8. Peter's brother
- 9. Son of Zebedee, brother of John

HELP THE ANIMALS GET TO THE ARK



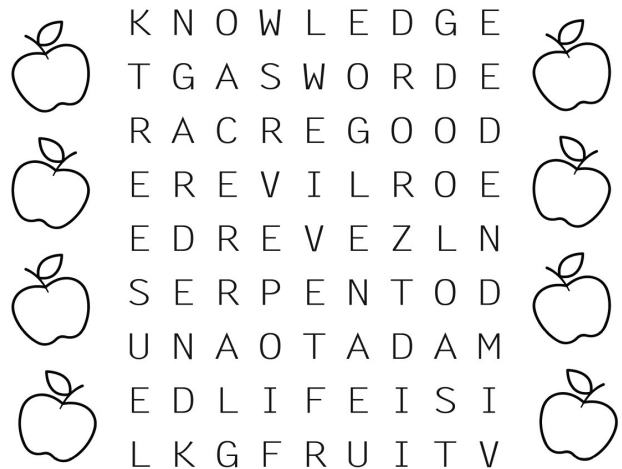
START



FINISH

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ADAM AND EVE WORD SEARCH



- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| ADAM | GOOD |
| EDEN | KNOWLEDGE |
| EVE | LIFE |
| EVIL | SERPENT |
| FRUIT | SWORD |
| GARDEN | TREE |



www.hideandseekministries.com

Financial Corner

Month of:
July 2022

Current month :

Operating Income	\$	36,898.06	Operating Expense	\$	19,284.73
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Year to date: 2022

Operating Income	\$	192,693.02	Operating Expense	\$	174,369.60
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Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments:	\$	4,495.50
Gods Fund Balance:	\$	1,294.76
Bags of Hope Balance:	\$	6,545.08
Blankets of Warmth Balance:	\$	1,460.76

We raised a total of \$981.61 for July loose coins!! So \$490.81 will go to both Caritas and the Clinton Food Pantry.

Thank you everyone!!!!

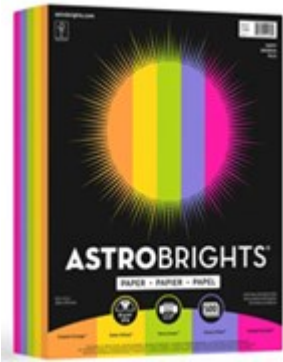


WAIT! HOLD THE PHONE!
Did you know we have a trailer with all of the equipment needed to make and sell funnel cakes?!
Cheese Curds too!

Our men's group did this wonderful ministry for years, and they don't want to do it anymore. They are preparing to sell the trailer and all of the equipment. **NO!!!!**

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!

The 100 Pack Thank You!



August 1st, 2nd and 3rd, there were some very special things happening in our church. Thirty -five students (including the adult class) and 25 leaders/helpers celebrated God's love for us and constant presence in our lives. It was an amazing mini Vacation Bible School!

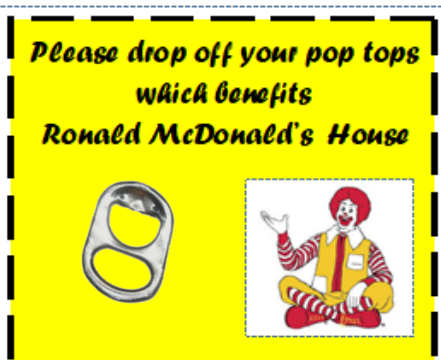
A few weeks ago I purchased a couple of packs of AstroBright colored paper to work on a decoration I found online and became obsessed about creating. I knew it would be a lot of work and take a lot of time, but I knew that the finished product might brighten our displays. Sure enough, the folding and stapling tasks were daunting, but I was determined. After all the pieces were put together the border hung in the sanctuary and provided the color and excitement we needed!

Wednesday evening as I was reflecting on our Food Truck VBS, I realized that the many hands and hearts that helped before, during and after VBS were much like my paper packs. The **variety of colors**, reminded me of all the different groups of people that participated in a variety of ways. The **single folded sheets** were just folded sheets until they were "**stapled**" together. Then they became a bright and fun addition to our program! In the same way, each **person** who helped before, during or after VBS were all individuals until they were "**stapled**" together by God. Once that happened, God used them to create the music, messages, and love that happened during VBS.

Karen and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to EVERYONE who said yes and contributed in ANY way to our week! We had so many friends that were willing to take on extra tasks even though they were busy with their own work! Bonnie, thank you for all of the extra work and for being so patient with us! A special shout out to Lois and the choir for being prayerful and showing up to help in so many ways even with a busy cantata week!

We hope that in some way each of you felt connected to Vacation Bible School and that God's presence was made known again in your life. Thank you again for all your help! God is so good!

Karen and Nan





Sept. 2

Irma Davis

Sept. 4

Wesley Brill

Dawn Dray

Kathy Warren

Sept. 5

Cindy Fergar

Scott Weiser

Sept. 7

Ann Williams

Sept. 9

Nicholas Wadle

Sept. 10

Mary Robinette

Sept. 11

Sandy Calkins

John Cotner

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



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

Bruce & Bernie Holcomb

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



***Coming This Fall
Making Sense of the Bible***

Last fall we talked about sayings people think are in the Bible that aren't. For six weeks beginning September 11, we will have a sermon series where we will talk about what the Bible is and isn't, and then talk about some things about the Bible that are confusing.



We believe
love in action
can change
the world.



Hello August!

The flowers are in bloom and gardens are overflowing with zucchini. Praise the Lord for his goodness to us all.



It's Circle Time!

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.

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

*******Circles resume in September! Mark your calendars!*******



Looking into the Future

- September 4 Scholarships presented during the 9:30 Worship Service
- September 21 Martha Circle Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- September 21 Mary Circle Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- September 28 Unit Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Speaker Susan Correll: "The Children of Africa"
- September 28 UWF Sunday

Telescope vector created by catalyststuff - www.freepik.com

Prayers don't have to be long...just a sentence or two will do...here are some examples of short, heartfelt prayers from the Upper Room:



Dear God, calm our fears and help us to remember that you are with us. Fill us with the peace that only you can give. In Jesus' name. Amen (07/11/22)

Merciful and loving God, help us to put the events of life in the proper perspective. You are first; everything else is second. In Jesus' name. Amen (07/07/22)

Holy God, help us to look for opportunities each day to serve those who need to feel your love. Amen (07/06/22)

Loving Others

United Women in Faith extend love to all peoples in an effort to share the love of Jesus with them. The July 16, 2022 *Useless Without Love* devotional from **Our Daily Bread** talks about the word love in the original Greek language of the New Testament:

"While English gives us only one word for love, the Greek language uses several words. Eros expresses romantic or sexual love; storge speaks of family love, as in the love of a parent for a child; phileo describes brotherly or friendship love; and agape describes the highest form of love, a love that sacrifices itself for the one loved. This is the word frequently used in the New Testament to describe God's love, most notably in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son."

The sacrifice of Christ was the ultimate expression of God's self-sacrificial love for His lost creation. This is also the type of love on display in 1 Corinthians 13, leading Paul to affirm, "but the greatest of these is love" (v. 13)."

By: Bill Crowder July 16, 2022 Devotion from [oddb.org](https://oddb.org/US/2022/07/16/useless): <https://oddb.org/US/2022/07/16/useless> **Our Daily Bread** Devotional book has been published since 1956. Today it is available online.



Big Big Thank you

A very, very special thank you to everyone who made the UWF Rummage and Bake Sale a success.

Thank you to all who set up tables.

Thank you to all who received, sorted and priced merchandise.

Thank you to all who donated items.

Thank you to all who baked.

Thank you to all who were the cashiers and baggers.

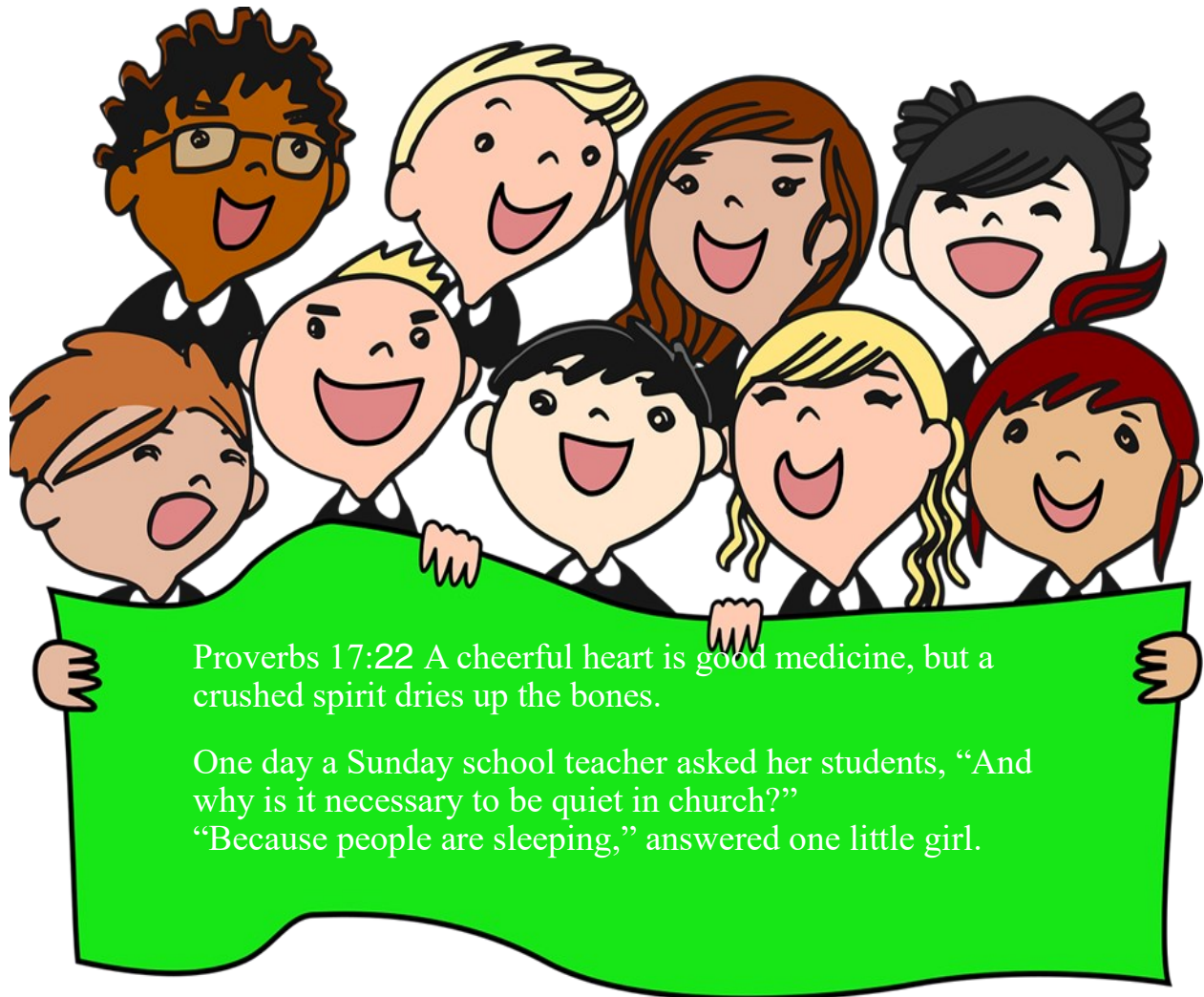
Thank you to all who worked on the sales floor.

Thank you to all who helped with the cleanup.

Thank you to all

who organized, coordinated and lead this entire sale.

We could not have a Rummage and Bake Sale without your help.



Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

One day a Sunday school teacher asked her students, “And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?”

“Because people are sleeping,” answered one little girl.

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator



LOOSE COINS

FOR THE REST OF **AUGUST**..... Loose Coins are going to **Defy Domestic Abuse Beloit**, offering services to clients needing to get out of abusive situations and empower their lives.

BEGINNING IN **SEPTEMBER**..... Loose Coin offerings will go to **Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC)**. Midwest Mission is close to our hearts in this church because it is where our adult mission trips go, but also because it is a place where miracles happen.

Here is one story: In May Midwest Mission received a request through one of its partners from Operation Ukraine. They wanted 48,000 rice meal bags (one of MMDC's regular programs) to fill a shipping container that would be shipped in just two weeks.

Executive Director Chantel Corrie put the word out. They mobilized staff and hundreds of local volunteers to work day and evening shifts to pack the thousands of rice bags – AND raised the needed \$48,000 for supplies – by the shipping deadline, to feed 288,000 people in Ukraine. “About the same time,” Chantel writes, “Southern Baptist Disaster Relief dropped off some emergency blankets, gloves, and baby supplies. Before the driver had even left the lot, Operation Ukraine called looking for blankets and baby supplies.” Then, there was a request for medical supplies for Ukraine, and Midwest Mission promptly got a call to come and pick up surplus supplies from a VA hospital.

The stories are myriad of an “ask” coinciding with a donation offer. As Chantel says, “God orchestrates it all.” Midwest Mission works with a wide network of cooperating partners, including being a depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) system. It functions as a depot both to receive donations and to pack specific emergency supply kits to send when needed.

There have now been four shipments to Ukraine, in addition to 25 other international aid shipments and dozens of U.S. disaster relief shipments so far in 2022. If you would like to be part of this work, and hear more miracle stories, you're invited to join the next adult mission trip, May 17-19, 2023.

And to help sustain Midwest Mission's work of being God's hands, please be generous with your Loose Coins contributions. Drop your change in the offering plate each week and consider including a check or bills marked for Loose Coins. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is July 27th at 1:00 pm in the Office Workroom. We welcome all knitters and crocheters, no matter what skill level, and anyone wishing to learn.

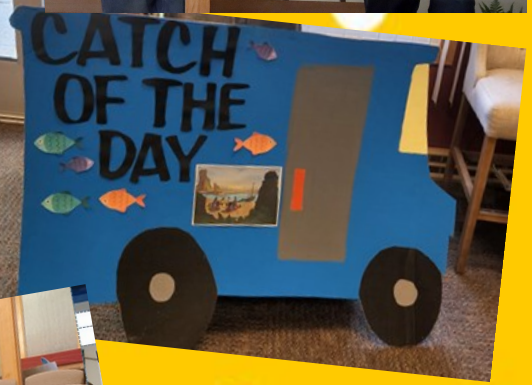
If you have any questions call Sandy Ovist: 608-362-6583.

Please join us!!

VBS - FOOD TRUCK PARTY



VBS - FOOD TRUCK PARTY



VBS - FOOD TRUCK PARTY



"Our Father" Summer Cantata & Brunch



EVENTS

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

Monday
 12:30 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 (FH)

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

AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Issue deadline:
 September 9th
 The next newsletter
 will be available
 September 18th

CALENDAR
 (also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- Aug 15 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
- Aug 16 6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)
- Aug 20 9:00 am Training for Money Counters (FH)
- Aug 22 6:00 pm Trustees (FH)
- Aug 28 10:00 am Clinton Worship & Potluck
- Aug 30 6:30 pm Liturgist/Lay Speakers (Zoom)
- Aug 31 1:00 pm Knitting/Crochet With A Mission (O)
- Sept 5 HOLIDAY—Office Closed
- Sept 6 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team (Zoom)
- Sept 7 1:00 pm UWF Executive Board Meeting (FH)
- Sept 9 5:30 pm Deadline for Current

