

The Current of The River of Life
August 2023Vol. 40 Issue 08

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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

402 Church Street Clinton, WI 608.676.4646

STAFF

Brenda Whitford 608-482-0021 Tom Alverson 608-362-8866 Keith Putney 608-774-3162 Kelly Lutzow 608-362-8866 Lois Ulvin David Newman Derek Bergh Pastor pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com Lay Minister talverson@rolumcwi.com Teaching Pastor

Office Manager Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com Director of Music Pianist IT-Production Manager

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

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





I have a wonderful water fountain on my patio. I love the tranquility of the sound of the falling water. Sometimes birds come and drink a little from it, but I imagine the force of the water keeps most of them away. Recently, my husband Dan decided that we needed an actual bird bath bowl on the patio. Oh, my goodness, is it enjoyable to watch the birds in it!

A young robin discovered it a couple of weeks ago. Every day he gets into the middle of the water, splashes a lot, gets to the

side, preens himself, then gets back into the water and starts all over again. The other day I watched him take three baths in a row. He only left because many other birds were standing on the patio, waiting for their turn.

I find myself feeling heartened when I watch my young robin friend. He exudes joy. I think he may be tempted to stay in that water all day, if it weren't for the other birds. It is like God gifted him to find joy in water. It feels like my young robin friend gives glory to God in his bathing.

It reminds me of Psalm 148. In this Psalm, the psalmist instructs everyone and everything to praise God, from the sun, moon and stars, to the ocean depths, to all plants and animals and people. Everything was created to give praise to God. Even my young robin friend.

How do you find joy? How do you praise God? I think those two things are connected. When we find simple joys in our lives, it brings praise to God.

I encourage you to seek out those things in life that bring you joy. I encourage you to regularly use that to praise God. May peace and joy and praise be what undergirds your life.

I'll see you in church, where we share our joy and praise God together,

Love, Pastor Brenda



<u>Report on Finances</u>

Through June 30, 2023, the operating income was approximately \$202,000 or an average of \$33,666 per month. The operating expenses through June 2023 were approximately \$201,000, an average of \$33,500 per month. In addition to the operating amounts, funds for mission of approximately \$6,800 were received and distributed.

Looking forward, the finance committee expects the monthly average of income to decrease in the second half of the year as many of the annual contributors pay their pledge early in the year. The expenses are expected to be similar in the second half of the year as they were in the first half. With this in mind, the finance committee will be searching for ways to raise additional revenue or a reduction of expenses.

-Finance Committee

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.



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

August 30 at 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions? Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

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.









People we are praying for

- † Ace† Amber
- h Ann
- **†** Austin
- Chuck
- Daniel & Max
- Darla
- † David
- Helen
- **†** Kathy
- † Kerri

- **†** Kyleigh
- † Lisa
- † Paul
- † Rose
- † Steve
- † Shirley
- † Steve
- † Tony
- **†** Wally & JoAnn

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of ...

- + Mary Jane Kellicut
- + Pastor Eduardo

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.



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.



LOOSE COINS

August -- DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit

Our August Loose Coins will be supporting the DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit program, which is under the umbrella of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

Domestic abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, even financial. It happens to people of all genders, ages, races, and socio-economic levels. Because of the control that abusers often hold over their victims, it can be very difficult to escape from an abusive situation. DEFY Domestic Abuse provides a wide range of supports to help victims make that escape and empower them to build independent lives. Here are some of the programs provided by DEFY counselors and staff:

- 24-hour crisis line (608-365-1119) that includes information on referral services
- Legal advocacy for assistance with restraining orders, and a representative for emotional support in court
- Program on parenting in families that have experienced abuse
- Support program for children affected by domestic violence
- Separate support groups for women, men who have suffered sexual assault and violence, and LGBTQ clients
- Assistance with resumes and job skills

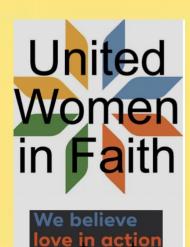
As a nonprofit, DEFY Domestic Abuse relies on grants and donations. In addition to money, they have a list of ongoing needs: cleaning and paper products, baby needs, toiletries, clothing, bed linens, household items and furniture for families needing to start a new household. You can check the Family Services website for more information.

You can give to Loose Coins by dropping your coins in the collection plate, by putting a check or cash in an envelope marked for Loose Coins, or by clicking the DONATE link on the church website. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

-- Ellen Butchart







can chanae

United Women in Faith General News

There will be no Unit meeting in September

We are in the process of of becoming an inactive unit of the United Women in Faith. More news will be coming regarding how the River of Life Women will continue to function in serving ROLUMC and our community. United Women in Faith accepts individual members. One of the ideas in reorganizing the United Methodist Women a year ago was to enable women to be members without being part of a local organization. If you are interested in being an individual member, complete information is available at **uwfaith.org**.



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

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



Church Announcement: There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."— https://www.broadcaster.org.uk/section2/jokes/churchfunnies.html

New in Church: After the service a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before, and he asked what church he was transferring from. After a short hesitation, the husband replied, "I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."

Intercessory Prayers



In the July 25 Upper Room, Julianis Baez Pichardo tells about gently spinning the globe in his/her office each day and then placing his/her finger on the globe to stop it from spinning. He/she then prays for the people and the current situation in that country. This practice reminds him/her that intercessory prayer knows no boundaries. **Prayer**: God of all nations, thank you for your Son who taught us to pray. May we remain faithful in following

his example to pray for one another. Amen. Today pray for someone on the other side of the world.

— Upper Room July - August 2023 page 32.



Dear ROL Family,

I am feeling as " at home" as I can expect to in the face of multiple losses that must be grieved in their own time. Loss of independence, mobility, home, friends, sounds, smells, visuals of my old surroundings, my clubs, neighbors, and it goes on and on and each has to be dealt with in is its own time. My Devotions group is made up of folks that are interested in back stories of the scriptures and willing to dig in. I find that stimulating. We are still in the book of John. My service shared with Baptists was focused on it and I couldn't help but remember the words of our cantata. I tried to sing with the hymn sing but my voice is so bad but I enjoyed gearing up on the old familiar ones.

Update:

I am getting more and more settled every day. I broke a crown off a root canal tooth and will be on the look out for a dentist to extract the tooth. The hardest adjustment is finding an eye doctor, Dentist, etc. Not many want to take new patients. So many residents here are natives of the town and well established in regard to medical services. I have a nurse practitioner here as my primary provider now and sure do miss Dr. Rudisill and his crew. All in all I am really content and so happy to be so close to Steve's family.

I am kept busy as there are lots of activities every day and I am making new friends who like the things I enjoy. Food is excellent with fresh fruit all day every day! We can customize our menus from the many options each day. I should be gaining those 30 pounds I lost pretty soon. Weather is hot and dry here, too.



Love to you all. Shirley

Autumn Glen Shirley Sweet 3715 Coon Rapids Blvd Coon Rapids, Mn. 55433

608-247-1688.



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.*

People are needed to take over this valuable ministry!



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

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!

Our Amazing Leader of the Tutoring Program, Karen Parssinen, has designated us as the "Snack Queens." In that regard, we would like to thank the "ladies and lords of the realm" for supporting the snack program all last year. As a self-supporting program, your offerings of drinks, fruit, desserts, cheeses and crunchies were so appreciated. The kids loved the variety, a nice blend of good nutrition and favorite treats. They burst through the door hungry! Thank you all.

The Tutoring Program will resume in October. Please consider donating snacks again. The "table of plenty" was the first place they looked after coming in the door. Smiles abound!

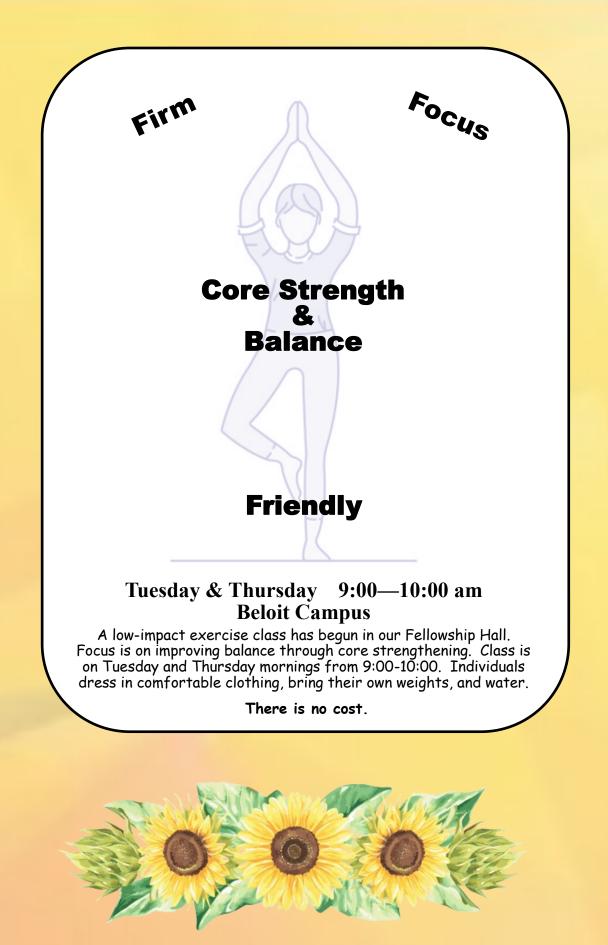
- Sarah Parson & Kathy Allen

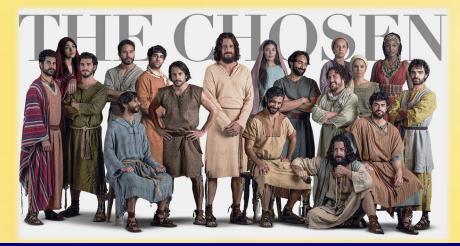
ha

Thank you to everyone who has brought snacks or helped clean up the kitchen afterwards this summer! Your generosity helps us keep our fellowship time going throughout the summer.

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: Sept. 3 and Sept 17. You can bring whatever you want for snacks. Paper products are found in the hospitality cabinet in the kitchen. Plastic forks or spoons are in the pantry. We just ask that you wash the serving dishes and utensils, and rinse out the coffee urns. Thank you so much!

-Diane Gemignani





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.







Some of the people who have been enjoying "The Chosen" after fellowship time, about 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Beloit campus. We are in Season 3, and participants are finding this drama of the life of Jesus and his disciples 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. Feel free to bring your coffee and a munchie in with you!











August 12	8:30 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
August 15	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
August 15	11:00 AM	Mission Committee Meeting
August 15	4:00 PM	Hospitality Committee
August 21	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
August 28	6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
August 30	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
September 5	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
September 7	4:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal Starts

Issue deadline: August 28 The next newsletter will be available on Steptember 3

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)

<u>Tuesday</u>

9:00 am Exercise Group 10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH) 1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O) Wednesday10:30 amAdult Bible Study (Zoom)6:00 pmAdult Bible Study (FH)

9:00 am Exercise Group

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





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

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 Wa.dle 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. 24 Tony & Marlene Bachim Sept. 26 Bruce & Bernie Holcomb



August 7 **Bob & Carol Scheets** August 12

Doug & Diane Mitchell

August 17 Sam & Judy Paddock August 20 Laverne & Sandra Hays

August 23 **Roger & Pat Sands** August 29 Keith & Barbara Putney Tim & Liz Rosenthal

Sept. 8 Gary & Diane Meier Sept. 14

Sept. 16 Lee & Barb Kuska **Sept. 19** Steve & Robin Austin **Sept. 20 Bob & Lynn Fosler**

www.rolumcwi.com

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

