

The Current of The River of Life



One of the things that has come out of the Backyard Chats is, because of Covid, many people either continue or are beginning to have difficulty with hope. On September 20th we will begin a worship series where we will look to the Psalms, Prophets, Gospel, Paul's letters and Revelation to look at hope in the Bible. Be sure to worship online to rediscover that our hope is in the Lord.



September 13, 2020

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 17 Issue 9

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

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Shellie Olson

Active Shooter Committee Chairperson

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Pastor Brenda Whitford

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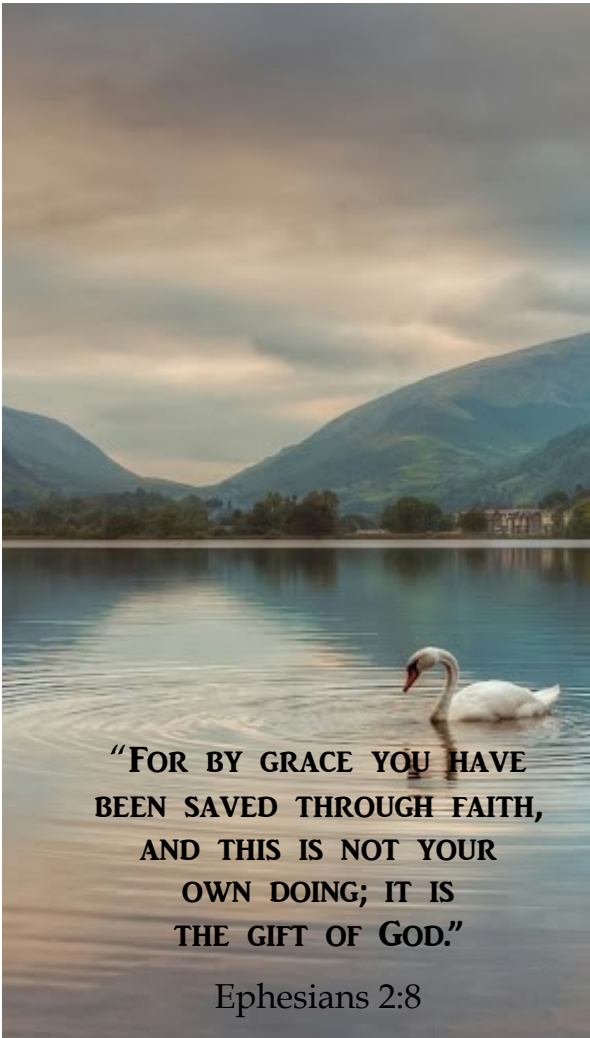
Pianist





SEPTEMBER LOOSE COINS:
*Midwest Mission Distribution
 Center*

Every week our Scripture Memory Verse is placed into a beautiful picture and formatted to be the wallpaper for your smartphone. It is available each week on our Facebook page.



FINANCIAL CORNER

MONTH OF: **AUGUST 2020**

<i>Week 1</i>	\$	5,688.93
<i>Week 2</i>	\$	10,306.01
<i>Week 3</i>	\$	6,120.00
<i>Week 4</i>	\$	2,190.00
<i>Week 5</i>	\$	-
<i>ACH</i>	\$	2,550.00

Total: \$26,854.94

Thank you to all who donate and support our mission.



Yesterday I woke up to rain. A few years ago, I would have called rainy days gloomy and depressing. But a conversation a few years ago with my son changed my thoughts on rainy days.

Adam and I were talking, and I was complaining about the rainy weather. He seemed surprised and said that he loved rainy days. He saw them as a chance to slow down, take a breath, and to envision peace and calm pour over him as the rain poured over him. He found them quite renewing.

As I laid in bed yesterday morning, before my alarm went off, I took a deep breath and did as Adam did: I envisioned peace and calm, and love and joy flowing down from heaven. And as the rain continued to fall, I envisioned God's love falling down on me.

What a different way to look at a rainy day!

This time of Covid continues to shape the way we look at things. There are so many things we haven't been able to do since March. Because I feel strongly that we shouldn't meet in person for worship, I also have not gotten my hair cut, haven't eaten in a restaurant, haven't been to any parties or family gatherings, and most importantly, haven't hugged my grandchildren. You could probably add to the list. With all the things it is best not to do, we can come to look at things more negatively than perhaps we would have in the past. And since Covid best practices have gone on for so long, and we are getting tired, and a vaccine is still what seems like a long way off, it is easy to feel gloomy and depressed.

So I would encourage you: on rainy days, envision God's peace flowing down on you; on sunny days, envision God's joy flowing down on you; as the leaves begin to fall, envision God's love flowing down on you. In everything that you CAN do, find joy and peace and love and hope.

Take heart in knowing that you are keeping yourself and others safe. Continue to send others cards. Continue to call and check up on people. Continue to BE the church in the ways that you can. It is my hope that when "normal" returns, that it is a normal where we are more kind and loving than ever before.

Holding you all in my thoughts and prayers until we can meet in person together,

Love, Pastor Brenda



You can watch worship online in two ways:

- * On our church website
- * New: through Facebook

The benefit of a "Facebook Premiere" (similar to a Facebook Live) is that we can comment in real time. So, as we watch at the same time, we can interact with the video together. This gives at least a little more sense of the community of our church family as we see each other's comments. We are having some glitches getting it to both of our campus pages, but hope to have those glitches worked out soon!



Pastor Brenda would like the ability to send out emails to all church members with internet access. If you did not receive the email about the Drive In Worship Service, please update your email address with Bonnie at bmoore@rolumcwi.com.

Thank you!!

Back Yard Chats



By newsletter printing time we will have had 13 backyard chats, and there are several more scheduled. Pastor Brenda is using these chats to begin to get to know church members. She wants to learn about our lives, our passions and hear our dreams for our church in the

future. Pastor Brenda began by asking the Ad Council members to host them, but anyone can be a host. Would you like to host a backyard chat?

1. Connect with Pastor Brenda about a date.
2. Choose a place – your backyard or the church backyard.
3. Invite 5 church friends. The plan will be to meet outside with masks on, but we can use the Fellowship Hall as a rain place.



Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com

Lord, help me to
be a sweet, sweet
fragrance for You.



Carve Out The Nose:

Lord, open my eyes to
see all of the beautiful
things You have made.



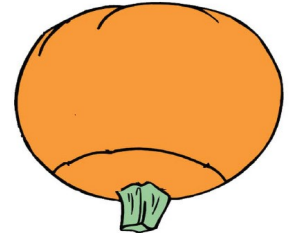
Carve Out The Eyes:



Scoop Out The
Yuckies:

Lord, take out all my
fussies and frownies and
fill me with your love.

Lord, open my mind and
fill me with Your wisdom
and guidance.



Cut Off The Top:

Carve Out The
Mouth:



Lord, help me always
speak Your words of
love and kindness.

Place in A Candle:



Lord, let me be a light
to others For You have
filled me with Your Light.
-Author Unknown

Free Bible Activities from
Christian Preschool Printables

www.ChristianPreschoolPrintables.com

The Pumpkin Prayer

-Author Unknown





GOT SCHOOL SUPPLIES?

Nurture and Discipleship would love your help in providing a few school supplies for the kids at Aldrich Intermediate School when they make that transition back to in-school learning. During the months of August and September, we will be collecting one-subject spiral notebooks, pencils, washable markers, colored pencils, and blue or black pens. Please bring items to the church office: Beloit—tub outside back door; Clinton—on the ramp going into the narthex. Thanks so much!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- October 2**
Mark Smith
- October 4**
Ellie Maxwell
- October 9**
Carol Braukhoff
- October 13**
Elaine Nelson
- October 15**
Mary Wadle
- October 20**
David Cornford

- October 21**
Harry Burnside
- October 22**
Dawn Tudor
- October 23**
Jeneane Kiser
- October 25**
Geri Green
- October 29**
Carol Connors

Happy Anniversary

- October 14**
Jeff & Lynn Caple
- October 15**
Steve & Carol Martin
- October 16**
Fran & Jacque Patch
- October 24**
David & Mary Robinette
- October 29**
Jess & Sandy Calkins
- October 29**
James & Glenda Churchill

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



UMW regrets that we must cancel our October rummage sale in light of the continued threat to safety and health because of Covid - 19. Hang onto your rummage sale items since we may have a rummage sale next year in April, God willing. Thanks to all of you for the continued support you give UMW for our mission fund raisers. Blessings.

-Marlene Erickson

UMW Circles will not meet until January 2021

Update on the Mats for the Homeless

Thank you for all of your contributions to our plastic bag inventory. We have a good supply now, however the ladies making the bags would like a bit more variety in color if possible. Colored bags break up the monotony of just the gray, tan, and clear ones.

Ten mats have been supplied to Rock County and I am now working with Winnebago County to get some distributed there also. We have about 10 more ready to go. I selected Winnebago County because the state line runs through South Beloit, and there is a significant number of homeless in that area.

Please remember we cannot use newspaper sleeves, or produce bags.

Thank you so much for your contributions and support of this project.

Pat Sands

TASK FORCE

Are we EVER going to meet in person, in the sanctuary, to worship again? That's what it feels like. The answer is yes, but not yet. The Task Force on Re-Opening met after the newsletter deadline, so there is no update for this issue of the Current. We will let you know when the situation changes. For now, we are blessed to be able to continue to worship online.

If you don't have internet service, we can send you a printed copy of the Sunday Worship. Please call the office and request a copy.



Winston Churchill reportedly said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Tom Alverson
Lay Leader / Stewardship Chairperson



Backyard chat #7 - some of the Saturday night worship service



Backyard chat number 10 was choir chat number 4



AN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

All concerts are cancelled, so are sporting events, major conferences, and conventions for every vertical industry imaginable. Restaurants, bars, and movie theaters have been ordered closed by city officials. Theme parks have shut down, and the fate of the summer Olympic Games in Tokyo is up in the air. Entire countries are being placed under quarantine, and people are hoarding supplies. Church buildings are closed, with no face-to-face worship. But worship is still alive within ourselves.

Welcome to the brave new world of COVID-19.

While it is too early to assess the damage caused by this global pandemic, there are signs that it will permanently change the way society functions. From its impact on the global economy, to our daily lives, COVID-19 will leave an enormous effect on how we consume, learn, work, socialize and communicate. Covid-19 has left many church families stranded within their worship and walk on their journey of faith, because people are feeling left in the dark. Churches continue to come up with new ideas on how to bring hope to members and remain active without being in church. I suspect most, if not all, churches have joined the new way of doing church: Livestreaming on Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube; encouraging we maintain contact with each other by phone calls; sending letters and cards; and Face Time.

Don't forget to call the church office and say hello. Staff works remotely and they would like to hear the member's voices. Please let us know if someone is in the hospital or sick, and would like a call from the Pastor. Also call just to share some good news!

Here at church, we are working to keep connected with you weekly. We livestream from our webpage and now Facebook Live every Sunday. Choir groups have been performing special music and hymns for the on-line service. Pastor Brenda and her daughter Elizabeth have recorded hymns, and outside folks have shared their music. A special thanks to Judith Paddock for her selections, too. The IT/Tech Team films the special music to create livestream videos.

By the time you receive this issue of *The Current*, it will be 26 weeks without face-to-face worship. Even though we are not attending worship in person, thank you for your faithfulness in mailing/ dropping off your offerings. Thanks also for the hand-made notes we've received. If you are having problems meeting your pledged amount for 2020, or want to know where you are with your mid -year pledge, please email Chrissy at: cbergh@rolumcwi.com.

This year's Stewardship Campaign will be a creative challenge for each of us. Your Stewardship Team is busy planning and creating ideas for the 2021 campaign. We hopefully will have the theme and more information for the next issue of *The Current*. This year has gone by so quickly! Fall is soon upon us. Please, by all means, Stay STRONG; Stay SAFE; praying that we keep on our journey of faith together! We can do this... Amen!

Tom Alverson
Lay Leader / Stewardship Chairperson





Backyard chat #5



Clinton Campus backyard Chat #2



Backyard Chat #8 - Hospitality Committee



Backyard Chat #11



Backyard Chat #9 was also Choir Chat #3

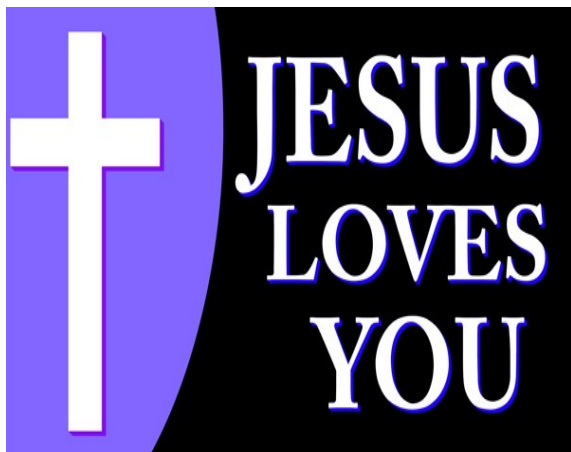
Calendar

Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship
Online Service

Tuesday

1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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 4th

The next issue of the
Current will be available
September 13th

Special Offering:

October 4th
World Communion
Sunday

Weekly Events are posted on the Web & Facebook

Sept 15 3:30 pm SPPRC (FH)
Sept 21 6:30 pm Stewardship (via ZOOM)
Sept 22 6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
Sept 24 1:30 pm Active Shooter (FH) ???
Sept 28 6:00 pm Trustees (via ZOOM)
Sept 30 1:00 pm Active Shooter (FH)
UMW Rummage Sale has been cancelled

SAVE THE DATE:

Nov. 10 Charge Conference @ 6 pm
at church via Zoom

Just a reminder

River of Life Beloit and Clinton Campus buildings and Office Buildings are closed
due to the public health emergency.