

The Current Of The River Of Life

That's Not in the Bible



Our Current Sermon series is "That's Not in the Bible!" We are exploring 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:

- Sept 12 - Everything Happens For A Reason - watch on our website or on Facebook
- Sept 19 - God Never Gives You More Than You Can Handle - watch on our website or on Facebook
- Sept 26 - UMW Sunday at the 9:30 am Beloit campus
Saturday night 5:30 pm - Bob's choice
Clinton Sunday 10:00 am - God Said It, I Believe it, That Settles It
- Oct 3 - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
- Oct 10 - Money is the Root of All Evil

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

September 19, 2021

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 18 Issue 20

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

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

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

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 & Outreach Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Covid Task Force Chairperson

Pastor Brenda Whitford

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Methodist Women Chairperson

Marlene Erickson

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...

**Family of Ken Winchester
Family of Chris Lawrence
Steve Rogers in the Loss of his Brother, George**



People we have prayed for....

Barbara	Joyce
Connie	Kathy
Doug	Kevin
Doris	Marge
Evie	Nan
Irma	Pam
Janice	

We have been having scripture memory verses since Pastor Brenda came to River of Life UMC. Recently she has chosen longer passages that were to be memorized over a longer period of time. Most recently, the following people memorized the 23rd Psalm. Congratulations on putting scripture on your heart!

Kathy Allen	Marjorie Johnson
Tony & Marlene Bachim	Jeneane Kiser
Carol Braukhoff	Barb Kuska
Ellen Butchart	Carolyn Lynch
Kelly Clark	Patty Novy
Carol Connors	Helen Oleston
Keith & Jean Copeland	Judy Paddock
Kathy Dearth	Sarah Parsons
Diane Gemingani	Bob & Karen Parssinen
Donna Hammett	Keith & Barb Putney
Tom Hamlett	Roger Sands
Betty Hannam	Shirley Sweet
Sheryl Horvath	Clara Welsh

Congratulations as well to people who memorized it that were not able to let us know!

From the Pastor's Desk



A couple of weeks ago, as I was driving home after an evening church meeting, I was enjoying the night noises. The area where I live is pretty new so our trees and bushes are small. We don't even have a lot of crickets, much less katydids and cicadas. As I approached Turtle Creek, I couldn't believe how loud the sound was! It was almost too loud! I thought that if I lived there, I might feel the need to not be outside and to close my windows.

It got me thinking about how amazing those little insects are. Crickets are often only an inch long. Katydid's are a couple of inches long. And yet their songs can be heard from very far away. I found an article on the internet that says a cicada's song can be heard a mile away!

We might use the idea of small insects with very large noises to talk in a children's message about how little people can do big things, but this is true for adults too. As adults we often feel insignificant. We often feel like the needs around us can be too much. But we, too, can do big things!

Actually, that cicada doesn't realize he is doing a big thing. He is just doing what God created him to do. You can do that too. By regularly reading your Bible and praying, you can hear God's call on your life. You can do simple things that make a tremendous difference in the lives of others.

What is God calling you to do right now? What noise is God calling you to make? What song is God calling you to sing?

I'll see you in church, where we help one another see our God-given purpose, and make a difference, for the glory of God,

Love, Pastor Brenda

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!

Our Saturday Night service is a casual, often participatory service led by Bob Parssinen. Contemporary Christian music is sung using Youtube videos. It is currently an outdoor service. Bob offers a unique style that many find very meaningful.
Come to a Saturday Night service soon! Every Saturday night at 5:30pm.

A great practice to combine Bible study, prayer, and creativity is to paraphrase a verse or a series of verses in the Bible. Bob Parssinen did this for psalm 23 verse 3 for the Saturday Night Worship Service. May it bless your day:

You love me so much that you would sacrifice anything for me. Every time I forget that you are the only one who can truly give me life, and wander into dangerous behavior, you drop everything and try to reach me in a way that even I can understand in my ignorance. Then, when I finally pay attention to your calls, you don't make me feel stupid, you forgive me and are eager to share some of your infinite wisdom with me. When I am willing to listen, that wisdom leads me back to your loving embrace. You do all this because, that's just who you are and you have created me to be a reflection of you (in this world). Psalm 23:3,
 paraphrased by Bob Parssinen.

Financial Corner

Month of:
 August 2021

Current month :

Operating Income \$	24,809.65	Operating Expense \$	23,653.69
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Year to date: 2021

Operating Income \$	253,325.82	Operating Expense \$	225,222.45
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Designated giving year to date:

Apportionments: \$	6,014.00
Gods Fund Balance: \$	1,245.90
Bags of Hope Balance: \$	4,043.70
Blankets of Warmth Balance: \$	1,144.02

Thank you to those that donated to missions!!!
 We received \$484.92 for the Beloit Domestic Violence Center!!

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



Loose Coins

September Loose Coins will go to **Beloit Meals on Wheels**. This volunteer-supported program delivers hot meals 5- or 7-days/week, including holidays, to Beloit-area individuals whose diminished mobility makes it hard to shop for food, prepare meals, or even socialize with others. Hot, nutritious meals are prepared by Best Events and delivered during the midday, with the option of receiving a cold meal supper in addition.

Funding for Meals on Wheels comes from community donations, federal funds, and client contributions. A single meal costs the organization \$10. Those unable to pay for the full meal cost are encouraged to make a contribution on a sliding scale, but no one is denied service due to inability to pay.

Meals on Wheels is a life-line to countless individuals, in terms of both nutrition and human interaction. The volunteers who drive and deliver consider it a ministry to others, and those of us who can contribute to support it are helping make that ministry possible. Please be generous with your loose coins!

Loose Coin offerings are considered any coins (not bills) dropped in the offering plate. To contribute bills, put them in an envelope marked "Loose Coins," or write a check with "Loose Coins" in the memo line. Include your name and offering-envelope number to record it in your church giving record.

Looking ahead.....October Loose Coins will go to Family Promise of Greater Beloit.

-Ellen Butchart



Midwest Mission



Distribution Center

2021 Adult Mission Trip

We have a team of 9 people going on the trip this year to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) outside of Springfield, Illinois. We are praying for a safe and healthy trip, a productive work experience, moving devotions, and great fellowship.

Our team members are:

Ellen Butchart

Pat Sands

Diane Gemignani

Margaret Hansen

Bob Novy

John Butchart

Joanne Johnson

Sarah Parsons

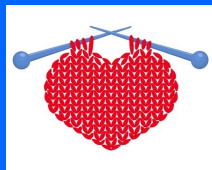
Cheri Sones

As you read this article, we will have just returned. We will have lots of experiences to share! Most importantly, we will have many stories to relate on how God works with MMDC, and how our help is magnified to reach people in need around the world and around the corner. Thank you for your prayers while we were away!

-Diane Gemignani

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

Our next meeting is September 29th 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*



Urgent Mission Need Fort McCoy Ingathering for Afghan Refugees

The Wisconsin Conference is hosting an ingathering of clothing for the Afghan refugees currently housed at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. This is a time-sensitive project. Items will need to be brought to the church by next **Sunday, Sept. 26**. We will take them to Asbury UMC in Janesville by the 27th, and trucks from MMDC will gather goods from pick-up sites around the state and deliver them to Fort McCoy Sept. 29-30.

Some of the items needed (new or very gently used -- ALL size M or L for men and women):

Men's/Women's solid long sleeve	Kids' clothing (all sizes)
Men's solid sweatshirt	Kids' coats/jackets
Men's pants, 28x30-32	Toddler plain long sleeve
Men's/Women's Coats/Jackets	Toddler pants
Women's plain long skirts	Toddler underwear
Women's Pants	Baby clothing (all sizes)
Sports Bras	Baby blankets (solid)

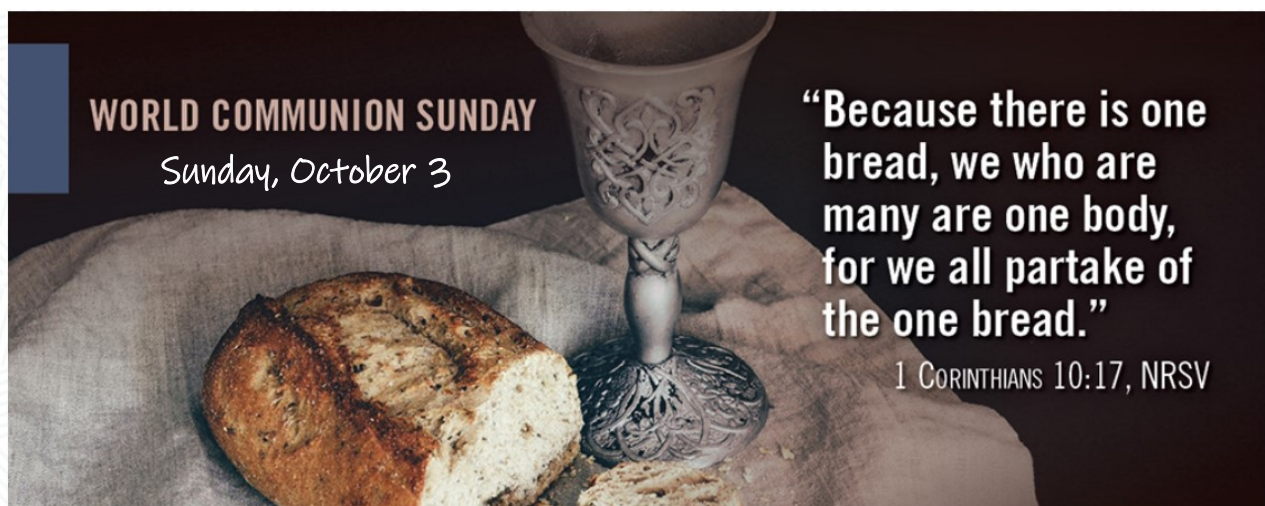
If you are reading this online, the link below contains the most up-to-date list of needed items.

<https://sites.google.com/view/winding-rivers-umc/afghan-guest-immediate-needs>

Also, from this link you can click an Amazon box that takes you to a shopping list registry (like a bridal registry). Select the items you wish to purchase and Amazon will ship them directly to the destination. This makes it easy to donate, as exact items and sizes are already chosen. They show how many they need and how many they have so far (just like a registry!).

Personal note: I'm so glad the conference is doing this! If you've wished as I have that you could extend some comfort.....a welcome.....to these people who have just escaped with nothing from their homeland, let's try to help.

-- Ellen Butchart



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



October 2

Mark Smith

October 4

Ellie Maxwell

October 9

Carol Braukhoff

October 13

Mary Wadle

October 21

Harry Burnside

October 22

Dawn Tudor

October 23

Jeneane Kiser

Dolly Sonneson

October 25

Geri Green

Emersyn Weiser

October 29

Carol Connors



October 14

Jeff & Lynn Caple

October 15

Steve & Carol Martin

Fran & Jacque Patch

David & Mary Robinette

October 16

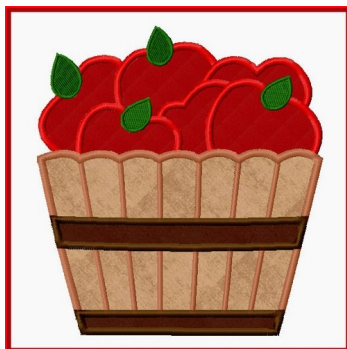
Marvin & Emma Miller

October 24

Jesse & Sandy Calkins

October 29

James & Glenda Churchill

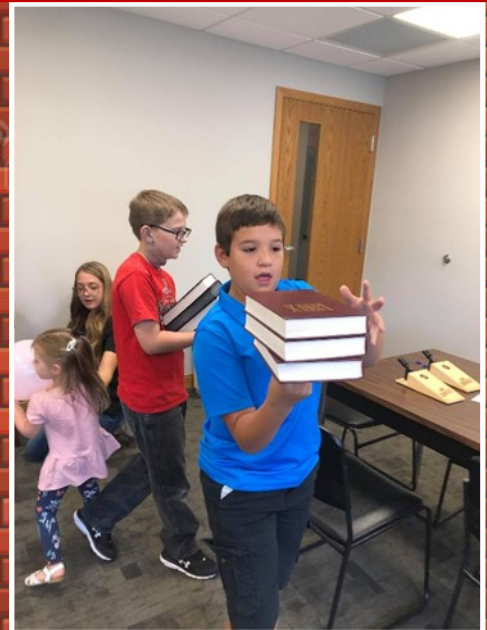


Our Camp Out!
Vacation Bible School was three days
of fun while we learned about God!
Thanks to our wonderful leaders and volunteers!

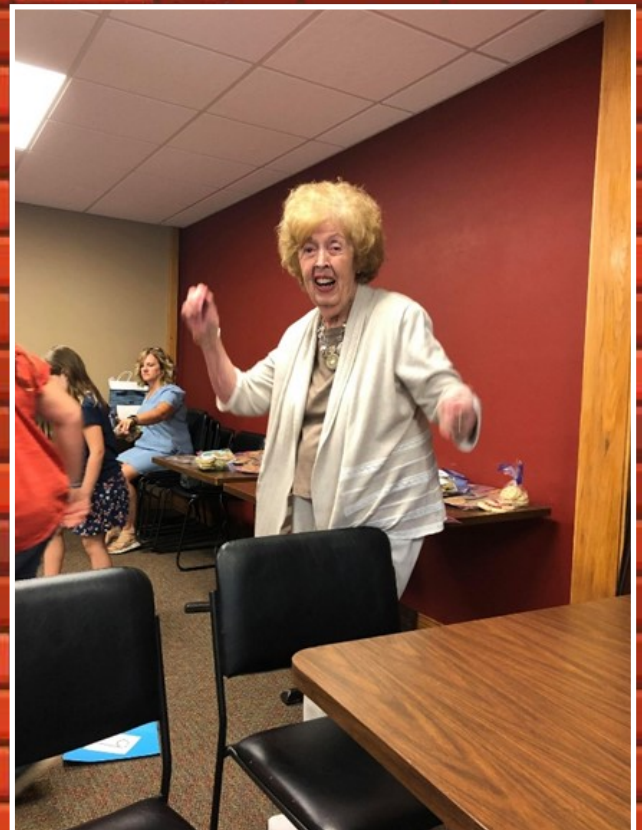




On September 12th we had a Back To Sunday School Celebration! In Sunday School the children played ten Old Testament Minute To Win It games. Afterward, the congregation had a great time with Bingo and a cookie walk.



More Back To Sunday School Celebration photos!



Checking in.....

It's time for Rally Day in churches all across our country. Rally Day is what I knew as the beginning of the Sunday School year when I was growing up with my church. Now that I know everything involved, I continue to have such an admiration for all that the church committee members and administrative board members that made decisions for our congregation and small town church... How they held it all together as churches grew, evolved, and changed over the years. The one thing that those dedicated church members had was their **faith**. That never changed and waivered. Not during change of pastors, member loss, times of struggles, pain, or lean resources.

I loved Sunday School and all my teachers. I loved the song we sang as coins settled in the offering plate. I loved how we recognized everyone's birthday with a special song and then placing your age worth of pennies inside a plastic white cross, counting each one. Over the years Sunday School grades changed, teachers changed, the content we were learning changed, but what held true and never changed was the **faith** we were learning to build.

Three months ago.....Some days it feels like so much has happened so quickly in three months, and other days 90 days feel like a lifetime. Three months ago, an annoying ache in my back drove me to the emergency ward in the middle of the night where I discovered that cancer would become a part of my life journey. It was hard to tell my friends and family, which includes my church family. Even though this emotional and physical rollercoaster is what so many other families have and are going through, trying to figure it out for myself is hard. Each day, I keep connecting to my **faith**, trying to listen, get through the most difficult moments, trying to make decisions, and trying to stay positive.

As summer activities approached which included VBS, I knew I was not going to be able to play the part I wanted to play in planning and participating in the program. I am so grateful to EVERYONE at church who volunteered to be a part of VBS in **any way**. **THANK YOU EVERYONE!** Karen Parssinen (and family) with everything else happening in your life, you saved the day by pulling everything together and following through with so many details that the kids just loved. **Thank you so so much.** I just sat back and watched God's hand stir up all the fun, chaos, music, food, exhaustion, decorations, and church family into a memorable experience for all who participated!

I miss coming to church, but enjoy watching online. I hope to get to the point soon when I can attend a Sunday or two. My treatments are every two weeks on Thursdays and continuing thru Saturday at home and I am doing pretty good tolerating them without too many serious side effects. A low white cell count set me back one session, but we were back at it again 2 weeks ago and will be again on the 9th of September.

All of your prayers, cards and notes, meals, and well wishes have been so appreciated. We are just so grateful to be part of such a caring church family. The **faith** that you share and the **faith** I lean on most is what helps me stay strong and positive! I will try to update or write something fun once and awhile. God Bless you all.

Nan and Gary Bolar

UMW

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
—Psalm 150:6



Mailbox Blessings

This month's birthday wish+ goes to Fatima Kutela, a missionary to Angola, which is located in Central Africa.

Her birthday is September 21. Cards can be sent to fkutela@umcmmission.org Please send her a card or letter of best wishes via email. It only takes a minute to wish her well, and you will also receive a happy feeling and blessing for doing this kind gesture.



Fatima is an agricultural technician, and her husband is also a missionary. They have five children. She was born into a Christian home and believes God was leading her to become a missionary by the time she was 12. Her complete biography can be read at <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3022312/>

Here is a humorous note about this month's birthday United Methodist Woman. In the UMW prayer calendar, her address is listed as West Angola. Googling West Angola, indicates that it is a fictional country. What??? The UMC sends missionaries to fictional countries? A bit more reading indicates that Fatima serves in the UMC West Angola Conference. The prayer calendar made a slight mistake in adding the word "West" to her address!

It's coming, it's coming, it's Almost Here!



United Methodist Women's Sunday is September 26, and it will be super special. Sheryl Horvath will be the liturgist, while Carolyn Lynch will give the children's message. The speaker will be Heidi Careaga from neighboring Janesville. Heidi is able to give a special, personal meaning to the theme of One Heart. Heidi was born in Guatemala and came to the United States when she was 10 years old. When she learned that her future husband planned to become a UM minister, she began to learn about Methodism. Mission-u really spoke to her and helped her

develop leadership skills as well as spiritual growth. Later she became very involved in UMW. She has recently been elected to serve as the finance chair for the UMW Board of Directors. Heidi is one of our Conference District Administrators. Heidi also enjoys running about two miles a day, which is a time that allows her to know God better, enjoy nature and stay fit. Heidi's husband, Rev. Carlos Careaga, serves as pastor of Mt. Zion UMC, Janesville. They are the parents of two teenagers.

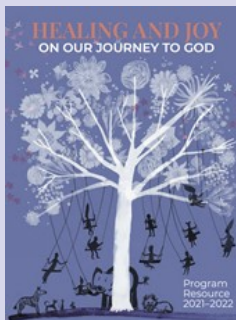
We look forward to this special Sunday and all the blessings we will receive. We are also sending a special thanks to all who have been involved in the planning and serving for UMW Sunday.

A couple of months ago two members of UMW shared the odd moments in life that they used to pray. In the July-August Upper Room, one contributor told of her special moment of daily prayer. It seems that there was a steep hill on her daily walk. Each day when she came to that hill, she said a prayer for whomever or whatever was on her heart. Do you have a special reminder for prayer during odd moments? It would be wonderful if you would share them with your UMW sisters.



UMW Calendar

UMW Unit Meeting	September 22	9:30 a.m.
	Speaker: Amiee J. Leavy, Janesville. YWCA “Social Justice”	
	Martha Circle—Snacks	
	Mary Circle—beverage and place settings	
UMW Sunday	September 26	9:30
	Speaker: Heidi Careaga	
Martha Circle:	October 20	9:30 a.m.
Mary Circle	October 20	1:30 p.m.
December 4	Cookie Walk	



UMW Theme 2021-2022

Healing And Joy On Our Journey To God

- 1st Quarter: Finding God’s healing and joy in the midst of grief and loss
- 2nd Quarter: Mission Commitments, ending school-to-prison-pipeline and climate justice
- 3rd Quarter: Finding healing and joy in our meaning-making and search for personal growth
- 4th Quarter: Finding healing and joy in the future, spiritual and justice work, change to make new things with God possible.

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator

UMW UNIT MEETING Wednesday, September 22 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Amiee Leavy, racial justice director of the YWCA Rock County, will be the UMW speaker for our unit meeting on Wed, Sept 22nd at 9:30 AM.

The program is open to any of our congregation and we hope that many will come to hear her speak on her involvement with racial justice. (Masks are required)

-Sue Kiser

Stop the Bleed Training

The Armed Intruder Committee is planning to sponsor training on how to use the Trauma Kits the church has purchased. These kits contain tourniquets, dressings and other equipment for use in situations where people may have been wounded by an armed intruder resulting in massive external bleeding. The training will be conducted by trainers from Beloit Health System who have experience in working with non-healthcare providers willing to learn how to save a life. Most of the schools in this area regularly conduct this training for teachers and other staff.

In the next few weeks we will be looking for volunteers in the congregation to take this training. Training will consist of about a one-hour session learning how to apply a tourniquet and other maneuvers to stop bleeding. We hope and pray we will never have to use these skills but it is best to be prepared. Once the training is complete the Trauma Kits will be placed in clearly visible locations around the church for easy access.

Barb Kuska, Chair Armed Intruder Committee

HAPPY
FALL
Y'all



PLEASE NOTE:

We have a new service for Trash/Recycling at church.
All recycling must be loose in the dumpster - no bags!!
All violations result in a fine for the Church.



Recycle clean bottles, cans,
paper, and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid
out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags
and no bagged recyclables.

Three in the Fire Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

7 15 12 4

19 20 1 20 21 5

4 1 14 9 5 12

6 9 18 5

2 1 2 25 12 15 14

7 15 4 23 9 12 12 16 18 15 20 5 3 20

8 9 19 16 5 15 16 12 5

Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

Three in the Fire Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

DOLG

□ □ □ ○ □

RIFE

□ □ ○ □ □

GLEAN

□ □ □ ○ □ □

DOSLREIS

○ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NAFUECR

□ ○ □ □ □ □ □

God □ □ □ □ □ □ □ the three men.

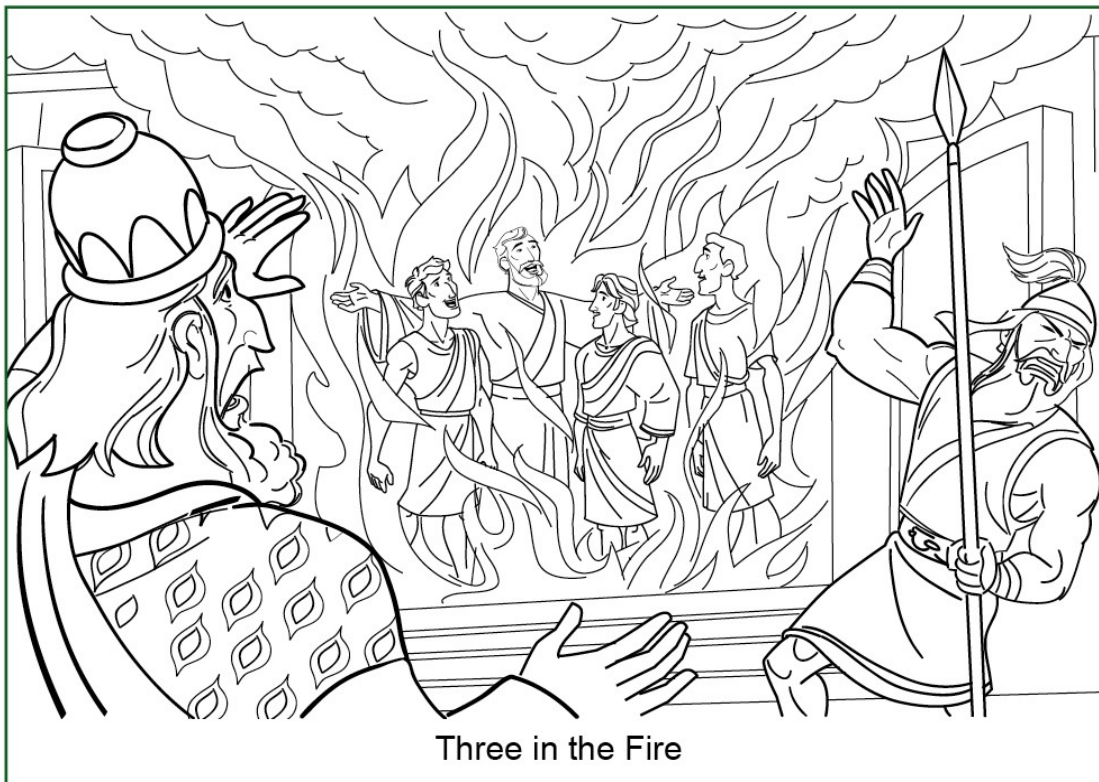
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Read the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the book of Daniel Chapter 3, Verses 1-30



Three in the Fire

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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

Thursday
 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

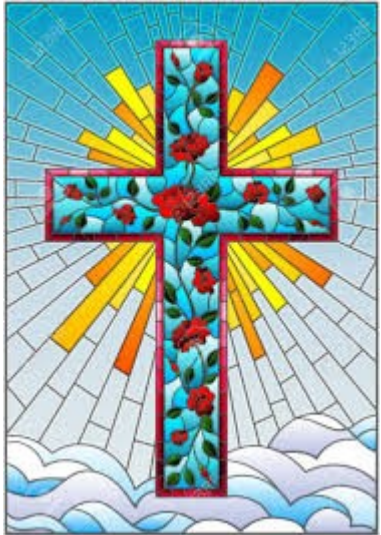
Saturday
 7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)
 5:30 pm Saturday Worship



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:
October 1st
 The next issue of the Current will be available
October 10th



Calendar of Events

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- Sept 20 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
- Sept 21 6:30 pm Finance (Zoom)
- Sept 22 9:30 am UMW Unit Meeting (FH) Please join us!
- Sept 26 9:30 am UMW Sunday @ Beloit
10:00 am Clinton Potluck
- Sept 27 6:00 pm Trustee Budget Meeting (FH)
- Sept 28 6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
- Sept 29 1:00 pm Knitting/Crocheting With A Mission (O)

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Sunday September 26 UMW Sunday @ Beloit Campus
- Sunday October 3 World Communion Sunday
- Saturday October 9 Pancake Breakfast @ Clinton Campus
- Wednesday October 13 Tutoring and WATR begin @ Beloit Campus
- Wednesday October 27 Trunk or Treat @ Beloit Campus
- Sunday, October 31 Trunk or Treat @ Clinton Campus