

The Current of The River of Life
September 2023 Vol. 40 Issue 09

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

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LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

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

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

The River of Life United Methodist Church.

Www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc

Remember to "Like" us to stay up-to-date.

From the Pastor's Desk



I haven't had children school for quite a while now, so when I think about school, I think about fall programming at church!

This year, as most years at River of Life UMC, we have two fall kickoffs. The first is our Sunday School kick-off. This year we have a two day kick off, including a movie night and fun afterworship rally day activities. These are for all ages, so I hope you will attend.

Then in October, we will kick off our Tutoring and Wednesday night activities. I hope you will attend dinner and Bible Study.

Since we have returned to the building after the Pandemic, we have two issues in children and youth programming. First, we have lost many of our remaining teens, children and families. They have moved on. Please pray for our youth and families to see their need for God. Pray for us to reach out to children and youth that we have connected to in other ways, and help us reach them for Jesus.

An even larger issue is that we have lost leadership. We are limited in the number of children we can take for tutoring by the number of tutors that we have. Many of our youth group volunteers decided after the Pandemic that they didn't want to lead anymore. Their children have aged out of the program, and they were ready to be done. Please pray for people to feel called to be leaders.

Notice, so far, I have only asked you to pray. Prayer is very important. Please pray. Continue to pray our Breakthrough Prayer each day. Pray your own prayers.

Action is important too. Might God be calling you to lead or help in some way? Do you know someone you could talk to, to see if they might be blessed by leading in some way?

There are so many children, youth and families that are in need of Jesus. They probably don't know it. A church family would bless them. Growing in faith would bless them. Would you pray for them? Would you pray for leaders? Would you pray that we can break through into loving new people into taking their next or first step with Jesus?

I'll see you in church, where we make a difference,

Love, Pastor Brenda



SAVE THE DATE! ALL CHURCH WORK DAY OCTOBER 28 at 9:00 AM

There's a job for everyone! Bring your work gloves, your energy, and your willingness to help!





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.

September is our month to "Stock the Shelves" with hair care products at Caritas.

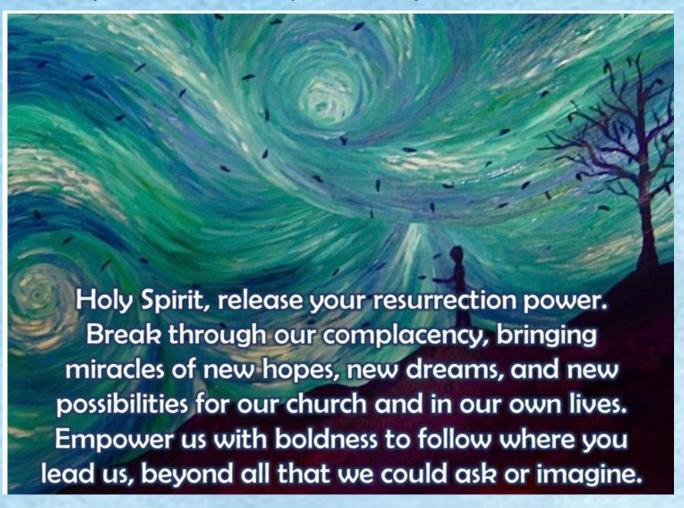
You can begin bringing your contributions of shampoo and conditioner now through September.

There is a bin in the coat room designated for Caritas.

Your donations are appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Sands.





Save your aluminum cans and bring them to church! We will exchange them for VBS funds. Don't forget the pop tabs, as well, which will benefit the Ronald McDonald house.

Search out Karen P if you have questions

Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

September 27 at 1:00 - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583



People we are praying for



- † Ace
- Adam
- † Amber
- † Austin
- † Chuck
- † Daniel & Max
- † Darla
- † David
- † Doug
- † Helen
- † Kathy
- † Kerri

- † Kyleigh
- † Leon
- † Linda
- † Mike
- † Rey
- † Rose
- † Steve
- † Shirley
- † Skip
- † Steve
- † Sue
- † Wally & JoAnn



Missions

LOOSE COINS

Our Loose Coin offerings for September will be going to **Midwest Mission Distribution Center,** the emergency supply depot where our adult mission trips go.

Midwest Mission is a cooperating depot with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), but they also work with a number of other relief agencies, both to receive requests for emergency aid and to handle the shipping of supplies to the areas of need.

Some of the emergency kits that Midwest Mission packs on a regular basis include Personal Dignity Kits (toiletries), Home Care Kits (flood buckets), Layette Kits, and Student Kits (school supplies). In addition they do Rice Meal Packs (usually off-site), build Student Desks (which are shipped as ready-to-assemble kits), and refurbish bicycles and sewing machines that can provide a living for people in Latin America or Africa.

We learned in recent newsletters that Personal Dignity Kits assembled by our mission team (and others) in May were sent in early July to Honduras through a Food for the Poor program that serves children in group and foster homes. Another shipment that included "our" Personal Dignity Kits, along with Student Kits, went to Northcott Children's Home in Milwaukee, UM Children's Services in Milwaukee, and Harbor House in Superior, Wis. Midwest Mission ships around the world (including to Ukraine) and around the U.S. in response to disasters or to ongoing poverty.

For those who are interested in helping Maui....... Both Midwest Mission and UMCOR are responding to the disaster. If you wish, you may write your check (or donate through the church website) to either organization and mark it for Maui. Or, you may give in the traditional way to Loose Coins and it will go to Midwest Mission to be used as needed. Thank you for your support of these vital (United Methodist) humanitarian agencies!

-- Ellen Butchart















Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center Chatham, Illinois April 3 - 5, 2024

Join our team volunteering at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center! You can choose to stay on-site at the dormitory or stay 7 miles away at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Springfield, IL. We leave Beloit the morning of Wednesday, April 3, and carpool to Springfield, IL. We will work on Thursday and Friday, and return to Beloit on Friday evening, Apr. 5.

If you stay in the dormitory, the cost of the trip is \$160 plus the cost of one lunch and three dinners at area restaurants. If you choose to stay at the motel, the cost of the trip is \$75 plus the cost your room at the Comfort Inn and the cost of the previous meals. The Comfort Inn room will be approximately \$115 per room per night. You are welcome to arrange to share a room with another person on the trip.

Please do NOT let the cost of the trip keep you from signing up! There is money available in a fund specifically to help people with the cost of participating in the adult mission trip. Please let Diane Gemignani know if you are interested in the assistance.

Payment Schedule is:

Home Phone

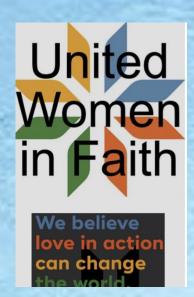
\$50 deposit due by February 1, 2024* Balance due by March 31,2004*

If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or <u>dianegem23@gmail.com</u>). If you would like to sign up for the trip, fill out the slip below, include the non-refundable \$50 deposit, and mail it to Diane Gemignani, 1005 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit, WI 53511.

MMDC.

The deadline to sign up is Feb. 1, 2024. – We can add people after this date only if there is room at I am interested in joining the Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center on *April 3 - 5, 2024. (I understand the \$50 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable if someone else* can take my place.) Name E-mail Address

Cell Phone



September 2023

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

-Colossians 3:23-24



United Women in Faith General News

The ROLUWF will become inactive January 1, 2024. However, we will continue to be an active woman's group in our church and community; we will just not be associated with the national UWF.

Part of the transition to inactive status requires that every woman be given the opportunity to remain an individual member of UWF by doing a district or online unit through the National Membership option. This is all done online. Listed below are the links for the National Membership option.

https://uwfaith.org/get-involved/become-a-member/

Subtopics in this link are:

Become a member: General information with a button to join.

Choose your personal path: Customize your experience and access more ways to put love in action with buttons to join and a video.

Influence: Developing leadership skill with buttons to join and a video.

Impact: Information on service and advocacy including social justice with buttons to join and a video.

Stay in the loop: Sign up for information by entering your email address and checking your special interests with a button to submit.

Frequently Asked Questions: 17 FAQ and a link <u>membership@UWFaith.org</u> for answers to more questions.



The Gift of Encouragement

Encourage one another and build each other up. - 1Thessalonians 5:11

"Your bees are swarming!" My wife stuck her head inside the door and gave me news no beekeeper wants to hear. I ran outside to see thousands of bees flying up from the hive to the top of a tall pine, never to return.

I was a little behind reading the clues that the hive was about to swarm; more than a week of storms had hampered my inspections. The morning the storms ended, the bees left. The colony was new and healthy, and the bees were actually dividing the colony to start a new one. "Don't be hard on yourself," an experienced beekeeper told me cheerfully after seeing my disappointment. "This can happen to anyone!"

Encouragement is a winsome gift. When David was disheartened because Saul was pursing him to take his life, Saul's son Jonathan encouraged David. "Don't be afraid" Jonathan said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this" (1 Samuel 23:17).

Those are surprisingly selfless words from someone next in line to the throne. It's likely Jonathan recognized that God was with David, so he spoke out of a humble heart of faith.

All around us are people who need encouragement. God will help us help them as we humble ourselves before him and ask him to love them through us.—James Banks



Reflect & Pray

Who do you know who needs encouragement? How might you humbly serve them today?

Dear God, you give me eternal encouragement and good hope. Help me to show your love to someone today.

—Devotion from odb.org August 21, 2023

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

Circle Calendar

Martha Circle will meet September 20 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall

Mary Circle will meet September 20 at 1:00 pm.

Barb Kuska is hosting and presenting the program.

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

Notices in the church bulletin. These are actual clippings from church newspapers.

National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals".

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

The Sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on Water". The Sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".

Don't let worry kill you - let the Church help.





The Church Ladies

Who are they?

I thought it was a play!

Watch future issues of The Current for more answers to this question.

Dear Members and Friends of The River of Life UMC,

The Finance Committee would like to provide you with information about our apportionment obligation as the result of questions and comments received. The calculation is a combination of our membership and local expenses and their relationship to these items for the Wisconsin Conference. The apportionment amount for The River of Life UMC is \$53,071 for 2023. This amounts to approximately \$233 for each of the 228 members used in the calculation.

The apportionments received by the Wisconsin Conference is allocated to 5 different areas, Conference Support Ministries, Local Congregational Development, Clergy and Lay Leadership, Connectional Ministries, and Global Connectional Ministries. A short summary of what each area covers follows:

Conference Support Ministries: Operation and maintenance of the Conference Center in Sun Prairie, Accounting, legal and other support administration.

Local Congregational Development: Salaries and expenses for 5 district superintendents, the assistant to the Bishop and two District Administrators, Assistance to clergy and churches with emergency financial needs.

Clergy and Lay Leadership: Leadership to conference committees and training, Training for church renewal through Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI), Recruitment and nurturing of future and current ordained ministry, Assistance to churches to pay minimum compensation for full time clergy, Health insurance for active, retired and disabled clergy, Coordination of pension benefits for active, retired and disabled clergy.

Connectional Ministries: Operations of Pine Lake and Lake Lucerne camps and retreat centers, Support for health and welfare agencies like Northcott Neighborhood House, UM Children's Services and Harbor House, Communications and technology to connect with churches, Membership and support of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and Salaries and benefits for Conference staff.

Global Connectional Ministries: Africa University, Black College Fund, World Service Fund, Interdenominational Fund, North Central Jurisdictional Conference Fund and Episcopal Fund to support Bishops.

-Finance Committee

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

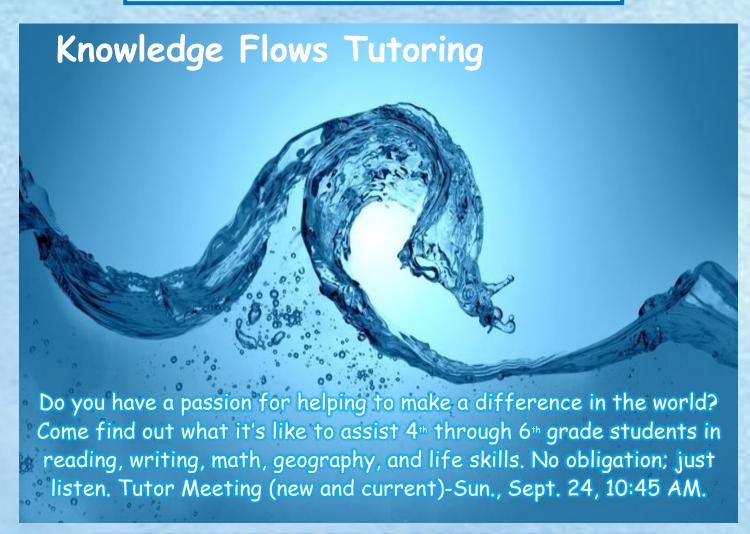
The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:00pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall. We are doing an oldfashioned read and discuss model comparing John with the other 3 gospels.

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.



Congratulations to Maguire Maxwell for receiving scholarships from the UWF and the church as he goes to Savannah College of Art and Design. May God be with you in this new chapter of your life!







"Our church family knows how to LOVE people. Maguire received 2 scholarships on Sunday, for which we are grateful. But, nothing will ever measure the love that has been extended to him (and our whole family) over the years. He felt so loved on Sunday

- a true outpouring is just what he needed before he heads off to college 🔻 "

- Tracy Maxwell



I Can't Believe It!

Sermon series beginning September 10th

There are people who have difficulty believing in God or reading the Bible because they can't believe a number of stories in the Bible. We will look at some of those stories and

admit to why they are hard to believe. I will share whether or not I believe the story actually, factually happened. Then I will share the point of the story, which has nothing to do with whether it actually, factually happened. In other words, we are looking past the literal story to see the reason why the story was told. Be sure to come to worship each week or watch online!

Sept 10 I Can't Believe It – Adam and Eve
Sept 17 I Can't Believe It – Noah And The Ark
Sept 24 I Can't Believe It –Daniel And The Lion's Den
Oct 1 I Can't Believe It –Jonah And The Whale
Oct 8 I Can't Believe It – Jesus' Miracles



Starting Sept. 10 at 9:30 am





We will begin a new confirmation class this fall. We will meet Sundays after worship. We have not had a class in a number of years, so this class will have a wide range of ages. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor, etc., who may be interested, let them know, and let Pastor Brenda know, so more information can be sent to them.

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.

The services and activities at River of Life United Methodist Church are videotaped, including adults and children.

THACK YOU

Vacation Bible School 2023 was more difficult than in previous years. Our beautiful Nan Bolar: VBS Director, Sunday School Leader, Choir Member, Friend... had fought the fight with pancreatic cancer, watching over us from Heaven this year.

l'm sure she was smiling.

. I am so blessed to be a part of the wonderful congregation and TEAM that helped make VBS an out-of-this-world experience! Thank you so very much to the teachers of music, stories, crafts, science, games; to the Ancient Astronauts and the Kids; the Head Chef and his Crew Members; the tech rock stars; those who sat patiently at the mission control table, registering participants; the creative workers who spent countless hours designing the stellar decore that filled the rooms; and to Hope Church, who let us borrow numerous backdrops and photo opps. Thank you to the amazing Office Manager who promoted, copied, designed, and mailed 5.357 million things! Thank you to our Pastor who always said, "Yes!" And to all of you...for your gifts of time, money; Prayer, and Love.

























































































Patriots' Day

Χ Ε Ε S C Ε D G 0 Υ Τ G Α C В Z Z C D Q S Ν D S R 0 Χ U Α Q Ε Ε Υ Χ W Ν Q Υ G Υ Ζ G 0 M ٧ Χ Χ 0 Ε S U D Z Τ M G Ε K S Χ S G Administration Afghanistan Al Qaeda Always Remember American Bush Attention Bravery Collapse Courage Debris Dust Eleventh **Events** Firefighter Flag **Future** George Heat Heroes Hope Let's Roll Military **Never Forget** Iraq **Pilots** Policemen New York North Tower Pentagon Power President Pride Run Security South Tower September Smoke Stair Well Strength

On this Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we pay tribute to the heroes and victims who lost their lives on September 11, and we recommit ourselves to the spirit of unity, patriotism, and service that carried our Nation through in the days that followed.

Vice President

Washington, D.C

United States

Twin Tower



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

Not ready to come back to in person worship yet?
Or out of town for the weekend?

The Beloit Service is on the website and both Beloit and Clinton are on Facebook

Firm

Focus

Core Strength & Balance

Friendly

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:00 am

A low-impact exercise class has begun in our Fellowship Hall. Focus is on improving balance through core strengthening. Class is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00. Individuals dress in comfortable clothing, bring their own weights, and water.



Stewardship News Ephesians 2:10 God At Work!



Gosh, here it is the end of August at the time of writing this article. Where has the summer gone? We experienced the heat wave with another coming right around the corner. Stay hydrated and Stay Cool.

With fall just around the corner, brings in September, 2023. With that in mind, we will be presenting the Stewardship Fall Campaign in November. This year's campaign is titled: Ephesians 2:10—God At Work. Your Stewardship Team will be busy getting this program fine tuned to present in November, 2023.

Under Construction. That would be an excellent sign to hand across life, wouldn't it? From the day we were born, we are growing and learning. We are God's construction project. Paul writes, "For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

Under Construction. Also describes the world we live in. God is not finished with us or with the universe. We are also God's construction workers, partners in bringing the kingdom of Jesus Christ into the world we live in, so that God's will may be done on earth as in heaven.

Under Construction describes our church, too. River of Life UMC is always changing, growing and adapting to our community. We do new things to reach new people, so that they also may be incorporated into God's new creation.

Our November stewardship series focus on how God builds us up, and how we build up the world. Join us at church for these special celebrations:

Sunday, November 5 Under Construction - God at Work and All Saints Day

Sunday, November 12 Under Construction - Building Up

Sunday, November 19 Under Construction - Giving for Good

Sunday, November 26 Under Construction - Pitching In - Consecration Sunday.

Please stay and join us for the Celebration Meal right after church on November 26.

Please be watching your mail starting the middle of October for more and information and the Stewardship Information packet.

Blessings, Thomas C. Alverson Stewardship Chairperson

Calendar

September 4		Labor Day - Church Office Closed
September 5	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
September 7	4:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal Starts
September 9	8:30 AM	Clinton Community Pancake Breakfast
	7:00 PM	Aloha Rally Movie Night
September 10	10:45 AM	Aloha Rally Day Fun
September 11		Patriot Day
September 12	11:00 AM	Memorial Committee Meeting
September 14	10:00 AM	Clinton Ministerial Meeting
September 18	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
September 19	12:00 PM	PEO Group
September 19	6:30 PM	Finance Committee
September 25	6:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
September 27	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
October 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting

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

Wednesday
10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom) 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

Thursday

9:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

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

Issue deadline:

October 2

The next newsletter will be available on October 8

HAPPYBURTHDAY

Sept. 2

Irma Davis

Sept. 4

Wesley Brill

Dawn Dray

Kathy Warren

Sept. 5

Cindy Ferger

Scott Weiser

<u>Sept. 7</u>

Ann Williams

<u>Sept. 9</u>

Nicholas Wadle

Sept. 10

Mary Robinette

Sept. 11

Sandy Calkins

John Cotner

Sept. 12

Kathy Rodgers

Sept. 13

Samuel Rosenthal

Sept. 18

Brandie Bishop

<u>Sept. 19</u>

Jenna Buckler

Sept. 21

Tracy Maxwell

Sept. 22

Don Graybill

Sept. 23

Diane Gemignani

<u>Sept. 25</u>

Bob Fosler

Annika Parssinen

Sept. 27

Julie Hartje

Cole Weiser

<u>Sept. 28</u>

Diane Meier

Sept. 29

Steve Knutsen

October 2

Mark Smith

October 4

Shirley Hanna

Ellie Maxwell

October 9

Carol Braukhoff

October 13

Mary Wadle

October 22

Grayce Crandall

October 23

Jeneane Kiser

Dolly Sonneson

October 25

Geri Green Bill Pollock

Emersyn Weiser

October 26

LeRoy Dearth

October 29

Carol Connors

. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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. 26

Bruce & Bernie Holcomb

October 14

Jeff & Lynn Caple

October 15

Steve & Carol Martin

Fran & Jacque Patch

David & Mary Robinette

October 16

Marvin & Emma Miller

October 22

Kathy & LeRoy Dearth

October 24

Jesse & Sandy Calkins

October 29

James & Glenda Churchill