

# *The Current of The River of Life*



*October 18, 2020*

[www.rolumcwi.com](http://www.rolumcwi.com)

*Vol. 17 Issue 10*

# United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

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## **LAY LEADERSHIP 2019**

**Chairperson** Shellie Olson

### **Lay Leaders**

Tom Alverson

### **Ad Council Chairperson**

Shellie Olson

### **Active Shooter Committee Chairperson**

Marlene Erickson

### **Annual Conference Lay Members**

Bob Scheets Carol Scheets

### **Board of Trustees Chairperson**

Lee Kuska

### **Decorating Committee Chairperson**

Tracy Maxwell

### **Finance Chairperson**

### **Homeless & Human Trafficking Chairperson**

Beverly Osborne

### **Hospitality Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

### **Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

Marietta Axmear

### **Missions & Outreach Co-Chairpersons**

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

### **Nominations Chairperson**

Pastor Brenda Whitford

### **Youth Ministry Team Chairperson**

Karen Parssinen

### **Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairpersons**

Julie Hartje & Ann Williams

### **Stewardship Team Chairperson**

Tom Alverson

### **Covid Task Force Chairperson**

Pastor Brenda Whitford

### **Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

### **United Methodist Women Chairperson**

Marlene Erickson

## **CLERGY STAFF**

Brenda Whitford, Pastor 608-482-0021

pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com

Retired Pastor Keith Putney 608-774-3162

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

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## **MUSIC STAFF**

Lois Ulvin Director of Music

Judith Paddock Organist


Marge Johnson Pianist

Our condolences to the  
Family and Friends of...

Rosalie Anderson

Leon Waite

Joel Barrett



People we have prayed for....

Mary Rodgers  
Karen Knutsten  
Peggy Buckler  
Ellen Butchart  
Alan Kizer

## Your Legacy

Recently we have decided to reach out to individuals of the congregation and ask if they would be willing to share their story of how the church has touched your life, or what your legacy with the church is. This is something we would like others to be able to share with us as well via a recording we could share during our Sunday streams. If you would like to do this, please get a recording of you (if you need assistance Tom would be willing to help) explaining your story. We ask that if you use your phone as the recording device that you record it horizontally. This is meant as a way for other members or staff to learn more about you and why the church means so much to you.



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# From the Pastor



I am so very grateful that we live in a part of the world that has seasons. I get as excited as the children for the first snowfall! I love how the flowers begin to poke up in the early spring! I love how energizing the sun is in the summer! And I love the way the leaves know to turn colors in the fall!

I am a huge lover of science. I love that faith tells us why (God created us to love us and for us to love each other), but science tells us how. When the temperatures become cooler and the days become shorter, the chlorophyl in the leaves stop making food for the leaves. Chlorophyl is green: less chlorophyl, less green. When there is less green, the other colors, that were already in the leaves, begin to be seen.

Isn't that incredible! The color was already there! We just couldn't see it!

So often in our lives we get discouraged because we can't see what we want to see. What we even, perhaps, need to see, is hidden. How long is this going to last: whatever this is? It may be an illness. It may be a work situation or a family situation. It may be something you are working through alone, or something you are struggling with others. It may be Covid, which is impacting us all differently. Not being able to see the light, the color, the beauty at the end is discouraging. But don't lose hope!

Everything is going to be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end. This is one of my favorite statements that's not in the Bible. It's a statement of hope. There will come a time when the metaphorical green will fade away, and you will be filled with color. Autumn reminds us that the color is there, even if we can't see it. It will be okay.

Whatever you are going through right now, reach out to others. Most people are going through something, and helping lift others up helps lift us up too. Offer one another hope. Everything will be okay. Hang on to hope.

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

Love, Pastor Brenda



# Legacy

*It is through our giving to the church that we fund our legacy of faith into the future.*

2 Timothy 4:4-8 NIV - 6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Greetings, friend in Christ,

We hope all is well with you, and that you are filled with love and peace and joy that comes from being in Christ.

On Sunday, October 25, 2020 we will begin our annual stewardship focus. It will culminate in four weeks as we commit to our estimate of giving for 2021 and celebrate with a curbside meal to send home with you.

This is a difficult time for the Church in the United States and around the world. This year we have faced a new "normal" if you wish to call it that. We have been dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Church leaders and staff have had to re-adjust and re-think their ways of doing church. New experiences have surfaced in many ways to keep the members informed and active within their church. How many of us would have thought your Tech Team would be doing the church services via livestreaming and transmitting over radio? What a legacy we've made.

Usually during our stewardship focus we talk about our relationship with money, because our relationship with our finances and our stuff directly affects our relationship with God.

This year's Stewardship Team has come up with a creative idea for the 2021 Stewardship campaign. It is called Legacy. This campaign focuses on several thoughts and ideas of how you can make a difference to help your church maintain alive and still fulfil the needs of Spiritual growth in the years to come and long after we have passed. This holds true for each of us today. If our past members hadn't given to the church in their way, we wouldn't be here today. Even today, many folks have contributed to new ways in making their legacy for tomorrow.

We need to run our 2021 Stewardship Campaign as we always have each year. This is so when we get the "green light" to worship face-to-face, we will be up and running as if we hadn't been in the church building worshipping face-to-face.

On Sunday, November 22, 2020, at a Drive-In service, we will consecrate our commitments to what we will give to God through our church in 2021 for building the Kingdom of God. That day we will share in a curb side celebratory lunch after service. I hope you will be in worship that day to celebrate the faithfulness of God and the work that God has done through us.

Thank you again for your commitment. Thank you for the legacy you are building. May God greatly bless your generous heart!

In Christ,

Your 2021 Stewardship Committee

Thomas C. Alverson – Chairperson, Members: Pastor Brenda Whitford, Jesse Calkins, Irma Davis, Tom Hamlett, Brian Lutzow and Shellie Olson

## **Any day, Any time, Any where Sunday School!**

It's us again, Mrs. Bolar and Miss Karen! We're telling everyone that Sunday School is not cancelled! Well, it isn't happening in our church building right now, but remember the church building is just a building, but we and you are the church! We can grow in our faith journey and share that faith from just about anywhere!

So.....watch for us! Every Sunday there will be a video link on the church website that will take you to our video lesson! Sometimes it will be Mrs. Bolar by herself, or Miss Karen by herself, OR it might be both of us! The lesson will have scripture, a lesson you can participate with us in, and a craft or activity you can do with your family! There will always be a song and a prayer! You can listen to the lesson whenever you want and even do the activity whenever it works for you!

If you don't have a bag yet, call the church office and tell them you are interested in Sunday School and we will take care of the rest! We will pull out our Kazoo and sing happy songs all the way to your home as we drop off your supplies. Yes, you get a Kazoo too! Tell a friend and have a virtual group watch party! We can't wait to "see" you again!

Mrs. Bolar and Miss Karen

## **The Nurture and Discipleship team has a new name!**

We voted and selected the title of Youth Ministry because that is what we do. We are teachers of Sunday, Saturday, and Wednesday night school, Youth Group leaders, and Tutors (and we recruit some pretty amazing volunteers to help us teach). We take on VBS adventures, as well as Mission activities. We Rally in the new Sunday School year and Fast for 30 Hour Famine. We plan Easter, Halloween, and Christmas activities for kids in the community, and we make sure kids receive their own Bibles at a young age. We have a new Mission Statement too: Empowering children and youth in their Faith journey, as they continue growing as Christian Witnesses.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

<b><u>November 3</u></b> Bruce Holcomb	<b><u>November 24</u></b> Mariette Axmear
<b><u>November 8</u></b> Darlene Breden	<b><u>November 27</u></b> Tom Michels
<b><u>November 9</u></b> Nan Bolar	<b><u>November 28</u></b> Erik Ovist
<b><u>November 11</u></b> Karen Knutsen	<b><u>November 28</u></b> Courtney Woody
<b><u>November 12</u></b> Jesse Calkins	<b><u>November 30</u></b> Ron Schrader
<b><u>November 15</u></b> Lora Dodson	
<b><u>November 16</u></b> Ruth Potts	
<b><u>November 18</u></b> Ian Kersten	
<b><u>November 19</u></b> Brian Lutzow	
<b><u>November 19</u></b> Vicki Cornford	
<b><u>November 19</u></b> Doug Henthorn	
<b><u>November 20</u></b> Judy Harris	
<b><u>November 21</u></b> Sam Paddock	
<b><u>November 22</u></b> Glenda Bottger	
<b><u>November 23</u></b> Mary Alice Harris	



**Happy Anniversary**

<b><u>November 10</u></b> Dan & Kathy Cornford
<b><u>November 30</u></b> Harry & Eleanor Burnside

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

**OCTOBER LOOSE COINS:**

*Family Promise  
of Greater Beloit*

**Special Offering:**

November 29th  
United Methodist  
Student Day

Statements will be coming out soon, please be sure and look over them and contact Chrissy via email (cbergh@rolumcwi.com) or phone at the office or cell (608-352-1093) or the pastor if you have any questions or concerns.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

MONTH OF: **SEPTEMBER**

Week 1	\$	2,695.00
Week 2	\$	6,456.68
Week 3	\$	1,440.00
Week 4	\$	7,873.50
Week 5	\$	-
ACH	\$	2,550.00

**Total:**           \$21,015.18

*Thank you to all who  
donate and support our  
mission.*



## Clinton Community Outreach Christmas Baskets

It's that time of year again. Where has all of the time gone? Just seems as if we go from one season into another season so quickly.

We have been asked to help out with food donations to help fill the annual Christmas Baskets for the Clinton Community Outreach that benefits those folks of the food pantry here in Clinton. We have been asked if we could provide 160 boxes of different flavors of RED Jello. We are looking to fill 80 baskets this year. Last year, as in years past, both campuses has done an outstanding job in helping the Clinton Community Outreach program reach their goal. We are asking for items to be brought in starting Sunday, November 01 thru Sunday, November 29, 2020.

Please bring your donations on Sunday, November 01, 2020 at the Drive-In Service or there will be a tote on the ramp at the backdoor of the Beloit Office and there will be a tote on the ramp going into the Clinton Narthex off of the main driveway. The drive will be from Sunday, November 01, thru Sunday, November 29, 2020.

Thank you to everyone in helping us reach our goal. In Proverbs 19:17 — Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed; and in Proverbs 22:9 reads: Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

Thanks for your support.  
Blessings,  
Tom Alverson

## **Thank You John Butchart**

John recalls that at age 5 his family transferred from Christ United Methodist Church on Beloit's west side to the First United Methodist Church at 511 Public Avenue in downtown Beloit. Thus began a long and storied Butchart family connection and dedication to our now River of Life United Methodist Church.

We now say farewell to John. In November he is moving to Indianola, Iowa to be with his love, Cheri Sones.....who by the way, has also been a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church in Iowa.

Before we let John go, we'd like thank you to him for just some of his contributions to our church family.

### **Committee Work**

Over time John has served on numerous committees, most notably the committees of Worship, SPPRC and the Trustees where he has served multiple terms and also acted as the chair.

### **Ushering**

John received training in the art of ushering as a teenager. At that time the church had a program where students were trained by adult ushers. John has served as usher since then taking a break only when he went off to college. Since early 2000 John has been the first to greet worshipers as they enter our church as our head usher. He has been on duty not only on Sunday mornings, but also for every other service in our church life, even extending out to the choir's Easter and Christmas cantatas off site at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church.

### **Overall "go to" guy**

John has been very active throughout the extensive building project at ROL. Giving great consideration to the esthetic and emotional aspects of blending people and facility, John lovingly refurbished both the internal (sanctuary) and external crosses originally from the downtown church for placement into our new home. He also rebuilt the current altar, resizing and working in components of the altars originally from each campus. He sees this as symbolic of the human and physical blending of the two campuses.

Throughout these many years John has moved quietly among us, preferring to be just "a guy in the background". To this observer however, his love and commitment to God and to us shouts a loud Hallelujah! Let the people say, well done John, good and faithful servant.

Lois Ulvin



Thank you!!



## Calendar

### **Sunday**

9:30 am Beloit Worship  
Online Service

### **Tuesday**

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

### Issue deadline:

November 13th

The next issue of the  
Current will be available  
November 20th

It will be a Nov/Dec edition like we  
did last year, so please turn in  
articles for both months or it will  
not be in until Jan 2021

**Weekly Events are posted on the Web & Facebook**

### **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.