



**Wednesday, October 25**

**5:30 - 6:30 pm**

Please join us at  
River of Life United Methodist Church  
for a **FREE** Trunk-or-Treat event!  
We look forward to seeing you all !



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

**The Current of The River of Life**

# River of Life United Methodist Church

*Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus*

## STAFF

<b>Brenda Whitford</b> 608-482-0021	<b>Pastor</b> <i>pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com</i>
<b>Kelly Lutzow</b> 608-362-8866	<b>Office Manager</b> <i>Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com</i>
<b>Lois Ulvin</b>	<b>Director of Music</b>
<b>David Newman</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>Derek Bergh</b>	<b>IT-Production Manager</b>
<b>Keith Putney</b> 608-774-3162	<b>Teaching Pastor</b>
<b>Tom Alverson</b> 608-362-8866	<i>talverson@rolumcwi.com</i>

## 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

## CHURCH OFFICE IS LOCATED AT

2375 Prairie Ave  
Beloit, WI 53511

**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.



# From the Pastor's Desk

Loss is always hard. Throughout our lives we experience a lot of loss. But one thing we don't expect to lose is our church building.



I remember when I was serving my first church. Somebody came in after not being there for nearly two decades and said, "Everything is exactly the same! Nothing has changed!" Although this isn't a good thing, it is comforting to always have a church building with the same carpet and the same decorations to go back to. This may not help to make new disciples of Jesus Christ, but it is comforting.

This past week we sold our Clinton Campus Building. It was formerly Faith Community United Methodist Church, before that the Clinton United Methodist Church, before that the Clinton Methodist Church, and before that the Clinton Methodist Episcopal Church. There were 179 years of Methodism in Clinton, and over 160 of those years were in the same building. And now that building is sold, and it is discomfoting.

The River of Life Church has a lot of history with selling churches. Many if not most of our River of Life members have lost at least one church building, if not multiple buildings. Those of you who are here have adjusted well. I wonder how many people we lost because closing a church building is really hard. I hope that no Clinton folks will be lost because of their building closing.

With that in mind, I would ask you to be praying over those folks. If you are a Clinton member, be sure to reach out to each other. If you are a Beloit member with connection to Clinton folks, please reach out. I would love for everyone to come to the Beloit Campus, but there will be some that won't. Wherever people decide to worship God and serve, everyone needs to be loved into taking their next step with Jesus.

I'll see you in church, where we hold one another through the hard times,

Love, Pastor Brenda



## Saying Good Bye to the Clinton Campus

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the Clinton congregation said good-bye to their home church building with a service of Deconsecration. With many Beloit campus members present, those who called the Clinton church home stood and shared favorite memories, some recent and some going back 60 years....of baptisms, weddings, youth events, church dinners and festivals, the strong sense of family. Beloit members offered words of empathy and encouragement, as almost all River of Life members have experienced some kind of loss and change in their church home. Clinton members were warmly invited to try the Beloit campus, or, if their hearts called them elsewhere, to find a new church family in Clinton. The service ended with a circle to sing "God Be With You Til We Meet Again." And then there were pictures to preserve the memories.....and cake.







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



There is 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.

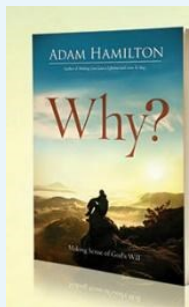


**October Sermons**



In October we move from difficulty believing some of the stories in the Bible to difficulty in understanding God. Be sure to worship every Sunday in person, or watch online if you can't make it in person

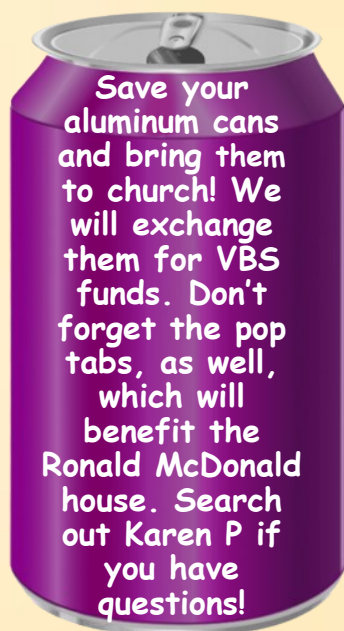
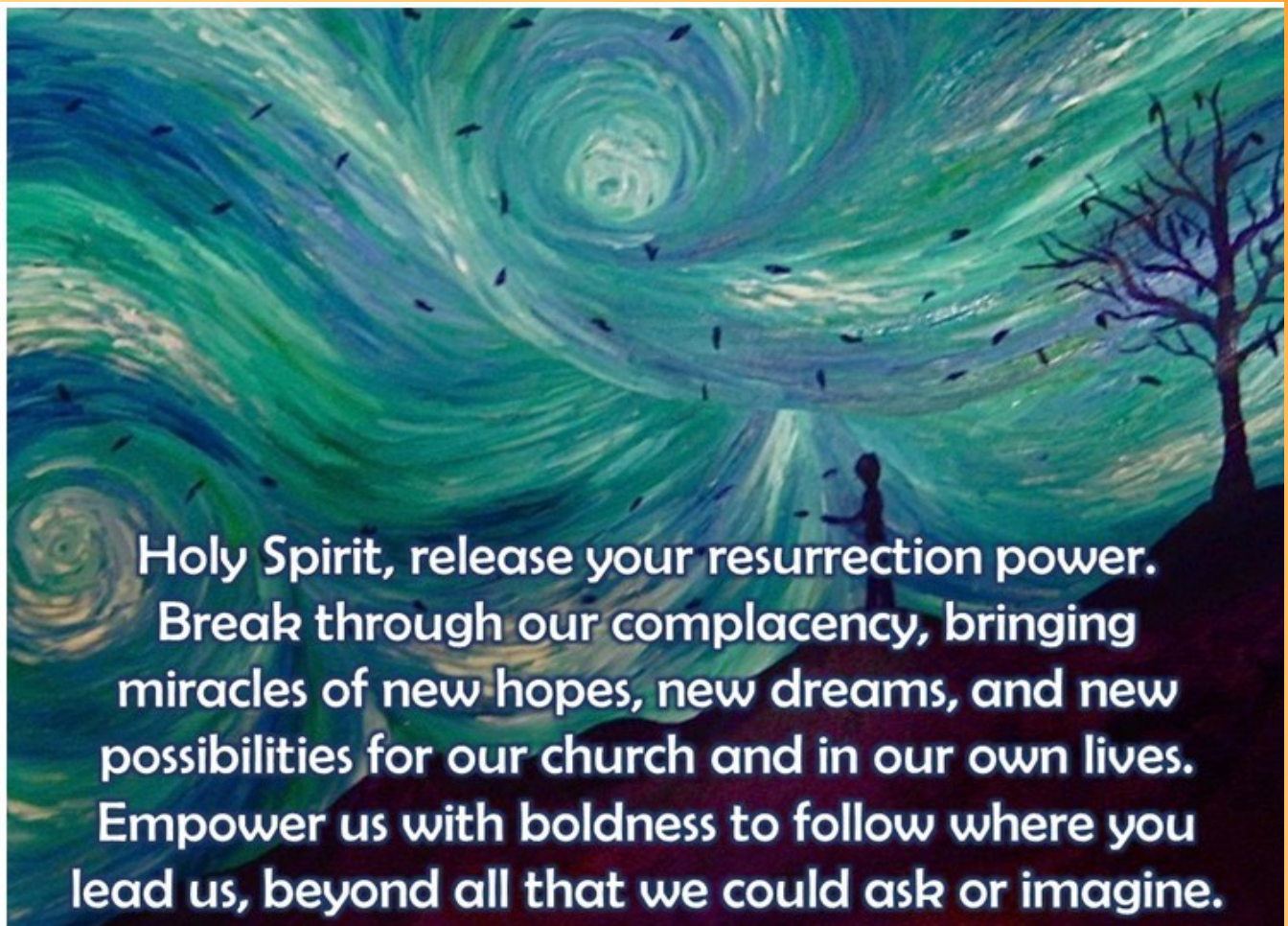
- Oct 1      I Can't Believe It - Jonah And The Whale**
- Oct 8      I Can't Believe It - Jesus' Miracles**
- Oct 15     Why does God let bad things happen?**
- Oct 22     Why doesn't God answer my prayers?**
- Oct 29     Why can't we see God's will?**



**Why?**  
**Making Sense of God's Will**  
 How can God allow tragedy and suffering? Why do prayers go unanswered?



*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.*



### **Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group**



**October 25 at 1:00 - Office Workroom**

**All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions?**

**Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583**



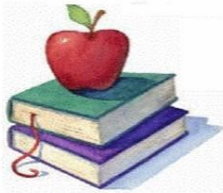
## People we are praying for



† Ace	† Kyleigh
† Adam	† Leon
† Amber	† Linda
† Austin	† Mike
† Chuck	† Rey
† Daniel & Max	† Rose
† Darla	† Steve
† David	† Shirley
† Doug	† Skip
† Helen	† Steve
† Kathy	† Sue
† Kerri	† Wally & JoAnn

Our condolences to the  
Family and Friends of...

† Juanita Hansen  
† Phyllis Dooley



# Tutoring

**Make a difference in children's lives on  
Wednesdays after school!**



**I would LOVE to be a tutor!**



**I would LOVE to provide snacks!**



**I would LOVE to teach a life lesson!**

**Let Karen Parssinen know today!!**





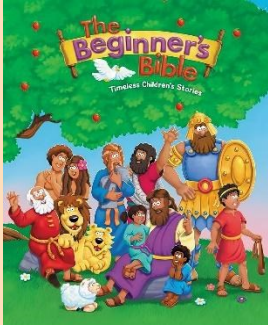
## ***Upcoming Baptisms!***

Baptisms are an important celebration in the life of our congregation. Be sure to be in worship to welcome these children into our family of faith!

† **October 29** Braxton Goodwin, son of Mathew and Morgan Goodwin

† **November 12** Callen Lynch, son of Sean and Carolyn Lynch

## ***Children's Bibles***



On October 29<sup>th</sup> we will be giving Children's Bibles to all children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and younger. We will begin a tradition of giving a Children's Bible to each child when they are baptized. We don't want to leave out those already baptized, so if you have a child 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or younger, be sure to be in worship on October 29<sup>th</sup>!

## ***Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary***



Do you enjoy having fresh flowers in the sanctuary for worship? Would you like to provide flowers for worship? A number of people would like to see this ministry resume. You may bring in flowers for no reason, or there can be a sentence in the bulletin that states the special occasion flowers are being provided. Look for the flower sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

## ***All Saint's Day***



On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed from this life to eternal life since last All Saints' Day. We will read their names aloud, a bell will be rung, and a candle will be lit. If you have someone you would like remembered, please submit their name to the office so that your loved one will be included.





**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:

\$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 [dianegem23@gmail.com](mailto:dianegem23@gmail.com)).

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.

**The deadline to sign up is Feb. 1, 2024.** – We can add people after this date only if there is room at MMDC.

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*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.)*

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Name

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E-mail

---

Address

---

Home Phone

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Cell Phone

\* Please make checks out to ROL-UMC with "Adult Mission Trip" in the memo.



## October 2023

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6



### 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.

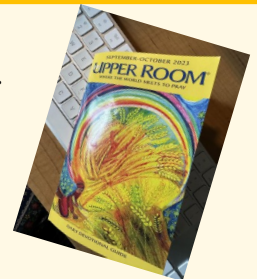
Part of the transition to inactive status requires that every woman be given the opportunity to remain an individual member of UWF by doing a district or online unit through the National Membership option. This is all done online. The September Current listed all the links for joining as an individual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



### Did you Know?

The Upper Room is a great source for small group discussions. Pages 73-77 on the September/October Edition contains Topics, Questions and Directions for leaders.

If you need to find a lesson for a small group, here is the place to go!



### Church Funnies!

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

At the close of a stirring sermon from Genesis on the Fall with Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden, the pastor announced the closing hymn: "Please stand as you are able for our closing hymn: In The Garden."





**Need a program?**

**Need a lesson?**

**Need some good reading?**

Then the UMW Library is the place to go! There are many back issues of program books there along with some great novels.

Stop by the Library located at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

It's time to get the recipe books out and make plans to bake and work on the day of the sale. More details coming in the November/December Current.

## **Prayer Of The Day**

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus, crucified and risen to save the world. Grant us faith to trust Him. Let us rely on Your full and free salvation. Your Word alone promises life everlasting.

We ask this in joyful confidence through Your Son Jesus Christ crucified and risen. He lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.

—Good Shepherd ELC, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

## **An Invitation**

All women attending ROLUMC are invited to join a circle.

Why would you want to do this?

- † To live our faith in the community with others;
- † To be in mission with others locally;
- † To grow spiritually; to learn new leadership skills;
- † To feel life has purpose and meaning;
- † To be with people we like and admire.



Contact Carol Braukhoff for Martha Circle, 3rd Wednesday morning at church.

Jacque Patch for Mary Circle, 3rd Wednesday afternoon at members' homes.



## **It Won't Be Long Now!**

**The Church Ladies Are Coming!**

In fact, they are almost here.

Who are they?

Watch future issues of The Current .

### Circle Calendar

**Martha Circle** will meet

October 18 at 9:30 in

Fellowship Hall

**Mary Circle** will meet October

18 at 1:00 pm at Sue Kiser's

Home

## 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

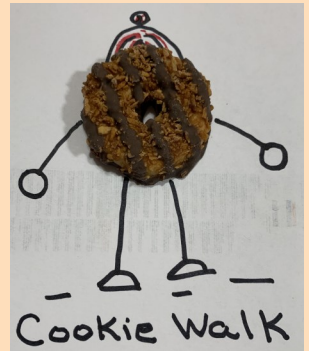
## Exercise Time!

Time to take a walk...  
A Cookie Walk.

The annual UWF  
Cookie walk

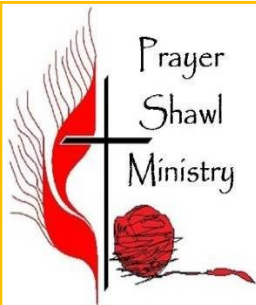
will take place

December 2, 2023



## Confirmation Class

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.



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

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



# Missions

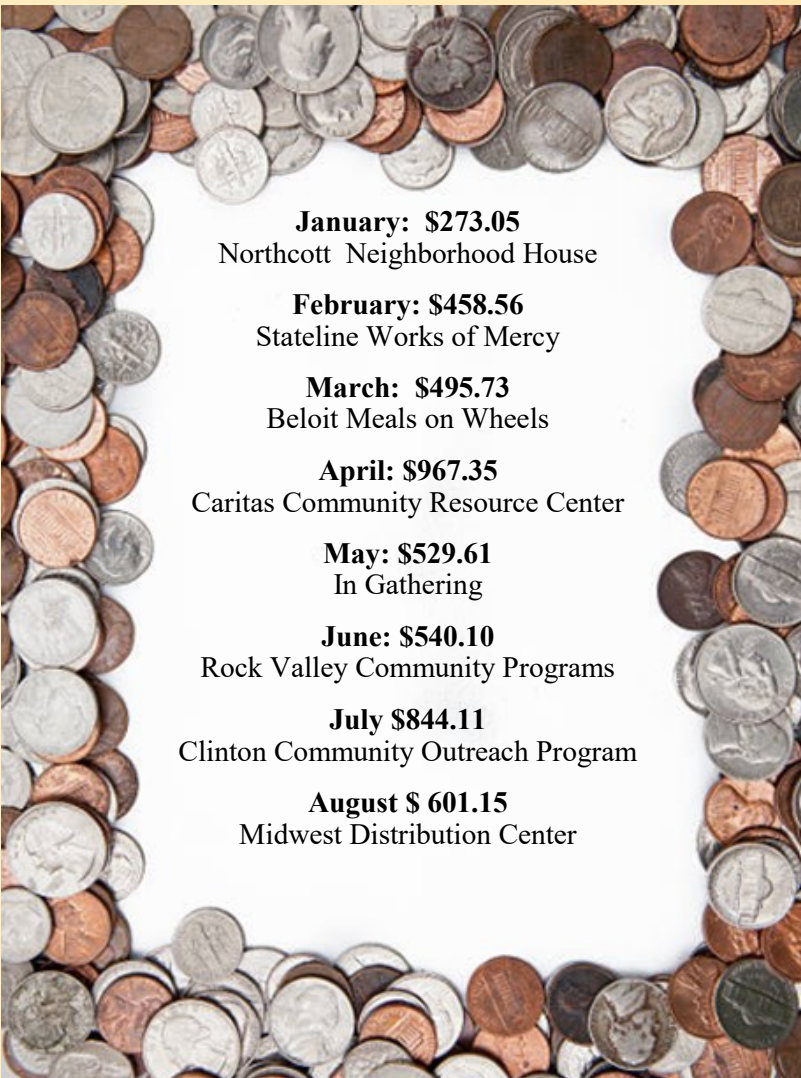
## LOOSE COINS

### Family Promise of Greater Beloit

Loose coins for October go to Family Promise of Greater Beloit. Family Promise is an emergency shelter program for homeless families, providing temporary shelter and extensive support services to help families in crisis secure housing and stable employment.

This is the organization that was formerly called Hands of Faith. In 2017 they had a "small renaissance" to re-energize the organization and re-brand it to align with the name change of their national parent organization. "Family Promise" reflects the broad range of programs and the vision of ending family homelessness. The name refers to the promise, in the sense of commitment, which communities make to families in need. And it also refers to the promise, the potential, inherent in every family.

In their new, larger facility at 1006 Bluff St., their mission is to provide shelter, food, clothing and life skills to families facing homelessness. This includes preventive programs, to keep families from becoming homeless in the first place, and also follow-up support for families who transition into their own homes and new jobs.



**January: \$273.05**

Northcott Neighborhood House

**February: \$458.56**

Stateline Works of Mercy

**March: \$495.73**

Beloit Meals on Wheels

**April: \$967.35**

Caritas Community Resource Center

**May: \$529.61**

In Gathering

**June: \$540.10**

Rock Valley Community Programs

**July \$844.11**

Clinton Community Outreach Program

**August \$ 601.15**

Midwest Distribution Center

Family Promise of Greater Beloit is itself in transition, as they are currently conducting a search for a new executive director. The interim director is Amanda OKane, who spoke in our church last fall along with former director Tammy King. Together with their corporate volunteers and United Way support, Family Promise counts on Beloit area churches to help sustain their programming. I'm sure they could use our prayers as well, as they search for the ideal candidate to lead them forward.

As always, we encourage you to be generous with your Loose Coins contributions. Drop your change in the offering plate each week, and please consider including a check or bills marked for Loose Coins. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart

# WATR

## Wednesdays at the River

- † **Tutoring** begins October 11<sup>th</sup>. It is from **4:00-5:30pm**. If you would love to be considered to impact a student as a tutor, contact Karen Parssinen.
- † **Dinner** begins October 11<sup>th</sup> and will be served every Wednesday at 5:30pm. A donation of \$5 is encouraged but not necessary.
- † The **Adult Bible Study** continues at 6:30.

**WATR dinner on October 11<sup>th</sup> will be Walking Tacos!  
Be sure to come for dinner!!**



### 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. Beginning Oct 11, this group meets at 6:30.  
**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.**

To the United Women of Faith, and Members of River of Life,

Thank you guys so much for the scholarships and supporting me. I appreciate you all so much. This church family means a lot to me. I'm going to use the money to help buy art supplies to help me pursue my dreams and create new things. I can't thank you enough.

-Maguire Maxwell



# Rally Day!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Rally Day Weekend! Thank you also to everyone who helped out in any way to make the weekend a success!!

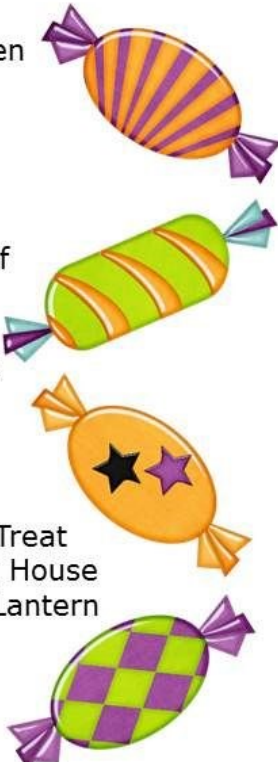






# HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

- Halloween
- October
- Spooky
- Scary
- Ghost
- Vampire
- Werewolf
- Witch
- Zombie
- Skeleton
- Monster
- Black
- Orange
- Candy
- Trick or Treat
- Haunted House
- Jack O' Lantern
- Boo
- Spider
- Bats



Y	W	I	T	C	H	D	Y	R	A	C	S	J	W	K
W	J	A	C	K	O	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	C	D
L	H	E	G	G	H	O	S	T	H	S	K	A	R	E
N	R	E	T	S	N	O	M	A	P	K	L	O	E	I
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I	Y	N	X	L	U	W	D	P	X	O	Z	E	O	Q
K	M	U	E	S	O	N	T	I	N	P	S	K	F	B
M	N	A	U	L	A	L	V	C	M	S	X	K	C	P
J	E	H	F	C	T	F	J	K	T	G	B	N	N	B



### 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 LINK

The River of Life United Methodist Church.  
[www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc](http://www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc)

Don't forget to "Like" us to stay up-to-date.

**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!



Get ready for a stewardship program that will be the most fun you have ever experienced in a stewardship program! We are going to be playing with Duplo® Legos®! We are going to be building a Duplo® tower as we talk about how we partner with God to building God's Kingdom.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is All Saints' Day. We will be writing on the Duplos® names of people who have died, who have passed on their faith and made a difference in our lives. Each person may need many Legos®! This will form the base of our construction.

November 12<sup>th</sup> we will be talking about the missional ways we make a difference in our community and world. We will be writing on the Duplo® Legos® the missions we support as a congregation and as individuals. We will add those to our building.

November 19<sup>th</sup> we will be lifting up leaders and volunteers who serve at the church and in mission projects. We should need a lot of Duplos® for this as well.

November 26<sup>th</sup> we will complete our Duplo® Kingdom of God by naming people who pledge to give in 2023 with prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Hopefully we will have new members this day! We will also share a celebratory meal, praising God for all God does through us as we partner with God as he builds the Kingdom of God.



There will be a packet coming to your mailbox in mid-October that will give you more information on this fun celebration!

We would like to offer a huge thank you to Jim Churchill, Paul Dubler and Kathy Weiser, for negotiating a good deal for our Clinton Campus building, and for following through with all that was needed to close. It was a lot of work, and we are grateful for you!



# Calendar

October 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
October 10	4:00 PM	Mission Committee Meeting
October 11	3:00 PM	Tutorting Starts
October 16	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
October 17	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
October 18	9:30 AM	Martha Circle - FH
October 18	1:00 PM	Mary Circle
October 23	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
October 24	4:00 PM	Hospitality Meeting
October 24	6:30 PM	Ad Council
October 25	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
October 25	5:30 AM	Trunk-Or-Treat
October 28	9:00 AM	All Church Work Day
November 7	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	
9:30 am	Beloit Worship
11:00 am	"The Chosen" Movie Series w/ Bob Parssinen
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	
12:30 pm	Card Club (FH)
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	
9:00 am	Exercise Group
10:00 am	Men's Coffee Hour (FH)
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting (O)

<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	
10:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
3:00 pm	Tutoring (Starts Oct 11) (1:30 1st & 3rd Wed)
6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study (FH) (6:30 starting Oct 11)
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	
9:00 am	Exercise Group
4:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	
7:30 am	Bible Study (Zoom)

**Tom will be out of the office until October 16.**  
**If you are in need of assistance, please contact Kelly in the office or Pastor Brenda.**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## 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

## November 3

Bruce Holcomb

## November 8

Darlene Breden

## November 10

Diane Buckler

## November 11

Karen Knutsen

## November 12

Jesse Calkins

## November 15

Lora Dodson

## November 18

Tevin Gamble

## November 19

Doug Henthorn

## November 21

Sam Paddock

## November 23

Mary Alice Harris

Khalil Lutzow

## November 24

Mariette Axmear

Tom Michels

## November 27

Erik Ovist

## November 28

Courtney Woody

## November 30

Ron Schrader

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## Issue deadline:

**October 30**

The next newsletter  
will be available on

**November 5**

## 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



# SEEK & FIND

## Haunted House



Find and color all the Haunted House hidden pictures.

