

The Current Of The River Of Life

CAROLS

*A Cantata for
Congregation and Choir*

Saturday,
December 10
3 pm

Sunday,
December 11
10 am

Presented by
River of Life United Methodist Church
and First Congregational Church

A PRELUDE WILL BEGIN 15 MINUTES BEFORE EACH PROGRAM.

THERE IS NO COST;
A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE SHARED BY BOTH CHURCHES.

MASKS ARE RECOMMENDED.

**First Congregational Church
801 Bushnell Street
Beloit, WI**

November 20, 2022

www.rolumcwi.com

Vol. 39 Issue 33

United Methodist Church in Beloit and Clinton

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

BELOIT CAMPUS

2345 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866

OFFICE

2375 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, WI
 608.362.8866

CLINTON CAMPUS

402 Church Street
Clinton, WI
 608.676.4646

STAFF

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pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com	
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talverson@rolumcwi.com	
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Lois Ulvin	Director of Music
David Newman	Pianist/Organist
Marge Johnson	Pianist
Christina Bergh	Bookkeeper
cbergh@rolumcwi.com	
Bonnie Moore	Secretary/Receptionist
bmoore@rolumcwi.com	



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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

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 Committee Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

TBD

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Tom Alverson

Tech Team Chairperson

Derek Bergh

United Women of Faith President

Pat Sands

**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



Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

Marlene Bachim
Harry Burnside
Clem Kellicut
Glenda Lensing (Sister of Mary Alice Harris)
Steve Clark (Brother of David & Kelly Clark)

People we have prayed for....



Arlene	Kerri
Austin	Maggie
Betty	Marjorie
Chuck	Mary
Daniel & Max	Nan
Darla	Pastor Eduardo
David	Pastor Keith
Gwen	Sandie
Jeff	Wally

Christina Bergh is resigning from the Bookkeeper position at River of Life UMC. She has accepted a position with Mercy Hospital in Janesville. Chrissy's last day has not yet been decided. She will be staying on in a limited capacity until we are able to hire someone for this position.

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

Eight 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.

From the Pastor's Desk



This is a picture of my favorite nativity set. I bought it when I was in Bethlehem, Palestine in 2016. It is made from olive tree wood sourced near Bethlehem, and carved by Bethlehem artisans. I chose this particular set because of the palm tree. Yes, there are palm trees in Bethlehem! Snow is actually quite rare in Bethlehem, with the average daily high temperature in December of 56°! This nativity set was very expensive, so I leave it out year-round.

I have a lot of nativity sets. I have small sets and larger sets, and they are made out of various materials. A lot of my Christmas ornaments are variations of parts or all of the nativity scene. Even my advent calendar is a felt wall hanging where Mary and Joseph move a little closer to Bethlehem each day. Christmas decorations at my house is Jesus' birth.

There are years that I have felt disappointed because I don't get a family Christmas like other people. This year, not only do I have three worship services on Christmas Eve – which doesn't leave time for family – but this year Christmas Day is on a Sunday. I am working Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this year. My clergy daughter will be working the same. And since my husband is also a pastor, I won't even get to be with him during that time. My son doesn't bother. Why would he come when everyone is working?

And yet, as I look at all of my nativity sets, as I sing Christmas carols all night on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday morning, I am so blessed to have all of my focus being on the birth of Jesus the Christ. I do want to gather with family, and I will. But during this holy time, I have the blessing of just immersing myself in the holy.

So what are your plans this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Most of you will be able to spend some precious time with family. I also hope that you will be able to focus on the birth of Jesus. I hope you will be able to really immerse yourself in the holy. I hope you can spend some time pondering your nativity sets. I hope that you are able to experience the birth of Jesus in a fresh, new way this year.

I'll see you in church, where we worship Christ, our Savior!

Love, Pastor Brenda

Charge Conference November 29th at 6:30 pm

River of Life UMC will be having our own in-person Charge Conference this year. Will Jewson of Asbury UMC in Janesville will be presiding. All members are encouraged to attend this annual business meeting.

WATR

Wednesdays at the River

November 23rd No WATR, Happy Thanksgiving

November 30th 4:00pm Tutoring, 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study

December 7th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

December 14th 4:00pm Tutoring, 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Adventurers & Bible Study

December 21st and December 28th No WATR

January 4th 2:30pm Tutoring; 5:30pm Dinner; 6:30pm Bible Study

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study is beginning a new study comparing stories from the book of John with the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark and Luke). People of all knowledge levels are welcome. Participants should bring a study Bible. This group meets at 6:30pm most Wednesday evenings.

We want to thank our church family for all the prayers and concern during Harry's illness and for your words of comfort since his passing. The many beautiful cards and memorials we have received are very much appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Brenda for her many visits and for the meaningful funeral service. Also thanks to those who helped with the service and those who helped in any way with the delicious luncheon. Our family is grateful for all the kindness shown to us at this very difficult time. Thank you and God Bless.

Family of Harry Burnside





Hanging of the Greens

Join us in preparing the church building for the season of Advent
Sunday, November 27th

Following 9:30 worship in Beloit

Hands of all sizes are needed and appreciated!

Enjoy festive music and food as we join together
in the Christmas spirit.

Sandwiches will be provided, snacks and desserts are welcome.

Contact: Tracy Maxwell 608-290-3597

Christmas Schedule:

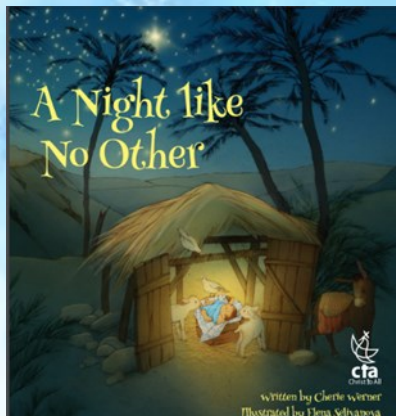
December 24th 5:00 pm Beloit Family Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24th 7:00 pm Clinton Christmas Eve Worship Service

9:00 pm Beloit Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 25th 9:30 am Beloit Christmas Day Worship Service

10:00 am Clinton Christmas Day Worship Service



Christmas Eve Family Worship Beloit Campus 5:00pm

Bring your kids! Bring your grandkids! Bring your neighbors and friends! Every child present will receive a Christmas book, and we will read it together! There will be no sermon: the children will tell the Christmas story. We will sing traditional carols and light candles. It will be a wonderful, warm Christmas Eve service!



Christmas Cantata Returns to First Con!

Once again this Christmas season our choir will present its Christmas cantata at First Congregational Church, as our two congregations join together for a Saturday community presentation and a combined Sunday worship service.

The dates are Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m.

This year's cantata will be different from anything the choir has done before. It involves congregational singing and responses, and you will know all the songs! It is entitled "Carols, a Cantata for Congregation and Choir," and it is just that – a collection of familiar carols done in beautiful new arrangements by Heather Sorenson.

Pastor Brenda will be the song leader, leading the congregation at the appropriate times, and the narrators will be Rev. Joy Baumgartner and Bill Rodgers. Under the direction of Lois Ulvin, the choir will be accompanied by our David Newman at the piano and a small orchestra as in past years. Wait until you hear the stirring orchestration and piano supporting these familiar carols!

Come and be lifted up and carried into the season of Advent. Bring your family and friends and prepare for the coming of the Lord!

-Ellen Butchart

Aldrich Intermediate School is hosting their Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 10th. A free rummage sale for Aldrich families and community. Aldrich is asking for volunteers on the following dates:



Set up on Thursday, Dec. 8th from 4-6pm.

Help students shop and wrap items in the classrooms for their families on Friday, Dec 9th during the morning.

Help with the Holiday Bazaar and clean up on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 8 to noon.

Please contact Carolyn Lynch, (608) 290-3734, if you are interested in volunteering in any way. Thank you!



LOOSE COINS

FOR THE REST OF NOVEMBER -- Project 16:49

This month we are supporting the program that keeps homeless teens in school and provides services that help them not only to survive, but to set goals and plan for a secure future. Project 16:49 gives teens, in the absence of family support, a secure home base, needed items for living and some housing, and guidance in navigating the path to further education or employment.

BEGINNING IN DECEMBER – Salvation Army

Next month our Loose Coins will go to the Salvation Army. While most of the counseling and support services the Salvation Army offers to homeless and other needy people are provided through the Janesville facility, there are once again lunches being served on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Beloit. Food insecurity continues to be a critical concern in the Stateline area, so the Mission Committee feels that we should continue to support this mission effort, especially considering the smaller presence of the Red Kettle bell-ringers campaign. The Salvation Army serves “the least of these, our brethren” in the name of Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU!

The Mission Committee has met to determine the list of Loose Coins recipients for 2023. This is a good time to take note of all the good this generous congregation has done during the past year through Loose Coin offerings and in-kind donations to our helping agencies.

Each month of the year you gave monetary donations (in the hundreds of dollars) to our selected agencies that serve the needy locally, around the U.S. and across the world. You sent money to Midwest Mission for shipments of food and supplies to Ukraine. Besides giving money, in May you filled boxes with personal-dignity kit supplies for the Conference In-Gathering for Midwest Mission. In October you brought enough toiletries to the Family Promise shower to fill two SUV's. Throughout the year you brought requested food items to put in the Caritas bins. You donated gloves, socks, and underwear for Project 16:49 and Caritas. You brought jello and canned goods for the Clinton food baskets.

You have been faithful to God's call to give to those less fortunate than yourselves. We thank you, and may God bless you!!

-- Ellen Butchart



THE SHOWER FOR FAMILY PROMISE HAS CULMINATED



We had been collecting items for 4 weeks. Your generosity was awesome. Our wagons were full and overflowing. We filled the back of two SUV's with items. You can be assured these items will be appreciated by the Families.

This shower was our way to contribute to Family Promise's program and you answered the call. We will be making a difference in many people's lives. I would like to thank the following: Bonnie for bulletin inserts, Tom for the instruction for the smart T.V., Bob for using his computer for the flash drive when the smart T.V. would not read the flash drive, Pastor Brenda for allowing Family Promise to speak during the worship hour, Pat for the balloon decoration and the two wagons, what a wonderful idea! Mission Committee for providing treats during hospitality hour, and for organizing the assisting in this event.

Members of the congregation, again, thank you for supporting this event.

-Clara Welch, Mission Committee Member



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Adult Mission Trip

May 17 – 19, 2023

We leave in the morning of Wednesday, May 17. We will carpool to the Springfield, Illinois, area with an outing along the way. You have a choice of staying in the dorm onsite with most of us or staying in a nearby motel. We will work on Thursday and Friday, and then drive home Friday evening.

More details will be in the January Current. We'll start accepting deposits in January as well. If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani at 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com. You can also check the slat board by the north entrance. There is a photo of all the people who went on the trip last spring. They'll be glad to talk to you as well!

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



December 1
Peggy Buckler
Delores Hahn
December 2
Jeff Caple
December 4
A J Longman
Mikyah Longman
December 6
Madeline Cawkins
December 8
Sean Lych
December 10
Britta Hartje
December 12
Louise Junig
Terry Wilson
December 13
Marilyn Busjahn
December 15
Destiny Knutsen
December 16
Sandra Hays
Lee Kuska
Bonnie Moore
December 17
Karen Parssinen
December 19
Zekaeus Lutzow-Fuller
December 21
Pam Dodge
December 24
Priscilla Pann
December 25
Roger Brendenmuehl
December 27
Bob Lang
December 29
Pastor Brenda
December 30
Barbara Putney
December 31
Carolyn Johnson

January 2
Eleanor Burnside
Lora Cawkins
January 4
Katie Ward
January 7
Mary Jane Kellicut
January 8
Jean Schrader
January 12
Wilma Shultz
January 15
Sandy Ovist
January 18
Steve Haas
Eric Stoner
January 20
Nita Hansen
Tru Longman
Shirley Sweet
January 22
Marlene Erickson
Albert Kohls
Kellyse Lutzow
Doug Mitchell
Nadine Stoner
January 25
Betty Kohls
January 26
Elsie Lynch
January 27
Don Parish
January 28
Nancy Bryant
Mark Hammett
January 30
Zachary Christiansen



December 1
Steve & Susie Haas
December 15
Tim & Jean Crawford
December 18
Dennis & Vicki Boschma
December 23
Bruce & Lora Cawkins
December 31
Scott & Kathy Weiser

January 16
Don & Deanna Parish
January 23
Bill & Kathy Rodgers



**Canned Fruit
(except Pears)**

*Please drop off your pop tops
which benefits
Ronald McDonald's House*



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Committee says a huge **Thank You** to all the people who provided snacks on Sunday mornings in October and November! Fellowship time after church gives us all an opportunity to catch up with each other and to deepen our connections. Thank you for your time and goodies to make this happen! We appreciate all the people who stop in the kitchen to help with setup and cleanup. And thank you, Tom Alverson, for the coffee!

Carol Allen
Kathy Allen
Nan Bolar
Mission Committee

Joanne Johnson
Tracy Maxwell
Joan Michels
Harvest Volunteers

Karen Morris
Sarah Parsons
Jacque Patch
Stewardship Volunteers



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group
November 30th at 1:00 pm - Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions?

Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583

United
Women
in Faith

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.



Hello November

PSALM 103:1-4

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

Mosaic of Faith We Are All Part Of God's Story Theme for 2022-23 United Women in Faith

Life-Giving Creation and Transformation

PROGRAM SUMMARY

As we dive into the topic of the session, life-giving creation and transformation, we'll look across different passages from the Bible. We will start with God breathing and speaking creation into existence, and how this models the internal and external wrestling as well as the transformation that happens after gaining a new understanding.

Sometimes they occur in high places and in moments of crisis. Some of the challenges we may face could include breaking away from habits or things we connect with our identities. While transformation or change can sometimes scare us, it's important to remember that they are part of life, and very much needed to give us hope and keep us accountable to the needs of our physical and spiritual lives, our communities, and the world.

Creation is in constant transformation That includes us as we go through the cycle of life interconnected with one another. Life-giving transformation is needed for growth and healing in our bodies, minds, spirits, and in all of nature, but it does require a healthy environment and good stewardship.¹

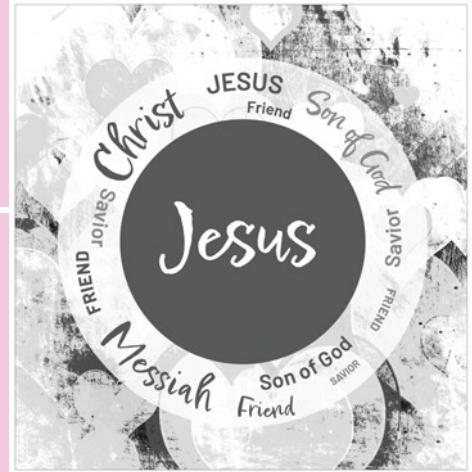
This month we celebrate World Thank Offering where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Genesis Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:3 *Jacob Wrestling With God:* Genesis 34:22-32
Peter Receives A New Name After Confession Of Faith: Matthew 16:13-20
Jesus' Transfiguration: Matthew 17:2 *Faith Like A Mustard Seed:* Luke 17:5-6
Be Transformed By The Renewing Of Your Mind: Romans 12:2

What are the turning points in these passages? What stands out as life-giving to us? What do we leave behind from our old selves, what remains? What do we accept and nurture, what do we let go of? What different types of transformations do we see in the passages and how do they relate to our lives and the transformations needed in today's world?

*All information taken directly from Program Resource booklet page 32, 33, 38



Three Pledges



4-H members pledge themselves to help others.



Church members pledge their time and money to support the work of the church.



United Women in Faith pledge to bake cookies for the December 3 cookie walk. See the pledge form below.

Circle Planning

It's time for Circles to start thinking about lessons and emphasis on our giving for the work of the national ministries of the UWF. November is the traditional time when Circles have a lesson and make a pledge to further the work of:

**Prayer and Self-Denial
Pledge to Mission
World Thank Offering**

A Cookie is a Cookie and a Pledge is a pledge.

How about Making a Cookie Pledge?

Please use the form below to let us know how many cookies you are able to contribute to the Cookie Walk.

ROL UWF COOKIE WALK PLEDGE DECEMBER, 2022

NAME _____ PH. # _____

- I will make 6 Dozen or more Christmas cookies, bars or candy.
- I will contribute money instead of baking cookies.
- I will contribute specialty items to be sold separately. Please let Pat Sands know what they are so we will have room and prices you feel we should charge for them.

Please bring cookies, candy, bars or specialty items to be sold on Friday, December 2nd between 9am and 2pm. This form may be placed in the box marked "Cookie Walk" located in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please call 608-921-6755.

Thank you for your continued support of UWF fundraisers.

Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

God Bless You!!!



A merry heart does good, like medicine....Proverbs 17:22



The Deal

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it."

After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know, Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."

To which his father replied...."Yes, and they WALKED everywhere they went!"

Circle Dates

December 21 Martha Circle
December 21 Mary Circle Lunch TBD
January 18 Martha Circle 9:30 am
Mary Circle no meeting

Martha Circle plans to meet **December 21**, Wednesday, at 9:30 am in Beloit Campus Fellowship Hall. Program will be social, sharing and a relaxing moment before the scurry of Christmas.

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 608-299-9738

Mary Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
For details contact: Jacque Patch 608-362-7729

-Carol Connors, Communications Coordinator

Bookkeeper Position Open

We are now accepting applications for our bookkeeper position. This 15-hour position involves working with accounts receivable, accounts payable, running reports, among other duties. The job description and application will be available soon on our website.



Thank You to those who helped take down the table and chairs in Fellowship Hall to prepare for the Polling Day, and Thank You to those who came in and helped set up the table and chairs on Wednesday so we could resume our programming schedule.

Tom Alverson



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to honor a loved one and help decorate our churches, please fill out the form below. Please turn in the form, accompanied by a check for \$14.00 to the church office by **December 4, 2022**. Please make a note designating "for poinsettias" on your check.

I would like to furnish a poinsettia for the: *(circle one)*

Beloit Campus

Clinton Campus

In **Honor** of: _____

In **Memory** of: _____

Donated by: _____

Payment must accompany order form.
Make check payable to The River of Life UMC

CELEBRATING BONNIE'S RETIREMENT





Photos courtesy of Ellen Butchart, Pastor Brenda, Michael Moore

TRUNK OR TREAT AT TUTORING



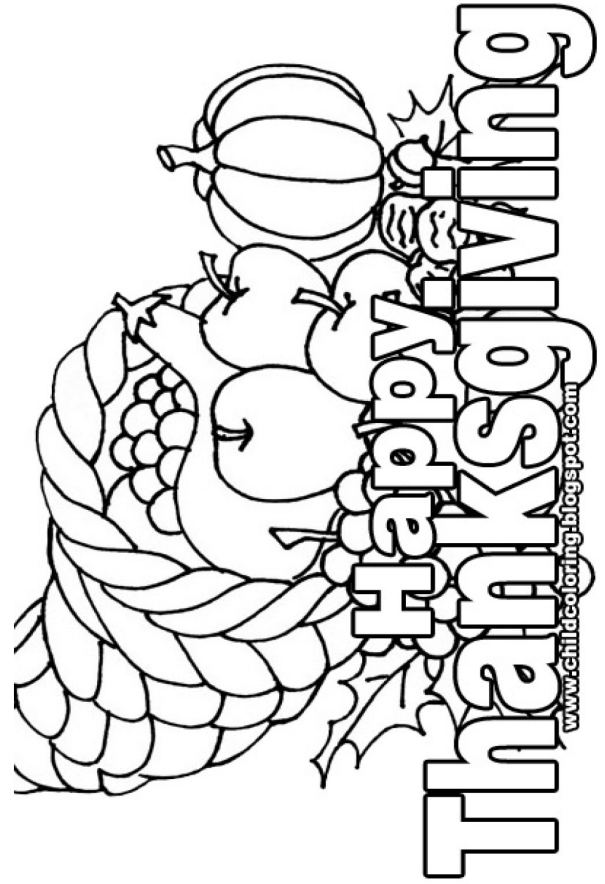


Photos courtesy of Karen Parssinen

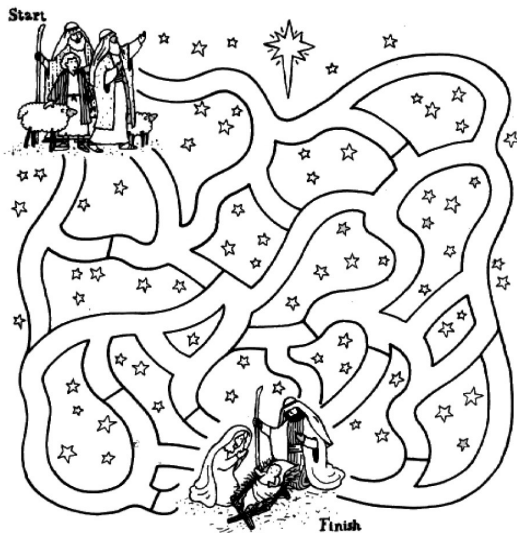
What are you thankful for?

Can you think of something for each letter of the word Thankful?

T _____
 H _____
 A _____
 N _____
 K _____
 F _____
 U _____
 L _____



Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



Merry Christmas



A B C D E G H I J L
 ▼ ♥ ♣ ☆ ● ★ ◆ ○ ✱ ☆
 N O P R S T V W Y
 ■ ✱ ♣ ○ ▲ † ◆ □ ✱

I bring you _____
 of great _____ that will be for

_____ Today in the
 town of David a _____ has
 been _____ to you; he is
 _____ the _____ ...

EVENTS

Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship
10:00 am Clinton Worship

Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Book Study (Zoom)
4:00 pm Tutoring (FH)
5:30 pm WATR Dinner
6:30 pm Adult Book Study (FH)

Thursday

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday

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

Issue deadline:

January 6th
The next newsletter
will be available on
January 15th

CALENDAR

(also posted on the Web & Facebook)

- Nov 21 6:30 pm Stewardship (Zoom)
- Nov 22 6:30 pm Ad Council (FH)
- Nov 23 Office Holiday
- Nov 23 Have a blessed Thanksgiving
- Nov 28 5:30 pm Trustees (FH)
- Nov 29 6:00 pm CHARGE CONFERENCE
- Nov 30 1:00 pm Knit/Crochet With A Mission (Office)
- Dec 3 9:00 am UWF Cookie Walk (FH)
- Dec 4 Deadline to order Poinsettias
- Dec 6 6:00 pm Youth Ministry Team (Zoom)
- Dec 10 8:30 am Clinton Community Breakfast
3:00 pm Christmas Cantata @ 1st Congregational, 801 Bushnell
- Dec 11 10:00 am Christmas Cantata @ 1st Congregational, 801 Bushnell
- Dec 19 6:30 pm Stewardship (FH)
- Dec 20 6:30 pm Finance (FH)
- Dec 21 9:30 am Martha Circle (FH)
Mary Circle Lunch TBD
- Dec 24 5:00 pm Beloit Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
7:00 pm Clinton Christmas Eve Worship Service
9:00 pm Beloit Christmas Eve Worship Service
- Dec 25 9:30 am Beloit Christmas Day Worship Service
10:00 am Clinton Christmas Day Worship Service

