

The Current of The River of Life

May 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #05

HELLO
May



River of Life United Methodist Church

Loving People Into Taking Their Next Step With Jesus

Worship Location - 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

Office Location - 2375 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI 53511

STAFF

Brenda Whitford

608-482-0021

Kelly Lutzow

608-362-8866

Lois Ulvin

David Newman

Derek Bergh

Keith Putney

608-774-3162

Pastor

pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com

Office Manager

Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com

Director of Music

Pianist

IT-Production Manager

Teaching Pastor

LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

Ad Council Chairperson

Shellie Olson

Annual Conference Lay Members

Bob Scheets & Carol Scheets

Armed Intruder Chairperson

Barb Kuska

Board of Trustees Chairperson

Kathy Rodgers

Decorating Committee Chairperson

Tracy Maxwell

Finance Chairperson

Jesse Calkins

Hospitality Chairperson

Diane Gemignani

Lay Leader

Pat Sands

Memorials and Wills Chairperson

Marietta Axmear

Missions Committee Co-Chairpersons

Diane Gemignani & Ellen Butchart

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson

Kelly Clark

Stewardship Team Chairperson

Pastor Brenda

Tech Team Chairperson

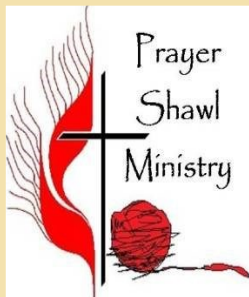
Derek Bergh

Youth Ministry Team Chairperson

Karen Parssinen

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

The Beloit Service is on the website, on Facebook, and also on our YouTube channel.



Prayer
Shawl
Ministry

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

From the Pastor's Desk...



The birds! Oh, the birds! How I am enjoying the birds! Earlier this spring, my husband Dan decided that we needed to give our backyard birds a better (read more expensive) bird food in the birdfeeder. Then he decided that in addition to the bird feeder, he needed to keep some bird food scattered on the patio. This brings in not only a plethora of birds, including a wild turkey twice, but it also brings in several ground

squirrels and a tree squirrel, even though we've never seen a tree squirrel in our neighborhood before. Dan is enjoying identifying the various birds that come by. I am enjoying their singing!

To be honest, I don't know the various songs the various birds sing. But when they sing them together, they make beautiful music together! It is glorious! It brings me great joy to just sit and listen as their songs lift up to heaven. I don't like how much money Dan is spending on bird food, but I do enjoy the bird songs it brings.

A number of the Psalms ascribe praise to creation. In Psalm 148, the psalmist instructs everyone and everything to praise God, from the sun, moon and stars, to the ocean depths, to all plants and animals and people. Everything was created to give praise to God. My backyard birds sure do a beautiful job of it!

Do you take some time each day to sing praise to God? No, you don't actually have to sing - it can be metaphorical singing. Does your life exude the joy of God? Does the song of your life bring joy to others?

I encourage you to seek out those things in life that bring you joy. I encourage you to regularly use those joys to praise God. May peace and joy and praise be what undergirds your life!

I'll see you in church, where we share our joy and praise God together,

Love, Pastor Brenda

Confirmation Sunday is May 19th

Be sure to be in worship on Sunday, May 19, at 9:30am, as we will be celebrating with our first Confirmation Class in five years! Evan Peters, Kaitlyn Peters and Dalton Polzin are young, but they have worked hard learning about the Bible, theology, and United Methodist history. They have had to memorize several things, and they have learned how to think about their faiths. They all plan to continue in ministry in the church. They even said they didn't want to be confirmed if it meant they couldn't go to Sunday School anymore! Be sure to let them know how proud of them you are!



Evan Peters, Kaitlyn Peters and Dalton Polzin serving communion with Sarah Parsons.

Evan, Kaitlyn and Dalton will all be going to church camp this summer. They will each be receiving a camp scholarship on the 19th in honor of their Confirmation. Camp is expensive, so if you would like to make their scholarships larger, please submit monies in the offering plate or office by May 12th.

We will be celebrating Holy Communion in worship on May 12th, as Pastor Brenda and Pastor Keith are both away from the church on May 5th.



Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary

Would you like to provide flowers for worship?

You may bring in flowers for no reason, or there can be a sentence in the bulletin that states the special occasion for which the flowers are being provided.

Look for the flower sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power. Break through our complacency, bringing miracles of new hopes, new dreams, and new possibilities for our church and in our own lives. Empower us with boldness to follow where you lead us, beyond all that we could ask or imagine.

**DYNAMITE
PRAYER**



Circle Calendar

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 will meet May 15 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Mary Circle will meet May 15th at 1:00 pm at Kathy Dearth's home.



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

May 29th at 1:00 in the Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters



People we are praying for



- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| † Ace | † Kerri |
| † Amber | † Kyleigh |
| † Austin | † Linda |
| † Chuck | † Marge |
| † Daniel & Max | † Matt |
| † Doug | † Rose |
| † Ellen | † Steve |
| † Jim | |

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

† Fred Foster



Betty Hannum says hi!

Betty is living at the Suites, across the street from Autumn Lakes. She is very happy. Betty says the people take good care of her, and she enjoys their activities. Betty doesn't use her phone much, but she enjoys cards and she enjoyed my visit. She hasn't changed a bit! She told me to tell everyone hi for her.

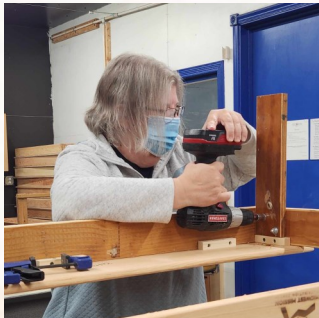
Diane Gemignani

A purple aluminum can with a silver pull tab at the top. The can is filled with white text.

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!

MMDC Mission Trip

We had another successful mission trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center despite seeing every type of winter weather on the drive down. We had awesome drivers! In two days, we made a student desk, sanded and polyurethaned many desk parts, packed layette kits, and packed cloths for cleaning buckets. We got a lesson on using a sleeping mat loom, and we brought one back to our church!



STEWARDSHIP SECOND

In his book *Creating Generous Congregations*, David Heetland tells a story about an 8-year-old girl who often gave more than a tithe from her nickel and dime allowance. She once gave her grandmother 38 cents in small coins "for missions." Her grandmother then asked her, "Do you want this to go for homeless people, hospitals in Africa, or buying fish to stock ponds to feed the hungry?"

Her granddaughter replied, "Just a minute," and returned shortly with 29 cents more, making a total of 67 cents to be divided three ways. She found each mission so important that her initial gift was instantly almost doubled so she could support all three.



Too often, we worry that when we ask someone to support a ministry with either their time or their money, the request will be taken as pushy (at best) or offensive (at worst). And there are certainly people who would take it that way.

On the other hand, I believe that not inviting people to support a ministry I'm excited about excludes them from being a part of something that may be transformational for them, and the people touched by the ministry.



Office Angels

Are you interested in joining the "Office Angels"?

This new team will help in the office occasionally with folding, stuffing, stamping, and sealing envelopes.

Sound like your area of expertise?

Please contact Kelly Lutzow to get added to the list!

She will contact you with any upcoming projects that she may need a helping hand with! Thank you in advance!

Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com

608.362.8866

Thank you in advance!

Sleeping Mats



Our sleeping mat project is off to a great start!
So far, at least 40 people (ages 5 thru about 90) have worked on the mat.
We are close to completing our first one!

**The next scheduled Loom Lesson will be
Friday, May 10, at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall.
Everyone is welcome! Just show up.**

If anyone else would like to have a lesson,
gather a few people together and contact
Sarah Parsons (608-921-5953 or Sarahparsons@chater.net)
or Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com)

Some people wanted to work at home on cutting bags to make the loops.
Help yourself to a bag in the coatroom. The loops can be brought to the purple
bin in the storage room. If you are also interested in doing this part, anyone who
has cut lops before can show you how!

Thank you! We appreciate everyone's enthusiasm!



1st Brigade Band Coming June 23



Sunday during worship: the Band will lead worship, playing civil war era instruments and focusing on the history of hymns. It should be very interesting and meaningful worship.

Sunday Afternoon: There will be a concert on the church grounds at 2:00 pm. We will be planning a yard party!

It is time to begin planning. We need

to provide lunch for the band. Do we want to offer food for sale to the public, or to give away, or to raise money for a local mission? What kinds of games should we have for the kids? How will we advertise? (How will we pay for it?) What creative ideas can we come up with to increase attendance, connect with the neighborhood and community, and love people into taking their next, if not first, step with Jesus? If you would like to help in the planning, please let Pastor Brenda know soon.

The 1st Brigade Band, directed by choir member Jon Condon, MAKES HISTORY LIVE by presenting period brass band music, performed on antique instruments. Attired in uniforms and gowns, the Band's musicians, color guard, and costumed ladies take you back to the 1860's; to that turbulent era known as the Civil War. A nostalgic portrayal of the atmosphere of days gone by is generated by a unique form of showmanship that blends the sights and sounds of the period with historical anecdotes.

Civil War Word Search Worksheet

Civil
Union
Rights
Battles
Nurses
Slaves
Fight
America
Lincoln
Vicksburg
Yankee
Atlanta



Sherman
Dred Scott
Richmond
Gold Rush
Cotton
Assassination
White
Antietam





Kellyse Lutzow will be having her 6th annual Brat Sale fundraiser!

\$15/meal includes brat, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, and a drink.

January 2024 Kellyse was crowned Miss New Berlin's Teen and will be competing at Miss Wisconsin's Teen in June!

Find her Facebook page -
Kellyse Lutzow - Public

Instagram - **missnewberlinsteenwi & my_pageant_journey**

We accept cash the day off and electronic payments listed below

Paypal: lutzow.kelly@yahoo.com

Cashapp: \$Kellz28600

Venmo: @Kellz2860



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.

MAY LOOSE COINS Conference Ingathering

Our Loose Coin offering for May will go to the **Conference Ingathering**, which again this year is a collection for **Midwest Mission**. The Ingathering is a mission collection sponsored by the Annual Conference every year. Each local church is asked to collect cash and donations during the month of May and bring them to Annual Conference in early June.

The donations we will be collecting, in addition to cash, for **Midwest Mission** are toiletries items for the **Personal Dignity Kits** that they send out. The items are listed below and will also be listed in the Sunday bulletins.

The congregation is invited to purchase either all the items for a complete kit, **or** multiples of one or more kit items (a bundle of hand towels, several bars of soap, etc.), and/or to donate funds to help support the work of **Midwest Mission**.

Personal Dignity Kit items may be placed in the collection bin in the coat room during the month of May. Checks or cash marked for **Conference Ingathering** may be placed in an envelope in the offering plate, along with your loose coins. Thank you for supporting this vital mission!

(All items must be new. Place items inside the 1-gallon bag if doing complete kit.)



MIDWEST  **MISSION**
disaster relief • education health • micro business
midwestmission.org

PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT SHOPPING LIST

- 1 hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 bar soap - 3-4 oz.
- 1 shampoo -12-19 oz.
- 1 deodorant - 2-3 oz.
(stick, roll-on, or pump)
- 1 lotion - 8-10 oz.
- 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag



-- Ellen Butchart

WATR

Wednesdays at the River

- † **Tutoring** is ending May 15! It is not too late to help though! We will still be meeting from **4:00-5:30pm**. If you would love to be considered to impact a student as a tutor, contact Karen Parssinen.
- † **Dinner** is served every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. A donation of \$5 is encouraged but not necessary.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study meets from 10:30-11:30 am via Zoom. **Contact Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:15 pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall.
Contact Pastor Brenda if you would like to participate.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Saturday Morning Bible study meets on Zoom at 7:30 am. Bob Parssinen leads the group using videos from *The Bible Project*.

WATR

Wednesdays at the River Dinner Menu

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
| May 1 | Breakfast for Dinner |
| May 8 | Lasagna |
| May 15 | Pizza & Ice Cream Party!
Last day of Tutoring! |



Join Kellyse Lutzow,
Miss New Berlin's Teen 2024
(Miss Beloit's Teen 2022)

at **Art Journal Club!**

May 19, 2024
River of Life UMC
2345 Prairie Ave

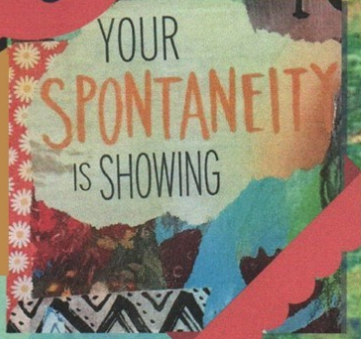
Art Journaling 101

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit,

Ages 12 & Under
2:00—3:00 pm

Ages 13 & Up
3:00—5:00 pm

Art journals combine images and words to express a thought, feeling, or idea. People keep art journals to play and experiment with art techniques; to process thoughts and feelings; to document their lives; or as part of a creative practice. In this 6 week class, we will explore various techniques for adding backgrounds, colors, images, layers, texture, collage, and text onto our pages. We will end the class with a sketchbook full of ideas and a completed, hand-bound bound visual journal.



Do you ever find yourself doodling?

Want to put your doodles to use to help your mental health?

Come join us at Art Journal Club and learn how doodling can help you and your mental health!

You don't have to be a great artist, you just have to be willing to create art!

FREE to join and
FREE JOURNAL!

Please RSVP so we can be sure to bring enough supplies.

ArtJournalClubBeloit@yahoo.com or Text 608.898.9114

FREE to join!

If you have art supplies you would like to bring, please do! We will provide everyone with a free art journal and colored pencils.



May Calendar

May 6	5:30 PM	Bell Choir Starts
May 7	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
May 10	10:00 AM	Loom Lessons - FH
May 11	10:00 - 2:00	Kellyse's Annual Brat Sale- Circle Drive
May 15	11:00 AM	Martha Circle - Fellowship Hall
May 15	1:00 PM	Mary Circle - Kathy Dearth's Hosting
May 19	9:30 AM	Confirmation Sunday!
May 19	2:00-5:00	Art Journal Club With Kellyse!
May 21	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
May 28	6:30 PM	Ad Council Meeting
May 29	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
June 4	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
June 11	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting (May & June combined)

**Pastor Brenda will be on vacation April 29-May 5.
Please contact the office if you have any pastoral emergency.**

Sunday

9:30 am Beloit Worship
11:00 am "The Chosen" Movie Series
w/ Bob Parssinen
11:00 am Confirmation

Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)
5:30 pm Bell Choir

Tuesday

9:00 am Exercise Group
10:00 am Men's Coffee Hour (FH)
1:00 pm Staff Meeting (O)

Wednesday

10:30 am Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
3:00 pm Tutoring
(1:30 1st & 3rd Wed)
6:15 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:

May 27

The next newsletter
will be available on

June 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1

Shelby Ward
Dennis Boschma
Liam Woody
Beth Strother

May 2

Alan Wilson

May 4

Kathy Smith
Jacob Christensen

May 5

Linda Mathews

May 7

Laverne Hayes
Fran Patch

May 8

Mindy White

May 9

David Carlson

May 13

Diane Mitchell

May 19

Julie Day

May 23

Steve Austin

May 24

Jaquie Patch

May 25

Diane Kittelson

May 26

Eva Hoff

May 29

Tony Bachim
Dale Gemignani
Corinne Jersild

May 30

Claire Parsons
Charlotte Jacobson
Kennedy Maxwell

June 1

Sandra Long
Gary Bolar
Carol Martin
Nancy Konopa

June 3

Maguire Maxwell

June 5

Pat Sands
Julie Christensen

June 6

Ryley Woody

June 9

Riley Smith

June 11

Casey Collins

June 12

Roger Sands

June 13

Bob Scheets

June 17

Connie Carlson
Dallas Jacobson

June 19

Melanie Gray
Carson Bishop

June 24

Mason Bishop

June 25

Wanda Haas

June 28

Patricia Lawrence

June 29

Maci Gamble
Keegan Cawkins

June 30

Kathy Dearth

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

May 1

Doug & Tina Henthorn

May 26

Tom & Joan Michels

May 31

Robert & Patti Novy

June 6

Stephen & Mary Wadle

June 8

Dave & Peggy Buckler

June 9

Bob & Karen Parssinen

June 10

Ray & Julie Hartje

June 12

Jesse & Mindy White

June 22

Mark & Donna Hammett
Bill & Judy Pollard