

# The Current of The River of Life

June 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #06



**GRAND**  
**1ST**  
**CONCERT**

**1ST**  
**BRIGADE**  
**BAND**

AUTHENTIC MUSICAL  
ARRANGEMENTS  
PLAYED ON ORIGINAL  
INSTRUMENTS....  
HISTORICAL ANECDOTES...  
SUPERB SHOWMANSHIP!

June 23, 2024

At The River of Life United Methodist Church  
9:30 am - Sunday Morning Service led by 1st Brigade Band  
2:00 pm - Presentation & Concert by 1st Brigade Band  
2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI  
Rolumcwi.com  
www.1stbrigadeband.org

# 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

<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 Berg</b>	<b>IT-Production Manager</b>
<b>Keith Putney</b> 608-774-3162	<b>Teaching Pastor</b>

## LAY LEADERSHIP 2024

**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

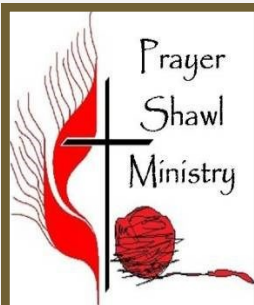
**Stewardship Team Chairperson**  
Pastor Brenda

**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.



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 average person loses between 50 and 100 strands of hair every day. When your hair is longer, you notice that hair loss more than when your hair is shorter. Because my hair is longer, I occasionally notice something interesting. Recently I noticed a hair that was about 6 inches of gray, with the rest brown.

For pastors, everything can become a sermon illustration, so I thought about that two-toned hair and how it can illustrate our faith.

I thought about the follicle that hair came from. When that hair had grown to about 10 inches, the melanin was used up (or whatever happens to the melanin). But the follicle didn't stop growing hair. It just stopped having color. The situation for that hair follicle changed, but it kept doing its job.

Throughout our lives we encounter situations that change everything - we age and can't do the same things we did when we were younger. We or someone we love becomes chronically ill. We retire or lose a job. We lose a friend, or we find ourselves in an estranged relationship, or we lose a loved one. Perhaps a bad decision was made, or we are misunderstood. Sometimes life can feel overwhelming.

In those difficult times, God continues to be with us. How we are able to move forward and what we are able to do may be different, but with God's help we are able to continue with God's purposes for our lives. We do this as long as we live.

Whatever you are going through right now, know that God is with you. Know that you have a church family walking alongside you. Life may not be the same "color," but it can be every bit as much beautiful -perhaps even more so, as you grow in new ways.

I'll see you in church, where we walk with God and each other as we follow God's calling on our lives,

Love, Pastor Brenda

# 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.

It's not too late to help with planning. Do you have a creative idea about how to use this event to connect with the neighborhood? How can we increase attendance and love people into taking their next, if not first, step with Jesus? If you would like to help, please let Pastor Brenda know soon.

In 1864 eighteen men from the Brodhead Brass Band enlisted in the Union Army as the band of the 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 15th Army Corps. They left their rural homes to participate, under the command of General William T. Sherman, in the campaigns of Northern Georgia and the Carolinas. The "Tradition of Excellence" that these men established, more than 130 years ago lives on today with the members of the 1st Brigade Band.

The band **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.

More than eighty volunteers, men and women, make up the 1st Brigade Band. Widely varied in age and occupation, they come from many communities, bringing with them a common interest in their musical heritage. During a typical year, they will meet their audience more than forty times, in concerts, parades, military balls, and worship services, presenting their educational and entertaining programs. While the abundant written and pictorial materials remain, the mellow sounds of the brass bands of the 1860's were lost until the 1st Brigade Band, starting in 1964, began to locate and restore the dented and broken instruments and to retrieve and reconstruct the yellowed and torn music. Through their work you can now hear what Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Generals Lee and Grant, and their contemporaries heard.

1st Brigade Band has a collection of 240 instruments, all made before 1865, and their collection of sheet music of the civil war era, numbering 690 titles.

We hope you will come and enjoy this wonderful opportunity!

*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 June 19 at 11:30 at Jersey's.

**Mary Circle** will meet June 19th at 11:30 am at Bessie's Restaurant in the airport terminal.



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

**June 26 at 1:00 in the Office Workroom**

**All knitters & crocheters**



## People we are praying for



† Ace	† Doug	† Kerri
† Ann	† Ellen	† Linda
† Austin	† Eric	† Marlene S
† Axel	† Jim	† Matt
† Bob	† John	† Rose
† Chuck	† Julie	

### 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.**

This group is studying the book *Scripture and the Wesleyan Way*.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:00 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*.

**Contact Bob or Pastor Brenda for the Zoom link.**



# Sleeping Mats

We have completed our first sleeping mat with many, many people participating by bringing in bags, cutting bags, and weaving!

We have decided on a schedule for working on the sleeping mats. We will meet at 9:30 on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

The loom will (generally) be left in the corner so you can add a few rows while you are at church on Sundays or any time you are at church.

**Hope to see you at 9:30 on June 7th, 12th, 21st or 26th!!**

**Diane Gemignani  
Sarah Parsons**

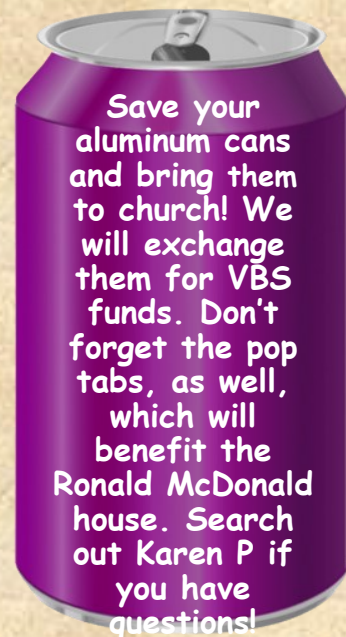
## *Fresh Flowers for the Sanctuary*



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.**



	7		3			5		6
5	1		6	7	2	4	3	8
		4	5	9	8	7		
9	2		8	5		3	7	4
		8	4	3	1	6		
		6	9	2	7	1		
2	4		7		9	8	5	1
6	9	7		8	5		4	3
1	8	5	2	4	3	9	6	7



### ***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!**



## LOOSE COINS

Our **June** Loose Coins offering will go to **Rock Valley Community Programs, Inc. (RVCP)**, a non-profit agency serving the Rock County area that encompasses several different residential and outpatient programs.

RVCP programs assist homeless veterans, people transitioning from the correctional system, and clients dealing with addiction or mental health issues. The common denominator in all the programs is a recognition that clients' life complications develop out of complex paths. Treatment involves compassionate, inter-disciplinary approaches aimed at restoring them to fully human beings, able to transition into independent living.

Here are some of the RVCP programs our donations will support:

- Housing 4 Our Vets -- a residential program housing 96 male veterans referred and approved by the Veterans Administration. Veterans are allowed to stay for up to 24 months as they receive addiction and mental health treatment and supportive services to prepare them for independent living and employment.
- Residential Re-entry Program -- a 100-bed residential program assisting adult male and female residents transitioning from prison back into the community. They provide support for educational advancement, obtaining stable housing, and medical/treatment services.
- Compass Behavioral Health Clinic -- a state-certified outpatient clinic within RVCP for substance use disorder and mental health treatment. Treating adults, adolescents, and children, the clinic offers individual and group therapy, psychiatric services, and comprehensive behavioral health treatment.

The services of Rock Valley Community Programs are in many cases a lifeline to those who were at the end of their rope, people who were among "the least of these." The agency is committed to transforming lives, through compassion and professional care. Let's give generously and support this vital mission!

-- Ellen Butchart



Hello Everyone,

Not all of you know me, but some of you do. On June 30th I am retiring from the itinerancy in the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Over my career, I have served all of your churches; Lynnewood in CalNevada during my 8 seminary years, Whitewater, Beloit, and Stoughton before I was appointed to Hudson in 2016. All of my local churches (there was some extension ministry work in there too) threw me wonderful farewell parties. Lynnewood, I still wear the robe you gave when I was first ordained. Whitewater, I am wearing out and therefore mending my quilt from Prayers and Squares but the afghan from Richmond looks the same even after using it regularly over the years. Beloit, I spent my "walking purse" on a sofa, not very romantic but I do think of you often whenever I am in my living room and both the WW quilt and Richmond afghan look great with it! Stoughton, I use the stole you gave me when I was ordained elder while serving you regularly in worship.

All that said, given the lovely farewell parties each church gave me, the distance I am from all of you now, and the size of my current church, community, and family guest list, Regina who is coordinating my retirement party for June 30th thought it would be nice to let your churches know about my retirement and give you an address if anyone would like to send a retirement card. Regina will let you know if the party plans include time for a video greeting as well.

Grace and peace,

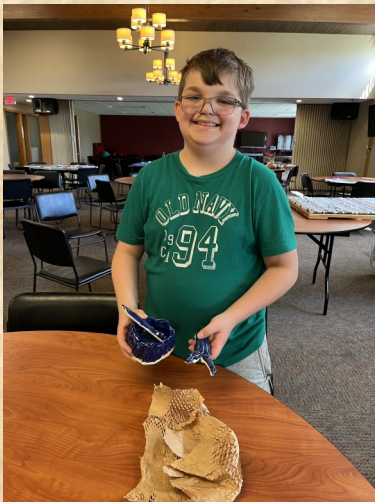
Dawn Jeffers Ramstad


**Card Shower for Pastor Dawn  
c/o Hudson United Methodist Church  
1401 Laurel Ave  
Hudson, WI 54016**



# THANK YOU!

Thank you so much, ROL Family, for making our pottery adventure possible! Back in March, the tutoring group made treats to sell at our bake sale after Sunday service. You bought every last one, raising more than \$400 so that Tom, from 3 Ravens Pottery, could come make pottery with our kids. We all make a great Team!





**Art Journal Club**  
 with Kellyse Lutzow,  
**Miss New Berlin's Teen 2024**  
 (Miss Beloit's Teen 2022)  
**JUNE 15, 2024**

**FREE to join!**  
**FREE Journal!!**

**Teens & Adults 10:00-12:00 12 & Under 12:30-1:30**  
**River of Life UMC, 2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI**  
**ArtJournalClubBeloit@yahoo.com OR Text 608.898.9114**

**👁️👁️ A Look Ahead: Blest Art**

On Saturday and Sunday July 27 & 28, a representative from Blest Art will be with us to share the struggles of the Christians living in the midst of the Israel-Hamas war. He will have for sale nativity sets, crosses and ornaments carved out of olive wood as well as jewelry made by people living near Bethlehem.

For centuries, Christians in the Holy Land have earned their living by carving religious art from olive wood they have pruned from trees in their family olive groves. Blest Art is dedicated to supporting these master artists and the Christian community in Palestine.



**BUST JESUS CHRIST**  
 (Special Edition)

Bust Jesus Christ - Special Edition is hand-carved from the finest Olive Wood by the Christian families in the Holyland.

These talented artisans have a long tradition of creating painted wooden statues and figurines that convey their strong faith and values.

Our collectible Bust Jesus Christ - Special Edition pays tribute to this tradition, showcasing this artist's unique vision, and providing a unique work of religious art that is sure to impress any family member or friend.

*"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*  
 Matthew 27:46





Be prepared to dive into friendship with God with The River of Life Church for a Scuba Vacation Bible School Experience on

**August 5th, 6th, & 7th!!**

**FREE** dinner at 5:30 pm with classes to follow until 8:00 pm for children ages Preschool (must be potty trained) - 6th Grade (grade completed in school).

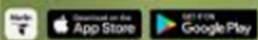
Registration/check in starts at 5:15 each night and dinner is served at 5:30.

Pre-Register Here:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BeloitEveningLions/RiverOfLife2024VBSRegistration>

**Who's singing?**

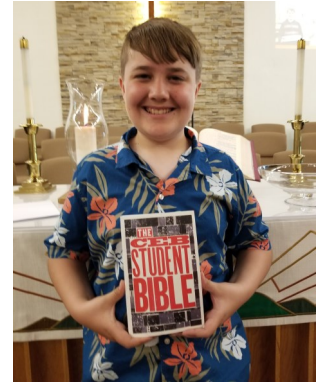
Merlin Bird ID can tell you



Here's something fun - Last month I wrote an article about joy in the Current newsletter. I shared how my husband had decided he needed to bring more birds into our yard, and I said that I didn't know their songs. Several people recommended to me the free Merlin Bird ID app. It is wonderful! It works with your phone's recording feature to identify the birds that it can "hear." I am enjoying it, so I wanted to pass it along! ~Pastor Brenda

# Confirmation

On Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> Evan Peters, Kaitlyn Peters and Dalton Polzin were baptized and confirmed. It was a beautiful service and celebration.



# SUMMER

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

amusementpark  
 sleepingin  
 watermelon  
 parawings  
 waterpark  
 poolparty  
 flipflops  
 sunscreen  
 barbeque  
 dirtbike  
 laughing  
 vacation  
 icecream  
 cookouts  
 umbrella  
 picnics  
 friends  
 fishing  
 surfing  
 hotdogs  
 sandals  
 outside  
 travel  
 museum  
 bikes  
 beach  
 sand  
 pool  
 hot  
 fun



## And there they go...



The 2023-24 Tutoring Year has ended, creating good memories, new friends and increased learning. Basic subjects (math, geography, writing, and reading) were taught with much improvement noted. On days of early dismissal, other enrichment opportunities were provided including learning to play the chimes, reading and writing poetry, acting and making their own pottery which was fired and glazed by a professional potter. There were many games (inside and outside) for physical health and energy management! Most important was the relationship developed between tutor and student. One to one teaching given each child helped with focus and encouragement, enhanced by the tutor's broader knowledge about the subjects.

A top favorite of the students each Wednesday was the "Snack Table." The weekly food and drink items provided were a major part of their tutoring experience. For that, we thank all who provided various items throughout the school year. Your support of this valuable program is greatly appreciated, and made our job a delight.

Sarah Parsons and Kathy Allen (Snack Queens)

Ellen Butchart, Kathy Rodgers, Priscilla Pann, Tish Polzin, Lois Ulvin, Jacque Patch, Tracy Maxwell, Joan Michels, Cindy Peters, Joanne Johnson, Wanda Haas, Becky Grace, Kelly Clark, Sheryl Horvath, Mary Alice Harris, Lora Cawkins, Carol Connors, Karen Parssinen, Marlene Sturdevant and Diane Gemignani and the Hospitality Committee.





## STEWARDSHIP SECOND



I found some interesting statistics that I wanted to share with you this month, from "Relevant Magazine." It's about tithing - giving 10% of your income to God.

Christians are giving at 2.5% per capita, while during the depression they gave at a 3.3% rate. Numbers like that can invoke a lot of guilt, which isn't helpful.

A good question would be, what if every Christian around the world tithed? There would be an additional \$165 billion for churches to use and distribute. Imagine the impact that would have!

\$25 billion could relieve global hunger, starvation and deaths from preventable diseases in five years. \$12 billion could eliminate illiteracy in five years. \$15 billion could solve the world's water and sanitation issues. Over \$100 billion would still be left for additional ministry expansion.

That's worldwide. What could we do for the Kingdom of God locally, if we all tithed?

If you aren't tithing, think about it, and pray about it. I have found it to be a blessing. I think you will too.

## FAVORITES OF SUMMER!



Favorite Bible Stories! Favorite Hymns!

During the last four weekends of summer, we will again be having a "Favorites of Summer" worship series. We will sing your favorite hymns/songs and hear your favorite Bible stories. To prepare for this, each Sunday during June you will "vote" for your favorites by writing them on your

Connect Card. If you are here all 4 Sundays of June, either write the same ones down each week to get more "votes," or write down different ones. The top "vote-getters" will be the ones chosen. The Saturday night service will also focus on their attendees' highest "vote-getters," so you may want to attend more than one service each week in August!

# May Calendar

June 4	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
June 11	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting (May & June combined)
June 15	10:00 AM	Art Journal Club With Kellyse!
June 18	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
June 19	11:00 AM	Martha Circle
June 19	1:00 PM	Mary Circle
June 26	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
July 2	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting
July 9	11:00 AM	Missions Meeting

**Pastor Brenda will be out of the office June 3 - June 10  
Please contact the office if you have any pastoral emergency.**

	<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)
5:30 pm	Bell Choir
	<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>
9:30 am	Sleeping Mats (2nd & 4th Wed)
10:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study (FH)
	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>
9:00 am	Exercise Group
	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
9:30 am	Sleeping Mats (1st & 3rd Fri)
	<b><u>Saturday</u></b>
7:30 am	Bible Study (Zoom)
5:30 pm	Saturday Worship

**Issue deadline:**

**June 24**

The next newsletter  
will be available on

**June 30**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## 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

## July 4

Hanna Jones  
Marlene Sturdevant  
Andrew Wadle

## July 5

Nell Adams  
Marge Johnson

## July 6

Kathy Cornford

## July 7

Shellie Olson

## July 8

Tyler Caple  
Lynn Whalen

## July 11

Joni King

## July 12

Hanna Jones  
Steve Martin

## July 16

Robin Austin  
Vicki Boschma  
Liz Rosenthal  
Zacary Woody

## July 17

Ehron Bishop  
Betty Hannum  
Savanna Henthorn

## July 18

Patty Listenbee

## July 21

Thackery Woody

## July 24

Contessa Collins  
Michael Collins

## July 25

Aubrey Maxwell

## July 26

Emily Hartje  
Reid Parssinen

## July 27

Gretchen Dixon

## July 28

Karen Morris

## July 30

Tim Crawford

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## 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

## July 6

Tevin & Maci Gamble

## July 11

David & Kelly Clark

## July 12

Craig & Diane Merwin

## July 23

Tracy & Brian Maxwell

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