



The Current of The River of Life

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

June 2025

Vol. 42 Issue #06



# 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, Pastor** 608-482-0021

*PastorBrenda@rolumcwi.com*

**Kelly Lutzow, Office Manager** 608-362-8866

*Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com*

**Lois Ulvin, Director of Music**

**David Newman, Pianist**

## LAY LEADERSHIP 2024

**Ad Council Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

**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**

Open

**Hospitality Chairperson**

Diane Gemignani

**Lay Leader**

Pat Sands

**Memorials and Wills Chairperson**

Marietta Axmear

**MCCI Implementation Team**

Pastor Brenda

**Missions Committee Chairperson**

Open

**Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson**

Kelly Clark

**Tech Team Chairperson**

Derek Bergh

**Youth Ministry Team Chairperson**

Karen Parssinen



**Sick or out of town for the weekend?**

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

**Remember to "Like" us on Facebook at**

[www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc](https://www.facebook.com/theriveroflifeumc)

**And on Youtube at**

<https://www.youtube.com/@riveroflifeumcbeloit4853/streams>

**Issue deadline:**

**June 23**

**The next newsletter  
will be available on**

**July 1**



## From the Pastor's Desk



For me, there's something about water.

As I write this I am on vacation in Sister Bay, Door County. I am currently inside, looking out of the window at Sister Bay (the water). There is a flock of geese floating by. An occasional boat goes by on its way to Green Bay (the water). But I mostly just like looking at the water. It's a bluish gray right now, because it's mostly cloudy. Yesterday, when the sky cleared, it was the most brilliant blue. When I am finished writing, I will go down and sit by the water, listening

to the small waves lap against the rocks and shore. I will spend time there reading my Bible and praying. It is precious.

Each January, Dan and I take a vacation to South Florida. The best part of that time is sitting by the ocean. The waves are a powerful reminder of the strength and love of God. I have had a fountain in my back yard for over 20 years. Last year Dan decided to put in a very small pond with a fountain instead. It makes much more water noise, which I love. I regularly sit by it. Best of all, I can hear it as I fall asleep if the window is open.

For me, there is something about water. It is sacred. It is a sight and sound where I experience the holy. I breathe more slowly and more deeply. The burdens of life wash away. For that moment of time, I am content to simply exist as a child of God. For me, there is something about water.

What is it for you? What do you experience that immediately makes you feel closer to God? Is it your flower garden or the tree in your backyard? Is it digging in the dirt, planting and harvesting? Is it walking the golf course or walking in the forest? Is it staring into your fireplace? Is it staring into the starry sky?

If you are thinking that you do not have a "there's something special about" place or activity, spend some time paying attention to the different places and activities of your life. Is God strongly there and you hadn't even noticed?

My prayer for you is that you know the incredible love that God has for you, and that you are living God's beautiful purpose for your life. And that you regularly take quiet time, just you and God, where you experience confluence moments, because that is what this is!

I'll see you in church,

Love, Pastor Brenda





## SPECIAL REQUEST

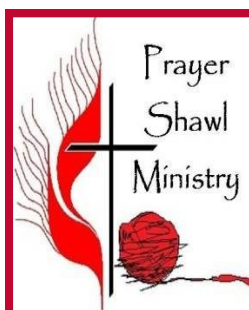
Pentacost is June 8!

Pastor Keith invites you all to wear Red  
on June 8th in celebration of  
Pentacost,  
the birthday of the Christian Church.



We are looking for occasional  
substitutes on Sundays to be in  
church to monitor the service on  
YouTube for Joys and Prayers.

If you are willing to help please contact  
Kathy Rodgers. 608-751-8887. Thank you!



Please contact the  
office if you or a  
friend would like a  
prayer shawl.

We have many shawls  
to share.

## Stewardship Second



You're not just giving  
to a church budget.

You're giving to hope,  
healing, and  
transformation in  
real lives.

**Thank you for that.**

## Summer Favorites

This summer, you will again be asked to  
submit your favorite hymns. The  
highest vote getters will be the ones  
chosen to be sung the last four to six  
weeks of summer. We start fresh every  
year, so make sure to let Pastor Brenda  
know your favorites!

New this year - Our Favorites sermon  
series will be based on your favorite  
hymns! If you would  
like a sermon based  
on your favorite  
hymn, be sure to  
indicate that as well!





**Holy Spirit, release your resurrection power. Break through our doubts and hesitations, 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.**



## **Rice Meals at River of Life!**

I'm so excited!!!

We have the money for the Blessing Bags (Rice bags)!!!  
We are going to do 960 bags.

Bruce Cawkins is planning on going to pick them up July 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to go down with him, please let Lora Cawkins know. Our first day of setup will be July 12<sup>th</sup>, with a second day of July 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have two lines. We will need 8 people a line. So we'll need 16 people for the day. There will be a training video you will need to watch. Time will be from 9:00-12:00 both days, unless we get them all done the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please see the signup sheet that will be passed around during service.

Just think, with this accomplishment the Blessing Bag will feed 5760 people!!!!

Donations are still being accepted to fund a future Rice Meal Event at River of Life!

**Thank you!!**

**Lora Cawkins**



## People we are praying for



† Ace	† Jerry	† Roger
† Ace	† John	† Ron
† Austin	† Kerri	† Rose
† Barb	† Linda	† Shirley
† Charley	† Lyfe	
† Doug	† Matt	
† Doug	† Michelle & Isaac	

## 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.**

## Knit & Crochet With A Mission

June 25 at 1:00

Office Workroom

All knitters & crocheters are invited!

Questions? Call Sandy Ovist at  
608-362-6583



## 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:** 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



## HOBBY CLUB UPDATES!

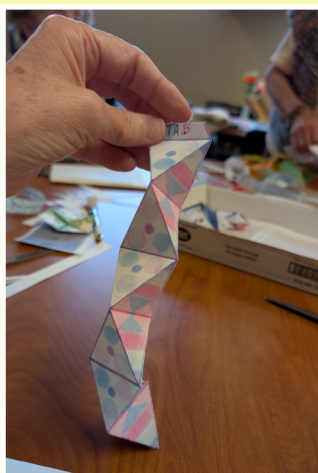
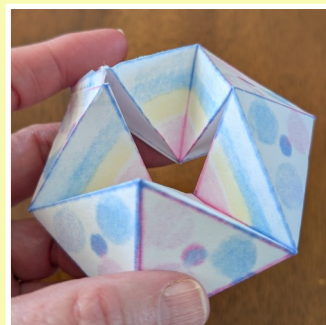
### Hot Wheels Show and Go! Sunday, June 15, 2025, 11:15 am



- . Show: Your collection
- . Go: Speed, distance and stunt competition
- . Free Hot Wheels car to first 15 racers

In May, Carol Connors presented some paper flexing activities! We are so glad to have her back from Arizona! Thank you so much for your time!

Future leaders include Patti Novy, who will teach us a small quilting project, Kelly Lutzow will lead a diamond painting craft, and hopefully YOU will find a hobby to share with us all!

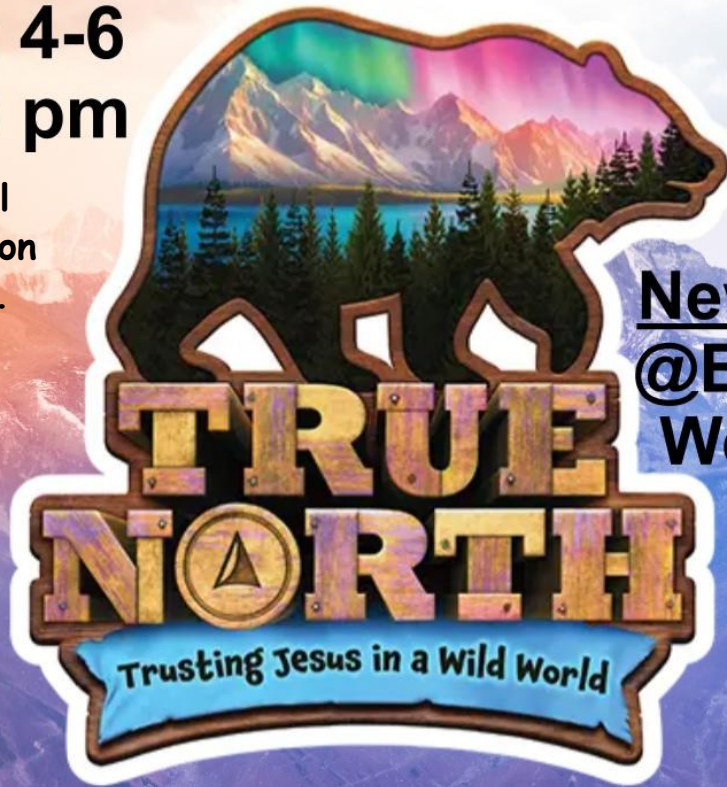


If you have a craft or hobby to share and would be willing to lead, please contact Kelly Lutzow or Pat Sands to get on the schedule. We look forward to seeing you June 15 at 11:15 !



**VBS Aug 4-6  
5:30-8:00 pm**

Sign up link will  
be available soon  
on our website.



**New This Year  
@Big Hill Park  
Welty Center**



### Hospitality Fellowship

Thank you to all the people who helped  
contribute snacks this past May!

Diane Gemignani

Carol Allen

Cindy Ferger

Carol Pozzani



There are lots of opportunities to sign up to bring snacks this summer. The Sign-up clipboard is either at the end of the snack table or on the counter by the recycle bin. When you sign up, it helps to pair up with someone. Or you can sign your name, and soon someone else will sign up to join you. You don't have to completely fill the table with food. Keep it simple. We will gladly eat and enjoy whatever you bring!

Thank you for considering this!





### **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 of Daniel.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:15 pm in person,  
in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall.

***This group is watching and discussing "Jesus And His Jewish Influences"  
by Great Courses.***

### **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.***

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 11:00 am in the Middle School Room. Video clips from "The Chosen" and "The Bible Project" combine with scripture to fuel lively discussions.



I would like to thank everyone who sent cards to me while I was on VetsRoll to Washington DC. They were such a wonderful surprise, and they meant so much to me. I would also like to thank you for the prayers for all of us on the trip to have a safe journey. It was so special to see members of my church family at the farewell send off and at the welcome home celebration.

It was a very meaningful trip especially the Viet Nam Wall. I have several classmates whose names are on the Wall. It was very moving to see and touch their names.

I encourage your support of VetsRoll. If you are interested in learning more about it, you can go to [VetsRoll.org](http://VetsRoll.org).

Thanks again,

Bill Rodgers



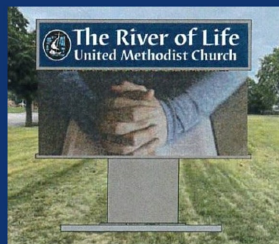


## Chancel Choir Update

After a year of wonderful cantata's, special occasion music, weekly anthems, significant losses, new members and several medical challenges, the choir celebrated with a tasty dinner and fellowship after rehearsal May 22.

The choir donates considerable time and effort to be the musical message of praise and thanksgiving for the congregation and community. What better ending before the summer break than fried chicken, sides, cookies and brownies from Joanne's fabulous recipe! Thank you Pat and Roger Sands for your organization, transportation and preparation to make this wonderful meal happen.

~ Kathy Allen



**Our new  
electronic sign is  
being put on hold  
due to an  
expected change  
in ordinances in  
the City of Beloit.**



## Tutoring 2024-2025: A Year In Photos

THANK YOU ALL for being a part of this amazing adventure! I am so blessed to be a part of a community of friends who continue to say, "Here I am, Lord!" ❤️

~Karen P.



Photo Credit:





Click (slam) and out the door they go, ready for a summer out of a classroom and no tutors to learn from! The 2024-25 tutoring year has ended, and students and tutors alike will do something different with Wednesday afternoons. A critical part of the program are the "after school treats" that the kids look forward to as they begin their studies. We "Snack Queens" offer a sincere thank you for who all who baked and bought to make the treat table a sight for eager and hungry eyes! You are appreciated and help make the tutor year successful. Thank you!

Sarah and Kathy



## 2026 Adult Mission Trip

Our mission trip is scheduled for May next year. We will again offer a long trip and a short trip during the same week.

The people who want to volunteer for the whole week will leave Beloit on Sunday afternoon, **May 3**.

The short trip people will leave Beloit Wednesday morning, **May 6**.

Both groups will return Friday evening, **May 8**.

We have 5 rooms reserved at the Midwest Mission Lodge. Another group will be there in the remaining 3 rooms. The rest of us can stay at a nearby motel.

Signup will begin in September. In the meantime, Mark Your Calendars!

If you have any questions, ask Diane Gemignani or anyone who has gone on the mission trip.



# LASAGNA LOVE



*Feed families. spread kindness. strengthen communities.*

Lasagna Love is a global nonprofit and grassroots movement that aims to positively impact communities by connecting neighbors with neighbors through homemade meal delivery.

You can visit this website to request a free meal made by a local volunteer.

<http://lasagnalove.org>

You can visit the same website to become a volunteer with the organization!

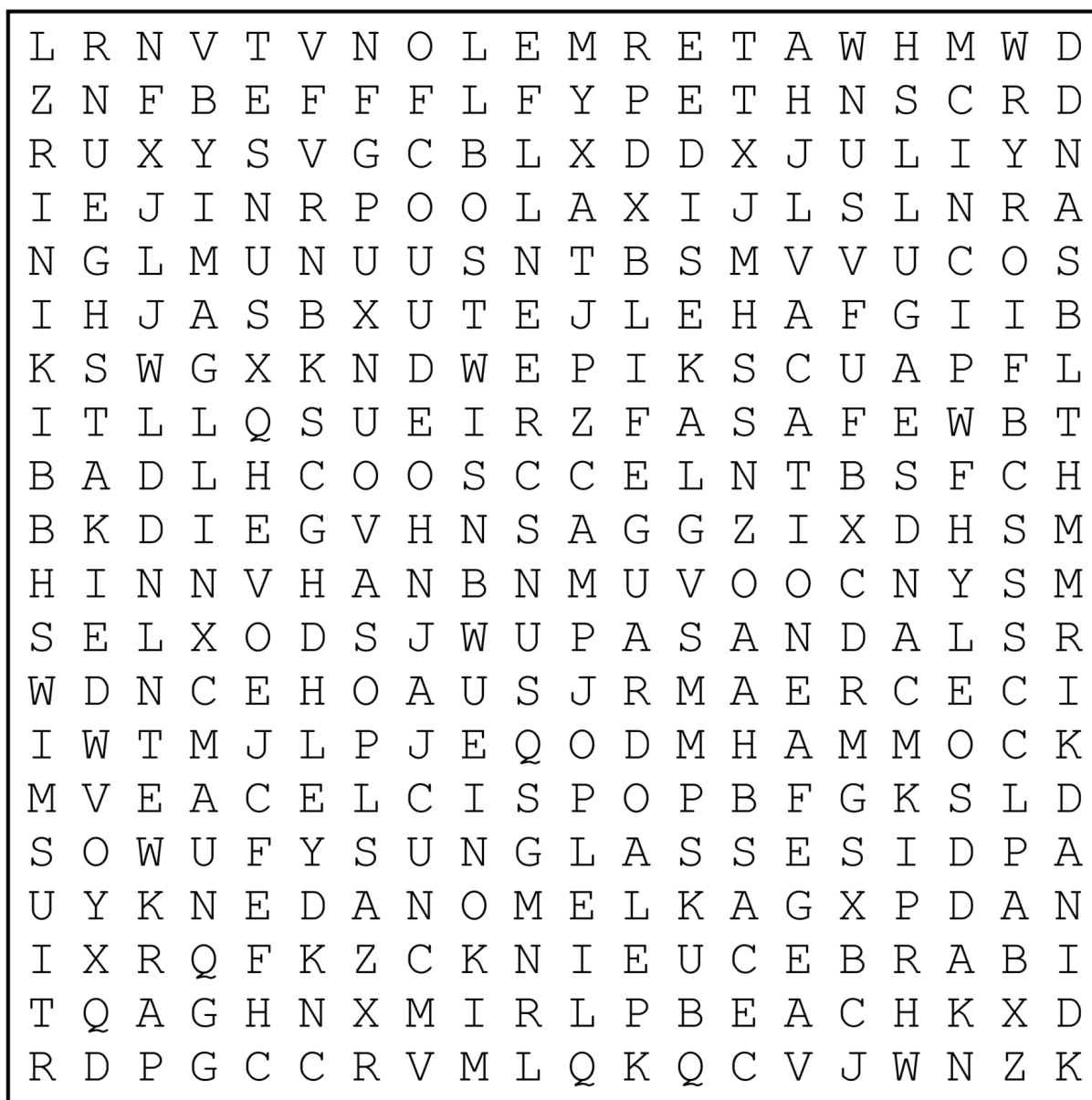
Contact Kelly Lutzow with any questions or reach out to the organization directly.

[Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.org](mailto:Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.org)

608.362.8866



# Summer Time



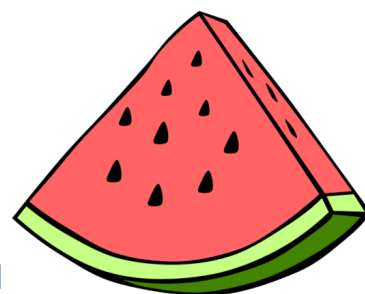
## Word list:

BARBECUE  
BASEBALL  
BEACH  
BIKINI  
CAMP  
HAMMOCK  
ICECREAM

LAKESIDE  
LEMONADE  
LIFEGUARD  
PARK  
PICNIC  
POOL  
POPSICLE

RELAX  
SAND  
SANDALS  
SEAGULLS  
SEASHELLS  
SHADE  
SUN

SUNSET  
SUNGLASSES  
SUNSCREEN  
SUNSHINE  
SWIMSUIT  
VACATION  
WATERMELON





# Sleeping Mat Work Days

Our sleeping mat group will be meeting:

†Friday, June 6  
†Wednesday, June 11  
†Friday, June 20  
†Wednesday, June 25  
†Wednesday, July 2

We meet from 9:30-11:30 but feel free to come late or leave early if you need to. You can be a regular, coming every time you are available, you can come once in awhile, or you can come one time. We will teach you what you need to know.



Other ways you can help with the sleeping mats:

†Prayers for the sleeping mat ministry

†Saving plastic bags. We only need shopping type bags like Wal-Mart, Woodman's, or other store plastic bags. We do not use fruit and veggie bags from the produce department. Please drop the bags off in the bins in the coat room. At this time, we are getting enough bags from our congregation members. Please don't feel the need to bring bags from your friends.

†Prayers for the people who need the mats.



## JUNE LOOSE COINS

Rock Valley Community Programs (RVCP)

Our June Loose Coins offering will go to **Rock Valley Community Programs, Inc. (RVCP)**, a non-profit residential facility located on Riverside Drive between Beloit and Janesville. RVCP's core mission is to provide (1) supportive transitional housing and (2) addiction and mental health treatment programs to its target client groups.

There are three target groups: homeless male veterans, men and women transitioning from the criminal justice system, and people in the general public needing outpatient addiction or mental health treatment.

The common denominator in all the programs is a recognition that clients' life issues develop out of complex paths. Treatment involves compassionate, inter-disciplinary approaches, and the goal is to restore 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 by the Veterans Administration. Veterans are allowed to stay for up to 24 months as they receive addiction and mental health treatment and support 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.
- Compass Behavioral Health Clinic -- a state-certified outpatient clinic for adults, adolescents, and children, treating substance use disorder and mental health.

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

To give to the Loose Coins offering, you can drop your change in the offering plate, and if you can, include a check or bills marked for Loose Coins., click on the Donate button on the church website (<https://www.rolumcwi.com>), or scan the QR code below with the camera on your cell phone. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart





# June Calendar

June 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
June 6	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
June 9	5:30 PM	Trustees
June 11	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
June 12	11:00 AM	Memorial Meeting
June 15	9:30 AM	Special Sunday: Peace With Justice
June 15	11:15 AM	Hobby Club- Hot Wheels Show And Go!
June 20	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
June 24	6:00 PM	Ad Council Meeting
June 25	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
June 25	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
July 1	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
July 2	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day

## Sunday

9:30 am Sunday Worship  
11:00 am "The Chosen" Bible Study

## Monday

12:30 pm Card Club (FH)

## 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)  
3:30 pm Tutoring  
5:30 pm WATR Dinner  
6:15 pm Adult Bible Study (FH)

## Thursday

9:00 am Exercise Group  
4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Friday

—

## Saturday

7:30 am Bible Study (Zoom)



# June Birthdays

## June 1

Carol Martin  
Gary Bolar  
Nancy Konopa  
Sandra Long

## June 3

Maguire Maxwell

## June 4

Carol Pozzari

## June 5

Julie Christensen

Pat Sands

## June 6

Ashley Conniff  
Ryley Woody

## June 9

Riley Smith

## June 11

Casey Collins  
Linda Simpson

## June 12

Roger Sands

## June 13

Bob Scheets

## June 17

Connie Carlson  
Dallas Jacobson

## June 19

Carson Bishop  
Melanie Gray

## June 24

Mason Bishop

## June 25

Wanda Haas

## June 28

Patricia Lawrence

## June 29

Keegan Cawkins  
Maci Gamble

## June 30

Kathy Dearth

## July 1

Shana Listenbee

## July 2

Dick Markley  
Ellen Butchart  
Margaret Hansen  
Wanda Dixon

## July 3

Barbara Sheffield  
Kathy Clark

## July 4

Andrew Wadle  
Hanna Jones  
Marlene Sturdevant

## July 5

Anne Madhuizen  
Marge Johnson  
Nell Adams

## July 6

Kathy Cornford

## July 7

Shellie Olson

## July 8

Lynn Whalen  
Tyler Caple

## July 10

Ellis Conniff

## July 11

Joni King

## July 12

Steve Martin

## July 16

Liz Rosenthal  
Robin Austin  
Vicki Boschma  
Zacary Woody

## July 17

Betty Hannum  
Ehron Bishop  
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 9

Bob & Karen Parssinen

## June 10

Ray & Julie Hartje

## June 12

Jesse & Mindy White

## June 19

Bob & Wanda Haas

## June 22

Mark & Donna Hammett  
Bill & Judy Pollard

## July 3

Craig & Diane Merwin

## July 6

Tevin & Maci Gamble

## July 11

David & Kelly Clark

## July 23

Brian & Tracy Maxwell