

The Current of The River of Life

July 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #07

VBS 2024

Group

SCUBA

diving into friendship with god

Join us at River of Life UMC
August 5, 6, & 7

FREE dinner at 5:30 pm
Classes until 8:00 pm for preschool-6th grade

Register Early Online

How many hidden items can you find in the newsletter related to SCUBA VBS?



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	Pastor pastorbrenda@rolumcwi.com
Kelly Lutzow 608-362-8866	Office Manager Kelly.Lutzow@rolumcwi.com
Lois Ulvin	Director of Music
David Newman	Pianist
Derek Berg	IT-Production Manager
Keith Putney 608-774-3162	Teaching Pastor

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...



I have been thinking a lot about King David this week. For the next five weeks in worship, we are going to talk about a few of the many stories of David, from his childhood, to being identified as the greatest king of Israel. What we are not going to talk about is waiting.

We don't know how old David was when he was anointed king by the prophet Samuel. He may have been as young as 8 or as old as 15.

God had decided that Saul had failed as king, and told the prophet Samuel to anoint David as king. The problem? God didn't tell King Saul. After defeating Goliath in his late teens, David became a military leader, and King Saul became jealous. Saul spent years trying to have David killed. David finally became king at the age of 30!

People sometimes talk about how God's timing is different than our timing. But sometimes, God's timing is thwarted by people getting in God's way. I suppose, if Samuel had told Saul that David was the new king, David would have been immediately killed. But David had to wait over 15 years for God's will to come to fruition.

Our lives are like that sometimes. Sometimes God has a wonderful thing planned for our lives, and circumstances are such that we have to wait. Sometimes we think that God has forgotten, when God is waiting too.

So what did David do while he waited? He did his best, doing what he could. And he stayed close to God. David wrote a large number of our Psalms. Some he wrote during good times, and others he wrote when life was tough.

As we wait for God's promises in our lives, let's do the best we can, trusting that God is always with us.

I'll see you in church, where we encourage one another in our daily walks with God,

Love, Pastor Brenda





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

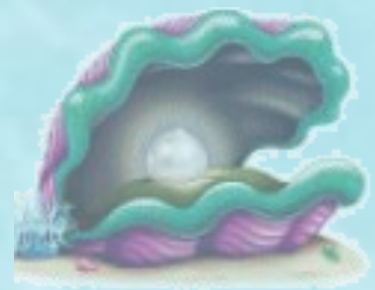
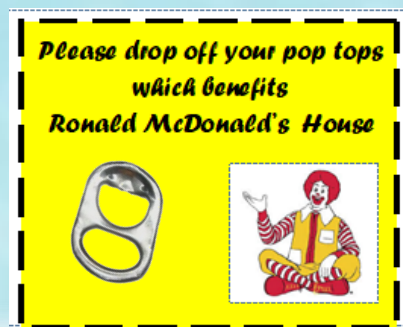
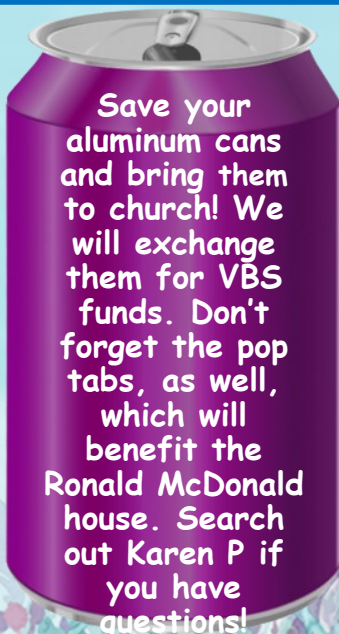
August 5th, 6th, & 7th!!

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>



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 & Mary Circle will resume meetings in September.



Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

July 31 at 1:00 in the Office Workroom
All knitters & crocheters are invited! Questions?
Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583



People we are praying for



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



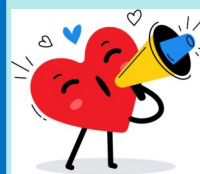
REMEMBER TO "LIKE US"

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

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



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.

These phone numbers are used for our Voice Shot software which is used to notify members of upcoming meetings and church service cancellations.



After 13 years of process, along with part-time, then full-time pastoring, my daughter Elizabeth was ordained at Annual Conference this year! Ordination requires a Master's Degree, pastoral experience, mentoring groups, and passing interviews by the Board of Ordained Ministry twice. It is a tremendous accomplishment that I wanted to share with you.

~Pastor Brenda

David Sermon Series



During the first half of the summer, we are going to be talking about David: The Shepherd Boy Who Became King. There are a lot of interesting and meaningful stories about David. He did some wonderful things and some horrible things. Mostly, David was known as a man after God's own heart. This summer we are going to look at:

June 30: The Shepherd Boy Anointed As King

July 7: Kindness on the Run*

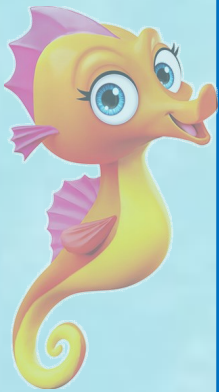
July 14: David and Goliath*

July 21: David Danced

July 28: David and Bathsheba

*These two stories are out of order





The Adventurers continue to meet periodically throughout the summer for fun together! Thank you Karen Parssinen and Linda Matthews for helping arrange fun events for our Adventurer friends!!



Office Angels

Thank you to my current office angels: Ellen Butchart, Marlene Erickson, Mary Alice Harris, Kathy Rodgers, & Pat Sands.

Stuffing envelopes and bulletins is so much more fun when people are here to help! If you'd like to join in on the fun of office "work", please let me know and I will add you to the email/call list when I have another job coming up. Hopefully that will be soon—hopefully we will have 6 month giving statements to stuff in a couple weeks! Thank you in advance!!

Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com

608.362.8866

LOOSE COINS



Our July Loose Coin offering will be split between Blankets of Warmth and God's Fund. **Blankets of Warmth** is a River of Life mission project that started at the Clinton campus. Blankets of Warmth provides homemade blankets to support agencies like Family Promise, Project Linus, and for children entering the foster care system. The loose coin offering will help them purchase the fabric for the blankets.

God's Fund used to be an account at our church office that was used for the purchase of gas cards or food cards for people who came to our office looking for assistance. The account has been depleted. Presently, people who stop by the office for financial assistance are referred to the agencies we support: Caritas, Salvation Army, DEFY, Rock Valley Community Programs, etc. Often there are only one or two people in our office. For the safety of our staff, we would like to continue referring people to these agencies, especially since they have networking capabilities and can refer the people to the agencies that can help them the most.

Our new **God's Fund** would fill a different need at our church. The fund would be used to confidentially help members of our congregation who encounter an emergency financial need.

Midwest Mission

Thank you to everyone who made Personal Dignity kits in May or donated items for Personal Dignity kits for Midwest Mission Distribution Center! Because of you, our church was able to donate 19 kits, and supplies to make many more. Pastor Brenda and Dan Whitford brought them up to the In-Gathering in Green Bay where they were being collected. Our congregation also donated \$477.60 in May for In-Gathering which was given to Midwest Mission.

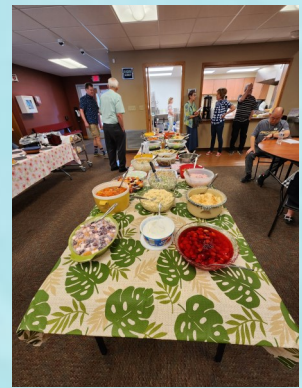
At the beginning of May, Midwest Mission delivered thousands of Personal Dignity kits to the people in Ukraine. The kits we made will be replenishing the stock at MMDC so they can be ready when the next need arises.



1ST BRIGADE BAND



Our time with the 1st Brigade Band was fantastic! Worship was inspiring. The concert was educational and entertaining. Pastor Brenda was asked to sing "Beautiful Dreamer," and Bruce Cawkins was called up front to be sung to in "If You've Only Got A Mustache." Several people participated in period dancing. Special thanks to Kelly Clark and Pat Sands for organizing lunch; to everyone who brought something for lunch; to Bob Parssinen, Sarah Parsons and Diane Geminagni for organizing activities in between performances; to Bob, Karen and Reid Parssinen for organizing games; to our ushers Jesse Calkins, Paul Dubler and Roger Sands for always doing whatever needs to be done; everyone who participated and invited others to join us; and to Jon Condon for suggesting our day with the band. It was a delightful day!







Art Journal Club

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

JULY 21, 2024

1:00—3:30



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



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

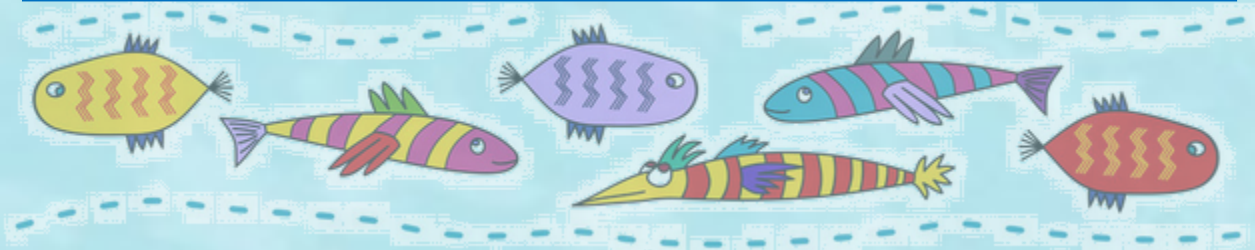
The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:00 pm in person, in the couch area of the Fellowship Hall.

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.



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.

Sleeping Mats

Our second sleeping mat is off the loom and done. Our third mat is well underway. So many people are helping by weaving, cutting bags (at home and at church), and collecting bags and bringing them to church. Thank you all!!

People have been asking where we are going to send them. We have several options and welcome ideas about where the sleeping mats should go. We will keep them until we have several made and then made a decision about where to donate.

July's schedule: Friday, July 5th, Wednesday, July 10th, Friday, July 19th, Wednesday, July 24th. All weaving sessions begin at 9:30. The loom will (generally) be left in the corner of fellowship hall so you can add a few rows while you are at church on Sundays or any time you are there.

Hope to see you at one of our weaving times at church!

Diane Gemignani
Sarah Parsons



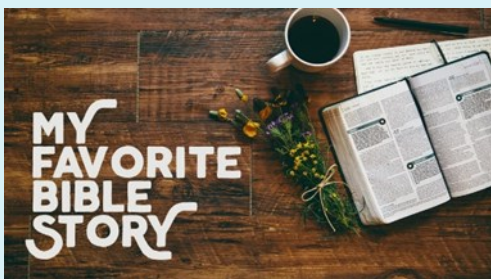
STEWARDSHIP SECOND

Some things are simply a matter of perspective. Beauty can be found by looking at a situation in a different way. A little girl named Lauren (age 5) reports, "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones."

Lauren is on to something. How would we approach money, "stuff," and giving if we knew that God had already given us everything we need, rather than seeing all the things we "need" in the store and in online shopping? How would we treat others if we focused on the ways we could serve rather than making sure everyone respected our rights? What would our attitude be toward work be if we saw it as our God-given vocation rather than someplace we had to go to earn a paycheck? What if we saw Sunday as a true Sabbath - a time for connecting with God and family and rest - rather than a day to run the kids to more activities or the day we must get things done at home before we go to work?

Sometimes we need God to help us see the world differently before we can live differently in it. For me, I'd like to be more like Lauren

Adapted from Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation



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 verses. To prepare for this, "vote" for your favorites by writing them on your Connect Card. If you are here all of the 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!

July Calendar

July 2	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
July 9	11:00 AM	Missions Meeting
July 16	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
July 21	1:00 PM	Art Journal Club
July 22	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
July 23	11:00 AM	Missions Committee- Middle School Rm
July 23	6:30 PM	Ad Council
July 27-28		Blest Art
July 31	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
August 5-8	5:30 PM	Vacation Bible School

**Pastor Brenda will be out of the office July 8-14
Please contact the office if you have any pastoral emergency.**

<u>Sunday</u>		<u>Wednesday</u>	
9:30 am	Beloit Worship	9:30 am	Sleeping Mats (2nd & 4th Wed)
11:00 am	"The Chosen" Movie Series w/ Bob Parssinen	10:30 am	Adult Bible Study (Zoom)
		6:00 pm	Adult Bible Study (FH)
<u>Monday</u>		<u>Thursday</u>	
12:30 pm	Card Club (FH)	9:00 am	Exercise Group
<u>Tuesday</u>		<u>Friday</u>	
9:00 am	Exercise Group	9:30 am	Sleeping Mats (1st & 3rd Fri)
10:00 am	Men's Coffee Hour (FH)	<u>Saturday</u>	
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting (O)	7:30 am	Bible Study (Zoom)
		5:30 pm	Saturday Worship



Issue deadline:

July 29

The next newsletter
will be available on

August 4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 1

Shana Listenbee

July 2

Ellen Butchart
Wanda Dixon
Margaret Hansen
Dick Markley
Alexis Stinson

July 3

Kathy Clark
Barbara Sheffield

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

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

August 1

Elizabeth Wadle

August 3

Tim Rosenthal
Bill Rodgers

August 4

Glenda Churchill

August 7

Gary Meier
Deanna Parish
Marlene Brandenburg
Brice Henthorn

August 10

Clara Welch

August 13

Chad Dixon

August 16

Haden Jones

August 18

Helen Oleston

August 19

Tina Henthorn

August 21

Bernie Holcomb
Louis Weiser

August 24

Duncan Woody

August 29

Cole Henthorn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 6

Tevin & Maci Gamble

July 11

David & Kelly Clark

July 12

Craig & Diane Merwin

July 23

Tracy & Brian Maxwell

August 7

Bob & Carol Scheets

August 12

Doug & Diane Mitchell
Mark & Kathy Smith

August 20

Laverne & Sandra Hays

August 23

Roger & Pat Sands

August 23

Walter & June Divan

August 29

Keith & Barbara Putney

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

SCUBA

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