

# The Current of The River of Life

August 2024

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

Vol. 41 Issue #08



# 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

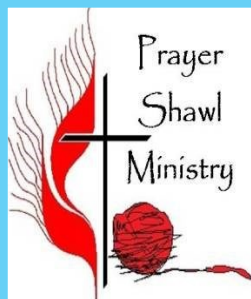
**Stewardship Team Chairperson**  
Pastor Brenda

**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...



A couple of weeks ago someone asked me an interesting question. She commented that I spend my days feeding others. How do I get fed? She meant: how do I obtain spiritual nourishment? I answered quickly, but I have been thinking about that question. I have a new answer: I'm an adult. I feed myself. I am responsible for my physical nutrition. I am also responsible for my spiritual nutrition. Actually, I am responsible for putting myself in a position where God feeds me.

Like many of you, I do some type of devotional reading most days. I find prep for worship to be nourishing: Looking up prayers, reading hymns, exploring original languages, reading commentaries, writing sermons. I participate in two group Bible studies. I watch "The Chosen" with our church group. I tutor.

While I am organizing the prayers on the Connect Cards I watch my son's worship service. He plays bass guitar in his church band, so I love to sing along in worship with him.

I have a baptism remembrance prayer card in my shower. I have The Lord's Prayer and our Breakthrough Prayer cards on my bathroom mirror. I have Jesus things all around my house and office. I say prayers of thanksgiving over most meals. I sit on my patio, look at trees and flowers and birds and thank God for them. I ride in my convertible and feel the joy, peace and strength of the Holy Spirit. In bed at night, I pray over my family and then I recite scripture I have memorized as I fall asleep.

I have a variety filled spiritual diet, and I came up with those examples in a few minutes.

How is your spiritual diet? Do you have a variety of ways you put yourself in the presence of God, to be fed by him? Or are you starving? Did you notice that most of the things I do have nothing to do with being a pastor? This week, make a list of the ways that you intentionally make sure you are fed.

I'll see you in church, where we grow strong in the Lord,

Love, Pastor Brenda

## Hospitality Fellowship

Thank you to all the people who signed up to bring snacks this past spring/summer:

Welch Family	The Choir	Sarah Parsons	Joanne Johnson
Diane Gemignani	Lora Cawkins	Tish Polzin	Lynn Caple
Carol Allen	Cindy Peters	Kathy Weiser	Dawn Dray
Cindy Ferger	Karen Parssinen	Pat Sands	Marge Johnson
Tom and Joan Michels			

(Again, I'm sorry if I missed your name. I went by the signup sheets for bringing snacks. - Diane Gemignani)

There are lots of opportunities to sign up to bring snacks this summer and fall. The Sign-up clipboard is either on the counter by the recycle bin or at the end of the snack table. When you sign up, it helps to pair up with someone. Or, you can sign your name, and soon someone else will sign up. 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!



### Knit & Crochet With A Mission Group

August 28 at 1:00 in the 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 & Mary Circle will resume meetings in September.

*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**

### **Breakthrough Prayer Training**

You are invited to go with Pastor Brenda to Stevens Point on August 17<sup>th</sup> to begin our MCCI journey. We will be learning more about Breakthrough Prayers. Since we already have our own Breakthrough Prayer, and since we have already read *Dynamite Prayer*, Sue Nilson Kibbey, the leader of this training, is excited about what could be our next step in asking God to break through with miracles. Because we are beginning the MCCI journey, we are required to bring 6 people to this training, but we can take as many as want to go! Let Pastor Brenda know that you would love to go!

## People we are praying for



† Ace  
† Ann  
† Austin  
† Charley  
† Doug  
† Doug  
† Ellen

† Eric  
† Jim  
† John  
† Kerri  
† Linda  
† Lora  
† Lyfe

† Matt  
† Rose  
† Sam



**Thank you to everyone who supported the youth's Lemonade Stand!**  
**We raised \$162 for Loose Coins for the month of July. This money will be split between God's Fund & Blankets of Warmth!**



# MCCI Missional Church Consultation Initiative

It's exciting to announce that our church will be beginning MCCI, the Missional Church Consultation Initiative. Churches must be invited into this process. Churches must be healthy and must want to grow in following Jesus Christ. This process has been wonderful in the West Ohio Annual Conference, with 300 churches participating. We are one of only six churches that has been invited into the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the process in Wisconsin. It is a privilege and responsibility.

## During our time in MCCI:

- Pastor Brenda will attend a monthly training for a year.
- Pastor Brenda will bring what she learned back and share it with our MCCI Team.
- After 6-8 months, Scott Carlson, Wisconsin Conference Director of Congregational Development and Sue Nilson Kibbey, Director of Missional Church Initiatives for the West Ohio Annual Conference and also the co-author of the *Dynamite Prayer* book we read, will come to spend an entire day with us, meeting with individuals and small groups, listening to what we love about our church and listening to our hopes and dreams for our church.
- Based on our unique situation, Scott and Sue will create a Prescription for us, to help us become all we believe God is calling us to be.
- We will have a Charge Conference where we will decide to implement the Prescriptions, or exit the MCCI process.
- Should we decide to implement, we will be assigned coaches unique to our situation to help us in that implementation.

We will contribute \$2,500 to this process. The average church receives \$12-15,000 in coaching and other resources.

## How can you participate?

- We need an MCCI Team to meet with Pastor during the first year. It would be helpful to have older and younger people, longer and shorter length members on this team. Connect with Pastor Brenda if you would like to be on this exciting team.
- We need to send 6 or more people to a Breakthrough Prayer Training on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Again, let Pastor Brenda know you would love to go.
- Everyone needs to participate in our day with our consultants in 6-8 months.
- Pray, Pray, Pray!



Join us for our **NEW**  
Art Journal/Hobby Club !  
August 10, 2024

10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Guest speaker this month is Kelly Clark—She will be demonstrating interactive features to include in journals! Sounds fun!

Art Journal Club is changing courses a little bit! We are encouraging ANYONE with a hobby to come join us and share your hobby with us!

- † Journaling
- † Music
- † Crafting
- † Baking
- † Quilting
- † Any other ideas?

Please join us on August 10 and see how much fun we have! You can also sign up to be a guest speaker/presenter!  
Hope to see you there!

Contact Kelly Lutzow in the office with any questions.



### ***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 with which I could use some help.

Six month giving statements were all sent out thanks to the amazing ladies who came in to help! Contact the office with any questions.

***Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com***

**608.362.8866**



## EYEGLASS COLLECTION

Do you have a drawer or box where you have been keeping your old prescription and reader glasses? Were you waiting for an opportunity to dispose of them for a good purpose? Well, we have "rolled out the barrel" to collect those unused glasses for a great cause. Please bring your old glasses to church and place in the barrel in the coat room. They will be donated to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center for processing. The glasses will be sorted and if determined to be of service, will be placed in an inventory for distribution to optical centers all over the world. This is another way we can make a difference in the lives of others and make room in our drawers!

Thank you,

The Mission Committee

## ***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.**

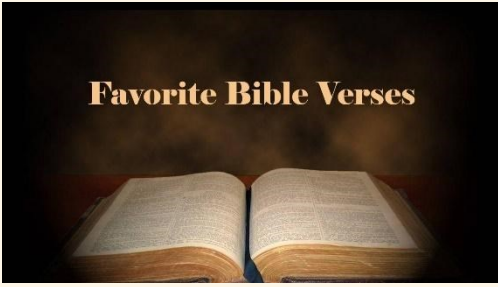


Save your aluminum cans and bring them to church! We will exchange them for VBS funds. Don't forget the pop tabs, as well, which will benefit the Ronald McDonald house. Search out Karen P if you have questions!



## It's Favorites Time!

### Favorite Bible Verses



During the last half of the summer, we are going to be exploring some of your favorite Bible verses and singing your favorite hymns.

### Included this year:

Aug 4: Psalm 118:24: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Aug 11: Philippians 4:6-7: Do not be anxious about anything...

Aug 18: Joshua 1:9: Be strong and courageous...

Aug 25: Jeremiah 29:1: For I know the plans I have for you...

Sept 1: Philippians 4:13; I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

## The results are in!

Earlier this summer, worship participants were asked their favorite hymns. We will be singing the favorites of the favorites in August. The top 6 "vote-getters" were:

1. Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (#2 last year)
2. In The Garden (#1 last year)
3. Hymn of Promise (#5 last year)
4. Because He Lives (not even on the list last year)
5. On Eagle's Wings (not even on the list last year)
6. Pass It On (#7 last year)

### New Bishop and New Episcopal Area



Our Recent General Conference voted to reduce the number of bishops in our jurisdiction. We will now be sharing a bishop with the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Bishop Jung served 12 years with us and is being reassigned to the Ohio Annual Conferences.

**Bishop Dan Schwerin** will be our new bishop.

## Rice Meal Pack

Pastor Mike Weigand, who served First Church in downtown Beloit, is now at Sugar River UMC in Verona. He is inviting us along with other churches to volunteer on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Sugar River UMC to make Meal Kits for Midwest Mission. Their goal is to make 3,000 bags in one day which equals 18,000 meals. Each meal bag costs \$2. That means they need to raise \$6000 for the project.

There are three shifts available:

**A. 9 am to 12 pm**      **B. 12:15 - 1:45 pm**      **C. 2:00 - 5 pm**  
*Ages 6 and up are welcome to serve (young children need to serve with an adult)*

This project is hosted by Sugar River UMC, 415 W. Verona Ave., Verona, WI  
It is co-sponsored by People's UMC, Oregon, WI

To volunteer, they need 4 - 8 table leaders, and up to 48 people per shift, as well as help cleaning up at 5 pm. Volunteers will help with assembling the meals in an assembly line. There are some roles available for users of wheelchairs or who need to be seated, but most jobs are standing. They want to get as many churches and individuals as possible involved. You are invited to bring snacks to share. Coffee and juice will be provided.

You can sign up to volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49ABAB23AB9-50296857-midwest>

Or you can fill out the sign-up form (on the next page) and place it in the Rice Box on the Welcome Center

Or you can sign up with the Volunteer QR code:



You can use this link to donate. The more money they collect, the more meals they can assemble. <https://onrealm.org/sugarriverumc/-/form/give/now>

Or you can donate by writing out a check to River of Life UMC with Rice Meals in the memo. Please turn it in by August 26.

Or donate with the Donation QR code.





## Rice Meal packing at Sugar River UMC in Verona, WI, on Saturday, September 7

If you would like to carpool up to Verona to work on the rice meals, or if you need help signing up to volunteer, please fill out this form and place it in the Rice Box on the Welcome Center.

1. Please fill out the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please circle the shift or shifts you would like to work:

A. 9 am to 12 pm

B. 12:15 - 1:45 pm

C. 2:00 - 5 pm

3. Please indicate if you would like to drive.

I would be glad to be a driver.

Yes

No

Verona is approximately 1 hour away from Beloit. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Gemignani at [dianegem23@gmail.com](mailto:dianegem23@gmail.com) or at 608-290-5274

# Sleeping Mats

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked on the sleeping mats and to everyone who brought in plastic bags. We just finished our 4<sup>th</sup> mat!

Weaving dates for August (at 9:30) are:

**Fri. Aug. 2**  
**Wed. Aug. 7**  
**Fri. Aug. 16**  
**Wed. Aug. 21**  
**Fri. Aug. 30**



If you are interested in working on the sleeping mats, just show up! We will show you what to do. We enjoy great fellowship as we reach out to the needy in our community.



We have officially distributed our first Sleeping Mat and it was appreciated so much! Darcie says "Thank You!!" and she just loves our church!

**KNOW**  
**GOD**  
**KNOW**  
**PEACE**

*Be still, and know that I am God – Psalm 46:10*

### 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.**

### STEWARDSHIP SECOND

Are you 70-1/2 or older? What ministries are you most passionate about? Don't pass up the opportunity to make a special gift this year!

Don and Sandi always wanted to see a youth minister in place at their church. When they learned they could make a distribution directly to their church from their Traditional IRA to provide the seed money to start this ministry, they decided to tithe their IRA. A few other members of their church joined them in this effort, and now the youth ministry position is funded for the next five years.

The IRA Rollover is a special giving option that is only available to persons 70-1/2 and older. Call your IRA administrator today and request to have your Required Minimum Distribution for 2024 (or a gift of your choice up to a maximum of \$100,000) sent directly to River of Life United Methodist Church. This gift can benefit our General Fund or the ministry you have designated and will not be included in your gross income for tax purposes.

You may make an outright gift or make a gift that establishes a permanent endowment fund.

*Adapted from Rev. Jason Mahnke, Stewardship Newsletter,  
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation*

## LOOSE COINS

### August -- DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit

Our August Loose Coins will be supporting the DEFY Domestic Abuse Beloit program, which is under the umbrella of Family Services of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

The need is very real. Domestic abuse happens to people of all genders, ages, races, and socio-economic levels. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, even financial. Because of the control that abusers often hold over their victims, it can be very difficult to escape from an abusive situation. DEFY Domestic Abuse provides a wide range of supports to help victims make that escape and empower them to build independent lives:

- 24-hour crisis line (608-365-1119) that includes information on referral services
- Legal advocacy for assistance with restraining orders, and a representative for emotional support in court
- Program on parenting in families that have experienced abuse
- Support program for children affected by domestic violence
- Separate support groups for women, LGBTQ clients, and men who have suffered sexual assault and violence
- Assistance with resumes and job skills

DEFY Domestic Abuse relies on grants and donations. We can help! Give to Loose Coins by dropping your coins in the collection plate, by putting a check or cash in an envelope marked for Loose Coins, or by clicking the DONATE link on the church website.



In addition to funds, they have a list of ongoing needs for families needing to start a new household: cleaning and paper products, baby needs, toiletries, clothing, bed linens, household items and furniture .

You can check the Family Services website for more information. Thank you for your continuing generosity!



Loose coin total for July  
benefits  
God's Fund & Blankets  
of Warmth

**Total : \$262.68**

**Thank You!**

# August Calendar

August 2	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
August 7	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
August 10	10:00 AM	Art Journal/Hobby Club
August 13	All Day	Voting Location
August 16	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
August 20	6:30 PM	Finance Meeting
August 21	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
August 26	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
August 28	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
August 30	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
September 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>		<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	
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)
<b><u>Monday</u></b>		<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	
12:30 pm	Card Club (FH)	9:00 am	Exercise Group
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>		<b><u>Friday</u></b>	
9:00 am	Exercise Group	9:30 am	Sleeping Mats (1st & 3rd Fri)
10:00 am	Men's Coffee Hour (FH)	<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	
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

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  
Dalton Polzin

August 18  
Helen Oleston

August 19  
Tina Henthorn

August 21  
Bernie Holcomb  
Louis Weiser

August 24  
Duncan Woody

August 29  
Cole Henthorn

September 1  
Jane Desoto  
Alex Story  
Sophia Story

September 2  
Irma Davis

September 4  
Wesley Brill  
Kathy Warren  
Dawn Dray

September 5  
Scott Weiser  
Cindy Fenger

September 6  
Sarah Brokaw

September 7  
Ann Williams

September 9  
Nicholas Wadle

September 10  
Mary Robinette

September 11  
John Cotner  
Sandy Calkins  
John Anderson-

September 12  
Kathy Rodgers

September 13  
Sam Rosenthal

September 18  
Brandie Bishop

September 19  
Jenna Buckler

September 20  
Tim Hammond

September 21

Tracy Maxwell

September 23  
Diane Gemignani

September 25  
Annika Parssinen  
Bob Fosler  
David Newman

September 27  
Julie Hartje  
Cole Weiser

September 28  
Diane Meier

September 29  
Steven Knutsen

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

August 7  
Bob & Carol Scheets

August 12  
Doug & Diane Mitchell  
Mark & Kathy Smith

August 20  
Laverne & Sandra Hays

August 23  
Roger & Pat Sands

August 29  
Keith & Barbara Putney

September 1  
Brandie & Ehin Bishop

September 8  
Gary & Diane Meier-

September 14  
Tim & Liz Rosenthal

September 15

September 16  
Lee & Barb Kuska

September 19  
Steve & Robin Austin

September 20  
Bob & Lynn Fosler

September 26  
Bruce & Beernie Holcomb

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