



The Current of The River of Life

2345 Prairie Ave, Beloit, WI

October 2024

Vol. 41 Issue #10

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

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—2:00 pm

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 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

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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

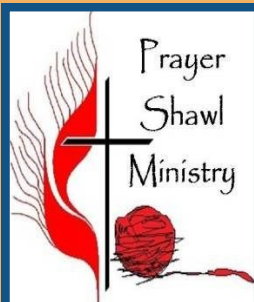
Derek Bergh

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 am a science girl. I believe that God created everything, and I love that science gives me a glimpse into how God's creation works.

Take as an example autumn leaves. I love how beautiful the leaves turn in the fall - different colors of yellows, golds, oranges and reds. Autumn is so beautiful!

I love knowing how those leaves turn colors. I apologize if everybody already knows this, but I find it so fascinating:

Leaves don't really change colors. The yellows, golds, oranges and reds are already in the leaves. When the leaves come out in the spring, through summer, the leaves are busy making a lot of chlorophyll that uses the sunshine to make energy for the plant. Chlorophyll is green. Because there is so much chlorophyll, the green masks the other colors. In autumn, the sunshine and weather signal the leaves to stop making chlorophyll, the green begins to fade, and you can see the other colors in the leaves. The color that was there but had been hidden all season.

I love to use this as a metaphor for our lives. God created us incredibly colorful. We have God's love and light inside us. We were created in the image of God! God has placed within us unique passions and talents. How amazing we are!

But how we choose to spend our time and energy (and how we sin) often masks who God created us to be. It is by turning to Jesus and focusing on Jesus that can make what is covering us disappear so we can be love and light, for ourselves, our families and for the world!

Enjoy the beautiful fall colors, knowing that you too are immensely beautiful!

I'll see you in church, where we help one another see and share our beauty,

Love,

Pastor Brenda

Sleeping Mat Work Days

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked on the sleeping mats, to everyone who brought in plastic bags, and to everyone who cut bags at home. We just finished our 7th mat!

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

- † Friday, November 1
- † Wednesday, November 6
- † Friday, November 15
- † Wednesday, November 20

There are a lot of times when our building is open for other gatherings. If you have worked on the sleeping mats at our church, you can come any of those times and work on the mat.

If you are interested in working on the sleeping mats, just show up! All ages and all abilities are welcome. We will show you what to do.



Needed: A Picture Of Your FEET!

In conjunction with our Stewardship Series

Beautiful Feet

we will be celebrating how our **Beautiful**

Feet walk the path of God, bringing others the love and light of God. As a visual representation, we are going to make a wall of feet in Fellowship Hall! Take a picture of your bare feet, send the picture to Pastor Brenda. You can wear sandals if you like. Wear shoes if you must.



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**

WATR

Join us for Wednesdays at the River dinner beginning October 9 at 5:30

November 6	Breakfast Casserole
November 13	Chicken & Dumplings
November 20	Thanksgiving Dinner
November 27	NO WATR

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.

Loose Coins

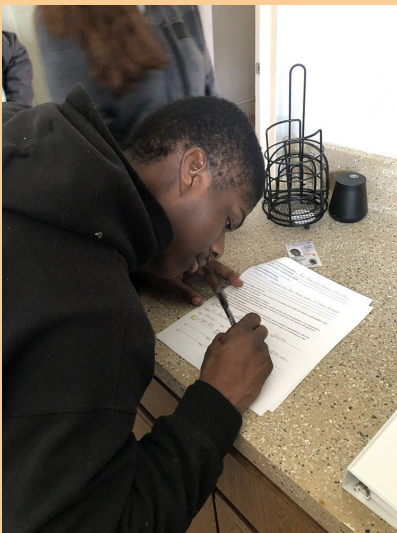
November Loose Coins will go to **Project 16:49**, a non-profit organization serving Rock County's unaccompanied homeless teens. The name stands for 16 hours and 49 minutes, the time between school ending one day and starting the next.

Homeless and unaccompanied means that students have no fixed, adequate housing, and they are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. How does it happen that teens become homeless? It's usually because of serious family conflict, such as abuse, neglect, domestic violence, or a parent with untreated addictions. They've been kicked out by their parents or have made the choice to leave. These kids, according to 16:49 staff, have taken their first step toward success by separating themselves from that situation.

Project 16:49 supports these students in two primary ways: securing stable housing and providing case management to help them set goals to finish school and gain the life skills for independent living. In short, it provides a support system for kids, in the absence of a parent or guardian. This is such a worthy place for our donations!

To give to the Loose Coins offering, drop your change in the offering plate each week or consider including a check or bills marked for Loose Coins. Thank you!

-- Ellen Butchart



MCCI UPDATE

Missional Church Consultation Initiative

At the October pastor training, the MCCI pastors learned about Primary Leadership Components. We each have a lens through which we lead and evaluate ministry. The lens we use forms what questions we ask, what we worry about in the ministry or activity of the church, and what 'feeds' our enthusiasm. We likely value and put our energy into the components that give us energy.

Spiritual Shepherd

Cares about why
Focuses on people
Needs to connect

Systems/Task Organizer

Cares about how
Focuses on the process
Needs a plan

Vision Crier

Cares about what
Focuses on the future
Needs an end goal

There are not better or worse Primary Components. All are equally important. People who speak and lead out of each of these Components are needed to have a healthy and vibrant church. If one component is missing, mission and ministry will stall.

I (Pastor Brenda) have a questionnaire that will help you determine which Component is primary for you, but you may already know. As you work with people in church and in other areas of your life, notice how your Primary Component is speaking into your perspective. Also notice how others are speaking from their Primary Components.

How can you participate in MCCI?

- It is not too late to join our MCCI Implementation Team. 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.
- Everyone needs to participate in our day with our consultants in 6-8 months.
- Pray our Breakthrough Prayer every day.



Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness on Pastor Appreciation Sunday! I love the flowers, and the gift card for the Fireside Theater will be treasured. And the chocolate cake with raspberry filling was delicious! I am grateful for the honor and blessing to serve people devoted to Jesus and the church!

People we are praying for



† Ace	† Jim	† Matt
† Ann	† John	† Nancy
† Austin	† Kerri	† Ron
† Barb	† Kristen	† Rose
† Charley	† Leonard	† Sam
† Doug	† Linda	† Vern
† Doug	† Lyfe	
† Ellen	† Marlene	

Our condolences to the Family and Friends of...

† Larry Sturdevant
† Joanne Johnson

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 be hosted by Carol Braukhoff on November 20 at 9:30 am

Mary Circle will be hosted by Jacque Patch on November 20 at 1:00 pm.

Martha Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
For details contact: Carol Braukhoff
608-299-8738

Mary Circle: 3rd Wednesday, 1:00
For details contact: Jacque Patch
608-362-7729



Kathy Klein, Zachary Peterson, Martha Dunegan, Jeff Johnson, Jean Dickson

Grand Avenue Strings

presents a concert on

Sunday, November 17 at 4:00 pm

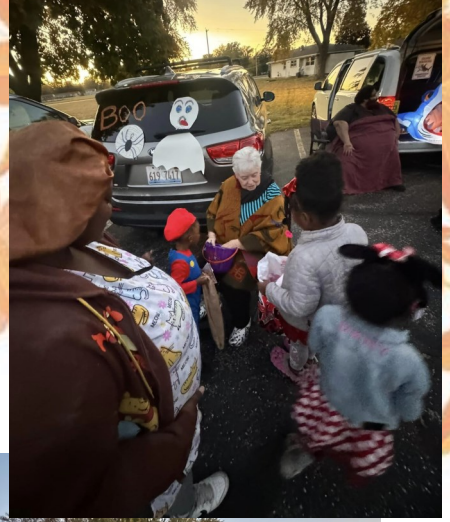
River of Life
United Methodist Church
2345 Prairie Avenue
Beloit, Wisconsin

**No admission fee but a free will offering will be accepted.*

TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you so much for the **AMAZING** involvement in this event!!!
Your ongoing love, prayers, and support are immeasurable!





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.



Office Angels

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

I will be reaching out in the middle of December for help to stuff end of year statements.

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.

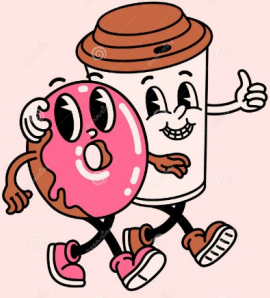
Kelly.lutzow@rolumcwi.com

608.362.8866

RIVER OF LIFE UMC ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 7, 2024

9:00 AM - Until sold out



Name _____ PH. # _____

Email _____

- () I will make 6 dozen or more Christmas cookies, bars or candy.
- () I will contribute money instead of baking cookies.
- () I will contribute specialty items to be sold separately.

Please let Pat Sands (608)921-6755 know what they are so we will have room for them.

Please bring your contributions of cookies, candy, bars or specialty items on Thursday December 5th between 3:30 and 4:00 PM (prior to choir practice) and Friday December 6th between 10:00 AM and noon. Please use the East door.

This form may be placed in the box marked "Cookie Walk" located in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call 608-921-6755.

This is the only fundraiser of the year, besides serving funeral luncheons by the women of the church. The proceeds from the sale will be used for Women's Ministry mission projects. We thank you for your contributions and a big thank you to the men who help with many of the details of the cookie walk and the funeral luncheons.

Donations for the Adult Mission Trip



Every year, we encourage people to sign up for the adult mission trip. We always tell them,

*"Please do NOT let the cost of the trip keep you from signing up!
There is money available in a fund specifically to help people with
the cost of participating in the adult mission trip."*

Every year, we have one or two people who are helped by that fund. This financial assistance fund could use some replenishing. If you would like to contribute to this fund to allow others to participate in the mission trip, please make out a check to ROL-UMC with Adult Mission Trip in the memo. This check can go into the offering, but please let Diane Gemignani know that it's a donation. (Otherwise, she will actually sign you up to go on the trip!)

You can contact Diane by phone: 608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity!

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



**Knit & Crochet With A Mission
November 27th at 1:00 in the
Office Workroom**

All knitters & crocheters
are invited! Questions?
Call Sandy Ovist at 608-362-6583





REMEMBER TO "LIKE US"

Our Facebook page is 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.

Consecration Sunday and Celebration Dinner!



On Sunday November 24th we will return our Estimate of Giving (Pledge) Cards and pray over them during worship. Then we will continue a celebration of our

Beautiful Feet

by sharing a meal together.

Charge Conference

November 26th at 6:30 pm

River of Life UMC will be having our annual Charge Conference Tuesday November 26th at 6:30pm. Rev. Amanda Stein, our District Superintendent will be presiding. All members are encouraged to attend this annual business meeting.

November Sermons

Our November sermons will align with our fall stewardship campaign:

Beautiful Feet. We will talk about walking with God on the path of faith. We'll begin on All Saints' Day with those who came before us, and talk about how we move into our future.

- Nov 3** **Beautiful Feet Blazed The Trail**
- Nov 10** **Beautiful Feet Adventure New Paths**
- Nov 17** **Beautiful Feet Hike To Help**
- Nov 24** **Beautiful Feet Dance The Light**





**Adult Mission Trip to
Midwest Mission
Chatham, Illinois
March 2025**

Join our team volunteering at the Midwest Mission near Springfield, Illinois! We will have a Long Adult Mission Trip (Mar. 23 – 28) and a Short Adult Mission Trip (Mar. 26 – 28). In addition to the cost of the trip, we will have three dinners at economical area restaurants.

The cost of the Long Adult Mission Trip is between \$260 to \$385 depending on whether you share a dorm room or not.

The cost of the Short Adult Mission Trip is between \$125 to \$175 depending on whether you share a dorm room or not.

Please do NOT let the cost of the trip keep you from signing up! There is money available in a fund specifically to help people with the cost of participating in the adult mission trip. Please let Diane Gemignani know if you are interested in the assistance.

If you have any questions, contact Diane Gemignani (608-290-5274 or dianegem23@gmail.com). If you would like to sign up for the trip, fill out the slip below, include the non-refundable \$50 deposit, and mail it to: Diane Gemignani, 1005 Milwaukee Rd., Beloit, WI 53511.

*****Deposit is due by Jan. 15*****

I am interested in joining the Adult Mission Trip to Midwest Mission.

Please circle the type of mission trip you would like:

Long trip (March 23 – 28)

Short trip (March 26 – 28)

(I understand the \$50 deposit is non-refundable, but it is transferable if someone else can take my place.)

Name

Email

Address

Home phone

Cell phone

November Hobby Club

Please join us for November Hobby Club on
November 24, 2024 at 1:00 pm

We will be sharing cookie recipes, making
cookies, and decorating cookies in a
celebration leading up to the Cookie Walk
on December 7!

We hope to see you there!

December Hobby Club will be
Pat Sands presenting
Homemade Christmas Card crafts!



A huge **THANK YOU** to all of the presenters for our Hobby Club!!

† Carol Connors presented on Zentangles and that was super fun to learn about!

† Kelly Clark taught us how to make an infinity envelope to add to our journals or scrap books. There were so many pockets!

† Pat Sands presented on Junk Journaling and taught us how to turn our recyclables into new books or crafts!

Please consider joining us and sharing your hobby! I am looking for guest speakers from December moving forward.

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 *Psalms*.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6:00 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.



**Join us for tutoring on
Wednesdays at 3:30!**

**Make a difference in children's lives!
Wednesdays after school!**



I would LOVE to be a tutor!



I would LOVE to provide snacks!

Contact Karen Parssinen today!

Remembering Joanne Johnson



Flowers placed "in loving tribute" to our beloved choir member, Joanne Johnson, on "her choir chair."



Remembrance moments for tutoring students to learn and appreciate their tutor, Joanne Johnson. Led by Carol Connors.



September Calendar

November 1	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
November 5	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
November 6	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
November 11		Office Closed
November 12	11:00 AM	Missions Meeting
November 15	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
November 17	4:00 PM	Grand Avenue Strings Concert
November 18	6:30 PM	Stewardship Meeting
November 19	6:00 PM	Finance Meeting
November 19	7:00 PM	Ad Council Meeting
November 20	9:30 AM	Sleeping Mat Work Day
November 20	9:00 AM	Martha Circle
November 20	11:30 AM	Memorial Meeting
November 20	1:00 PM	Mary Circle
November 24	9:30 AM	Consecration Sunday
November 24	1:00 PM	Hobby Club
November 25	5:30 PM	Trustees Meeting
November 26	6:30 PM	Charge Conference
November 27	1:00 PM	Knitting With A Mission
November 28		Office Closed
December 3	6:00 PM	Youth Ministry Team
December 7	9:00 AM	Cookie Walk

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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November 3
Bruce Holcomb

November 8
Darlene Breden

November 10
Diane Buckler

November 12
Jesse Calkins

November 15
Lora Dodson

November 18
Tevin Gamble

November 19
Doug Henthorn

November 23
Khalil Lutzow
Mary Alice Harris

November 24
Marietta Axmear
Tom Michels

November 27
Erik Ovist

November 28
Courtney Woody

November 30
Ron Schrader

December 1
Delores Hahn
Peggy Bucker

December 2
Jeff Caple

December 4
Mikyah Longman
Armoni Longman

December 5
Callen Lynch

December 6
Madeline Cawkins

December 8
Sean Lynch

December 10
Britta Hartje

December 12
Louise Junig
Terry Wilson

December 13
Marilyn Busjahn

December 16
Sandra Hays
Lee Kuska
Bonita Moore

December 17
Karen Parssinen

December 19
Zekaeus Lutzow

December 21
Pam Dodge

December 23
Natalie Valdez

December 24
Priscilla Pann

December 27
Robert Lang

December 28
Tishauna Polzin

December 29
Brenda Whitford

December 30
Barbara Putney

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December 1
Steve & Susie Haas

December 15
Tim & Jean Crawford

December 23
Bruce & Lora Cawkins

December 31
Scott & Kathy Weiser

Issue deadline:

November 25

The next newsletter
will be available on

December 1

Thanksgiving

WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------|
| FALL | THANKFUL | NOVEMBER |
| GATHER | TURKEY | PLYMOUTH |
| HOLIDAY | CORNUCOPIA | STUFFING |
| PILGRIMS | FAMILY | THANKSGIVING |
| PUMPKIN | GOBBLE | CRANBERRIES |
| CORN | GRATITUDE | POTATOES |
| FEAST | PIE | TRADITION |

