

United
Church of
Beloit

New Glimpses

Volume 18 Issue 9

September 2026

A Word from Pastor Jamieson

The cicadas are still loud at the beginning of September. Their squealing rings through the coming Autumn winds. Soon Autumn arrives with all its trappings. From apples, which I love, to pumpkin, which I hate, we feel the crisp cool air in the mornings, and watch the shadows grow long in the short evenings. Hope is born anew with football back on the television that this season will finally be the one. We cling to Summer as the change of seasons remind us that everything is changing around us. It is God's blessing for us that the world changes, but it is up to us to notice. Luckily, we live in a place we can watch the leaves change to simple and sharp colors of red, orange, and yellow. █

I am reminded of a motorcycle ride through the mountains of North Carolina I did many years ago. A group of friends and I rode twisting windy roads through the Great Smokey Mountains, and we happened to stop at a small country church. It was a scene straight out of English Romantic and Victorian era poet William Wordsworth's, "The Excursion." In book six titled, "The Church Yard Among the Mountains," Wordsworth paints the idyllic autumn scene walking through the changing leaves and coming winds. Wordsworth was deeply faithful Christian who seamlessly weaved themes of faith throughout his poetry. One of his most famous poems, "Surprised by Joy" is a testament to hope that lies beyond us. C.S. Lewis even borrowed this title for one of his own books. Wordsworth alludes to that autumnal feeling that we can't fully articulate ourselves, which is even in the changing seasons of our lives, we need not be afraid. █

Many of us can't help but sing the famous "The Byrds" song, Turn! Turn! Turn!. Of course, this song is inspired by Ecclesiastics 3. But there are other passages that might help see God in the changing of the leaves. We can be thankful for the Living God that the Word endures forever, despite the falling leaves and fading flowers. "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever." (Isa 40:8) The hope that Christ brings in the Gospel negates the specters of the darkness of the long shadows. Christ ministry in this world was to take away fear, to take away the sins of the world. But if our choices and actions continue fear, anger, and hatred in our world then

Pastor Jamieson Cont.

cross was for not. Though the world has seen great pain since that fateful day when Jesus cried out "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.", as those followers of the Way who have taken up the cross, we must bear witness to its truth. We carry the cross with Christ bearing witness to love, grace, and sacrifice for everyone in need, be it spiritual or physical. As we are all made in the image of God the Creator, descendants of Adam and Eve, we all are children of God who weeps for us amid this pain. We are not alone. We are all together in the Body of Christ. Every time we pray, let us pray for our own forgiveness. Let us pray for peace and reconciliation with God and with each other. It is God's promise, through the cross, that everything is made whole again. Let us do what we can through our own actions to be a part of God's kingdom.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The Sparrow's Nest

This month we are highlighting Sparrow's Nest.

Homelessness is a problem in many communities and Beloit is among them.

Sparrow's Nest was opened in April 1997, as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, run by Julie and Ron O'Leary with an all-volunteer staff. Homeless men from the Beloit area (with photo ID) are provided a shower, two meals a day and a place to sleep for up to 30 days and, occasionally, somewhat longer. Most of these men have jobs and can move on quickly.

Sparrow's Nest provides shelter for 100-150 men each year. In recent years, the shelter has been run as a "family" with O'Leary children and grandchildren helping with the chores. Churches and civic groups have also been welcomed to provide supplies or a meal. Until he passed this year, Julie's late husband Ron often was a counselor to many of the resident men. The O'Learys continue to believe that it is an honor to serve the Lord and the community and plan to continue with God's help.

From the Desk of Pastor Carol,

As autumn approaches, cooler weather brings thoughts of comfort food like soup! Soup can be such a pleasure to make and to eat. Onion, garlic, other veggies, potatoes or noodles, chicken or turkey perhaps, are tasty on their own. But combined in a pot of broth, they all come together to provide a colorful bowlful of good nutrition and satisfaction. It reminds me of community. A family or

a church group can come together with our individual talents and ideas, to form a caring community. Each of us has gifts, but when we work together, we become even more effective. This is the power of the body of Christ. Our church, the ministries we support, and all our local organizations, are most effective when we work together. We've heard from missions that are combining efforts. We at UCB are joining the Awaken Beloit project through the Wisconsin Council of Churches. This will help us to discern how God is acting locally, and how we can help. Let us combine our gifts and energy to prayerfully build a stronger community.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called Ephesians 4:3-4

Harvest of the Heart: Living Out the Fruits of the Spirit

Min. Michelle Bullock

Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The air in September carries a certain kind of promise. The fields are golden, the orchards heavy with apples, and the gardens are giving their last, sweetest offerings. Farmers know this is the season of gathering the reward for months of planting, watering, and tending.

Our spiritual lives have a harvest season too. Paul calls it “*the fruit of the Spirit*”. These aren’t just virtues to admire; they’re the visible evidence of God’s work in us.

But just like a farmer’s harvest, these fruits don’t appear by accident. They grow when we plant God’s Word deep in our hearts, water it with prayer, and pull out the weeds of bitterness, pride, and distraction.

Love grows when we choose compassion over criticism.

Joy blooms when we give thanks for small blessings.

Peace settles in when we trust God in uncertainty.

Patience develops when we wait with grace instead of frustration.

Kindness shines in small, unnoticed acts of care.

Goodness is choosing integrity when no one is watching.

Faithfulness is staying committed to God’s call, even when it’s hard.

Gentleness is strength wrapped in humility.

Self-control is saying “no” to what hinders our walk with Christ.

When these fruits grow in us, others can “taste” God’s goodness through our words, actions, and attitudes. Just as a farmer’s harvest feeds more than the one who planted it, our spiritual harvest blesses everyone around us.

This September, as you see the signs of harvest in the world around you, ask yourself: *What is God harvesting in my heart?* Choose one fruit to intentionally nurture this month. Pray over it. Practice it. Watch it grow.

SEPTEMBER SERMON LINE-UP

Sept 6 – Pants on Fire
John 8:44

Sept 13 – You Must Wager Everything
Matthew 6:19–21

Sept 23 – A Splintered Gospel
Matthew 16:21–28

Sept 27 – Pastor Carol Preaching

UPCOMING EVENT



On Saturday, September 19th we'll be traveling to East Troy, WI. For "Pizza On the Farm" We will gather there at 3:00pm. You may wish to bring your favorite lawn chair and sit back and enjoy woodfire pizza and live music. Pizza & soft drinks \$15 **Kids are FREE!** Cash Bar Available.

Grassway Organic Farms
W2716 Friemoth Road - East Troy WI 53120

Upcoming Events



Learning Together in Faith

**United Church
of Beloit**

Second Thursday of the Month @ 8AM

**Men's Bible
Study Group &
Breakfast**



5:00 PM – 7:00PM
SAT SEPTEMBER 12TH
United Church of Beloit
657 Bluff St. Beloit, WI 53511

**GREEK
NIGHT**

Greek Dinner
Bakalava

\$15 per plate
RSVP
608-362-6857
ucboffice@unitedchurchbeloit.org

First Tuesday of Every Month
@1130AM

Lunch Time Chapel

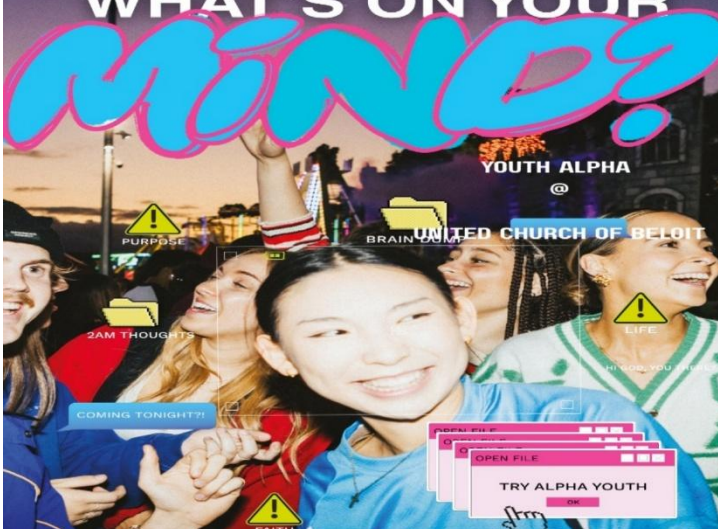


All are welcome for
prayer, Scripture, and
communion.

United Church of Beloit
657 Bluff St

**WHAT'S ON YOUR
MIND?**

YOUTH ALPHA
@
UNITED CHURCH OF BELOIT



PURPOSE
BRAIN DUMP
2AM THOUGHTS
COMING TONIGHT?
FAITH
LIFE

JOIN A CONVERSATION ON
LIFE, FAITH & PURPOSE.
@ALPHAYOUTHUSA
ALPHAUSA.ORG/YOUTH

FOR THE
GROUP CHAT
TRY ALPHA YOUTH
OK

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO & SCHEDULE
PASTOR@UNITEDCHURCHBELOIT.ORG

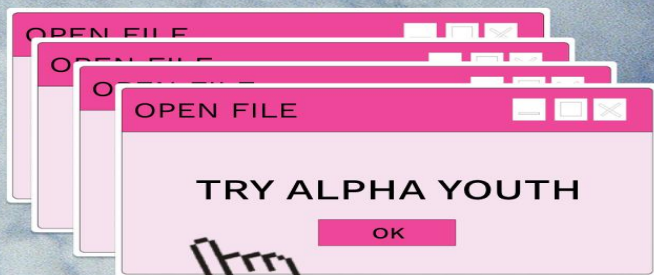
WHAT'S ON YOUR
MIND?

 **BRAIN DUMP**  **HI GOD, YOU THERE?**

 **PURPOSE**

 **2AM THOUGHTS**

 **LIFE**

 **TRY ALPHA YOUTH**
OK

 **COMING TONIGHT?!**

 **FOR THE GROUP CHAT**

 **FAITH**

YOUTH ALPHA
@
UNITED CHURCH OF
BELOIT

 **JOIN A CONVERSATION ON**
LIFE, FAITH & PURPOSE.
@ALPHAYOUTHUSA
ALPHAUSA.ORG/YOUTH

 **YOUTH**

CONTACT FOR MORE INFO & SCHEDULE
PASTOR@UNITEDCHURCHBELOIT.ORG



Brian Holmes	September 1
Jo Erkel	September 2
Helen Heckle	September 3
Jeanne Kovanda	September 4
Lindsay Anderson	September 11
Ruth Mortimer	September 13
Bill Marks	September 16
Steve Ferger	September 19
Ulysses Prevoznak	September 22
Faith Mattison	September 22
Gabby Tan	September 24

Dan & Larie Showers
September 23



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We have a new website!

Check us out online @
Unitedchurchbeloit.org

Can't make it to church Sunday?

Follow us on Facebook



Watch us on YouTube.
Link on our website.



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Please scan the QR Code to update your contact information. Our goal is to get a 100% response rate!





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United Church of Beloit

657 Bluff Street
Beloit, WI 53511
Tel: (608) 362-6857
E-mail: ucboffice@unitedchurchbeloit.org

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday
9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

Member Organizations

National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches

Wisconsin Congregational Association

Presbytery of Milwaukee (PCUSA)

In need of pastoral care?

Pastor E.J. Prevoznak

Cell: (707) 714-7039

Pastor Carol Taylor Cell:
(608) 201-1114

Pastor Carol Taylor Home:
(608) 365-4131

Ministers

Each member
of Christ's Church

Lead Pastor
E.J. Prevoznak

Licensed Lay Minister
Pastor Carol Taylor

Moderator
Jim Coutts

Church Treasurer
Gary Kovanda

Financial Secretary
Valerie Fjalstad

Church Secretary
Michelle Bullock

Custodian
Tasos Mourtzis