

THE PARISH CONNECTION

April 2024

A Community of Faith, Inspired by Christ, Gathered to Grow, Empowered to Serve.

April 2024 Lectionary Readings

April 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133 (UMH 850);
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday (White or Gold)

Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4 (UMH 741);
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter Festival of God's Creation (White or Gold)

Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137);
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Acts 8:26-40; Ps 22:25-31 (UMH 752);
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys— Snow! Betty was able to attend the March UWF and Jennie too! Safe travels, Vacation, Confirmation, Lenten Schedule, Soup Supper



Concerns— Jennie having surgery, Meghan, Mona, Jamie, Todd, Mike Kirk, Edison, Betty, Jim, Mary, Libby, Ann, Julie, Ron & Linda, Johanna, Diane, Megan & Steven, Holly, Mark T, Alison's Friend, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine, Tornado victims in Ohio, Arkansas

Remembering—Family and friends of Gail Clark, Sue Paulson, Richard Hillstead, Dennis Bliese, Don Althoff, Bob Hammer, and Doug Fall

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2024. Please watch for pew cards describing the upcoming special Sunday in the worship bulletin a week before each special Sunday. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- Native American Ministries Sunday ~ April 14
- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ May 26
- World Communion Sunday ~ October 6
- United Methodist Student ~ November 24

Willow River Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>. Please send any information you would like posted to Heather Greene mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com or Gail Kuhl kuhlg@cltcomm.net

Holy Socks

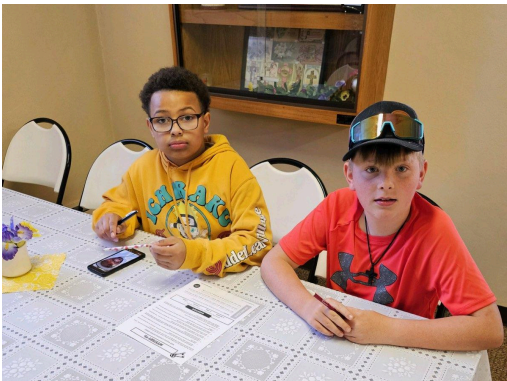
Keep them coming! The United Women of Faith are gathering mismatched, old, worn out, holy socks for the conference. Please keep collecting and donating! We'd love to have everyone's donations of socks for the Spring Day of Enrichment in April.

Zoom: Please use the following information to join us Sundays for worship at 11:00 a.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>
Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777
Passcode: 421072

Holy Humor Sunday: April 7th at your favorite church. Everybody, be thinking about your costume & keep a look-out for some good jokes. (Or even some old, tired jokes...) Come that Sunday ready to praise God with singing, praying, and at least a bit of silliness.

YOUTH CORNER

Teams hard at work on the Easter escape room!



Thanks to all who supported the youth at their Sunrise Service of The Tale of Three Trees and the breakfast that followed.

Watch for 2024 Church Camp info at your church!

Ruby's Pantry distributes food at Pop-Up Pantry locations across MN & WI. There is no income or residency requirement and for a \$25 bundle donation you will receive an abundance of groceries. One food distribution will take place **April 13th** in the **SMC LTD** parking lot at 9000 Griffin Street E in Amery. This is a drive-thru distribution from **7:30 am to 9:00 am**. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and should arrive at **6:45 am**. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information, please contact 715-268-7390 or email office.ameryucc@gmail.com.

Another Ruby's Pantry location is: 1245 County Highway CC, New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017, which distributes on the 3rd Thursday of the Month. Registration begins at 5:00 PM. Food bundles available 5:00-7:00 PM. Hosted by: Faith Community Church. Check out their website www.rubyspantry.org to find a location and time that works for you.

April Birthdays

Dan Severson	4/04
Susan Larson	4/06
Michael Clark	4/09
Ian Ruble	4/12
Linda Jurisch	4/13
David Webster	4/17
Ann Stuntz	4/20
Roger Blanchard	4/25
Mary Jo Ailts	4/26
Lori Cross	4/29
Ivan Ruble	4/30

April Anniversaries

Sheldon & Ruth Simonson	4/10
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APRIL WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

April 7th	Reader: Alison Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres Brunch: Debi A
April 14th	Reader: Andrea Jilek Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family
April 21st	Reader: Debi Ahrens Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard Coffee: Dylan Gorres Family
April 28th	Reader: Diane Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery Coffee: Linda and Bev

Counters for April: Carla & Roger

Faith Family

April 7th	Terri Wilson
April 14th	Paul Webster
April 21st	Penny Warner
April 28th	Cindy Warner

Soul Food by Bishop Jung: *For God so loved the world that God gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.* John 3:16-17

For many Christians, our first memory verse of Scripture is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This text summarizes our common Christian belief of God's salvific action in the world and why.

John 3:17 personifies God's grace to us and is the foundational element in our theology. Furthermore, as United Methodists, these words are essential to understanding prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. John Wesley, a founder of Methodism, taught that grace is unearned but freely given, even when we do not understand or realize it (prevenient), and when we acknowledge and accept (justifying), we embrace God's love for us in our faith journey towards "belovedness" for all.

During the liturgical season of Lent, we are more intentional and purposeful in our faith journey, examining our life through the lens of sanctification. Asking the questions, "What are the things that are preventing a fuller life in Christ?" and "How might I exemplify Christ in my daily life with joy and gratitude?" These are tough internal questions, and then, there are even the tougher societal questions, "How do I embrace a just life that stands with all those that God loves?" and "What step do we take today towards advocacy for the societal issues of today, i.e. poverty, unhoused, behavioral health, immigration, violence, racism, and/or war?"

God's abundant grace challenges us to live into our faith in word and deed. We are called to be brave. Bravery comes in all forms, but consider the brave women who were "firsts," lay speakers, deaconesses seeking ordination, ordained appointment District Superintendent, or Bishop. These faithful women took the step, and because they did, we have been blessed by their dedication, vision, voice, and leadership.

I lift to you, Bishop Marjorie S. Matthews, elected to the episcopacy and assigned to serve the Wisconsin Annual Conference in 1980, the first woman to serve as Bishop in a major religious body. When Bishop Matthews was elected in the North Central Jurisdiction, only 23 female clergy were in attendance out of the 460 delegates. Talk about a fantastic moment of grace lived out in the life of Bishop Matthews and in the lives of the delegates.

We must also turn our attention to all the women we have had an influential encounter with during March's observation of Women's History Month, who have inspired us in faith, bravery, and vision. It is part of our Christian experience to acknowledge all those who have gone before us, paving a way for us to continue this path.

In the tradition of our Wesleyan heritage, my prayer is, "Be present in our day, O Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. May Your grace and mercy bless and grant us to rejoice in paradise with you." Amen.

Deer Park UMC News:

Send Offering to: Janice Thompson, 110 North Street E, Deer Park, WI 54007

Noisy Can--various charities

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee after church
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month after church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday

Send Offering to: Josy Wood, 260 40th Avenue, Clear Lake, WI 540045

CL Noisy Cans:

2nd qtr.- Food shelf; 3rd qtr. -Temba and Mujila Falls ; 4th qtr.- Interfaith CareGivers

CL Midweek Church School: Midweek church school will be meeting Wednesday, April 24th from 3:15-6:00 pm. We will be baking for our baked goods mission event during the Thrift Sale. Don't miss out on the fun, fellowship and food!

End of Year Supper and Auction will be held on Wed. May 15th at 5:30. Please mark your calendars--the kids love the auction fundraiser! We'd appreciate any donations you'd care to share. All are invited!

Feed My Starving Children: On Friday, April 26th we have five students signed up to attend a packing event at the Polk County Fairgrounds from 6:00-8:00pm.



Midweek School made Resurrection Gardens!

Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 25th.

Methodist Church Volunteers in Mission

June 23-29 Youth Mission Journey

Des Moines, Iowa

6th grade - graduating Seniors

Pack your bag and air mattress because we are traveling to Des Moines, IA, where we will immerse ourselves in learning about how to alleviate poverty. We will participate in volunteer opportunities, fellowship, worship and more during our journey together! If you are interested let Pastor or Diane know.

Clear Lake March. Ad. Co. Highlights

Opened with prayer and approved Sec./Treas. Reports.

- Zoom - We will decide which microphone works best.
- We will Look into hanging the camera for Zoom. We had help from the HS IT guy.
- Per Doug Krueger, his Estate money is to be used for repairs and any new items the Board decides are necessary purchases.
- Gideon's will do a presentation on a Sunday service yet to be determined.
- Clear Lake time change in September to 10. Coffee will be before church and pot luck will be after church. No potluck in October.
- Combined First Lutheran Church Choir/Methodist Church Bell Choir Concert Wednesday May 8 at 7 PM.
- Come one, come all to the End of year Sunday School supper and auction, Wed. May 15.
- Roger will contact an electrician to get the new fan hung in the sanctuary.
- Work day in April - date to be determined:
- Bell tower makeover
- Remove the back emergency/landing/stairs
- Put up exit signs
- Parsonage gardens
- Garden box by bell tower/power wash brick
- Banner racks in bell storage room

PASTOR'S COMMENTS:

- Looking for singers. Pastor Hakki would like to have a parish choir for the combined 5th Sunday Service.
- MAUNDY THURS. SERVICE: 7:00 at CL
- Pastor Hakki is planning on having hand washing during the service. A basin, water and paper towels will need to be in place for the service.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting April 3rd @ 4pm.

Shop with RaiseRight (formerly Scrip): If you want to place a Raise Right order, please contact Andrea Jilek 263-2575. Nilssen's gift cards can be ordered at any time, too.

United Women of Faith Bingo

April 10 Mtg. BINGO at Amery Memory Care 1:15. We will have prizes to give out and lemon cake to serve. We could use anyone's help, assisting residents play, pass out prizes, or call Bingo Numbers. Children are welcome also.

Wednesday April 17, UWF will meet at Church to work on History Totes at 10:00 then go to lunch at Irma's.

Monthly meeting: 3-13-24 2pm at Ridgeview
9 present

- Voted to send donations of \$50.00 to Legacy Fund and District Mission Fund which this year is for Wisconsin Bible camps.
- President Joan informed us of how the socks we are collecting will be used- they will be recycled into pellets to be used for insulation.
- Spring Rummage sale will be April 25th & 26th, Linda has a good crew lined up.
- Easter Cards will be sent to members unable to be out and about. Thank you Catherine for providing postage.
- On Wednesday April 17th at 10:00 am we plan to meet in the church basement to work on history books and then go for lunch at Irma's Cafe.
- Everyone is welcome to join!
- Joan read us an article on "Why the Methodist Church does not use wine for communion".

CL Methodist Thrift Sale

Thursday, April 25th & Friday, April 26th

9 am-5 pm

You may bring your items and place them in the correct places Sunday April 21 through Wednesday April 24. The church will be open 8-8. Make sure things are clean. No electrical items that don't work; if they need batteries put them in please.

PLEASE UNLOAD YOUR BAGS AND BOXES AND PUT ITEMS ON DESIGNATED TABLES.

If any church member wants to make treats to sell for the Sunday School Mission we'd love to have them

Bell Choir: We are working on a spring concert with a date of Wednesday, May 8th at 7 pm. We will play on Sunday, April 28 at the Lutheran church in Boyceville and at Our Savior's Lutheran church in Amery on Sun. May 5th. Following lunch we will also play at Golden Age Manor.



Good Friday bells playing 'Tis Midnight, and On Olive's Brow

Dorcas Piecemakers : Our Circle group will be meeting the first Tuesday, April 2nd (Noon lunch at Irma's!) and third Monday of April, the 15th, from 1-3. We are working on new pillowcases for The Family Shelter in Polk County at this time. Everyone is welcome, lots of jobs to do besides sewing!

Maunder Thursday: Hand washing (originally foot washing) is a ritual that honors Jesus Christ's act of humility and love for one another by washing the disciples' feet during the Last Supper. Through this, parishioners are reminded to appreciate and express the importance of service and care for one another. It is a practice that emphasizes communal awareness and the culture of serving one another within the Christian community.



Pastor's Pen: In the season of Easter, I've been reflecting on the concept of resurrection lately. If someone were to inquire, "Do you have faith in the resurrection?" how would you naturally respond? Not long ago, I came across a video on YouTube about retirement funds due to the platform's algorithm. What caught my attention the most in that video was the unwavering confidence of the

expert as he discussed retirement funds. He passionately advocated for the importance of starting these funds early in life. As I watched, I found myself contemplating the source of his conviction in his arguments.

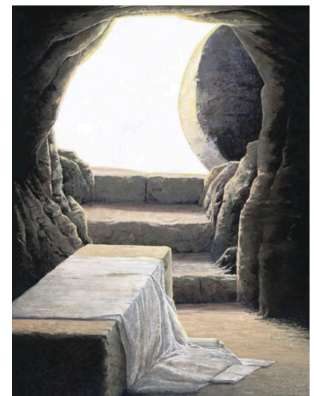
And soon enough, as I read stories in the Gospels about Jesus appearing to his disciples after his resurrection, I realized where my faith comes from. The disciples of Jesus didn't comprehend him at all until he died on the cross. So when Jesus was helplessly tortured, humiliated, and crucified in front of people, they experienced intense fear and anxiety because they had a fear of death. They were also afraid of being crucified like Jesus, so they gathered together in the house of one disciple after Jesus' death.

However, as Jesus had foretold to his disciples, he rose again after three days. And he appeared to his disciples simultaneously, saying, "Peace be with you," to those who were held captive by fear of death. The disciples, seeing the resurrected Jesus, might have found it hard to believe at first. However, the experience of seeing Jesus, hearing his voice, and feeling his touch as they held his hands was an undeniable reality for them.

Encountering the risen Jesus had a profound impact on their lives, altering them completely. They no longer feared death because they had experienced firsthand that death isn't the end of life.

Returning to our earlier discussion, I firmly believe that certainty stems from personal experience. Therefore, I hold the belief that the restoration of our relationship with God doesn't arise from complex philosophical or theological arguments, but rather from encountering and experiencing God directly, embracing Him in our hearts.

I live my life with unwavering certainty in the resurrection, salvation, and eternal life through Jesus Christ. If someone were to inquire about your confidence in these matters, I hope you can confidently respond, "Yes, I do."



You'll come to recognize that the decision to believe in and follow Jesus Christ, who brings forth a new life within us, marks the pinnacle moment and the greatest choice in our lives. I am absolutely certain of it.

양식의 맨 위
Happy Easter!

Pastor Hakki

Faith Family Church News:

Easter Egg Hunt at Emerald Park

The egg hunt event scheduled for Saturday, March 30th at 11:00 AM in Emerald Park was successfully held. All the children who participated in the event received gifts. Thanks to Emerald! Happy Easter!



Noisy Cans--2nd Quarter--Autism
Send Offering to: Terri Wilson, 3127 200th Ave,
Glenwood City, WI 54013

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)

ANCHOR OF HOPE:

Our website can be found at

<https://anchorofhopeemeral.wixsite.com/my-site>

WHO WE ARE:

At Anchor of Hope we believe we are all in recovery at some point in our lives may it be mental health, addiction, drugs, alcohol, food, grief, trauma, all around inclusion, our society, our church or so much more.

HOW TO CONNECT:

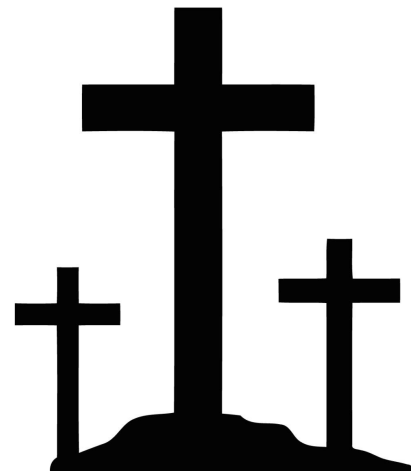
If you need to connect with someone from Anchor of Hope please reach out District Superintendent Peace pkim@wisconsinumc.org or 608-478-4527.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Anchor of Hope has been put on hold by the Wisconsin United Methodist Church Cabinet. Over the course of the next 1-3 years it will be reinvented and recreated into something new. Stay tuned.

If you are in need of a service/meeting we have been connecting with the Church of the Resurrection on Thursdays at 6:00pm

<https://resurrection.church/recovery/>





THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY
420 4TH AVENUE – PO BOX 269
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

Address Service Requested

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches
Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700
E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com
Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Willow River Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>

Hakki Min, Pastor
Office Hours: Tues-Friday 1-3 pm

Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com
Office Hours: To Be Determined

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer
Email: WRParishconnect@gmail.com

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m. – Deer Park 9:45 a.m. – Clear Lake
11:00 a.m. – Faith Family (also Zoom)

Children's Church School
"Fun Day" School–5:00 pm on Wednesdays @ Faith Family
Sunday School–9:55 am on Sundays @ Clear Lake