

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

April 2019

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



## Lectionary Readings

**April 7th 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent—purple**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**April 14th Palm/Passion Sunday—purple**

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

**April 21st Easter Sunday—white**

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

**April 28th 2nd Sunday of Easter—white**

*Holy Humor Sunday*

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150

Revelations 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

## Holy Humor Sunday

April 28th

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.



## Prayers and Concerns

*Joys*— God's mercy and grace, birthdays, our active youth, warmer weather, grandchildren, occasions to celebrate, caring friends, new birth

*Concerns*— Craig Longfellow, Ann Martin, Dawn Cress, Ardys Warner, Jeff Wilson, Debbie Stevens

*Remembering*— Ed Burri, Waneta Olson

# WORSHIP MINISTRIES

April 2019

## Clear Lake

**April 7th**    **Reader:** Debi Ahrens  
                  **Coffee:** UMW-Confirmation/Potluck  
                  **Acolyte:** Trent Avery  
                  **PwrPt:** Brittany Avery

**April 14th**   **Reader:** John Koerper  
                  **Coffee:** Don and Arlene Althoff  
                  **Acolyte:** Ben Pietz  
                  **PwrPt:** Ivan Ruble

**April 21st**   **Reader:** Dawn Cress  
                  **Coffee:** EASTER/No coffee  
                  **Acolyte:** Wyatt Reindahl  
                  **PwrPt:** Peyton Lillie

**April 28th**   **Reader:** Diane Blanchard  
                  **Coffee:** Linda J and Betty R  
                  **Acolyte:** Tyson Blanchard  
                  **PwrPt:** Bailey Blanchard

**Counters for April:** Carla L and Debi A  
**Greeter:**                    Gail Kuhl

## Deer Park Readers

**April 7th**        *no reader*  
**April 14th**     Elden Setter  
**April 21st**     *no reader*  
**April 28th**     *no reader*

## Forest Readers

**April 7th**        Debbie Stevens  
**April 14th**     Joyce Petersen  
**April 21st**     Tracey Petersen  
**April 28th**     Heather Greene



*If you are unable to attend on your designated date,  
please find a replacement. Thank you.*

## CLEAR LAKE COMMUNITY THEATER

**The Music Man**

**April 5, 6, 7**

**Friday & Saturday-7:00 pm**

**Sunday-2:00 pm**

**Clear Lake Area Community Center  
Gymnasium**

**\$10 adults, \$9 Seniors, \$5 18/under**

## Holy Week Schedule

**Holy Thursday** April 18, 7:00 pm, @ Forest

**Good Friday** April 19, 7:00 pm. @ the  
Covenant Church in Clear Lake

**Easter Sunday** April 21

7:00 am Sunrise Service @ Clear Lake  
Followed by Easter breakfast  
Regular Sunday service schedule follows

## Green Bay Packer Tailgate

**Thursday, April 11** The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will be taking their baked potatoes to this event. The church will serve our baked potatoes at the new Richmond Airport event. Please sign up at church or say “yes” if called to work ahead, set up, work the event, clean up, and bake potatoes. It’s a great opportunity to support a great cause. The event is in support of Grace Place in new Richmond.

New Richmond Airport-Main Hangar

3:30 pm: Gates Open

5pm-6pm Chris Kroeze performs

6pm-8:30 pm: Green Bay Packers Alumni

8:30 pm-9:30 pm: Chris Kroeze performs

Tickets: [www.newrichmondchamber.com](http://www.newrichmondchamber.com)

## Church Sign Theology

- Casual Sundays: wear your holy jeans to church.
- There is no cure for birth or death—except to enjoy what’s in the middle.
- Love people. Use things.
- Keep the faith—but not from others.
- We could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Christians are like coals of a fire—together they glow, apart they grow cold.
- Church parking only! Violators will be baptized.

### AMERY MEMORY CARE VISIT

The UMW will be visiting and having treats at Amery Memory Care on Monday, April 8th @ 1:30. All men and women are welcome.

*(next UMW mtg is Wed, April 10th at 2)*

## Thrift Sale

Clear Lake UMC is having a thrift sale April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 9-5. There will be a free will luncheon served both days from 11-1. Set up will take place Monday morning the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Church will be open Mon from Noon to 8 p.m., and also Tues.-Wed. from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.. PLEASE UNLOAD YOUR BAGS AND BOXES AND PUT ITEMS ON DESIGNATED TABLES! *Sorry; televisions, electronics, and broken electric items are not accepted.*

## Church School News

Clear Lake Church School will end on Wed. May 8<sup>th</sup>. Students will plan their theme, supper menu and auction. We’re asking each family to bring one or two small items for the auction. More info will be in the May newsletter.

Due to many reasons, Clear Lake is considering moving back to “Sunday” school for the 2019-2020 year. We will be in touch with families and the whole church with opportunities to help or volunteer to keep our youth.

## Celebrating A Savior

April 14, 2019

Faith Community Church—New Richmond  
1040 Paperjack Drive

5:00 p.m. supper and 6:00 p.m. show

Free will offering for dinner and show

RSVP’s appreciated but not required

RSVP by calling 715-497-4438, or by logging onto:

[www.saserenityhome.org](http://www.saserenityhome.org) or

[www.sagraceplace.org](http://www.sagraceplace.org)

Proceeds will go to Grace Place and Serenity Home shelters.

## April Birthdays



	4/01
Trevor Poremba	4/04
Dan Severson	4/04
Chris Ahrens	4/08
Michael Clark	4/09
Marsha Hudson	4/11
Ian Ruble	4/12
Linda Jurisch	4/13
David Webster	4/17
Brian Pietz	4/19
Ann Stuntz	4/20
Nolan Olson	4/22
Emily Woolever	4/23
Roger Blanchard	4/25
Mary Jo Ailts	4/26
Bryan Kofal	4/29
Lori Cross	4/29
Ivan Ruble	4/30

## April Anniversaries

Sheldon & Ruth Simonson 4/10



RUBY'S PANTRY has food distributions April 13th at the Congregational Church in Amery. Sign in

is between 7:00 – 8:45 a.m. There is a suggested donation of \$20. A raffle is held at 8:45, you must be registered and present to win. To be a volunteer, please come at 6:30 a.m. For more information, call 715-268-7390 or email [office.ameryucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.ameryucc@gmail.com)



**Deadline for May Newsletter is  
April 18th**



“[The women] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples.”  
Matthew 28:8

How is it possible for the women to experience fear and great joy at the same time? The two emotions seem to be at the opposite of the emotional spectrum. Fear might be considered a negative emotion and joy a positive emotion. Could they have feared that someone might have taken Jesus' body, and yet at the same time knew that he actually had risen from the dead?

Whatever they were feeling, they ran from the tomb. However, they ran with a purpose. The purpose was to run to the disciples and report what they had seen. Maybe they were afraid because men usually didn't pay attention to women in Biblical times. Would the disciples believe that they thought Jesus had risen from the dead?

Just as these women were witnesses to the empty tomb, we are witnesses to what Jesus does in the world today. We cannot be afraid to tell others what Jesus has done for us, what God does for us each and every day. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God provides for our needs every day. That is good news indeed!

As we finish our Lenten preparation, we have to remind ourselves that we are under God's care. We can depend on God. We can share that knowledge with others.

It is my prayer that each and every one of you remembers that you are under God's care.

God's blessings,  
Pastor John

## From Bishop Jung

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, He was famished. The devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Luke 4:1-4

What do you think of our wilderness time? The Lenten season is a time of reflection and wandering in commemoration of Jesus' wilderness time. Wilderness time is difficult time, it is a trying time, and it is a challenging time. Wilderness time is a test of faith and endurance and perseverance. Wilderness time can be frightening, exhausting, dispiriting time. But wilderness time is rich, fertile, creative time as well. In the wilderness we see what we are really made of. Our depth and breadth are tested. Our coping skills are challenged. And by the grace of God, we rise above our weaknesses and temptations to emerge stronger and better.

The forty days that Jesus journeyed in the wilderness were a time of preparation, training, and grounding. They were a proof of who Jesus was and what Jesus could do through the power of God's guidance and Spirit. Through this time and experience, Jesus was affirmed that His faith was greater than a desire for power, for control, for creature comforts, or for basic needs. God provides, and when God gives, we lack for nothing of value.

Do we believe this? Do we truly trust that God will provide all that we could need or hope for? Is our faith greater than our fear? Is our trust more solid than our doubts? Do we ever worry that the devil might be powerful enough to lessen our faith or weaken our resolve? Let us be honest, because we are human.

Our United Methodist Church is currently in a wilderness time, a Lenten season. We do not see a clear way forward. There is anxiety. There is animosity. There is frustration and confusion and exhaustion. It would be so easy to just give up—to sit down on a rock in the desert and quit. We are tired and hungry and cranky and unhappy. At such times it may be almost impossible to say, "thank you, Lord!" It may be hard to stand firm in our faith and say to God, "I am ready for whatever may come

next!" It may stick in our throat to proclaim, "no I am fine, I have all I need." It is much easier to focus on what we don't have, what we can't do, and how we are not content, than it is to humbly say, "not my will be done, but yours, O Lord."

I do not believe we can fully appreciate what Jesus did in His forty days when we stay comfortable and content in our daily routine. I believe that Lent is a time for some discomfort, for some sacrifice, and for some deep and honest reflection. I encourage us all to pray as often and as hard as we can "thy will be done, O Lord." I encourage us all to fast—if not from food, then from noise or screens or entertainment or snacks or phones or email or any of a thousand things that distract us and encourage a chattering "monkey-mind" to keep us agitated and unfocused. Give more time to God this Lenten season. When you feel angry, turn to God. When you feel empty, turn to God. When you feel anxious, turn to God. When frightened or discouraged or exhausted, turn to God. Don't give in; don't give up. Life can be hard and challenging and even tempting, but God is with you every step of the way.

Most of us cannot even conceive of living "by bread alone." We mostly enjoy good food, warm clothes, adequate shelter. Our lives are so filled with stuff. Our days are packed with activity. Our inboxes are overflowing with messages and requests and demands and offers. We are connected to devices from sun-up to sundown. We exist in a wilderness of sorts each day, wandering without time or space to rest, to reflect, to empty out, and to prepare. When God offers to fill us, we are not ready—like Martha, we are distracted by many things.

During our Lenten journey, I encourage us all to take seriously God's gift of Sabbath—time away from everything. Make space—true wilderness space—to let go. Let go of hurt. Let go of control. Let go of fear. Let go of distrust. Let go of anger. Let go of desire. Let go. Empty yourself. Fast. Prepare. Pray. Breathe. And know that the very Spirit of the loving God will provide everything you need and will strengthen you for all that is to come. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches**

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### **Sunday Worship**

8:30 a.m. – Forest                      9:45 a.m. – Deer Park

11:00 a.m. – Clear Lake

### **Church School**

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays @ Clear Lake; Meal at 5:30

8:30 a.m. Sundays @ Forest