

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

## April 2020

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



### Lectionary Readings

#### April 5th Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

#### April 12th Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

#### April 19th 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

#### April 26th 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

#### Thrift Sale

UMW are hoping to have a thrift sale in June around Clear Lake Days or at the end of Sept. Now that a lot of us are not leaving the house it's a good time to go through closets, drawers, cupboards, basements and box or bag up things you can do without. The profits are put into our general fund and after a long time without church, I'm sure we could use it!



#### Offering

Because we will not be physically meeting for church service this month, it is very important that we continue our offerings in order to keep the parish operating. Our church counts on all of you!!! If you wish to continue your giving, please send your offerings to: Arlene Althoff (CL); Terri Wilson (FF), and Janice Thompson (DP)

### 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, Bev Klatt, Pastor John, our homebound, the nursing homes & hospitals, our law enforcement, our social isolation

*Remembering—* Doug Ahrens

## April Birthdays

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

## April Anniversaries

Sheldon & Ruth Simonson	4/10
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## Palms: From Ron & Linda Jurisch

Palm Sunday is next Sunday(April 5). My husband, Ron, ordered palms for his church, many of them. Seeing there will be no service at church we decided we don't want to just throw them away. If weather permits we will put some in the CL church flower box under our bell. Drive by and take one if you'd like. We will also put many in our front yard by our tree. You're welcome to stop and get one— Linda and Ron Jurisch, 740 4<sup>th</sup> St. God bless and may He be with us all till this passes!!

## Masks

A group of ladies at Ridgeview apartments are making face masks for Amery Nursing homes. The nurses have to change masks four times a day and are in desperate need of masks. Donations are needed to help us with this project. We need flannel, sheets, colored/patterned material, and ¼ inch elastic. We will take anything we can get. If you can help, please call Catherine Benoy at 715-263-4140. If there is no answer, please leave a message with your name and phone number. Catherine will call you back to set up a time when you can drop off the supplies at the front door of Ridgeview Apartments (social distancing practices will be kept).



"Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

We are living in an unprecedented time. There has been no time in recent history that compares with what we are experiencing. The closest would be the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. A little over 100 years ago the world experienced what we are now experiencing.

Now would be a good time to go to God—spend time with God. Whether we do it in prayer or Bible reading or meditation or just sitting in silence, we need to spend time with God. There are so many ways that we can spend time with God.

Jesus reminds us that He will give us rest. Perhaps one reason we are experiencing what we are is that we were not taking time to rest. We were in such a busy, workaholic world that God decided it was time to rest and spend time with family and friends and God. Perhaps we should listen.

You can still spend time with others through e-mails and Zoom and Skype. There are ways to slow down and be with God and others. It is now up to us to do so. God wants to spend time with you.

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

God's blessings,  
Pastor John



*Deadline for May  
Newsletter  
April 16th*

## **From Bishop Jung**

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew 6:3-4

On almost every modern technological device, there is a pause button. This allows us to step away from whatever is demanding our attention to stop for a moment, to attend to other needs. My siblings in Christ, the current pandemic is inarguably pressing pause. For many, this is a terrible disruption, for others a source of extreme anxiety, and for still others a life-changing, paradigm-shifting event. It touches every aspect of our global community, every aspect of our institutional life, and every aspect of our individual day-to-day existence.

Our own General Conference is being rescheduled from 2020 until 2021. As embroiled in disagreement and talk of division as The United Methodist Church has been, this is a period for us to pause, to rethink our positions, to defuse the debate, and to prayerfully discern—what does this extra time mean? Perhaps this extra time may grant us a deeper wisdom and creativity on how we will live out our future together.

This is also a time for us to pause as Christian disciples and to reflect on who we are in the world. It has seldom been our reality that we stand as a single people against a pervasive, all-consuming, all-inclusive threat. Artificial boundaries of "us" and "them" have been erased. Where the COVID-19 virus is concerned, it impacts all of us together.

I want to call all the Wisconsin United Methodists to pause with me to consider the lives lost to this virus, the lives adversely impacted, and the ongoing suffering it produces. Too often we want to gloss over the pain and negativity of the pandemic to race to a vision for a day when this will all be behind us. But in reality, it will never be behind us. Our world will be forever changed by this pandemic. But let us press pause and think about how we will move through these days ahead.

Pray for those who contract this virus. Most will recover, and we celebrate this reality with those who can rejoice. But many will die, many will suffer, many will not recover, and it is important that we mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve. We have an incredible job of prayer ahead of us. There should not be a day that goes

by that we do not pray for all the lives touched by this virus. To be faithful in our prayer, we must intentionally press pause and make time to be with God and to be one with our suffering world.

Of course, we never stop there. We do trust in God that "all things work together with God for those who love God." We must be a people of love for those who will die, but also with those who will live. We are a people of love for those who lose jobs and suffer economic need, and also with those who have resources and can share. We acknowledge those who are living in fear and anxiety while asking God to provide the courage, strength, and conviction we need to offer comfort and grace. We trust in God's healing and we proclaim resurrection.

We are living in unprecedented days. For those of us in the United States, we are being given an opportunity to experience what a significant population deals with every day—uncertainty, anxiety, life-and-death decisions, scarcity of needed resources, and life-altering factors beyond our control. May our faith provide us with the firm foundation upon which we can face these difficult days. And may the Holy Spirit of God who unites us and makes us one help us to feel connected even when we are "socially distanced." Have faith, my Wisconsin friends in Christ, for God is doing a great thing among us, even in the midst of this time of pausing.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

## **Church Sign Theology**

- Exercise daily—walk with the Lord.
- God is the flame and we are the mirror that reflects it.
- Give before you are asked to.
- A loose tongue often gets in a tight place.
- Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible.
- Let the power of love replace the love of power.
- A family altar can alter a family.



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

# The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches

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## Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. – Clear Lake      9:45 a.m. – Faith Family

11:00 a.m. – Deer Park

# **Church School @ Clear Lake and Faith Family**

## Sundays after Young People's Time