

THE PARISH CONNECTION

August 2023

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

Lectionary Readings

August 6, 2023

10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 32:22-31; Ps 17:1-7, 15 (UMH 749);

Rom 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21

August 13, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

August 20, 2023

12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133 (UMH 850);

Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124 (UMH 846);

Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

Church Times Change In September!

Deer Park 8:30 am

Clear Lake 9:45 am

Faith Family 11:00 am



Newsletter Renewal: If you currently receive the newsletter through the mail and have not yet paid, please renew your subscription by sending \$8 to the parish office or let Anitra know that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter via "snail mail". 715-263-2700 or wrpsecretary@gmail.com. Thank you.

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2023. 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.

- World Communion Sunday-October 1
- UM Student Day Sunday-November 26



IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys—Independence Day celebrations, rain, the fair, Anchor of Hope, picnic service

Concerns—Mike Kirk continued treatment, Mark Tellijohn, Todd Petersen, Henry Hurtgen, Joanne, Cindy Warner's hip surgery, Liz Larson's niece, Tasha, Bill, Jaiden, Safe Travels for Paul and Savanna, Johanna

Remembering—Family and friends of Myrna Paulson



Clear Lake Community Vacation Bible School

Sun., August 13th-Wed., August 16th
6:00pm-8:00pm

For 4-year-olds through completed 5th grade
Hosted this year at First Lutheran Church
811 S Ave W (near CR gas station off Hwy 63)

We welcome Rev. PyungAhn “Peace” Kim as our new North West District Superintendent

Hope and Joy!

Entering into the second week in my new role, my prayers were centered around these two words: hope and joy. *“O God, we are your people committed to following Jesus through and with the United Methodist Church here in North West Wisconsin. Increase hope and joy in us. Let them extend beyond us and flourish in our communities through our ministry.”*

Greetings to you, my beloved and respected leaders of the United Methodist churches in the North West District of the Wisconsin Conference. I didn’t want it to take long to send my greetings to the churches after my first letter to the clergy of our district. You are important. You are appreciated. Thank you for your dedication as leaders of The United Methodist Church. Thank you for embodying God’s message of hope and joy.

I am here as your servant leader and fellow follower of Jesus Christ. You have refused to give up on our faith communities despite the challenges of declining numbers. I join you in holding steadfast to the promise given by God: “a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)”

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)”

Yes! We have a reason to be hopeful, so we “rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4)” and share “the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)” in our communities and beyond. We are God’s people who “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn, living in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:15-16a)”

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin my one-on-one meetings with the clergy. Each encounter reveals the unique and diverse stories of God’s calling and the remarkable work being done through the United Methodist Church. Of course, there are challenges that must be named within our stories. However, as Henri Nouwen wrote, “As long as we have stories to tell to each other there is hope. As long as we can remind each other of the lives of God’s people in whom the love of God becomes manifest, there is reason to move forward.”

My commitment will remain unwavering to celebrate the stories that God continues to weave

in us, among us, and through us. I am honored to be a mere instrument in God’s hands, joyfully writing new faith stories without fear but with an abundance of hope and joy.

Together, as encouraged with the words of Romans 12:12, let us rejoice in our confident hope, display patience amidst troubles, and persistently lift our prayers.

May the joy of trusting in God and the hope that comes from it be yours on every Sunday with your church family and friends. May such overflowing joy and hope flourish in your life every day as you walk with God.

Hope and joy!
PyungAhn “Peace”
North West District Superintendent
Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
pkim@wisconsinumc.org
608-478-4527

August Birthdays

Michael Paulson	8/2
James Fouks	8/5
Brittany Severson	8/8
Jonathan Malack	8/12
John Severson, Jr	8/13
Brandon Severson	8/16
Camryn Lillie	8/17
Renae Johnson	8/19
Ben Avery	8/20
Kristi Severson	8/20
Tyler Sharpe	8/24
Joan Lillie	8/25
Betty Rake	8/27
Ted Olson	8/29
Neil Lillie	8/31

August Anniversaries

Todd & Andrea Jilek	8/8
Ryan & Carrie Blanchard	8/12
Mark & Beth Thompson	8/12

Zoom: Please use the following information to join us Sundays for worship at 8:30 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777
Passcode: 421072

Pastor's Pen:

It's a happy August, and it feels like the perfect time to bake bread for our loved ones. Last winter, my wife and I tried making a Sourdough bread starter, but the cold weather made it tougher than we expected. No matter how many times we tried, the starter just wouldn't rise and ended up going bad, so we decided to wait. But then, the right season came. Recently, we gave making the starter another shot, and this time, we succeeded! Can you see the starter in the glass jar, rising and overflowing? It reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew 13:33, "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast."



To make the sourdough bread, we simply mix flour, water, salt, and the starter together and let it ferment for about 10 hours, gently folding it a few times. The starter: yeast makes the dough rise beautifully. After that, we put it in an iron pot and place it in a hot oven, resulting in a wonderfully delicious sourdough bread! Doesn't it sound yummy?



May Willow River Parish become like the yeast that enriches our community.

Peace, Pastor Hakki

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 kuhlq@cltcomm.net

Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 24th

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 **July 8th** 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.

Willow Ridge Pig Roast: Willow Ridge Health Care is having their annual pig roast at their facility on Wednesday, August 16th from 4-7 p.m. The menu is roast pork, potato salad, beans, coleslaw and cookies. Free will donation. Live music—come join the fun.

WRP Youth Night: ESCAPE ROOM

The first mystery: WHY DID JESUS TELL STORIES AND NOT JUST "SAY IT?"

The second mystery: WHAT PARABLES TEACH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE?

The third mystery: WHAT DO PARABLES TEACH ABOUT SALVATION?

The fourth mystery: WHAT IS HYPOCRISY AND WHY DID JESUS HATE IT?

Parables Escape Room Come and join the fun! Study the parables and figure out the decoders to get the Keys to the Kingdom! We'll meet at Roger and Diane's at 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 27.

From Bishop Jung: Visioning the Common Future: Seeking God's love together

I am grateful that we had a graceful Annual Conference and give thanks to God. We believe that the Annual Conference has always been conducted as a holy conference.

First, my thought is that the whole church and mission belongs to God. So, we believe that The United Methodist Church belongs to Christ's church and the difference making we do is in the name of Jesus Christ. Because it is the Church of God, our practice and love are built around God's great will.

It is our prayer to reaffirm together that the church is a holy community and to vitalize God's mission in the world.

It is a prayer that we must once again be convinced that God is the reason for our church's existence and gather all our devotion to love the church. "He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do." (Heb 3:4)

The spirit that was calmly talked about in the flow of the Annual Conference is the intuition that the church is seeking a new vision. Everyone showed an attitude of seeking and asking how to love God more and how to build a more dynamic church. As we seek answers to such questions, we must again have a strong faith that God is the Lord of the church and the sole Creator of our lives.

The reality facing Wisconsin churches is that it is a time for each community to be awakened as it seeks new possibilities. We believe that new possibilities can be realized where we regenerate and strengthen our theology, missions, and worship of the church centered on God.

We must seek God's presence more strongly and pray more deeply. We must seek new possibilities through him.

Second, it is the idea that we must honestly face the many challenges that the church is struggling today. Looking at the reality of the changing world with good and creative eyes is an honest faith that clearly faces one's own conflicts. Even if there is no answer, I think again that we must lead and love the church that struggles to understand God's will more clearly.

Without the attitude of honest seeking, we cannot enlighten the world and there is no way to help those who are struggling in difficulties. Even if the church cannot be the answer, we must have the humble thought that the church is a community that asks and seeks answers together.

We sit tight in our hearts and seek the guidance of the Lord at Annual Conference that denominations have been separated and churches have gone on different paths due to the reality of churches in disagreement centering on the issue of human sexuality. It is unavoidable to ask how to understand different theological frameworks and understandings, ideological differences, and other controversies, and understanding of God's creation amid changes.

"The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Ps 34:18)

As the psalmist said, I believe that the Lord is close

to the souls who are in pain and conflict.

I have a strong conviction that we cannot give up loving each other even if we cannot understand each other. I believe that spiritual discernment is the ability of direct prayer that makes us love.

So, differences and disagreements are obstacles, but with God's love, we must love and depend on each other. We must view differences as grace, consider differences as God's gifts, and view the connected activities of integrating each person's diversity as the image of the church. There, you can feel and experience God's call for the humanity.

We recognize neighbors as God's gift, and we seek the discipline to acknowledge our neighbors as a string of spiritual love. Not pretending to love or pretending to understand everything, but knowing God's love even if we can't do it ourselves. Our decision to love each other will open the future of our Conference. We pursue healing and restoration in all situations for all people.

Third, we must become a United Methodist community that envisions and practices new hope together, creating a church that people still feel attracted to, love, and belong to. We must show hope the power to coexist and interdependence, crying together when we cry and laughing together when we laugh.

We graciously did our best to continue and finish the whirlwind of secession with love.

We believe that we must send off the departed people and the church with love, and we must pursue a spiritual awakening and desire to create a community of hope for the future.

It was a painful process, but I am grateful to the many people who overcame the pain with grace.

We must accept again that to be a disciple of Jesus with faith is to love with more courage and to pursue a broader and deeper spirituality. We believe that the hope pioneered by the people of Christ will never fail, and we hope to offer life and light for the world.

I believe that a beloved community initiative will be a Conference practice and spiritual discernment that brings us closer to the reality of such hope.

Again, thank you very much to everyone who worked hard for the 2023 Annual Conference. And as a servant leader, I was very moved to the point of gratitude and admiration that all of Wisconsin United Methodists were sincere people seeking grace. Thank you so much for your witnesses and service.

AUGUST WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

August 6th Reader: Debi Ahrens

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery

Brunch: Jennie

August 13th Reader: Dawn Cress

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood

Coffee: Ruth

August 20th Reader: Diane Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard

Coffee: Jan

August 27th Reader: Alison Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery

Coffee: Gail

Counters for August: Debi & John

Faith Family

August 6th Penny Warner

August 13th Cindy Warner

August 20th Debbie Stevens

August 27th Terri Wilson

Deer Park UMC News:

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

3rd Quarter Noisy Can--Grace Place

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee after church
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each Month after church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday
- Collecting for shelter residents staying in hotels at this time, canned goods w/pop tops or single serve items to cook in the microwave.

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

Noisy Can: 3rd qtr. Christmas for Children, 4th qtr. Food Pantry.

Dorcas Piecemakers Potluck & Full Work Day:

On Monday, August 7th we plan to meet and work at 10 am on our new project for girls and women in Honduras. We will have potluck and then sew or continue cutting for the afternoon. Please join us, there is work for all ages and abilities. **On the 21st we will work on quilts from 1-3 as usual.**

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.

CL Midweek Church School: Parents meeting, Set a Sunday School Schedule for '23-'24.

We will meet with Students in August

Oliver winning his class in showmanship with his calf, Patty!



UWF July Minutes

Met in Church Basement, 6 present Worked on organizing UMC History Totes and scrapbooks; will work some more on Wednesday, July 26 at 10:00. Then go out to lunch at one of the coffee shops. Treasurer's report \$279.09. The dishwasher repair was paid for in Feb. \$145.26

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sat. Sept 23 at Barron Methodist Church, Induction of New NW District Superintendent Peace Kim. Sept 30, Saturday, UWF NW District Fall Gathering at Methodist Church in River Falls.
2. Worked on History Scrapbooks. Will continue on July 26 at 10:00 in the Church basement then go to lunch at one of the coffee shops.
3. August 9th Meeting-Possibly a visit to the Althoffs and take them out to lunch. Pot Luck

Submitted by Linda Jurisch

Clear Lake UMC Fall Thrift Sale:



Start saving items for our September Thrift Sale. Sept 28 & 29; 9-5. More information in Sept. Newsletter.

Bell Choir Concert Thurs, Aug. 10th, 6:30 pm:

Our Community Bell Choir is practicing to play at the Bandstand 100th anniversary music night on Thursday, August 10th. We will be the first group followed by the Indianhead Chorus. Please plan to attend these musical celebrations at the Bandstand this summer on Thursday evenings.

Faith Family Church News:

FAITH FAMILY AD. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

NEXT MEETING:

August 10th, 2023: 6:00pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Stay tuned for more information:

- ☐ Rustic Lore Community Faith Family Garage Sale
- ☐ October Horsing Around Days
- ☐ Pancake Breakfast in October

Noisy Cans--3rd Quarter--Salvation Army
Send Offering to: Terri Wilson, 3127 200th Ave,
Glenwood City, WI 54013

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)



St Croix County Fair Spotlight:

Flowers by Baylie Millermon

Fragrant blooms in vibrant hues
Lovely petals kissed by dew
Overflowing beauty in every shade
Whispering secrets, nature's serenade
Eternal charm that never fades
Radiant blossoms, nature's award
Stillness found on delicate earth

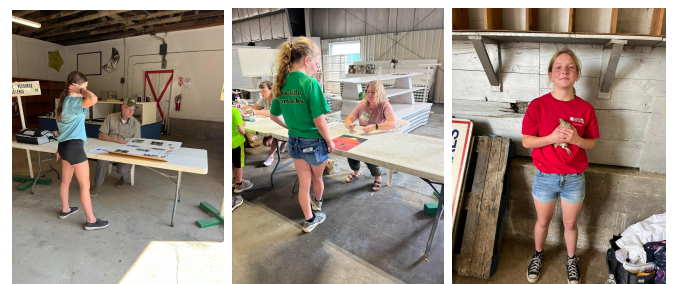
Brave by Gracie Perkins Greene



FUN DAY SCHOOL CORNER:



Fun Day school kids talked about all around inclusion at the inclusion playground at Mary's Park in New Richmond. We also went fishing together, enjoyed a meal together, and did a craft together. It was a lot of fun had by all!



Congratulations to all that participated in the fair!

Anchor of Hope Spiritual Growth Pathway



Reach for a Higher Power

- Support in times of crisis
- Develop new friendships
- Help during transitions
- Community Service Opportunities



Connect with a Mentor

- Building stronger relationships
- Learning basics of Christianity
- Pray regularly, Read the Bible
- Worship Regularly



Discover New Seas

- Share your testimony
- Learn from other people's stories
- Tithing
- Regular Spiritual practices.

Become Fisher's of People

- Lead, Teach, Serve
- Encourage others to share their testimonies
- Become a Mentor
- Feel supported

Recovery is for ALL and ALL are welcome. We all have things in our lives we have struggled with—grief, guilt, perfectionism, anxiety, depression, abilities, trauma, drugs/alcohol/food addictions, etc. We work through these areas of our life by laying our burdens down and finding rest in Christ at Anchor of Hope. If you need to connect with someone from Anchor of Hope please reach out via our email, facebook, messenger, or call/text Heather Greene (This is a part-time position and also run by volunteers so if this is an emergency please call 911 or for a mental health crisis call 988).

Our District Superintendent Peace has offered his time and services to our ministry too. Here is his contact information: PyungAhn "Peace"
North West District Superintendent
Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
pkim@wisconsinumc.org or 608-478-4527.

ANCHOR OF HOPE AUGUST PRAYER:

LORD JESUS WE KNOW YOU LOVE US, PLEASE SHOW US YOUR LIGHT AND OUR PATH. GIVE US GUIDANCE AS WE GO FORTH TODAY. HELP US TO CONFESS OUR SINS TODAY AND EVERY DAY FORWARD! GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO FORGIVE OURSELVES AND OTHERS EACH AND EVERY DAY! THANK YOU GOD FOR LOVING ME! AMEN

Our website can be found at

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

[ANCHOR OF HOPE](#) Facebook Live.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 830 9477 1703 Passcode: 781739

Schedule of Events at Anchor of Hope:

Communion is to be determined.

Bible App Study: Forgiveness

Saturdays: Bible App Study 2pm on Facebook

Mondays in August: Bibles and Burgers @ Emerald Community Park @ 6:00pm (Join us for potluck/burgers and to spend time in our Bibles)

Anchor of Hope Shepherding meeting: August 7th, 6:00pm.

At Anchor of Hope in the Month of July we talked about what it looks like to be a recovering Christian because sometimes Christianity can be hurtful. We talked about how parts of the Bible can be hurtful if we take it literally and that we need to consider our context along with our situations around us. And most of all we need to consider the Grace the God gives us that John Wesley taught us! We had a couple guest speakers and testimonies. All of our messages are on our Anchor of Hope Facebook Page. About 450 people prayed with us on our Facebook reel for our July Prayer! Check out our bible studies to help grow your spiritual life!

Institute of Congregational Development Update:

This month's field trip is to ZAO MKE UMC in Milwaukee <https://www.zaomke.org>. We also read the book Multicultural Ministry- Finding Your Church Unique Rhythm by David Anderson. Next month we (Alpha Greene, Amanda Millermon and Heather Greene) will be going to Leadership Institute in Kansas City.

Heather Greene



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

Anitra Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com
Office Hours: will vary this month

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

Heather Greene, Anchor of Hope Church Planter
Email: anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com
Phone: 612-799-6215

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

“Fun Day” Summer Church School
4:30 pm on Wednesdays @ Faith Family