

THE PARISH CONNECTION

August 2024

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

Lectionary Readings

AUGUST 04, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a; Ps 51:1-12 (UMH 785);
Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

AUGUST 11, 2024

12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps 130 (UMH 848);
Eph 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

AUGUST 18, 2024

13th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ps 111 (UMH 832);
Eph 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

AUGUST 25, 2024

14th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43;
Ps 84 (UMH 804); Eph 6:10-20; John 6:56-69



IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys—Beautiful Weather, New Great grandbaby Walter

Concerns—Jamie, Todd, Mike Kirk, Edison, Betty, Mary, Libby,

Ann, Ruth, Julie, Meghan & Steven, Holly, Mark T, Maddi Wilson, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine, Steve K, Barb's family, Cindy, Allen & Ardys, Lon

Remembering—Family and friends of Mardell Anderson

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



**Church Times Change
In September!**

Sunday, September 1st

Faith Family (and zoom) 8:30 am
Deer Park 9:45 am
Clear Lake 11:00 am

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

Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at 11:00 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

Parish Picnic

Sunday, August 18th, 10 am

Clear Lake will host the parish picnic at the CL Park Chalet, (Point side of the park, the old barn not the shelter). One service that day! Please mark your calendars.

We will furnish plates, cups, napkins, silverware and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass! Plenty of tables inside but you could bring a lawn chair if you'd like to be outside.



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

Deadline for the September Newsletter is August 27th



This photo is from the farewell service for Bishop Jung hosted by the Wisconsin Korean Caucus. The service took place on July 20 at First UMC in Madison. Most of the Korean pastors and their families serving in Wisconsin gathered for this worship. The service was very moving and emotional, encompassing a range of feelings including sadness.



Pet of the Month: Vidalia and one of their dogs, Dipper!

AUGUST WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

August 4th Reader: Alison Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery

Brunch: Pat Lillie Family

August 11th Reader: Dawn Cress

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorress

Coffee: Dylan Gorres Family

August 18th Reader: Diane Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard

Coffee: Gail K and Dawn C

August 25th Reader: Andrea Jilek

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery

Coffee: Jennie K and Becky R

Counters for August: Debi & John

Faith Family

August 4th Penny Warner

August 11th Debbie Stevens

August 18th Terri Wilson

August 25th Paul Webster

Newsletter Renewal: It is time to renew your newsletter subscription. Please watch for the renewal form in the bulletins. You may renew your subscription by sending \$9 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.

WRP YOUTH GROUP Olympic Pentathlon

Wednesday, August 28, 6 pm. At Blanchard's.

Come try your skills at the only non athletic Pentathlon for the Willow River Parish Youth Olympics!!

We'll grill some supper and try our skills at some new Pentathlon events. Of Course a few S'mores can be made as we discuss Backpacks and Burdens as we head back to school.

Ruby's Pantry: For a \$25 bundle donation you will receive an abundance of groceries. One food distribution will take place **August 10th** 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 please 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 Cty Hwy CC, New Richmond, WI, which distributes on the 3rd Thursday of the Month. 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.



The Olympic season is upon us. When I first realized that this year was an Olympic year, it felt a bit strange, as if the Olympics had arrived a bit early. Usually, the Olympics, like the World Cup, are held every four years. However, because of Covid-19, they were postponed by a year and held in 2021, so we're having the Olympics again after just three years.

What's your favorite Olympic sport? I enjoy watching archery, taekwondo, judo, and table tennis, but I especially love taekwondo. When I was a child, taekwondo was very popular in Korea, and most of my friends took classes. I even earned a second-degree black belt myself. I still remember staying up all night to watch the taekwondo matches during the 2004 Athens Olympics.

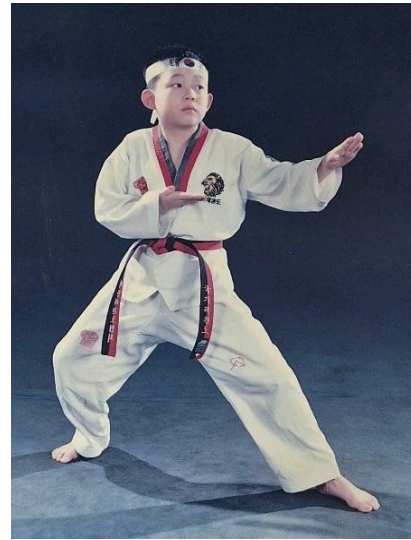
As summer rolls around, everyone is making vacation plans and enjoying the vibrant season. This often means that the church sanctuary is a bit quieter than usual. But as August comes, we return to our routines after the long summer break. Children get ready to go back to school, and the once-quiet church starts to buzz with activity again.

Since last year, I've been focusing on enhancing our church's vitality. How can we infuse new energy into our church and keep it thriving over the long term? It might involve some fresh ministry activities. I'm exploring various ideas to achieve this.

In mid to late August, we're planning a Picnic Service at the Chalet in Clear Lake. What if we added a Parish Cornhole Tournament after the service, similar to the Olympics? It could be fun to have teams from UWF, the men's group, each church, the youth group, Dorcas Peacemaker, and anyone interested compete in a friendly tournament. We could offer a prize for the winning team and use the participation fees to support community organizations, social missions, or missionaries abroad. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this idea and on church vitality in general.

Feel free to share any great ministry ideas with me anytime. I'm always eager to listen.

In Christ,
Pastor Hakki



In Taekwondo in Korea, you start with a white belt when you first begin. You progress to the next belt color through examinations. The colors of the belts offered may vary slightly between dojos. Generally, the sequence is

white belt, yellow belt, green belt, blue belt, purple belt, brown belt, and then red belt. After the red belt, you go to a place called Kukkiwon for an official examination. If you pass this examination, you receive a belt that is a mix of red and black, which is called the first-degree red and black belt. After this, the black belts start from the second degree. I achieved up to the second-degree black belt, but I couldn't find the photos from that time.

Pastor Hakki serves Willow River Parish while also serving as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries for the Wisconsin Conference. He is in charge of the itineration schedule for missionaries working to make disciples of Christ abroad when they visit our conference. Pastor Hakki's role involves planning and managing their travel routes, the churches they will visit, as well as their accommodations and transportation. Last year, missionary Temba Nkomozepe, who serves Mujila Falls in Zambia, stayed in Wisconsin for three weeks. This year, missionary Eliad Dias dos Santos, who serves in Rome, Italy, stayed in



Wisconsin for one week and visited churches. The photo is from her presentation at Elk Mound: Trinity UMC in the North West district.

Pastor Family's Visit



Deer Park UMC News:

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

3rd Quarter Noisy Can--Various Charities

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **BEFORE** church at 10:15
 - Potluck-1st Sunday of each month **BEFORE** church. (Not in October)
 - Food shelf donations any Sunday
-

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

CL Noisy Cans:

3rd qtr. -Temba and Mujila Falls ; 4th qtr.- Interfaith CareGivers

Dorcas Piecemakers : Our Circle group will be meeting the first and third Mondays of August from 1-3. On Monday, August 5th we will have lunch at Irma's at noon and all are welcome to join us. Sewing from 1-3 on new table runners for the fellowship tables.

On August 19th we will continue sewing on table runners. We have had some wonderful donations of fabric and have plenty for our next batch of pillowcases. Thanks to all for the generous donations. We are checking with the Polk County Abuse Shelter to donate pillows and pillowcases.

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 Church School: Parents meeting, Set a Sunday School Schedule for '24-'25.

Wednesday, August 21, at Kate's Koop at Pillar Bank at 10:00am.

UWF July Minutes

The July trip to Harbor House in Superior was canceled because of several factors. The Tea in the Pines was also pushed back hoping for cooler weather in September.

No UWF meeting in August. September -Bingo at Willow Ridge Health Care. October-possible trip to Harbor House in Superior with items they need.



Esther, her sister, Eun-Young Kim, her one year old daughter, Yul Kim and Pastor at the picnic

Clear Lake UMC Fall 2024 Thrift Sale:



Start saving items for our September Thrift Sale. Sept 26 & 27th; 9-5. More information in Sept. Newsletter.

5th Sunday September 29th at 10 am at Clear Lake with Potluck Luncheon

CL Ad Council

We didn't have a July meeting. Our August Ad Council will be held on Wed. August 7th at 4pm at the church.

Oliver Wood with his 307 pound pig, Miss Piggy, at the Polk Cty. Fair



Evan at CL Church picnic for Esther's sister!

June 7, 2024 Annual Conference Plenary Report of Shared Bishop Task Force

Revelation 21: 5 (NRSV Updated Edition)

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

The Wisconsin Conference is entering into a season when what is new is looking familiarly like what was old. Let's remember some brief history. First Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (M.E.) work in what is now the State of Wisconsin dates back to when it was part of the Michigan Territory. United Brethren and Evangelical work also dates back to the territory years.

When the Illinois M.E. Conference divided in 1840, the northern section of the State of Illinois, Wisconsin, and a portion of eastern Iowa made up the Rock River Conference. It included districts based in Green Bay, Milwaukee and Platteville, with the Rock River District extending from current I94 across Jefferson County, WI south to I88 across DeKalb County, IL. It was in 1848 with Wisconsin statehood that the Wisconsin M.E. Conference was formed. The counties in Northern Illinois that now are known by that Conference name retained the Methodist Rock River Conference name until the 1968 union of Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction. The latter's Lexington Conference included congregations in both our states.

Also of note is during the 19th and 20th centuries shared districts and conferences existed over our geographical region by German, Norwegian, and Danish speaking congregations.

We have now come almost full circle. United Methodist membership in Wisconsin is now a quarter of what it was in 1968. The Northern Illinois Conference is approximately a third of what it was at denominational union. Establishing the number of bishops, or general superintendents, of our denomination has been driven by membership. Anticipating a needed reduction in Episcopal Areas in the Upper Midwest, the North Central Jurisdiction

(NCJ) at its January 2024 special called session authorized combining the Chicago and Wisconsin Episcopal Areas, each currently with an assigned bishop, into a single Area with one bishop beginning September 1. At the same jurisdictional conference, the current Ohio East and Ohio West Areas were authorized to make plans to become a single Area. Subsequent action by the recent GC means there will be one additional reduction in NCJ Episcopal Areas this year.

Information about the work of the Joint Shared Bishop Task Force established by Bishops Jung and Schwerin is in the reports section of the pre-conference materials. Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy, Sr. Pastor of First UMC at the Chicago Temple, co-chaired the group with me.

Both our annual conferences will retain their own identities and organization. The relationship will be similar to a two-point pastoral charge. But being part of a single Northern Illinois – Wisconsin Episcopal Area opens possibilities for intentional sharing of personnel, such as Rev. Cheryl Weaver as the new Benefits Officer serving both conferences. Wisconsin previously experienced the value of an Area Staff that served the East Wisconsin Methodist, West Wisconsin Methodist and Wisconsin EUB conferences prior to 1970 uniting, so such collaboration is not a new experience.

The most immediate location change for both Wisconsin and Northern Illinois will be the establishment of the Episcopal Area Office separate from either Conference office. Wespath, our denominational pension, benefits and investment board, has graciously agreed to host the bishop's office in its Glenview IL building. An office expense grant from the denominational Episcopal Fund will cover costs for that operation. Separate clergy Assistants to the Bishop and administrative Executive Assistants will be located in the respective Conference offices in Sun Prairie and Chicago. It is anticipated that Wisconsin Cabinet meetings will be commonly held in Sun Prairie as the separate conferences continue to have clergy appointments to sort out. In addition both current Episcopal Residences in Sun Prairie and Chicago will be sold.

Wisconsin's Treasurer/DAS Sarah Sneider will administer the grant from the NCJ for necessary technology changes. Those additions will be implemented by Wisconsin's Director of Communications, Lisa Wink. Northern Illinois Treasurer/DAS, Elaine Moy, will serve as the new Episcopal Area's fiscal agent.

Expect to continue to see the bishop participate in key gatherings of laity and clergy in both conferences, and of course preside over both annual conference sessions.

Cooperation between neighbors with shared historical roots will benefit both conferences. As another step into living out our intentional closer relationship, we have friends and colleagues from the Northern Illinois Conference with us today to bring greetings. Let us welcome Liz Gracie, lay member of the Joint Shared Bishop Task Force, who is accompanied by Rev. Danita Anderson, incoming Assistant to the Bishop, and Eugene Williams, Co-Conference Lay Leader.

Rev. Steve Zekoff
Chair, Shared Bishop Task Force

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

(Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Faith Family Church News:

Faith Family Ad Council minutes:

July 25, 2024 at 6:30 via zoom

Present: Pastor Hakki, Terri and Jeff, Debbie and Gary, Paul, Joyce and Dennis and Alpha
Discussion:

1. Little library: We had a little Library donated by Glen Hills Parish. Dennis put it up and it looks great.
2. Discussed a microphone for the organ. Need to wait for a report from Heather.
3. **Pancake breakfast/fundraiser:** Since we are already into a busy summer, it was decided to skip the garage sale and have the pancake breakfast on **Sept. 22 from 9-1.** Debbie will put the ad in the Glenwood paper and Tab. Debbie will get groceries. There will be a sign-up sheet for bringing some of the supplies. We will get flyers made. We will have church on **Saturday, Sept. 21 at 6:00.**
4. Our insurance is going up a few hundred dollars, Debbie will email the finance office to see if they have a plan for different insurance.
5. All are invited to Bishop Jung's Farewell party this weekend in Stevens Point and Sun Prairie. Missionary Santo's from Rome will also be there as a guest speaker.
6. **Parish picnic will be Aug. 18 in Clear Lake**
7. SPRC is meeting on Sunday, July 28.
- 8 Update on Cindy, Allen and Ardys, Ari, and Burleigh, Prayers for all!

Next meeting: September 19, 6:30 on zoom

Closed in Prayer-Submitted by Debbie



Sometimes we all need a reminder to stop and slow down and smell the flowers... life is going by too fast. Take time to do the things you love and enjoy every day and thank God for it! Self care is God's work too!

Check out how our youth did at the St. Croix County Fair!



Fun Day School Kids:

See you in September!!!

Faith Family News Continued:



Thank you for the prayers, cards and visits for Cindy Warner. Cindy is now on Hospice and this is her in her new wheelchair. If you would like to visit or send a card:
Dove Healthcare-Bloomer
2217 Duncan Road, Room 210,
Bloomer, WI 54724
Attn: Cindy Warner



We are able to Rent out our beautiful building for events, meetings, etc.

Do you or anyone you know want to rent out this beautiful building?

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)

Noisy Can--3rd Qtr: Salvation Army or Grace Place
Send Offering to: Terri Wilson, 3127 200th Ave,
Glenwood City, WI 54013

Fly high Savanna we are proud of you as you move on to your next adventures in life! Congratulations on your 4-H successes! You are an inspiration! Stay the course and know that Jesus loves you! Good Luck in Stevens Point.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sept. 22 from 9-1



Faith Family Church

Community Events:

Emerald Community Meeting: July 31st @ 6:30pm

Rustic Lore: September 6-8, 2024

Stay Tuned for more information:

Horsing Around Days: 1st weekend in October

Spelling Bee King

This young lad, Graham, has found a new way to communicate through spelling! Way to go Graham and Mom!





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: 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
Will resume in September