

THE PARISH CONNECTION

January 2024

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

Lectionary Readings

January 7, 2024

Baptism of the Lord (White)

Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29 (UMH 761);

Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day (Green)

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18;

1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 21, 2024

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12 (UMH 787);

1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111 (UMH 832);

1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

IN OUR PRAYERS

Joys—Sunday school students and their Christmas Messages and Programs, Christmas, Season of Epiphany

Concerns—Mark, Jamie, Todd, Mike Kirk, Larson, Edison, Betty, Jim, Ivan, Mary, Bonnie, Libby, Ann, LeRoy & Barbara, Myla (Koerper's granddaughter), Julie, Meghan, Steve, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine

Remembering—Family and friends of Ed Richmeier and Irene, Shawn Millermon, Roger Schramski, Olivia, Tony, Sue Paulson

WRP Bible Study: We are looking at a Lenten Bible study at this time. Please let us know if you are interested.

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

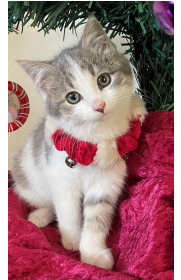
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp_aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

PET OF THE MONTH: Penny

Warner's new kitten. I would like to introduce Miss Maggie Mae. I adopted her on Thanksgiving, and she adds much joy and excitement to my house. She still has two siblings who are looking for their forever homes. If you would like to have a new pet to give your love and hugs to, please contact Debbie and Gary Stevens! Maggie is definitely a Holiday Blessing!



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

During winter, when harsh weather comes due to too low temperatures or heavy snow and each church decides to close, we will have a Zoom worship at 10 a.m.

Pastor's Vacation: Jan 9 - 18

Emergency Contact: Rev. Dan Pearson, United Covenant Church, CL - 715.263.2665

Pulpit Fill for Jan 14: Dan Van Brunt, a Certified Lay Servant of the New Centerville UMC - 701.212.2323

Love for our Troops: This year we are sending treats to our troops. We will be purchasing an assortment of non-perishable treats and personal items. We will be purchasing all items going into these boxes and your monetary donations would be appreciated to cover the cost of the items and postage. If you know someone who is in the service call Linda Jurisch, 715-263-2288. These personnel should be from the Clear Lake, Clayton, Reeve, Forest and Deer Park areas. Please send donations during Jan & Feb to: LouAnn Hansen, 471 7th Avenue, Clear Lake, WI 54005. Checks can be made out to VFW Auxiliary.

Soul Food: by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace". (Isaiah 55:12)

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, we want to think of warm, happy memories, but we can't as easily right now. Our minds and very souls are distressed by the scenes of war victims and refugees, which is painful and hopeless.

We decry the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas and the continuing loss of life of Israelis and Palestinians including thousands of children and vulnerable people.

We continue to pray that God's protective hand be with those who are in despair because of the wars taking place in Russia, Ukraine, and the Gaza Strip in Palestine and other parts of the world. Today, my heart and soul gravitate towards the Gaza Strip in Palestine.

We have watched the news clips of hospitals, refugee camps, schools, and even ambulances bombed. I think about the lives of innocent children who die trapped in collapsed buildings. There are too many vulnerable people sacrificed.

The atrocities don't stop there; we see and read about hospitals that are cut off from basic energy supplies and are short on medical supplies and bottled water. It breaks my heart that so many lives won't blossom into the future. They exist in the darkness of fear and death. This carnage must stop.

Calling for an end to the war does not mean siding with Hamas.

As followers of Christ, we must call for an end to this situation where life, which is more precious than anything, is treated as expendable.

Violence begets violence: violence plants hatred, resentment, and anger in someone's heart. Wounds on the body will heal over time, but the memories of violence are engraved in the heart and rarely go away.

Believing that the victors will create peace through violence is a misnomer. We must wake up and pray for a world where God's love is known, and everyone can practice and experience that love.

In the Scripture text from Isaiah, the prophet dreamed of a world ruled by God: "Where wolves will live with lambs, leopards will lie down with their young goats, calves, lion cubs, and fatlings will graze together, and a child will lead them" (Isaiah

11:6-9). The characteristics of this world are revealed in the word "together." God's world is not one in which we are satisfied to be "alone." The ultimate question is, how can we create a world where the weak and the strong coexist, where no one harms or destroys each other? Isaiah says that the dream of such a world will finally come true when the knowledge of God fills the earth.

I imagine the darkness's grip is weaker when we allow Isaiah's dreams to seep into our daily lives. Although the current reality seems to be dominated by darkness and rampant violence, we do not lose heart because we can dream of a world where God's love and peace reign.

I pray that this Thanksgiving is filled with abundance - of gratitude, love, peace, and, above all else, hope. May God make it so. Amen.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Denise Severson	1/08
Dan Jilek	1/10
Penny Warner	1/12
Paul Webster	1/12
Harlan Coyer	1/13
Steve Warner	1/17
David Goodrich	1/18
Amanda Millermon	1/18
Kayla Thompson	1/18
Brittany Anderson	1/24
Bailey Blanchard	1/28
Diane Paulson	1/28
Pat Lillie	1/30

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Hakki Min & Esther Kim	1/06
Dan & Missy Severson	1/23
Jeff & Terri Wilson	1/24

WRP Youth: Youth will meet at Dylan and Erin Gorres' home on Saturday, January 6th, 4-7 -pm. Dress warm for being outdoors for fun, food and fellowship. We will combine a bit of Christmas and New Year's for fun and study!

Regional Youth Event: Snow Tubing @ Trollhaugen in February. Look for details in the worship bulletins.

Packed college boxes! Thanks for all the donations! We sent out nine boxes to our students and they appreciated all the treats!

"I just wanted to let you know that I received the box of goodies today and I loved it so much. I am so grateful to have you in my life" Abigail L.

JANUARY WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

Jan 7th Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery
Brunch: Avery Family
Jan 14th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard
Coffee: Roger & Diane
Jan 21st Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Roger & Diane
Jan 28th Reader: Oliver Wood
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Linda

Counters for January: Carla & Diane

Faith Family

Jan 7th Penny Warner
Jan 14th Cindy Warner
Jan 21st Debbie Stevens
Jan 28th Terri Wilson

Women's Retreat at Luther Park Bible Camp is being discussed. We are looking at a weekend in February. If you are interested or have some great ideas, please let Andrea Jilek, Jennie Keller, Debi Ahrens or Diane Blanchard know ASAP.

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 **January 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.

Deadline for February Newsletter is Jan 26th

Big Thank you to Trinity for Hosting the 2023 Charge Conference!

Pastor's Pen: Happy New Year!

May the love and peace of Christ fill your lives throughout 2024.

From Christmas Day until the 27th, my family and I attended the Korean Caucus Annual Conference held in Wisconsin Dells. It was not just a simple retreat; it included worship, four lectures, conversations with the Bishop, and the Annual Conference itself.



While people usually go to the Dells for waterpark fun, Korean pastors had to attend four lectures there to be better-equipped pastors for a more effective ministry. The topics of each lecture were as follows: "Racialized Trauma," "Leader Together: Nurturing Communal Care by Unleashing Group Dynamics in Cross-Racial and Cross-Cultural Ministry," "Missionary Journey in Fiji," and "Defensive Mechanism in Pastoral Care and Counseling Setting."

All the lectures were insightful, but Bishop Jung's words about shaking up, tweaking, and redesigning the church as Christians resonated with me continuously.

I look forward to a bright 2024 for us. As children of God, let us serve our church and community diligently in 2024 to proclaim the love and hope of Christ to our neighbors.

May our journey of faith be shaken up, tweaked, and redesigned by Christ.

Happy Your Year!

Pastor Hakki



Deer Park UMC News:

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

1st 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
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Send Offering to: Josy Wood, 260 40th Avenue, Clear Lake, WI 540045

Clear Lake Church Cancellations: In the event of bad weather, please contact Roger Blanchard 715-263-2690 to find out if worship services are canceled.

Clear Lake Dec. Ad. Co. Highlights

Opened with prayer.

- A big Thank you to Justin and Josy for putting up the Christmas tree.
- Camilla will be taking over Ruth's financial duties.
- The Statistical Report is due at the end of February. Josy, Diane, Debi, Camilla and Carla will meet to complete the report.
- The Community Center has asked our Church to serve baked potatoes for the Winter Market January 13 and February 10. The UWF will coordinate. Everyone is welcome to help!

Pastor's Comments:

- Both candidates for the church secretary's position declined the position so we are actively searching for someone to fill the church secretary position.
- After discussing not lighting the second Advent candle for solidarity with Israel against the war, a motion was made to not light the candle. Closed with prayer.

No Meeting in January. Next meeting Feb. 7, 2024.

1st Quarter Noisy Can--TBD

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.

Dorcas Piecemakers : Our Circle group will be meeting the **second and Fourth** Mondays of January from 1-3. Monday, Jan.8th and Jan. 22nd.

UWF Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party was at the Ridgeview Apts. this year and enjoyed by all those who could make it. Good food and conversation was had. Joan did a fun story about Fruitcake and brought some freshly made for all of us to taste. We had some delightful young visitors this year that brightened up the party! No Jan. mtg.

Bell Choir: Our annual Christmas concert with the First Lutheran Choir was held Sunday, Dec. 17th.



Christmas For Children: What a marvelous community to be a part of! We have had a very busy and gratifying December. We have just completed our 30th year of Christmas for Children in Clear Lake. On behalf of the Christmas for Children Committee, we would like to say thank you so much for your support to our program. We would like to thank Carla LaBlanc and Roger for all their years of work to start and keep this program going and their ongoing support and advice to Debi and Diane!

We are so grateful and humbled to be a part of a community that is so supportive, caring, and generous.

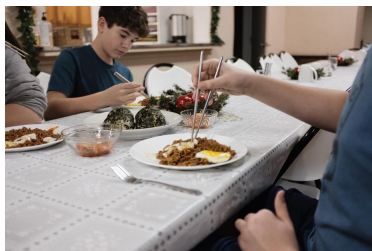
We could not do this program successfully without the help and support from your donations. We use monetary donations to buy clothes, coats, snow pants, boots, and other clothing gifts for the children.

This year we helped 32 families, (95 children). Every child gets clothes (which is only possible with your donations). And, of course, every child receives toys, games, personal care items and something fun for them.

Each family also gets a large food box from the Lifeline Food Pantry with a gift certificate from Nilssen's Market. We thank all of you for helping us to make this a Merry Christmas for these families.

Happy New Year and we wish you God's Peace and Blessings in 2024.

2023 in Review





Faith Family Church News:

***Thank you to all the volunteers
this year it takes all of us to
make our church continue to
go on. You are Appreciated!***

Faith Family Ad. Board Highlights:

Faith Family Ad Council Minutes

December 14, 2023

Present: Joyce & Dennis Petersen, Debbie Stevens, Cindy Warner, Paul Webster, Penny Warner, Terri Wilson &; Pastor Hakki.

-Mission project updates:

- Donated \$ to Majula Falls.
- Also paid our apportionments in full.
- Noisy Can goes to the Human Society.
- Children in Emerald.
- Noisy Can \$ Ideas:
 - o Crawl 4 the Cure
 - o Autism
 - o Salvation Army??? / Grace Place
 - o Humane Society

-Pastor Vacation. January 9 – 18. Pastor Emmer Dan Pearson, Covenant Church in Clear Lake. 715.263.2665. Still looking for the Pulpit Fill.

-Newsletter highlights and mission projects for January.

- Perhaps Miss Maggie Mae could be the Pet of the Month.
- Paul suggests that we list Temba Nkomozepe as an employee of the church.

-No one answered the paper ad for Church Secretary. Still looking. Interested people should contact Pastor Hakki.

-Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

-Paul strongly suggests that the Apostle's Creed of the Nicene Creed at least monthly. Motion passed unanimously.

FUN DAY SCHOOL CORNER:

Our kids have been working hard on their Christmas Program and had intended on performing it during their Dinner Theatre on Wednesday December 27th however we had sick children. We want everyone to be able to participate so we are hosting this January 3rd at 6:00pm HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.

Noisy Cans--1st Quarter--Crawl 4 the Cure
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.

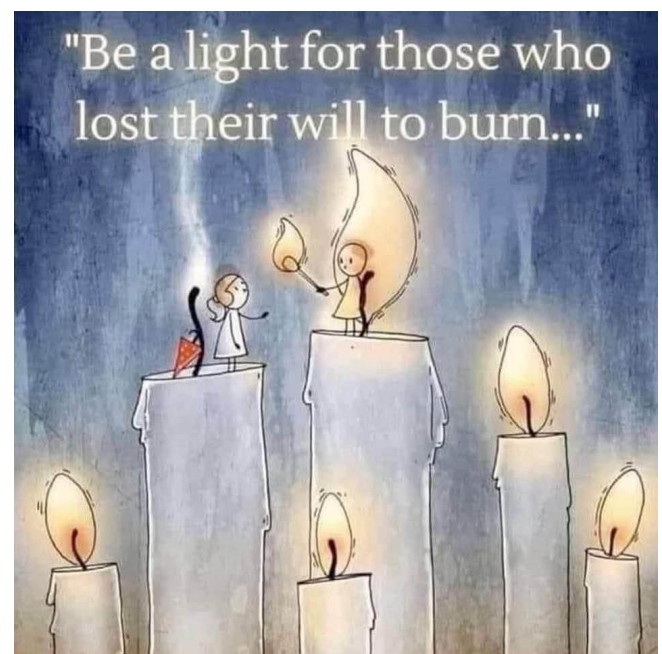
HOW TO CONNECT:

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—4:30 pm on Wednesdays @ Faith Family
Sunday School—9:55 am on Sundays @ Clear Lake