

THE PARISH CONNECTION

March 2019

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



Readings for March

March 3 (white) Transfiguration Sunday
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43a)

March 10 (purple) 1st Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 17 (purple) 2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24 (purple) 3rd Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31 (purple) 4th Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lenten Schedule

We will gather each Wednesday during Lent for contemplation & worship – at 7:00.

On the weeks we gather at Forest or Clear Lake this will be preceded by fellowship, soup & sandwiches at 6:00.

March 6	Clear Lake (soup)
March 13	Forest (soup)
March 20	Deer Park
March 27	Clear Lake (soup)

Save the Date

Sunday, May 5th--Our 'Spring Fling' luncheon and Handbell Choir concert. Sign up at back of church for themed tables by April 1st.



Prayer Concerns

Joys— celebrations with families and friends, sunshine, all those who plow and shovel snow, opportunities to enjoy winter, loved ones, mittens & scarves

Concerns— Craig Longfellow, Ardys Warner, Debbie Stevens, Jeff Wilson, Tristan, Denine, Judy, Darryl, Tom, our Lenten period

Remembering— *Verlyn Benoy*

From Bishop Jung

My beautiful Wisconsin people, I am greeting you following General Conference.

What a difficult process we experienced trying to find our way forward as the United Methodist Church! We knew this would not be easy, but it was as hard as anyone might have imagined. We are a wonderful church. We are a divided church. We are a church in pain, and we are doing harm to each other. Very messy, and very hard. We worked hard for four days—and I want you to know that your elected delegation represented you well. Be proud of them and be thankful to them. They worked hard—but there were many difficult situations, and it became clear just how deeply our divisions go within our church. And I would say that we are evenly divided. Many of our votes were close; one even 50%-50%.

Strong, strong feelings on each side. This was a short time to try to resolve long and big problems. God was with us; the Holy Spirit was with us, but we are in a very troubled and divided time. Take heart though—God is not finished with us yet!

It would be too easy to say we failed at General Conference. That is one way to look at it, and many people will. But perhaps God revealed to us that we are not yet ready to make these big decisions that will forever change our church. Our more conservative members who hold to a very clear and simple reading of scripture felt challenged and misunderstood, yet a strong support for this position was evident. The concerns of our Central Conferences were voiced and challenged, yet there was strength in this area as well. Our LGBTQI+ brothers and sisters felt judged, disrespected, and attacked, yet parts of the community rallied around them with incredible love and compassion. What became painfully clear is that we are a broken church, but with large segments of agreement within our disagreements.

Where we met an impasse is over the issue of who should stay and who should go, who will be The United Methodist Church and who should have to leave. This is where we are stuck, and I believe our General Conference showed clearly we are not in the right place to make this our only decision. With the exception of a small handful who only want to leave, the vast majority of people are still proud to be United Methodist and they are not ready to destroy the faithful and sacramental covenant that we share. While we

may disagree over issues of human sexuality, we are still proud and protective of being United Methodist, and we will not take action that will force anyone to give that up.

I cannot tell you I am happy with what happened at General Conference. I cannot tell you I think we did a good job. I cannot tell you that I think we engaged in abject humility and obedience to God's Holy Spirit. But what I can tell you is that people of faith—laity and clergy, male and female, old and young, local and global, straight and gay—did the best job they could to serve the church and the god they love. It shows again why we still need a Savior, why we all stand in the need of prayer and God's perfecting love and grace. There is great work to do ahead of us. I believe that we will move forward together in Wisconsin as well as any group of Christians within our connectional church. I know this because I know you are a people of love, with a heart for ministry and a passion for mission. I know we will work out our future together in faith because I know we are good, beautiful people of mercy, compassion and justice. And I know we will create a wonderful future together because the god who has not given up on us will not allow us to give up on one another. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung



*Deadline for
April Newsletter is
March 19th*

**Bingo @ Glenhaven
March 7th**

UMW

UMW met on February 13th. President Joan Lillie led the meeting, 7 present. Purpose read. Roll Call with Scriptures about LOVE.

Sec.Minutes read and approved.

Treasurers Report: \$611.88 read, approved.

Old Business:

1. Made new Handbook for 2019.
2. Discussed what we have to do for 150th UMW Anniversary-Spring Day of Enrichment at Eau Claire, March 23.

Make History and Mission Poster

Silent Auction Basket Shop for Kitchen items
Talk about at March Pot Luck.

Ruth display 1800's style dress

3. Buy Weaver for 3 younger women, approved.

4. Sent Valentine's Day Cards to Shut-Ins (Mardy, Char, Vi, Doug, Julie and Craig, Ann Martin)

5. Prayer and self denial sent \$50.00

6. Scripture by Arlene

7. Program by Joan "Heart"

Old Methodist Prayer Pot Luck

Submitted by Linda Jurisch

UMW Spring Day of Enrichment 150th Anniversary Celebration

Please Consider Joining This Event. March 23, 7:30-3:00, Eau Claire Lake Street UMC, 337 Lake Street, Eau Claire. We will form car pools and meet at church about 6:30. Give Ruth Severson \$15 cash or check made out to UMW by March 2. Last day to register. We will have a Flea Market table with items to sell from our church. You may donate crafts, antiques, etc. We make money and give 10% to Mission. Will set up table at 7:30. Bring cash to buy items, no checks or credit cards accepted. 8:30-9:00 Registration. 9:00-12:00 Morning Entertainment. 12:00-1:00 Lunch. 1:00-2:30 Afternoon Activities-Free time to look and BUY. Prayer Room, Chat Room, Silent Auction, Flea Market Open, History Displays. Any questions contact Joan Lillie or Linda Jurisch or Ruth Severson.

Thrift Sale

Clear Lake UMC is having a thrift sale April 25th and 26th from 9-5. There will be a salad, sandwich, and dessert luncheon served both days from 11-2 (free will offering). You may start dropping off your items on Sunday, April 21st after worship. Church will also be open Mon-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.*



March Birthdays

Bev Klatt	3/2
Dennis Petersen	3/9
Amanda Linehan	3/9
Elaine Small	3/13
Joyce Petersen	3/14
Greg Severson	3/15
George Stutter	3/18
Todd Jilek	3/19
Elden Setter	3/20
Viola Kirk	3/22
Allen Warner	3/24
Jewel Severson	3/26
Jan Benson	3/27
Todd Pietz	3/27
Julie Elmer	3/28

Anniversaries

Roger & Carla La Blanc 3/20

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

March 2019

Clear Lake

- Mar 3rd** **Reader:** John Koerper
 Coffee: Koerpers/Potluck
 Acolyte: Ben Pietz
 PwrPt: Peyton Lillie
- Mar 10th** **Reader:** Dawn Cress
 Coffee: Ruble Family
 Acolyte: Trent Avery
 PwrPt: Ivan Ruble
- Mar 17th** **Reader:** Diane Blanchard
 Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family
 Acolyte: Tyson Blanchard
 PwrPt: Bailey Blanchard
- Mar 24th** **Reader:** Alison Blanchard
 Coffee: Jennie K. and Becky R.
 Acolyte: Wyatt Reindahl
 PwrPt: Brittany Avery
- Mar 31st** **Reader:** Andrea Jilek
 Coffee: Pietz Family
 Acolyte: Ben Pietz
 PwrPt: Ivan Ruble

Deer Park

- Mar 3** *no reader*
Mar 10 Elden Setter
Mar 17 *no reader*
Mar 24 *no reader*
Mar 31 *no reader*

Forest

- Mar 3** Joyce Petersen
Mar 10 Tracey Petersen
Mar 17 Heather Greene
Mar 24 Terri Wilson
Mar 31 Cindy Warner



Counters for March: Diane B and Dawn C
Greeter: Linda J

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

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.



... has food distributions March 9th at the Congregational Church in Amery.

Food distribution will begin at 9 am. All food shares must be purchased between 7:30 & 8:45 am. Suggested donation of \$20 to help cover cost of the food, its transportation & storage. A portion of each donation will also go to provide assistance to those in need in our local area.

To volunteer, arrive no later than 6:30 am. Contact info: office.ameryucc@gmail.com or 715.268.7390

This month we begin the period of Lent. Lent is that time of preparation when we prepare our hearts and our lives for the great Easter celebration. We prepare to celebrate the self-sacrifice that Jesus made so that we all might be saved.



There are many things we can do to prepare for Easter. First and foremost would be to read your Bibles. If you do not, this would be a good time to start. You can begin by reading the Gospels because they give a good overview of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. They give a good reason why Jesus gave Himself for us. However, you can start anywhere in the Bible. Begin reading today.

Another form of preparation is self-sacrifice. You can give something up during this time of Lent. You can give something up so that you can spend more time with God. You can give up some television, video games, and leisure time. You can give something up to show your dedication to God—chocolate, sweets, and steak would be examples of this.

You can spend more time in prayer and meditation. This will help you to focus more of your time and energy on God and Jesus Christ. Prayers in the mornings and the evenings, and prayers at different times of the day, will help you make more room in your lives for God and Jesus Christ.

You can also find time to help people. There are groups and organizations that always need volunteers. This volunteer time can help those in need. You can help those who cannot do for themselves. You can help those who may be too young to do for themselves. There are always those who need God's help, and that help can come from God through you. You may be the only hands that can help these people. It is also a great way to prepare for Easter.

God's blessings,

Pastor John

Green Bay Packers Tailgate Party & Chris Kroeze Concert

April 11, 2019

New Richmond Airport-Main Hangar

3:30 Gates Open

5:00 Chris Kroeze Performs

6:00 Packers Alumni

8:30 Kroeze performs

Benefit for: Grace Place Homeless Shelter

Tickets: www.newrichmondchamber.com

Questions: 715-246-2900

Church Sign Theology

Are you a part of or apart from the family of God?

The more you read the Bible, the more you'll love its author.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the fire department usually uses water.

Heaven is outta this world!

Count your rainbows, not your thunderstorms.

Every trail has a few puddles in it.

A hug beats a shrug any day!



THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FOREST
PO BOX 269 – 420 FOURTH STREET
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches

John Hazen, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmarski

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com

Website: www.willowriverparish.org

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