

THE PARISH CONNECTION

March 2026

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

Lectionary Readings

MAR 01 | 2nd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 121 (UMH 844);
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

MAR 08 | 3rd Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Exod 17:1-7; Ps 95 (UMH 814);
Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

MAR 15 | 4th Sunday in Lent; UMCOR Sunday (Purple)

1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137);
Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

MAR 22 | 5th Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 130 (UMH 848);
Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

MAR 29 | Palm/Passion Sunday (Purple or Red)

Palm Lit: Matt 21:1-11; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion Lit: Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16;
Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27 or 27:11-54



Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at **9:45 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpasVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072



In the event of harsh weather due to too low temperatures or heavy snow and each church decides to close, we will have a Zoom worship at 10 a.m.

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—confirmation, even when things feel uncertain or quiet, we trust that God is still at work among us, Ash Wednesday & Lent
Concerns—Abigail, Richard, Andrea, Natalie, Tim Dreier, Ruth, Kim Kirk, Debbie, Penny, Meghan, Tim Buhr, all countries with wars—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza—especially the children, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, Dennis Rosen, Brian Wick, grandson in military in Middle East, those battling cancer, peace in the world—especially in Minnesota, Jodi Main, Camilla, Doug, Bruce, Bev, Dave, Sue, Jocelyn
Remembering—MN, Family and Friends of Phil Rogers, and Judy, Illa Mae Neville and Helenetta Jensen

Daylight Savings Time

begins on Sunday, March 8th. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.



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

WRP Bible Study: A new zoom bible study will begin after Lent. Please let Diane, Debbie, Stevens, or Jan Thompson know if you are interested. We are looking at doing The Workbook on Living Prayer by Maxie Dunham.

ASH WEDNESDAY

With ashes marked in the shape of a cross on our foreheads, we were reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return — and that our lives ultimately belong to God. May this Lenten season turn our hearts away from faith that seeks to be seen by others, and back to a faith that seeks God alone.



Lenten Schedule

Our schedule offers a variety of engaging events for all ages – from interactive puzzles and games to inspiring hymn sings and meaningful services. It's a wonderful opportunity to deepen our faith, connect with one another, and invite new friends into our loving community.

2026 Lenten Activities & Message

Schedule of Events:

- Feb 18 – Clear Lake – Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb 25 - Faith Family – Lenten Puzzle
- Mar 4 - Clear Lake – Lenten Bingo
- Mar 11 – Faith Family – Lenten Hymn Sing
- Mar 18 – Clear Lake – Lenten Beads
- Mar 25- Faith Family – Lenten Bible Trivia
- April 2 – Clear Lake – Maundy Thursday

5:30PM – Soup Supper

6:30 – Lenten Activities & Message

Invite your children, grandchildren, and neighbors!



Sunday, March 29th
5th Sunday at CL
Palm Sunday and Potluck

April 3 Covenant Clear Lake -
Good Friday Service
Ecumenical w/Bell Choir



Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast



Youth will be doing the service and serving breakfast on **Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am.**

Please come out and support our youth for a wonderful service and yummy breakfast! Regular worship times also.

WRP Youth:

The youth had a fabulous time snowtubing at Badlands. Great day for fellowship!



March 8th-Youth will be attending the play Sideways Stories from Wayside School at The Phipps Center for Arts in Hudson. Our very own Gracie will be performing in the play.

March 22nd- Sunrise Service practice at CL Methodist Church at 1pm.

2025–2026 Confirmation Class

So proud of our confirmand, Jordyn, for serving as both a liturgist and a communion server. She did a beautiful job! Please continue to keep all of our confirmands in your prayers as they grow in faith and service.



We were blessed by the presence of our confirmands, Oliver and Vi, at the Clear Lake UMC administrative board meeting. As we prepared for the season of Lent and upcoming ministry plans, their presence reminded us of the importance of growing together as a church family. What a meaningful moment for all of us!



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

- Mar 1st** Reader: Baylie Millermon
Communion: Baylie Millermon
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: John & Stacia
- Mar 8th** Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres
Coffee: Joan L. & Dick D
- Mar 15th** Reader: Debi Ahrens
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Justin & Josy
- Mar 22nd** Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Jennie K & Becky R
- Mar 29th** Reader: Alison Blanchard
Communion: Vidalia Gorres
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr
Coffee: Dylan & Erin
- April 5th** Reader: Baylie Millermon
Communion: Baylie Millermon
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: EASTER/NO COFFEE
Sonrise Breakfast follows Sonrise Service

Counters for March: Linda & Diane
Counters for April: Carla & Roger B

Faith Family

- Mar 1st Michael Clark
Communion: Michael Clark
- March 8th Paul Webster
- March 15th Terri Wilson
- March 22nd Debbie Stevens
- April 5th TBD
Communion: TBD

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the special Sundays for 2026. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- UMCOR Sunday ~ March 15
- Native American Ministries Sunday ~ April 19
- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ May 31
- World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
- United Methodist Student ~ November 29

April Newsletter Deadline is March 27th

March Birthdays

Bev Klatt	3/2
Oliver Malack	3/4
Esther Kim	3/5
Gracie Perkins Greene	3/8
Dennis Petersen	3/9
Joyce Petersen	3/14
Greg Severson	3/15
Fernandez Johnson	3/17
George Stutter	3/18
Evan Min	3/19
Elden Setter	3/20
Jewel Severson	3/26
Jan Benson	3/27
Tara Hemauer	3/29

March Anniversaries

Roger & Carla La Blanc	3/20
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WELCOME—New Parish Treasurer

Hello! My name is Daniell Green. I grew up in northern Wisconsin and graduated high school in 2008, carrying with me a strong work ethic and a love for wide-open



spaces. The outdoors has always felt like home—whether I'm exploring new trails, traveling to new places, or simply soaking in fresh air and sunshine.

I'm a proud graduate of Chippewa Valley Technical College in River Falls, where I earned my Associate's degree in Business Management with honors. Education gave me a solid foundation, but my career lets me bring energy and creativity to life in a different way. During the summer, I work as a stagehand, helping set up concerts, important galas, and corporate events—thriving in the fast-paced environment behind the scenes where every detail matters.

At the heart of everything I do are my two amazing kids, ages 14 and 4, who keep life both adventurous and meaningful. Our family also includes our kitty, Wiggles, and our pup, Simba, who make sure there's never a dull moment at home.

I value hard work, adventure, and family, and I'm always excited for the next experience—whether that's building something extraordinary at an event or planning the next trip to somewhere new.



Big thank you to Amanda Millermon for her years of being our Parish Treasurer. We appreciate all your time and effort!

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 **March 14th** 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.bulletins.

5th Sunday Schedule

March 29, 2026 --- Clear Lake
 May 31, 2026 --- Emerald
 August 30, 2026 --- Clear Lake will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary
 November 29, 2026 --- Deer Park
 January 31, 2027 --- Emerald

Community Center Senior Luncheon Update

If you were able to come on Feb 26th, thank you for supporting the luncheon program. To everyone, we invite you to the next luncheon on Thursday, April 23rd. Spring should be warming up the weather by then and who knows.....there should be green grass and a few early flowers to brighten our days.

While you're marking your calendar for April 23, write in June 11, August 27, October 22 and December 10 for future CLACC Senior Luncheons. Questions about the luncheons? Call the center office at 715-263-2233.



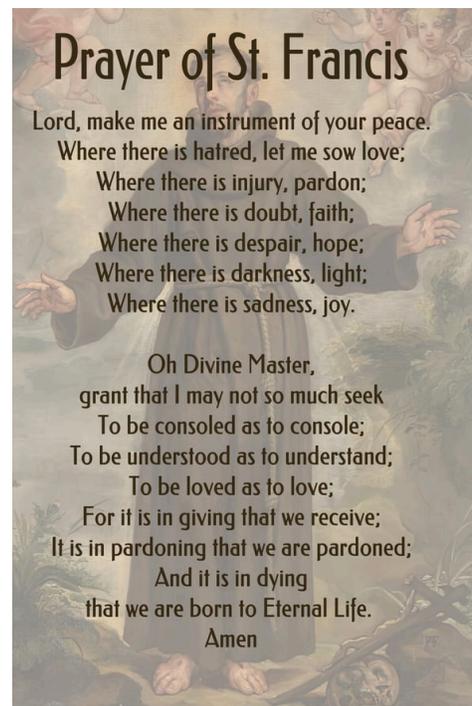
Also Mark your calendars for a May 2nd Vintage Tea Party at CLUMC as part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations this year.

Amen! To a New Office Computer

Please see the sheets at each church for a fun type of fundraiser to help purchase a new office computer. It is a list of possessions we may or may not have and a little money we pay for each. Go through it as a family or by yourself to see what you could put towards the computer fundraiser or put in any extra you can afford. There should be a basket in the back of each church. Let's see if we can do this throughout Lent.

Love for our Troops: This year we are sending gift cards, which will be included in a thank-you card. Monetary donations would be appreciated to cover the cost of the items and postage. 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.

As we face the unrest caused by the war with Iran, I suggest we turn our hearts to the Prayer of St. Francis to seek peace together.



Deer Park UMC News

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

Noisy Can--1st Quarter to Various Charities

Lenten Message from Bishop Schwerin: *Year of Practicing Hope: Building Beloved Community*

As I make my rounds, I have been reflecting on some New Testament images for Christian living and leadership: salt, leaven, and light. I have been thinking about how salt, leaven, and light are nonviolent and collaborative. They are change agents and part of the whole being changed. They allow themselves to be vulnerable to share their presence for good. All suggest that God's nearness is a catalyst, that God's presence is among us as a change agent. In this year of practicing hope I have been asking people to share with each other—what scriptures and images have been grounding your practice of hope?

I have also been teaching from a book by the Council of Bishops and brought out by the United Methodist Publishing House called, *Building Beloved Community*.

As people pray their way through Lent, and scroll through their daily news feeds, I thought I would offer a section of the book from page 16 that reminds us of the way the gospels frame the use of authority.

“When Jesus spoke of authority, he consistently connected it to service, love, and the advancement of God's reign. Biblical authority is always exercised for the benefit of others, particularly the most vulnerable. Biblical authority heals, liberates, feeds the hungry, and includes the marginalized. God's authority is always tempered by love and is therefore fundamentally different from the authoritarianism we see in political movements today.

True authority, rooted in God's character, can be recognized by its fruits:

- it serves the common good rather than personal gain
- it empowers others rather than concentrating power
- it promotes justice and mercy
- it protects the vulnerable rather than exploiting them
- it seeks accountability rather than avoiding it
- it points people toward God rather than toward the leader

God's authority flows from love and seeks to build up beloved community. Authoritarianism flows from fear and the desire to control” (p.17).

How is authority rooted in God's character needed now? In this moment when some populations are feeling more vulnerable, what does it mean to practically love our neighbors? How might learning how to love our neighbor change the divisiveness among us? How might recognizing biblical uses of authority help us spot bullying in our institutions and mobilize bystanders into those who stand with the bullied?

More particularly, I offer this section from our *Book of Discipline*:

“We affirm that every form of government stands under God's judgment and must therefore be held accountable for protecting the innocent, guaranteeing basic freedoms and liberties, protecting the natural world, and establishing just, equitable, and sustainable economies” (Social Principles, *Book of Discipline* 2020/2024, P. 135.)

I was listening to one of our pastors reflect theologically on the Lord's Supper. He was saying that just walking up to the communion table and preparing the heart is an act of vulnerability. He needed to ask how his life did harm and how might God be calling him to greater love? The pilgrimage to the table is not one of fortifying our positions and finding confirmation of our prejudices. For Wesley, we are always moving in the orbit of love, and by grace, growing in love.

I pray you have a Holy Lent, one tempered by love and authority given to building beloved community.

Thank you.

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **AFTER** church at 9:15.
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month **FOLLOWING** church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday- 49lbs of food delivered to the Food shelf, keep donating, it was greatly appreciated!

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

CL Noisy Cans:

1st quarter–Salvation Army
2nd quarter–CL School Back Pack Program
3rd quarter–Clear Lake Food Pantry
4th quarter–Clear Lake Ambulance

Clear Lake Church Cancellations: In the event of bad weather, please contact Roger Blanchard 715-607-4246 to find out if worship services are canceled.

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, March 2nd, we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew/History from 1 to 3 pm.

On the 16th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from 1-3. We will continue working on our 150th Anniversary pocket prayer items and getting some walker bags made for the hospital. Please join us for lunch and to work on our pocket prayers and walker bags. All are invited to lunch also that are working on the history albums, posters and anniversary plans.

Bell Choir practice Sundays at 7pm at CLUMC
We are happy to have Camilla back with us and are praying Brian through his recovery from his back surgery.

Easter Plant Orders



Easter is Sunday, April 5th. We want to give you the opportunity to help decorate the Clear Lake sanctuary for Easter. You may purchase a plant in memory, or in honor, of someone special, or just as a gift to the congregation. Look for an order form in an upcoming bulletin.

UWF Feb. Minutes: Ridgeview 2:00 Pot Luck 7 Present

Mission Statement Read-Love Scriptures with roll call.

Sec. Minutes Approved Treas. Report \$1.308.50

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter from Robin our Sister Leader to UWF. April 18, 9am-2pm, Spring Day of Enrichment, Menomonie United Church. Only save socks with the Brand name Gold Toe, can get at Walmart. We can bring what we have now to Spring Enrichment April 18.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Big sign for 150 Acts of Kindness in our church from 2025-2026. Put on wall over piano in the basement.

2. Church pictures on B. Board.

3. History Books on display in basement.

4. Table decorations, vases with plastic holders to put pictures in, they may be taken by anyone.

5. Lunch: Chicken-Humpy, 2 pots of baked beans-Stacia, potato salad-Dawn, 2 decorated sheet cakes from Sam's Club-Linda, a few more things will be added.

6. \$50 for Legacy Fund for UWF Missions.

7. Dec 11 Cookie & Rosette Sale 1:00 till gone. Potato Sale Oct. Thursday 8 or 15.

Joan Lillie Pres. Jennie Keller Vice Pres, Betty Rake Treas. Linda Jurisch Sec.

Holy Socks

The United Women of Faith are gathering clean, mismatched, old, worn out holy socks for a cash donation to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We'd love to have anyone's donations.

SPRING THRIFT SALE: Start saving (preferably spring and summer items) for our April 23rd & 24th thrift sale.



CL UMC Meeting Minutes February 4, 2026

- Waiting for new estimate from new church insurance carrier. Expected in March.

New Business:

1. We have the option of upgrading the fiber optics in the basement. A motion was made by Debi to do the upgrade, 2nd Dawn. Motion carried.
2. There will be no Family Night activity night during lent.
3. Ash Wednesday Lenten service will be in Clear Lake with soup and sandwich supper at 5:30. Church service at 6. Some suggestions for the activity are as follows: Olympic Night, Bible Trivia, Chair Yoga, Hymn Sing, Book Markers, Prayer Beads or Seder Meal.
4. Jennie will contact Judy Weber to play for church services while Brian Wick is out with back surgery. We will pay Judy \$25 for each service.
5. The confirmands will decide at the time they are confirmed if they want to become church members. It is not mandatory that they automatically join when confirmed.
6. Still looking for a Parish Treasurer. Will be looking outside the church to fill this position as no Parish members are interested in the position.
7. The office computer needs to be replaced. Need to do a Parish fundraiser to collect funds for the purchase of a new computer.
8. Church cleaning fund - write on check memo church cleaning to get credit on statement for the donation.
9. Noisy Can donation - 1st quarter Salvation Army, 2nd quarter Clear Lake School Back Pack Program, 3rd quarter Clear Lake Food Pantry, 4th quarter Clear Lake Ambulance
10. Anniversary Plans -May 2, 2026 Ladies Tea. Letters will be sent inviting other ladies' groups in the area to the tea.
11. July 2026 Picnic, Praise and Song for the Parish and community. Bring non-perishable food item or donation for the food shelf.
12. Repair of stained glass window - (estimated cost \$8250.00) A motion was made by Dawn, 2nd by Debi to take the money from the Money Market Account for the repair. Motion carried.

Next meeting March 4, 2026.

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

Faith Family Church News:

Next meeting:

Faith Family Ad board meeting 02/24/2026

Attendance: Terri, Jeff, Michael, Baylie, Amanda, Jordyn, Debbie, Gary, Grace, Pastor Hakki, Heather

1. Prayer led by Pastor Hakki
2. Pancake breakfast/ Fundraisers
 - **Pancake Breakfast April 19th.**
 - Amanda will pick up supplies
 - 9-1pm.
 - Advertise using Facebook, instagram, snap chat, canva design by Heather. Flyers to put up from Anitra. Debbie will put in newspaper
 - Discussed planning fundraisers before August to put in GC calendar.
 - **Church service Saturday April 18th at 6:00pm**
 - Bake sale: Heather and Amanda plan to bake with the youth **April 18th bake sale funds go to MS Crawl.**
 - **Garage Sale TBA likely in May**
3. Discuss any repairs for the church
 - Ant poison
 - Light valace needed (Jeff and Terri will pick up and will let others know for help with install)
4. Easter -
 - **Son rise in Clear Lake 7am and youth group is meeting March 22nd at 1:00pm**
 - Emerald Easter festivities
 - **Packing baskets at church March 31st 6:00pm-** Amanda will open the church.
 - **April 4th dispersing of baskets** to the event in the park. Amanda will open the church.
5. Lenten services
 - **February 25th: confirmation in Emerald and puzzle night for Lenten service**
 - **March 11th in Emerald: hymn sing and confirmation**
 - **March 25th: trivia night**
6. Financial report.
 - Debbie provided detailed information about statistical reports, UMCOR, charge conference reports, Apportionments, insurance, etc. Baylie moved to approve and Jordyn 2nd motion passed.
7. Confirmands space to share
 - Each confirmand provided one thing they learned from the meeting.
8. Any other business
 - Pastoral update:

- Pastor will be on a spiritual retreat April 7th-15th
- Pastor will be out of town March 17th-20th
- 5th Sunday is March 29th in clear lake 10am
- Amanda is done as parish treasurer (thank you Amanda)
- Daniell Green is the new parish treasurer 715-619-7201
- Valentine's cards and gift cards were sent out to 9 people.

9. Lord's Prayer

Our confirmands—Michael, Baylie, Jordyn, and Gracie—joined the Faith Family Ad Board Council meeting.

**Next meeting is
Thursday April 16th at 6:00pm.**



27 Mats for the Homeless — A Circuit Event

People from across Circuits 7 and 8 gathered at Menomonie UMC on Sunday, January 25, to dedicate 27 “plarn” sleeping mats made from reused plastic shopping bags.

These handmade mats provide warmth, cushioning, and protection from ground moisture—offering real comfort and care to neighbors experiencing homelessness. Each mat takes about 8 hours to complete, making this a powerful example of shared service and compassion in action.

Family Family Funday School Youth participated in August and September of 2025 to make 3 of these mats in conjunction with Glenwood City UMC.



Noisy Can—Cancer Research

Send Offering to:

Terri Wilson: 3127 200th Ave
Glenwood City, WI 54013



A visit with Ardys. May the Holy Spirit be with her, bless her life abundantly, and bring healing to her recent eye issues.

Community Events:

Saturday, April 4th is the Emerald Community Easter Event. We are collecting basket items at church. We plan to stuff the basket at the church on **March 31st @ 6:00pm.**

Emerald Community Annual Easter Egg Chase is April 4th! Registration begins at 10:00 AM. Egg Chase kicks off at 11:00 AM. After the egg chase, stick around for: Raffles, Door prizes, & Bike drawings

The Easter Bunny will be hopping around for photos and handing out treats, so don't forget your cameras!

Bike donations are still needed! Drop-off locations: Emerald Tire & Auto, The GOAT, & Faith Family Church



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)





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 9-11 am

Anitra Kaczmarek, Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Daniell Green, Parish Treasurer
Email: Dgreen.wrptreasurer@gmail.com

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. – Clear Lake

9:45 a.m. – Faith Family (also Zoom)

11:00 a.m. – Deer Park

Church School @ Faith Family & Clear Lake
“Funday” School– Wednesdays 5:30 @ Faith Family
Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake