

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

## March 2021

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



### Readings for March

**March 7, 2021 (purple)** 3rd Sunday in Lent  
Ex. 20:1-7, Ps 19 (UMH 750), 1 Cor 1:18-25,  
Jn 2:13-22

**March 14, 2021 (purple)** 4th Sunday in Lent  
Num 21:4-9, Ps 107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830),  
Eph 2:1-10, Jn 3:14-

**March 21, 2021 (purple)** 5th Sunday in Lent  
Jer 31:31-34, Ps 51:1-12 (UMH785),  
Heb 5:5-10, Jn 12:20-33

**March 28, 2021 (purple)** Passion/Palm Sunday  
*Liturgy of the Palms:* Matt. 21:1-11;  
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)  
*Liturgy of the Passion:* Isa 50:4-9a;  
Ps 31:9-16 (UMH 764); Phil 2:5-11;  
Matt. 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed.



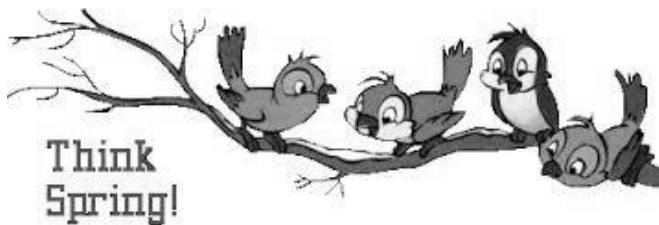
### Lenten Schedule

A Lenten service will continue to be held every Wednesday evening at 7pm via zoom during the season of Lent.

### Lenten Bible Study

“Walking in the Wilderness”

Our Lenten Bible study began Thursday, Feb. 18th at 7:00 via Zoom each week. If you are interested in joining us it is the same link as the church service. Also, if you need a book please let Heather Greene, Jan Thompson or Diane Blanchard know. After Lent we will begin a new study in April.



### Prayer Concerns

*Joys*—sunshine, warming temperatures, Covid Vaccine,

*Concerns*—Steve Keller, Lori Cross, Krista, Chuck Kuhl, Joyce Jurisch

*Remembering*—Family and friends of Virgil Barthman, Craig Longfellow, and Ron Anderson

## March Birthdays

Bev Klatt	3/2
Oliver Malack	3/4
Gracie Perkins Greene	3/8
Dennis Petersen	3/9
Amanda Linehan	3/9
Joyce Petersen	3/14
Greg Severson	3/15
George Stutter	3/18
Todd Jilek	3/19
Elden Setter	3/20
Allen Warner	3/24
Jan Benson	3/27
Todd Pietz	3/27
Julie Elmer	3/28

## March Anniversaries

Roger & Carla La Blanc 3/20



Please use the following information to join us for worship and bible study.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp aSVhGN0q1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

### Thrift Sale

Clear Lake UMC is having a thrift sale April 29th and 30th from 9-5. Look for more details in the April Newsletter. Start collecting your items. We are hoping for our biggest sale ever!

### Noisy Can--First Quarter

Clear Lake--Lifeline Food Pantry.  
Faith Family--MS Crawl for the Cure.  
Deer Park January--Grace Place

## SPRC Corner

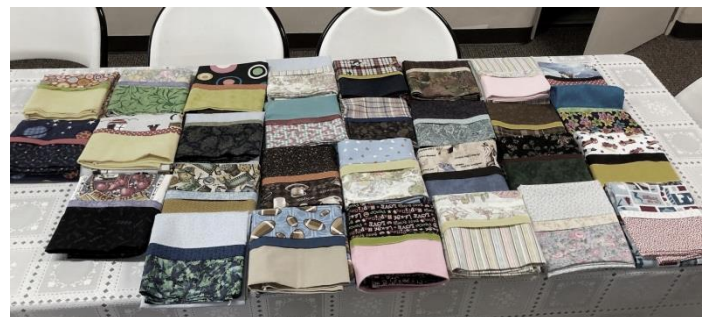
We did our SPRC training in February.

### Faith Family Church Update

There have been more updates to the church this month. The sound system is complete. We now have sound in the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. The furnace is in and the discussion of a filtering system. We need to look at a different date for a board meeting as this is the same date and time as the shepherding committee. We are working on the stain glass to light up the altar. We look forward to being able to meet together in our new building when it is safe to see each other in person. Faith family sent out Valentine's boxes/cards last month to help brighten people's days. Our Sunday school kids helped make the cards.

### UMW Evening Circle

The Evening Circle met recently and completed 29 pillow cases to donate to Grace Place in New Richmond. New pillows will also be donated. With proceeds from our very successful Christmas cookie and baked potato sale we voted to donate also to "Love for our Troops", Northwoods Homeless Shelters and Harbor House Crisis Shelters. We hope to get together again soon, we have been blessed with an abundance of wonderful fabric to continue to create unique pillow cases. We welcome anyone, if you sew great if not we always need ironers, fabric matches and conversationalist!!



**Deadline for  
April Newsletter is  
March 23rd**

## Pastor's Pen



Beloved: How have you been during Lent? As soon as Lent began, I've been busy preparing worship services and confirmation, administrating, writing book review columns in a Korean Christian newspaper, studying United Methodist Evangelism from Boston seminary, contacting church members, participating in a lot of conference meetings, district meetings and church meetings, doing endless housework and caring for my family. Busy life is a blessing, but I hoped it would be a time to focus more on my relationship with God during this Lent.

What I can do in this situation is pray to God while taking a shower, washing dishes, cooking, and feeding my baby. Also, I read Psalm in my spare time; just reading Psalm 25 helps me feel centered, focused and comforted:

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- <sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.
- <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.
- <sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.
- <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
- <sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- <sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.
- <sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees. (Psalm 25:1-10, NRSV)



Although we are still maintaining Zoom worship service, in March, CL is trying to use the sanctuary for Zoom worship by using the church projector and screen for those who don't have internet and don't know how to use Zoom by wearing masks, sanitizing hands and keeping social distance. If one of the congregations has the virus, it will be stopped right away, but I ask you to pray so that it doesn't happen.

God bless you all! Pastor Hakki

## Recovery Ministry

A lot of new developments have taken place regarding the recovery ministry over this past month. The recovery ministry has officially been named **Anchor of Hope**. The website's address is <https://anchorofhopeemerald.wixsite.com/my-site> A Facebook page is going to be launched within the next two weeks, and the email address for the ministry is [anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com](mailto:anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com). These meetings will take place on Zoom, access to these Zoom meetings will be available by emailing the ministry's email address. **Anchor of Hope** will host their first meeting on March 20th at 7 PM.

## UMW

**UMW will resume meeting the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings will be held at 2 pm in the basement of the church-- MASKS REQUIRED. Dues for the year \$12.**

### February Minutes 2/10/21

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, UMW met in the Church Basement with Masks, 8 members, Arlene, Deb, Jan, Linda, Jennie, Joan, Betty, Ruth

Sec, Min. approved as read, Treasurer's Report: \$1,035.09 . \$458.94 transferred to Westconsin Credit Union, donation to farm in Africa \$100, \$50 sent to Timba a Who runs farm, Response Magazine \$24, added to account \$750 from Christmas Cookie & Potato Meal. Approved as read.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Successful Cookie and Potato Meal

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Made Valentines for all residents at Amery Memory Care.
2. Sent Valentines cards for our shut ins
3. Change in membership, lost Grace Moore added Deb Ahrens, Diane Blanchard, Stacia Koeper
4. District Zoom Meeting, Sat. May 1st.
5. THRIFT SALE Thursday and Friday, April 29 & 30, 9-5, considering take out lunch.
6. Considering Drive by Take-out Breakfast for Clear Lake Essential Workers later on.
7. **Skip March Meeting Next meeting April 14.**
8. Betty moved to send \$75 to the Legacy Fund, Jennie second it.
9. Will send \$50 to Prayer and Self Denial
10. Sending \$200 for UMW Mission Pledge. 11. Craig Longfellow passed away 2/9/21. Remember Julie in our Prayers, cards and phone calls.

Joan read a letter from UMW. They were against the attack on the Capitol and offer Prayers for Democracy, Peace and Justice for our Nation. Program by Joan from our new Program Book "Knitted Together For God's Work"

Jesus calls us to be knit together as disciples. "STORY OF JEPHTHA" Judges 9:9-40 Jephtha was a warrior who ran an army. He became a ruler after winning fight. He went from Egypt through other lands. The Spirit of the Lord came with him. He promised the Lord when he returned home the first person who came out of his house would be

burned as a sacrifice to the Lord. He had one daughter who was unmarried and childless. She was the first one who came out! He told her she had to be burned as a sacrifice to the Lord. She said do it, but give me 2 months to grieve with my friends. She came back and was burned. It was a tragedy and women and children mourned for years. Jephtha's mother was a prostitute and didn't know who the father was. Methodist Women worked to change things.

Prayer by Arlene Shut ins, Mardy, Charlotte, Doug, MaryAnn Nelson, Laurie Moore

*Submitted by Linda Jurisch*

## Clear Lake United Methodist Church Projector System

Connecting Point from Amery is sending an estimate for a new set up as they deemed our projector at 10 years old and that it has served its useful time. We have pixels showing up all over the screen. They will send an estimate for a new projector which will be far less than we paid years back but technology will be much better. They will also include in the estimate a 22" monitor and cable to hook the electric piano to the system. We are considering purchasing a laptop (rather than the monitor) to run the service on the screen and to send Zoom out at the same time. We have also been advised that the used tower we have connected to the system will not handle all that we need to accomplish. We will decide at the March Ad. Council how to proceed. Any questions or information to add please call Ad. Council Chair Roger Blanchard at 715-263-2690.

## Offering

Please consider continuing your giving; offerings can be sent to:

### Clear Lake

Arlene Althoff  
75 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Clayton, WI 54004

### Faith Family

Terri Wilson  
3127 200<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Glenwood City, WI 54013

### Deer Park

Janice Thompson  
110 North Street E  
Deer Park, WI 54007



...Because you eat

Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place March 13th in the AmTec parking lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. There is no income or residency requirements – everyone that eats is welcome! This is a drive-thru distribution. We have set our hours from 8am to 10am. We will start sending cars through as soon as we are set up which is much quicker with our drive through set up. Please do not be late because it goes fast. Also we will load your vehicle from the passenger side and prefer to just put the items into the back of your vehicle. For everyone's safety, please have your vehicle empty to receive food in the back so volunteers do not need to walk around to the other side of the vehicle. We look forward to seeing you. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and should arrive at 7:15am. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information, please contact 715-268-7390 or email [office.ameryucc@gmail.com](mailto:office.ameryucc@gmail.com).

## Clear Lake Ad C Highlights

Linda Jurisch & Debi Ahrens will update membership

A plan needs to be implemented before church can reopen. A committee to reopen the church consisting of: Joan Lillie, Debbie Ahrens, Diane Blanchard, Jennie Keller. This plan needs to be implemented before church is reopened.

Connecting Point will fix the issues with the projector and screen for the power point.

Wednesday Lent services, Pastor Hakki will preach at one church each week and the other two will have Zoom service.

Would like to get the email addresses for our college students so they can have access to the Zoom services. Please submit addresses to the church office.

All financial personnel please place your books in the church basement by March 1 for the annual audit.

**Next meeting is 5:00 Wed, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in church basement and zoom.**

## Virtual Workshop

In January Dawn Cress attended a virtual workshop on Radical Hospitality led by Scott Hughes from Congregational Development and Brian Tener, a pastor from Oklahoma City. They talked about Hospitality outside the church. We need to ask:

Who lives in our communities?

What are the demographics?

What is their language?

What are their hopes, dreams, & challenges?

Who needs to know our touch?

Have we done enough listening?

We can build relationships by getting involved in community events. One suggestion was to fix a meal for staff at school during an in-service day before the school year starts.

We should figure out “How do we as a church achieve what our liturgy or mission statement says to do”

What is our purpose?

Why do we do what we do?

Look for common good.

Live out our faith.

Who are we inviting?

In gift giving (because we have received the greatest gift) we need to always offer our best.

Because we are dealing with Covid we need to look at our Online Hospitality. We need to be mindful of first time users of Zoom, etc. It was suggested that we could do a campaign for church online. Share a message, pictures, prayer or music for the day. We could do gift bags on doorknobs to promote our church. We are free to be extravagant, now is a good time to try new things. Are we a fit for people where they are now? Does our website give direction to find our services, etc.?

What does our signage say about Zoom? What is the esthetics of our church entrance, etc.? It was suggested we should ask someone in the 24-30 age groups to say what would make them feel welcome. Get some fresh eyes from outside our church to walk through and give their opinion. We need to “Renew the feeling of Welcome!” This gives us something to think about. The workshop ended with a quote from Amanda Gorman. “There is always light, If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

*Submitted by Dawn Cress*

# From Bishop Jung

## Journey

*And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark 1:12-13)*

My beloved Wisconsin siblings in Christ, we enter again into the period of Lent through the archway of Ash Wednesday, a day of repentance, contrition, and *kenosis* (self-emptying and abasement). We follow the footsteps of Jesus, sent by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for forty days. During this Lenten period leading to Holy Week and Easter, we tend to focus on temptations by Satan and the threat and danger of the wild beasts, but this year I invite us to focus on the angels.

Most people in the United States tend to focus on destinations – places we want to go, things we want to accomplish, people we want to meet, things we want to own. Ends justify means, and we don't give much thought to our processes of movement, preparation, saving, or planning. Process is simply not as important to many of us as outcomes and achievements. The "what" is a greater motivator than the "how".

Thirty-five years ago, Nell Morton wrote a wonderful book called, *The Journey is Home*, sharing stories and reflections on the rise of women's leadership in the Christian faith. The title of this book contains a profound truth of our walk with Jesus – the journey is home, it is exactly where God wants us to be. Wilderness is scary to us because it is unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and unknown. But the best way to get to know wilderness – to make friends with it – is to enter fully in. A few days is not enough. A couple of weeks is not enough. The gift of forty days (with all of its rich and great theological meaning) is just long enough – either we will make friends with wilderness or wilderness just might defeat us. It is both a challenge and an opportunity.

Nature provides many challenges that are neither good nor bad, but they just are – God's creation acting with integrity. Human beings enter wilderness with risk, but also with an incredible capacity to learn, to adapt, to grow, and to improve. Survival skills allow us not only to survive, but to thrive, and it takes time to develop them.

Jesus' forty days in the wilderness is a metaphor for our entire lives of faith – we walk through unknown and unfamiliar territory, learning as we go, hopefully improving and thriving (with God's help). We face limitless temptations and multiple forms of "wild beasts," but in our faith, we never face these alone. We go with God, filled by the Holy Spirit, attended by angelic forces, walking with Jesus, and in the loving grace of a community of Christian friends. This is the journey.

Too often, we seek to leap to Easter, ignoring the wilderness, the work, the sacrifice, the danger, and the challenges we encounter before we get there. But the journey is more important than the destination. God has already taken care of the ending. Our task is to make the journey of life wisely and well. We strive to become more Christ-like, mastering the survival skills to travel our road with integrity and grace. We learn to be more loving, more caring, more giving, more merciful. We become kinder, gentler, patient, and just. We forgive more, share more, and serve more. We are peace-makers, peace-builders, peace-keepers, and peace-lovers. We reject the -isms and phobias that do harm, commit violence, and seek to destroy – sexism, racism, classism, homophobia, xenophobia. We send Satan fleeing by laughing in the devil's face, choosing instead to pursue God with all our heart, mind, soul, and spirit; choosing to love every child of God on earth as we love ourselves.

The journey is our home. This home created for us by a loving and mighty God. This home decorated with all the equipment we need to live faithfully in our world. This home filled to overflowing with the energy and power of the Holy Spirit. My friends, during this Lententide, enter not a wilderness of danger and threat, but a place where you – where we all – belong. I am excited to take this journey with you. Thanks be to God.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## **The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches**

Hakki Min, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmariski

Parish Secretary Email: [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com)

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

Parish Office Hours: Tues-Friday 10am-12pm

E-Mail: [willowriverparish@gmail.com](mailto:willowriverparish@gmail.com)

Website: [www.willowriverparish.org](http://www.willowriverparish.org)

### **Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM

### **Upon in-person worship resuming, times are as follows:**

8:30 a.m. – Deer Park    9:45 a.m. – Clear Lake

11:00 a.m. – Faith Family