

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

November 2020

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

## Readings for November

**November 1, 2020**

**All Saints Day**

Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

**November 8, 2020**

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Matthew 25:1-13

**November 15, 2020**

**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Matthew 25:14-30

**November 22, 2020**

**(Reign of Christ / Christ The King)**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23 - Matthew 25:31-46

**November 29, 2020**

**(United Methodist Student Sunday / 1st Sunday of Advent)**

Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37



*Joys*— Our Bell Choir, giving thanks, time with families, Heather Greene UMW Mission Pin recipient,

*Concerns*— Craig Longfellow, Covid-19, Election 2020, Joyce, Jim, Ron, Jennie's nephew,

*Remembering*—family and friends of Vi Kirk

Annual Clear Lake UMC  
Christmas Cookie/Rosette Sale  
with Stuffed Baked Potato Meal

The CL UMC annual Christmas cookie and baked potato sale will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7 pm. An assortment of cookies and rosettes will be pre-packaged. We are offering three options of the stuffed baked potato meal: Broccoli/cheese, Stroganoff, or Combo. **TAKE OUT ONLY!** Cookies and potato meal must be picked up in the church basement. No early orders! **MASKS ARE REQUIRED!!!!!! (no exceptions)**

*Each family should provide 6 dozen cookies the night before 4-8pm or the morning of between 8-10am so they can be sorted and boxed.*

## Church Times

We are currently meeting virtually via zoom for worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays and for bible study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. We would love for you to join us. Please email us at willoriverparish@gmail.com for an invite. If in-person worship resumes at some point this month, the times will be as follows:

8:30 – Deer Park

9:45 – Clear Lake

11:00 – Faith Family

## By: Hee-Soo Jung - Soul Food

*I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. (1 Corinthians 1:4-10)*

“Called into the fellowship.” I am challenged by these words. Following our clergy session of Annual Conference, and preparing for the actual Annual Conference on the 24th, my mind is filled with the fullness of our clergy covenant community – ordained, commissioned, and licensed – who serve so faithfully in the Wisconsin Conference. We are a diverse bunch. We represent a wide variety of theological, social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and biblical perspectives and spheres. God’s abundance and creative Spirit pervades our clergy covenant community, guaranteeing that we reach an astoundingly broad number of people. United Methodism has never been at its heart and core an exclusionary faith movement, but follows John Wesley’s edict to “offer them Christ,” whomsoever “them” might be.

During our clergy session each year, our pastoral leadership reflects on the “Historical Questions” developed by John Wesley in the 1700s that ordinands have been asked every year since at least 1784 (these can be found in ¶336 of our 2016 Book of Discipline). Some of the key questions could, and should, be asked of every Christian disciple, but they are foundational for those called to serve as clergy. “Are you going onto perfection, and do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?” “Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God’s work?” Will you diligently instruct children, visit from house to house, recommend fasting and abstinence (some of these promises evolve over time to fit the context)? Do you know the doctrine, polity and their relationship to the Holy Scriptures? Will you be diligent and punctual and stay out of debt? All these questions are aimed at defining the clergy covenant of United Methodists today and Methodism through the ages. These Historical Questions provide a short catechism for United Methodist pastoral leaders.

We don’t keep all of these commitments to the letter of the law, but they are a reminder that ministry is never a 9-to-5 job, where we do whatever we feel like, whenever we feel like. This is a vocation, not a job. This is a calling, not a profession. This is a lifestyle, not simply our work. Your clergy leaders have made a foundational commitment to give their lives to God through radical Christian service. This is no small thing.

I am fully aware that there are serious disagreements and disputes among our clergy. I know that we have dividing walls of theology, scriptural interpretation, economic and racial equity, and approval of certain doctrine and polity. We are not “of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” (Philippians 2:2), but we are all servants of one Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ, and this is what lifts us above our divisions to continue to serve faithfully in clergy covenant community.

I commend and celebrate the leadership and commitment of our pastoral leaders. Through their sacrifice and dedication, our churches continue in ministry. By their guidance and efforts, the priesthood of all believers and the ministry of the laity is strengthened and affirmed. I call upon all throughout our Wisconsin to pray for our clergy – our elders, provisional members, our deacons, our local pastors – who have answered God’s summons. Thanks be to God!

Additionally, I want to call on us to be in prayer for those afflicted by our current pandemic. The numbers in Wisconsin have increased alarmingly, and even our president has contracted this disease. Regardless of politics, let us pray for everyone who has suffered through COVID-19, for the families, for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, and for an end to this destructive and pernicious disease. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## Swap Corner

A Google doc labeled “Swap Corner” was circulated via email in September. The purpose of this document is to allow people to list items that they *no longer need* and/or list items that they *want* along with their contact info. If you do not have access to email/Google docs, please call the parish office and you can be added to the list.

<u>Contact</u>	<u>No longer need</u>	<u>Item wanted</u>
Anitra K.--715-643-4053 or anitrakaz@yahoo.com		*Minivan. . 6-10 years old. . around 100,000 miles *boys size 8-10 hunting clothes camo and blaze orange
Heather Greene 612-799-6215 Mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com	3 lawn mowers (not running) —good for parts (Scott's, roper, toro)	
India Pederson 1 715 607 0357		Looking for wide mouth canning jars

### **Wisconsin United Methodist Church Annual Conference Report by Annual Conference Lay Member Heather Greene.**

Opening session of annual conference was amazing and very diverse. It was great to see some amazing music and all of the talented people in the United Methodist Church. Bishop Jung offered up thanks for everyone that took part in setting up Annual Conference. There was discussion about love and justice a being liberating, uplifting and welcoming to each other. It was a great to watch all of the videos that represents ministries that we serve through UMCOR and our apportionments. One of the main topics throughout was that the United Methodist Church stands for “justice for all”. There was a budget update and discussion where we learned that the cash reserves were able to be doubled this year even within our pandemic and the United Methodist church was able to help over 71 churches with financial grants to keep moving forward during this difficult time. There are new church plants around the state and over \$100,000 was giving to these missions to start. Some of the reasons we have more financial flexibility are because of the decrease in travel expenses and postage. About 79 churches receive the PPP loans and many churches are using the online services through the WUMC for online giving. There was a presentation from the Anti Racism Task force and a discussion about acceptance for all including our LGBT communities. These passed at the annual conference. We passed a disaffiliation agreement for churched to be able to leave the WUMC regarding these issues until December 2023. The logistics of this will be discussed at the next Global United Methodist Conference. They presented the closing of three churches in the WUMC one of the churches was the Emerald church and discussed the transition of this to the Willow River Parish. The financial department of WUMC provided a presentation about loans and grants available for churches for debt reductions and building repairs along with student loans and grants for new church starts. The budget for 2021 passed. Next Annual Conference will be June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 and at this time it is unknown if this will be in person or virtual. There was a virtual ordination for all newly ordained elders and deacons. If you get a chance please go out to the WUMC website and take a look at the videos as there are numerous videos provided on all of the missions that we help just by paying our apportionments. Thank you all for your support and helping these missions throughout the years.

## UMW 2020 Special Mission Pin Awarded to Heather Greene

This year's recipient is a true inspiration with her dedication and faith. She was born and raised in the Willow River Parish. Like many of us, she attended Sunday School and then UMYF throughout her school years. She graduated from a local small town high school and continued her education at a Big 10 University. There, she graduated with a degree in Family Social Science that she has used to pursue her desire for service. She has made commitments to raise her family in faith and was also married in the Forest United Methodist Church.

Her professional career has led her to several roles in the last few years. She has worked for West Cap helping low income families, with various mental health agencies throughout Wisconsin and now with Inclusa, where she is in a role which allows her to help those in need.

At one point her path was pointed in the direction to become a minister. As life often does, plans changed, and now she is happily married, raising 3 beautiful children. Her love of the church and the strength of her faith are very present in her everyday life. Not only does she help people in need, she has a big heart for animals that need some extra TLC too. She has had many role models in her life, from her church family, organizations like Girl Scouts and 4-H and groups in school. She now volunteers in some of those same areas and is making a similar impact on others.

She has shown her passion of supporting our congregation over the years in many ways. Some examples include leading Sunday School classes, taking partners to organize summer Bible School sessions and starting a local MOPS Group. She even goes the extra mile to include new families and ensure they feel welcome in our congregation.

This past Spring, as many of us were struggling with the unknowns of Covid-19, she pulled our parish together and kept us connected with her technology skills and determination. She and her husband, Alpha, enabled us to continue our services over Zoom and performed numerous behind the scene tasks to keep us together.

She also personally reached out to many to assist with the change and help us learn new skills like the Zoom Meetings. She helped our Wednesday nights Lenten Bible Study go virtual and it has continued to the present being a great connection for many that have been homebound. She was very instrumental in the transition from the Forest United Methodist church to the new Faith Family Church in Emerald in the midst of all that was going on. Working hard to make the closing of their church as personal and meaningful as possible with a virtual service. She worked with Glenwood City UMC to bring a meaningful, virtual Bible School to many students with online stories by many and crafts and snacks for each lesson. She is also head of SPRC and took that committee on Zoom and helped the transition of our new Pastor Hakki and family. She was the designer of our Youth's Easter message and the many cute children's messages via video shared in our weekly services.

She has shared her many God given gifts and much time with all of us. Thank you.



### Dates to Remember

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov 11  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Luth Un-Smorgasbord; 11-7                       |
| Nov 25  | CL Thanksgiving Service<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church, 7pm |
| Dec. 3  | Charge Conference via Zoom, 6pm                                 |
| Dec. 11 | CL Cookie and Baked Potato Sale                                 |

## Offering

Because we will not be physically meeting for church service this month, it is very important that we continue our offerings in order to keep the parish operating. Our church counts on all of you!!! If you wish to continue your giving, please send your offerings to: Arlene Althoff (CL); Terri Wilson (FF), and Janice Thompson (DP)

## Coffee/Greeter & Counters

No assignments will be made for coffee/greeter and counter 2021 until church resumes in-person worship.



Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place November 14th in the AmTec parking

lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. You will receive an abundance of grocery items. 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).

## CL Oct Ad C Highlights

- Reminder to fill out Pastor's service survey in October newsletter
- Approved 10 am Zoom Church
- Shared with Pastor that we can get separately served communion Juice and wafer
- We're currently looking for someone to take over the Financial secretary position as soon as possible and Carla will train them in.
- We'll hold off painting the parsonage garage until spring.
- Ladies would like to host their December Baked Potato Supper and Christmas Cookie Sale as curbside pick up.
- Pastor shared that he met with CLAMA and they will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve service at 1st Lutheran-with Zoom also.
- Clear Lake Bank is closing and we will make a decision at the November meeting what we will do.
- CL church will again sponsor the Christmas for Children Program this year.
- Next meeting will be Wed. Nov. 4th at 5pm.



## Charge Conference 2020

Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm

Charge Conference 2020 will be held via Zoom on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. Here is a website with information on how to submit the forms: [www.wisconsinumc.org/church-charge-conference-forms](http://www.wisconsinumc.org/church-charge-conference-forms)

**The December/January Newsletter  
Deadline is November 24th**



10/14/2020 UMW met in Church Basement with masks, Covid rule! 11 present  
No Sec. Minutes read,  
Treasurers: \$423.34

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Thank you from Peyton Lillie.
2. Cookie and Potato Sale must get approval by council-Jennie & Bev. Date Dec.11, Hours 3:30-7:00; 3 types of potatoes, Broccoli-Cheese, Stroganoff, Combo. Cookies Deb and Diane report back. Rosettes: make at home Betty 1 can, Dawn 2 cans, Camilla 2 cans, Ron and Linda 5 cans. Get empty cans at church, leave top tipped open. Total 10 cans. Officers remain the same as last year for 2021.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Send appreciation card to Pastor John Hazen for October Pastor Appreciation month.
2. Linda will take Arlene's job as Sunshine-sending Birthday, Anniversary, get well cards.
3. Diane and Deb are doing Christmas for Children. Adding something about our church to each gift. Will need help.
4. Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be cutting back.
5. Kohls cash-if you have any leftover please give it to Christmas for Children. Joan-Bible Study "The Light of God" "Outloud Loving"  
*Submitted by Linda Jurisch*

### **SPRC Report**

We will be meeting the first Sunday of the month at 5:00pm via zoom. Last month we discussed church forms, the conference has put out a video on how to fill out and submit the forms if you go to the WUMC website you will be able to find it.

### **Faith Family Church Report**

We have all of our school donations delivered. We donated to Amery, Glenwood City, St Croix Central and Somerset to help with COVID-19 related expenses. We also have a door being delivered on Saturday. The kitchen continues to be under construction.

## **CLAY Underground Church To Be Determined**

Watch for news, posters and texts for Underground Church on Saturday, November 14. Info on time and place will be determined at a later date.

### **Annual Conference Laity Session Report**

Thank you Bishop Jung for your wonderful words. He talked about our world today and how as humans we are racist. He also talked about being anti-racist.

We had a lot of lovely music today at Wisconsin Annual Conference Laity Session. We had the opportunity to spend the evening together in a holy space and pray together virtually on a zoom webinar.

As John Wesley said the world is my parish. Isn't it ironic that he didn't have the World Wide Web at his finger tips and now that we do we truly do have the world as our parish. Thank you God for loving each and every one of us! Thank you Laity Board of Wisconsin United Methodist Conference for all of our hard work during a pandemic and finding a way for us to connect and do the business of the church! God Bless is all!

### **Annual Conference**

Please check out the WUMC website for Annual Conference updates and mission videos as there are numerous videos at our finger tips to help us learn about different areas of the United Methodist Church.

### **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

We will be ringing bells at Nilssen's Market on Thursday, November 19th. Safety and health precautions will be taken. Please contact Dawn Cress if you can help; 715-265-4483

## CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will be sponsoring the "Christmas for Children" drive again this year to provide gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmastime. "Christmas for Children" is designed to reach more needs of our local community. We are coming up on our 27 th year and are so grateful for all of the support that we have received from everyone.

Anyone wishing to donate items to "Christmas for Children" can do so by leaving them at True Value Hardware, CB Styles, Associated Bank and Northern Roots Family Spinal Care, Clear Lake Physical Therapy, **from November 2, 2020 through December 11, 2020**. Also check for barrels at your Church.

Suggestions are toys, watches, games, jewelry, videos, DVDs (nothing higher than PG-13 please) appropriate Music CDs, books, etc. Please do not wrap your gifts. Donations of wrapping paper are also welcome. Monetary donations for the purpose of gifts should be mailed to Christmas for Children c/o Debi Ahrens PO 42 Box Clear Lake, WI 54005. Please make checks payable to Christmas for Children

All gifts will be given to children ages 0- 18 in the Clear Lake School District Area.

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake School District area who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, we would like to hear from you. Call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477 or Diane Blanchard 715-263-2690 (if no answer, please leave a message). All names will be kept strictly confidential.

We hope to make this "Christmas for Children" a great success and in order to do so, we need your help. As in the past, we thank you for your support.

Christmas for Children  
United Methodist Church

## *Happy Birthday!*

Janel Belle Isle	11/04
Chris Wilson	11/05
Missy Severson	11/06
Alpha Greene	11/08
Marissa Couch	11/09
Kennedy Reed	11/10
Benjamin Kirk	11/11
Dillon Thompson	11/13
Ben Boe	11/14
Duane Simonson	11/14
Jessica Olson	11/15
Heather Greene	11/19
Kristen Ahrens	11/21
Lee Balcerek	11/22
Chant LaBlanc	11/22
Janice Thompson	11/22
Alaina Rivard	11/23
Alison Avery	11/24
Deena Danielson	11/25
Carter Wilson	11/26
Kathy Moore	11/27
Heidi Olson	11/28
Gary Stevens	11/29
Pattie Thompson	11/30

## *Anniversaries*

Wayne & Mary Jo Ailts	11/24
James & Linda Fouks	11/24

## **Bell Choir**

Bell practice is Wednesday nights at 7:00. We will be playing virtually for the Thanksgiving service the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.



Clear Lake's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service is Wed., November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church. Everyone's invited.

### Pastor's Pen

Numbers 6:24-26 (NRSV): <sup>24</sup> The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Since mid-October, it has snowed several times in our area and the temperature has dropped a lot. Now I think we can say that Winter is here. However, the temperature in the first week of November is relatively warm. We call a period of unusually warm and sunny weather during October and November as an Indian Summer.

There is a beautiful island called Jeju in South Korea. Esther and I used to fly to the island when we were dating. The name of the hotel we stayed on the trip was "Indian Summer," but I didn't know the exact meaning at the time. Later, I looked in the dictionary and found that Indian Summer, as mentioned earlier, is a period of unusual warm weather when temperatures drop during autumn. For the native Americans, this period was God's blessings and grace because it was the last chance them to prepare the harsh winter. Indian Summer also means the most shining period of a person's life figuratively. When is your Indian Summer?

For me, 2020 means a lot in many ways. It is like the Indian Summer to me. First, my son, Evan, was born in 2020, and I'm a class of 2020, and I was appointed to Willow River Parish and started to serve in 2020. Most recently, I bought my first new car from Kia. I have seen many cars of Ford and Chevrolet in Clear Lake. The market share of the vehicles of Kia and Hyundai is 60-70% in South Korea. However, the reason for their low market share in the U.S. is that they offer vehicles at relatively reasonable prices, and from the buyer's point of view, it was good for me to buy their vehicles at a good price.

However, 2020 is also a difficult time for all of us. Recently, the number of Covid-19 confirmed cases in Polk County has increased rapidly. We often hear that our neighbors have been tested positive. I've been praying for the opening of the church, but I think it will be good for us to maintain the online worship until the end of this year.

A few days ago, I joined in the Zoom Bible study group led by Diane and I gained an opportunity to think about free will and freedom. We may sometimes question why God gave us free will. It would be easier if God controlled everything without free will. But our Lord gave us free will because He loves us. Rather than controlling our behavior forcefully, He constantly persuades and helps us with love. His love is true love because when we truly love others, we do not try to have power over them. The God of love wants our lives to be Indian Summer. As I said before, Indian Summer is a period of grace God gave. We are living in difficult times, but we can shine this time through the love and gospel of Christ as the candles of God. To love our neighbors includes a simple action such as "wearing a mask" for others and "keeping social distance" for others. Just as God has allowed us to have days like Indian Summer, may we love God, and love our neighbors, and be God's candles that shine this time.

With the love of Christ, Pastor Hakki





THE WILLOW RIVER PARISH  
CLEAR LAKE, DEER PARK, FAITH FAMILY  
420 4<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE – PO BOX 269  
CLEAR LAKE, WI. 54005-0269

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Willow River Parish United Methodist Churches**

Hakki Min, Pastor

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**Sunday Worship**

11:00 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