

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

April 2021

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



## Lectionary Readings

**April 4th Easter Sunday –white**  
Acts 10:34-43, Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839)  
1 Cor 15:1-11, Jn 20:1-18 or Mk 16:1-8

**April 11th 2nd Sunday of Easter—white**  
Acts 4:32-35, Ps 133 (UMH 850)  
1 Jn 1:1-2:2, Jn 20:19-31

**April 18th 3rd Sunday of Easter--white**  
Acts 3:12-19, Ps 4 (UMH 741)  
1 Jn 3:1-7, Lk 24:36b-48

**April 25th 4th Sunday of Easter—white**  
Acts 4:5-12, Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137),  
1 Jn 3:16-24, Jn 10:11-18



## Prayers and Concerns

*Joys*— God’s mercy and grace, birthdays, our active youth, warmer weather, grandchildren, occasions to celebrate, caring friends, new birth

*Concerns*— the nursing homes & hospitals, our law enforcement, our social isolation, Kent Althoff, Joyce, Darryl, Jim, Bruce, Krista

*Remembering*— Family and friends of Chuck Kuhl, Crystal Hanson, and Allen Libby

## Love is our Hope

There is part of me  
That, if it were not  
For the singing of the Wood Thrush,  
Would feel so hopeless.

There is this part of me  
That, if it were not  
For the beauty of the yellow butterfly,  
Would find no joy.

There is this part of me  
That, if it were not for  
The wild abandon of a puppy's play,  
Would sink deep into despair.

In this long, hard season  
Of sickness  
Of death  
Of isolation  
Of injustice and fear...  
Where is our hope?  
Where is our joy, our purpose,  
Our anchor?

Our hope comes from each other.  
Though we are apart,  
We are woven together in the fabric of love.

Our hope comes from within,  
From the heart of courage  
That beats inside each living being.  
From the essence of the Holy One, knit  
Into our spirits  
Before we were imagined.

Our hope comes from the One  
Who said that nothing.  
Nothing.  
Nothing in all creation  
Can separate us from Love.

Love.  
Love is our joy,  
Our purpose,  
Our anchor.  
Love.  
Love is our hope.

by Beth Richardson

## Greeters & Counters

### Clear Lake

Greeter for April: Diane B.

Counters for April: Joan L. & Debi A.

Greeter for May: Ruth S & Jan B

Counters for May: Linda J. & Bev K.

Greeter for June: Joan L.

Counters for June: Dawn C. & Jan B.

## Clear Lake Essential Workers Breakfast 420 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Clear Lake, WI 54005

For the Blessings that the Essential Workers have provided for our community during the pandemic, we, the Clear Lake United Methodist Church, would like to say Thank You. As a small gesture of appreciation we would like to invite all these workers to a Curbside breakfast in their honor.

Breakfast will be served Curbside at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church on Saturday April 24, 2021 from 9:00 – 11:30 so we need several helpers. In the past we have done this in the Church basement, but this year because of the pandemic, we will be doing a Curbside breakfast.

Please join us. You can call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477, Diane Blanchard 423-307-6247, Carla LaBlanc 715-263-2034 or Joan Lillie 715-263-3020. Someone from Church will be contacting you to find out how you can help.

Thank you and God bless all of you.

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

## CL Jan-March Noisy Cans to Lifeline Food Pantry

If you collected change or have noisy can money to drop off please put it in the green noisy can that sits on the lift chair inside the church doors. We will let you know via Sunday announcements after we choose the donation choice for April-June at the April Ad. Council Meeting.



The Webinar, *5 Things Your Visitors are Thinking but Won't Ask 2021* will be held on **April 13, 2021 from 10:00am - 12:30pm.**

Registration for *5 Things Your Visitors are Thinking but Won't Ask 2021* is now open. Early Bird registration price is \$10.00 per individual or \$30.00 per church (3 or more people) until March 29, 2021. As of March 30, 2021 registration will be \$15.00 per individual or \$45.00 per church (3 or more people). **Registration DEADLINE - 11:45pm on Sunday, April 11, 2021.**

Please register at: <https://na.eventscloud.com/5things>  
We accept payment via Visa, MasterCard, debit cards or echeck.

Links to webinar will be sent the day before and the day of the event. Additional information is available on the registration website. If you need assistance accessing the website or registering online, please contact your pastor or call Dawn Suchomel at 608-837-7328.

Registration includes 2.5-hour webinar, access to the recorded webinar for 90 days, a webinar handbook, and a follow-up Zoom conversation (approximately 30 days following event) (If you register and are unable to attend, a recorded video will be available for viewing within 90 days after the date of the event.)

## Sincere Thanks

"I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and cards on the passing of my Father. The love of God that you shared with me and my family was greatly appreciated. You are sharing the love of God with the world and I pray that all can go well in this time of pandemic. God's blessings,

*Pastor John Hazen.*

## Willow River Parish:

We celebrated Evan's 1st Birthday this month outside the Faith Family Church which was the first event held at the church and one of the first parish wide events since the pandemic. We used Covid safety protocol and met outside. I believe it was a successful event and a great way for people to meet Pastor Hakki, Esther and Evan in person.

We have held a Bible study for a full year which is amazing. Those that have joined have built some amazing relationships and learned a lot about the Bible. We are working on finding another study and plan to study the Basics of Methodism. This study started on zoom and has been a way to stay connected through the pandemic.

We also have completed a full year of virtual zoom services. We are working on planning safe in-person services and figuring out a way to join together again safely with plans to follow the safety guidelines of the Bishop and his committee.

## WHAT IS RADICAL HOSPITALITY?

I suppose the simplest explanation is offered in the phrase itself: radical hospitality is offering hospitality in a radical way. As an adjective, "radical" means "to affect the fundamental nature of something." So offering hospitality in a radical way means offering hospitality in a fundamentally different way.

As a disruption to cycles of brokenness, radical hospitality requires a fundamental shift from a simple practice of offering welcome to an outward movement to stand with others--particularly those who are at society's margins.

It is arguable that Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of radical hospitality. Christians believe that God created our universe and that the same God who created the universe showed up in human history in the form of Jesus Christ--forsaking the God experience to have a human experience. God entered our story instead of simply demanding that we enter God's story. Perhaps that is what best defines radical hospitality: when we practice it we say "I want to become a part of your story more than I hope you will become a part of mine."

## Anchor of Hope

### Recovery Ministry

Please remember to spread the word about **Anchor of Hope**. The website's address is

<https://anchorofhopeemerald.wixsite.com/my-site>

Meetings will take place at 7 pm on Saturdays via Zoom; access to these Zoom meetings will be available by emailing the ministry's email address: [anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com](mailto:anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com).

## Clear Lake Church Update on Opening

The Clear Lake Church would like to open for church services beginning Palm Sunday for those who cannot access Zoom or are having challenges with it. We will show the Zoom service each Sunday on the big screen. Our new projector has been installed and is ready to go. We had a committee that met and laid out guidelines for safe attendance: masks, distancing, creative ways for offering, Holy Communion (Easter and first Sunday of the month), handing out palms and cleaning the church. A member also attended worship at Hudson to attend worship with them and observe how they are safely handling a limited attendance. Please join us for worship!

### CL Methodist Thrift Sale

Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> & Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

9 am-5 pm

**MASKS REQUIRED--NO EXCEPTIONS!**

You may bring your items and place them in the correct places Sunday April 25 through Wednesday April 28. The church will be open 8-8. Make sure things are clean. No electrical items that don't work; if they need batteries put them in please. We hope to have a big sale. Everyone always comes through. THANKS!

*Chairman Linda Jurisch*

## Noisy Can--Second Quarter

Clear Lake--TBD

Faith Family—Breast Cancer

Deer Park--Grace Place

### 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

## *April Birthdays*

Michael Clark	4/09
Ian Ruble	4/12
Linda Jurisch	4/13
David Webster	4/17
Brian Pietz	4/19
Ann Stuntz	4/20
Roger Blanchard	4/25
Mary Jo Ailts	4/26
Lori Cross	4/29
Ivan Ruble	4/30

## *April Anniversaries*

Sheldon & Ruth Simonson 4/10

### Confirmation

Confirmation will take place during zoom worship on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Those getting confirmed are:

Jordan Blanchard  
Savanna Millermon  
Elijah Millermon.

## Clear Lake Ad C Highlights

### Opening Church committee report:

Discussed guidelines posted by Polk County. Masks required, social distancing, separate entrance and exit, usher to show parishioners where to sit to maintain social distancing, hand sanitizer must be used on entering and exiting, no use of hymnal and only 26 people can attend to maintain the social distancing. Pews must be sanitized. Tentative date for opening the church for the Zoom meeting is Palm Sunday.

Roger contacted Bill from Hillyard for sanitizing QT. They will have a meeting March 10th at 5:00 for the proper mixing procedure.

### Projector Update:

Connecting Point will do the update for the following cost:  
\$569 for the projector  
\$230 for mounting  
\$190 for installation  
\$39 for cord

Essential Workers Breakfast: Will do drive-thru if Covid restrictions remain in place. Need workers for the event. Need contacts from the essential worker groups for quantities that will be attending. Diane will check with Carla Lablanc on how she organized the last breakfast.

Set-up for the thrift sale is Sunday April 25th. Need workers to do the set-up. There will be NO to-go lunch served during the Thrift Sale April 29 and 30.

The Evening Circle made 29 pillowcases. They donated the 29 pillowcases and 29 pillows to Grace Place.

**Next meeting is 5:00 Wed, April 7th in church basement and zoom.**

Pastor Hakki will be on vacation April 12-25.  
In case of an emergency, please contact:

Pastor Bryan Anderson  
Church: 715-263-2846  
Parsonage: 715-263-2848  
Cell: 715-6071704

## Pastor's Pen

<sup>24</sup> *Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* <sup>25</sup> *Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* <sup>26</sup> *Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. (John 12:24-26, NRSV)*



Evan Min just turned one year old. My family and I were so blessed because we have church family celebrating his first birthday together. Esther said she felt how God loves us from the first birthday celebration planned by church family. That night, we read



each card again and we were so touched by your love and she was moved to tears and confessed "Thank you Lord!" With your congratulations, his first birthday was very meaningful.

Like Evan's, for everyone, the first birthday means a lot. Besides, everything we experience for the first time in our lives is meaningful. Personally, the beginning of my pastoral journey, the Willow River United Methodist Parish, has a lot of meaning and is important. Like this, people tend to think that the first is important.

Henry G. Appenzeller is the first Methodist missionary who came to Korea in 1885 from the United States to convey the Lord's love and gospel. He built the first Korean Methodist church called Chung Dong First Methodist Church in Seoul as soon as he came to Korea. He established school and translated the Bible into Korean with Horace Grant Underwood, the first Presbyterian missionary. With their works and efforts, Christianity began to spread in Korea.

Chung Dong FMC is a historical place in Korea and can be seen as the beginning of Korean Methodist Church. Most interesting is that many Korean Methodist churches were established through the influence of Chung Dong FMC. My grandmother attended one of the churches by chance and became a Methodist. My parents became Methodists and my dad was ordained. I also became a Methodist and had served the historical church as a pastoral assistant for more than three years and now serve the United Methodist church; and now Evan is a Methodist.

Appenzeller and Chung Dong FMC, that became a grain of wheat in Korea, bore much fruit. I pray that Willow River Parish becomes a grain of wheat in our community. May we also bear much fruit in our lives through the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit now and forever. Thanks be to God.

With the love of Christ, Pastor Hakki



## SPRC Corner

SPRC has been supporting the pastor's needs and following the bishop's guidelines pertaining to safety protocols around COVID. We discussed supporting the ad boards in sorting out a safe reopening to in person service plan. We will continue to meet monthly for this year to help support our pastor. The goal is to meet monthly until September and reevaluate at that time. If you have any needs and concerns please feel free to contact pastor or an SPRC representative. Thank you all and God bless. *Heather Greene*

## Faith Family Church Update

We are working on finding a new carpet for the sanctuary and building new steps to the stage. Our contractor Don has also created a beautiful piece of art out of our stained glass from the Forest building to put above the altar. We are working on a reopening plan and hope to be able to safely open when we have a large percentage of people vaccinated. We are following the bishop's recommendation and want to make sure all members are safe. *Heather Greene*



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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=Ulp aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072



Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place April 10th 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. 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).

## Nursing Home Visit

Gail Kuhl visits her mom Charlotte Tellijohn at Amery Memory Care. Gail is helping with recreation activities. Our care facilities are gently opening for visitors. What a blessing!



## From Bishop Jung

*But if you had known what this means, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”, you would not have condemned the guiltless. (Matthew 12:7)*

Daily, the news breaks my heart. A one-year-old child is killed by gunfire in Pittsburgh, sleeping supposedly safe in his crib in his home. In Atlanta, a shooting spree at three different spas leaves eight dead, primarily women of Asian descent, terrorizing residents in a year of anti-Asian violence fueled by “China virus” and “Kung flu” rhetoric and racist denunciations. The FBI reports over 3,800 acts of violence by whites against Asians and Asian-Americans, two-thirds of them against women in the past year. Over 20,000 Asian owned businesses have been vandalized or destroyed since March of 2020 in the United States. Most of these businesses have been longtime parts of their communities. I do not understand why violence is such an easy answer for so many, especially of those calling themselves Christian.

The gunman in Atlanta has been described as a devout Southern Baptist. An arsonist in California who destroyed nine Asian restaurants confessed he was acting as “a born-again Christian” opposing those he denounced with obscenities and racial slurs. This is not the witness we want to share with the world as Christian disciples.

I am personally reflecting on what our witness should be as followers of Jesus Christ. Of course, this is personal to me as an Asian-American and a leader in The United Methodist Church, but it is so much larger than my own response and the incident in Atlanta. When I think about what happened in Pittsburgh – and what continues to happen across our country and world – I am called back to a desire to be a peacemaker, working with people of all ethnicities, and cultures, and races to create a society founded upon principles of justice and mercy and equity. I believe that the people called United Methodists should be actively engaged champions of inclusion and justice for all. We should be FOR the love of Christ by standing AGAINST racism and oppression and marginalization and condemnation and violence.

Yes, first and foremost, we should be a people of prayer, but beyond our prayers we should be disciples sent forth “for the transformation of the

world.” We are God’s agents and tools for transformation. God will achieve justice through us. God will show mercy through us. God will end human intolerance and violence through us. But not if we stand passively by.

The month of May is Asian Heritage Month. It is established to recognize and honor the great contributions Asian leaders and Asian cultures have made in our world. It is a time to celebrate the wonderful diversity within Asian cultures and to embrace this diversity throughout our global community. In most cases, Asian culture is deeply rooted in respectful relationships and communities of hospitality. Caring welcome, respect, and honor are core values of Asian people. I am prayerful that in Wisconsin we might find some substantial and creative ways to raise awareness, educate, and inspire our members to see the blessing of all Asian peoples.

Simply because our current pandemic began in Chinese geography does not mean it was caused by Asian people. Our entire planet has suffered COVID-19 – the pandemic should be our common enemy, not each other. We should work hard to support and encourage and strengthen all people through this global virus time, especially those most at risk and vulnerable. The pandemic has inordinately harmed the poor, the marginalized, the less educated, those considered subordinate by dominant cultures. This is the value system of the world; but it is not the value system of God’s people. All are of equal value and should be treated as such. Those of us most advantaged should share abundantly with those who have less. And under no circumstances should we do anything that adds to the pain, anxiety, suffering, or harms the well-being of any other human being.

Please join me in prayer, but also consider joining me in action, to stand with those who are oppressed and attacked, and to witness to God’s love in a broken and violent world. Let us show mercy to everyone, now and forever.



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



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

Pastor's Office Hours: Tues-Friday 10am-12pm

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

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

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

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmarski

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

### **Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM

(also meeting in person at the Clear Lake church for those who are comfortable)