

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

**April 2023**

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

## April 2023 Lectionary Readings

**April 2, 2023**

**Passion / Palm Sunday (Purple or Red)**

Palms Lit: Matt 21:1-11; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839) Passion Lit: Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16 (UMH 764); Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54

**April 9, 2023**

**Easter Sunday; Easter Vigil (White or Gold)**

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

**April 16, 2023**

**2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16 (UMH 748); 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**April 23, 2023**

**3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday (White or Gold)**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); 1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

**April 30, 2023**

**4th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)**

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23 (UMH 754 or 137); 1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Joys**— John and Stacia's new granddaughter—Myla Kay Linehan, CL Schools and community members brainstorming ideas to improve the schools.

**Concerns**— Don Weber, Shannon Arenz, Ron, Joyce, Larry Meier

**Remembering**—Family and friends of Dan Olson, Shirley Warner Buhr, and Susie Kuhn



## Holy Week Schedule

**Maundy Thursday** – April 6 at 7:00 pm at Deer Park church.

**Good Friday**—April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the United Covenant Church in CL.

**Easter Sunday** – April 9

SonRise service and Breakfast will be at 7:00am at the Faith Family Church.

We will also worship at our regular worship times.

**UMC Special Sundays:** Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2023. Please watch for pew cards describing the upcoming special Sunday in the worship bulletin a week before each special Sunday. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- Native American Ministries Sunday—April 23
- Peace with Justice Sunday—June 4
- World Communion Sunday—October 1
- UM Student Day Sunday—November 26

**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=Ulp aSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhci83UT09>

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

**Holy Humor Sunday:** April 16<sup>th</sup> at your favorite church. Everybody, be thinking about your costume & keep a look-out for some good jokes. (Or even some old, tired jokes...) Come that Sunday ready to praise God with singing, praying, and at least a bit of silliness.

### Family House Polk/Barron Shelter

Just a reminder that: The Salvation Army is housing 10 people at this time in Hotels in the area. The needs they have for housing at this time are paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, personal care items and food. The food can be anything that can be heated/cooked in a microwave, single serve soups/mac and cheese and anything in a can with a pop top of lid as they have no can openers. This is the limit to their cooking abilities in hotel rooms. Please feel free to donate in the basket in CL at the back of the church. I will deliver what we have the first part of April. Thanks to all who have donated and you can still donate!

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### April Birthdays

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Dan Severson    | 4/04 |
| Michael Clark   | 4/09 |
| Ian Ruble       | 4/12 |
| Linda Jurisch   | 4/13 |
| David Webster   | 4/17 |
| 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 |
|-------------------------|------|

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**WRP Youth:** Youth will be doing the **7:00 am** Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Faith Family. We will have a planning/practice meeting on **Saturday, April 1, at Faith Family at 9 am.** Donuts and juice provided! Come ready to be outside too, old shoes, gloves etc.

**Multicultural Worship at Whitehall** with a multicultural meal on April 29th Saturday 10-noon. We will meet at Faith Family at 8 am, return about 2 pm. We will plan to bring along some cultural foods. for potluck. Be thinking about what you know how to make for your ethnic recipes.

Watch for 2023 Church Camp info at your church!

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**Deadline for May Newsletter  
is April 25th.**

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### APRIL WORSHIP MINISTRIES

#### Clear Lake

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 2nd  | Reader: John Koerper<br>Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood<br>Brunch: Justin Wood Family |
| April 9th  | Reader: Andrea Jilek<br>Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery<br>Coffee: Easter               |
| April 16th | Reader: Debi Ahrens<br>Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard<br>Coffee: Linda          |
| April 23rd | Reader: Diane Blanchard<br>Acolyte/PwrPt: Wyatt Reindahl<br>Coffee: Betty        |
| April 30th | Combined Service @ Faith Family  |

*Counters for April: Carla & Diane*

#### Faith Family

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| April 2nd  | Terri Wilson     |
| April 9th  | Millermon Family |
| April 16th | Paul Webster     |
| April 23rd | Heather Greene   |
| April 30th | Penny Warner     |

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**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 **April 8th** 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](mailto:office.ameryucc@gmail.com).

Another Ruby's Pantry location is: 1245 County Highway CC, New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017, which distributes on the 3rd Thursday of the Month. Registration begins at 5:00 PM. Food bundles available 5:00-7:00 PM. Hosted by: Faith Community Church. Check out their website [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org) to find a location and time that works for you.

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### 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](mailto:mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com) or Gail Kuhl [kuhlg@cltcomm.net](mailto:kuhlg@cltcomm.net)

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## **Soul Food: Women's History Month By Bishop Hee-Soo Jung**

March is an important month for women, marking it as Women's History Month and celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. These highlight the contributions of women to history and contemporary society as well as recognizing the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

As Christian people, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect and honor both the named (187!) and unnamed women of the Bible. These are the women who have deeply impacted our spiritual development by their courage, faith, hope, actions, and words.

In the Old Testament, I reflect upon Queen Esther, whose story is about wisdom, courage, and the providence of God. Esther was an orphan raised by her uncle. She was chosen to be the Persian King's new queen. With that, Esther and her cousin, Mordecai, find themselves in roles that could prevent the genocide of the Jewish people, her people. Risking her life, she bravely confronts the king and thereby saves her people. When we need examples of bravery and courage, we can look to Esther! (See the book of Esther for the complete story).

In the New Testament, I am drawn to Luke 8:43-48, "Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, 'Who touched me?' When all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.' But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.' When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.'"

Here is an unnamed woman who had been suffering for twelve years with an illness. This woman was incurable, untouchable and an outcast. She was desperate for healing, wholeness, and connection. She knew that if she would just reach out to Jesus, she would be healed. What a testimony to the power of faith, relentless hope, and determination! Her healing is a reminder that everything is possible with Jesus.

There are many women throughout the Bible who inspire us; teach us how to overcome adversity; and remind us to keep our focus on God. As we celebrate Women's History month, let us keep in mind all the inspirational women from the Bible.

*Spirit of God, we thank you for this time to remember, celebrate, and honor the women of the Bible. May their stories build within us a deep connection to you. Amen.*

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## **Deer Park UMC News:**

Happy Spring!

All is well in Deer Park; we have been able to meet our obligations each month thanks to our generous participants.

Again many thanks to the wonderful people that kept our yard as clean as Mother Nature would let them. We all agree that we have had enough snow and we are hoping that there is no leaking in the downstairs.

We appreciate Joyce playing for us each week and Dennis visiting and his humor.

Have a Blessed Easter. God Bless all of our Parish friends.

*Your friends in Deer Park.*

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

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**2nd Quarter Noisy Can--Grace Place**

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## **Clear Lake UMC News**

- Coffee after church
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each Month after church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday
- Collecting for shelter residents staying in hotels at this time, canned goods w/pop tops or single serve items to cook in the microwave.

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

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**CL Midweek Church School:** Midweek church school continues with 3:15 pick up at school and lessons until 5:00 pm. **On Wednesday, April 26th we will have supper together and be meeting until 6 pm to make and bake for our bake sale for missions during the Thrift Sale.**

## Clear Lake March. Ad. Co. Highlights

Opened with prayer and approved Sec./Treas. Reports.

- Approved Joint services, first one on April 30th, 10am.
- Membership letters will be mailed in March, Stewardship letters mailed in July.
- Visitation team being set up to visit/communion with Pastor Hakki.
- Clear Lake Band Stand is celebrating 100 years this summer. We will be looking into food serving and our bells may play one night.
- Linda volunteered to become a 3rd signer on the Church account.
- Special UMCOR offering on the 19th to send for Turkey/Syria.
- Pastor shared the Easter schedule, The Bishop's Day Apart meeting the 23rd and his vacation in April.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next meeting April 5th @ 4pm.**

**Noisy Can:** 2nd qtr. Backpack Program, 3rd qtr. Christmas for Children, 4th qtr. Food Pantry.

**Shop with RaiseRight (formerly Scrip):** If you want to place a Raise Right order, please contact Andrea Jilek 263-2575. Nilssen's gift cards can be ordered at any time, too.

**UWF Minutes March 8, 2023 Ridgeview Apts.** 12:00 Potluck; Guest Barb Bender our Sister from Prairie Farm, she will be retiring at the end of this year. She is 89 and has been very active in our District for 17 years.

Present 10 Mission Statement read, President Joan Lillie led Meeting Sec. Min read and corrections made about Cookie Sale Profits Approved as corrected, Treasurer's Report \$2,396.58 at the end of 2022. now \$757.77 approved

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dishwasher was installed in 1999, 23 years old. It wasn't working, Joan found a spoon stuck in it. John Koerper caulked a drip. Indianhead looked at it, changed gaskets, plastic pipes and other parts. \$134 for the parts. two hours of labor will send the bill. The two Circles will split the bill. Joan cleaned the inside.

2. April 19, meet at church at 1:00 to visit Don and Arlene at their new Apt. Unless they're not available. Jennie will make cheesecake to bring for a treat.

3. Thank yous from Ruth and Brian Wick.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Visit shut-ins with Pastor Hakki. Volunteers-Deb, Diane, Roger, Linda, Dawn, Jennie. Pastor will notify them when he's available.

2. Diane Book Report, The Four Winds. It took place during the depression of 1930's. 3. March 23, Day of Giving-Legacy Fund for women, children and youth in the world. Has raised from 30 million to 60 million. 2023 called Future Is Now, each Circle will give \$100, total \$200. 4. March 25, Spring Day Of Enrichment, New Richmond Methodist Church. 8:30-1:00. \$15 per person. Duana Bremer, speaker. Attending: Joan, Deb, Ruth, Jennie, Linda, Diane?  
*Submitted by Linda Jurisch*



### CL Methodist Thrift Sale

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> & Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

9 am-5 pm

You may bring your items and place them in the correct places Sunday April 23 through Wednesday April 26.

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.

PLEASE UNLOAD YOUR BAGS AND BOXES AND PUT ITEMS ON DESIGNATED TABLES.

\*if any church member wants to make treats to sell for the Sunday School Mission we'd love to have them\*

Visit Don & Arlene Althoff @ their new Apartment  
April 19th-Meet at Church at 1:00 to Carpool

**Bell Choir:** Our Community Bell Choir is practicing on Wed. at 7:00 pm. We are working on a spring concert to be held on Wed. May 3rd, save the date!

**Dorcas Piecemakers :** Our Circle group will be meeting the first and third Mondays of April from 1-3. We are working on new pillowcases for The Family Shelter in Polk County at this time. We are also going to put together a few baby quilts for missions in April.



**Pastor's Pen:** It's now April, and March was special for my family because we celebrated my wife's and son's birthdays. We worked hard to make cakes for them. I prepared a batter using eggs, butter, milk, cake flour, sugar, and vanilla extract, and baked it in a 325F oven for about 35 minutes to make a genoise. Then, I used a machine to whip cream with some sugar to make a stiff cream for decorating the cake. My wife cut the genoise into three pieces, spread sugar syrup on each surface, placed strawberries on them, added the cream on top to shape the cake, and spread the cream all over to make a beautiful cake for my wife and son. You can probably see the pictures of the cakes we made. They're pretty, aren't they?



In March, also, something special happened in our parish - we had an in-person Lenten Bible Study for the first time since the pandemic started. The Soup Suppers were also prepared with love by each church, which I found impressive. As I serve three churches, I don't often get the chance to hear the stories of my parishioners, so this was a precious opportunity for me. My goal for the Bible Study was to listen to my church members' stories, so I put the time in the beginning for us to share our daily lives and spiritual training, such as Lectio Divina. Initially, it looked like some of you were hesitant to share, but gradually opened up and shared your thoughts and feelings freely. Thank you to all who participated, especially those who didn't miss a week. I hope this Lenten season was filled with God's grace for all of us, both spiritually and physically.

Finally, In March, our district had an important event called Bishop's Day Apart at Chetek UMC on March 23rd. Although the gathering was mostly led by pastors, three of our parishioners attended the event, which made me proud and grateful. I was able to see the connection between pastors and laity through their interest and love. I hope you continue to show steady interest and love for our parish, district, conference, and denomination. The event lasted from 9 am to 3:30 pm and included opening worship and a morning session focused on learning about what the beloved community is. We also had a chance to ask the Bishop questions and hear about the current situation of our conference after enjoying a delicious lasagna lunch.

According to the Bishop, the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC has 44 churches that are in the process of leaving the denomination, but not all members of those churches necessarily agree with the decision. So, the Conference is starting new UMCs in those areas for those who still want to stay within the UMC. There are many rumors about what's happening in the United Methodist Church, but nothing has been decided until the 2024 General Conference. The issue of LGBTQIA+ is just one of many topics to be discussed, and nothing has been decided yet. Regardless of what happens, it's important to continue your spiritual journey faithfully and not believe in inaccurate rumors. Please continue to show interest and love for the United Methodist Church by praying for it.



This April is the time when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The cold winter is passing, and the lively and vibrant spring is coming. I pray that the Holy Spirit within us will guide us on our journey of resurrection in faith.

Grace always,  
Pastor Hakki

# Faith Family Church News:

## FAITH FAMILY AD. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

Next meeting to be announced.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Stay tuned for more information:

- Emerald Community Easter Event April 8th
- Faith Family Church Pancake Breakfast April 8th.
- Family Game Night April 14th @ 6:30pm

THANK YOU THANK YOU!

## FUN DAY SCHOOL CORNER:



Noisy Cans--2nd Quarter--Autism  
Send Offering to: Terri Wilson, 3127 200<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Glenwood City, WI 54013

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)  
[ANCHOR OF HOPE](#)

ANCHOR OF HOPE MARCH PRAYER:



*Thank you to our guest speakers this month.*

Our website can be found at  
<https://anchorofhopeemerald.wixsite.com/my-site>  
and our email address is  
[anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com](mailto:anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com)

Or call/text Heather Greene  
612-799-6215.

[ANCHOR OF HOPE](#) Facebook Live.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 830 9477 1703

Passcode: 781739

## Anchor of Hope Recovery Ministry

Recovery is for ALL and ALL are welcome.

We all have things in our lives we have struggled with--grief, guilt, perfectionism, anxiety, depression, abilities, trauma, drugs/alcohol/food addictions, etc. We work through these areas of our life by laying our burdens down and finding rest in Christ at Anchor of Hope.

If you need to connect with someone from Anchor of Hope please reach out via our email, facebook, messenger, or call/text Heather Greene (This is a part-time position and also run by volunteers so if this is an emergency please call 911 or for a mental health crisis call 988).

## Schedule of Events at Anchor of Hope:

Monday (In-person and virtual (zoom/facebook)  
Saturday: Bible App Study 2pm on Facebook  
Communion for all the first Monday of the month.

## Anchor of Hope Shepherding meeting:

Monday, April 10th @ 5:30pm - virtual

## Resources for Recovery

-ADRC of St. Croix County Phone: **800-372-2333**

TTY/TDD/Relay: Email: [adrcinfo@sccwi.gov](mailto:adrcinfo@sccwi.gov)

-NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

<https://nami.org/Home>

- Call: 800-950-NAMI (6264)
- Text: 62640
- Email: [helpline@nami.org](mailto:helpline@nami.org)

-Mental Health Crisis Line call 988

-Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a volunteer Crisis Counselor

-Anchor of Hope Recovery Ministry:

- [anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com](mailto:anchorofhopeemerald@gmail.com)
- 612-799-6215

-Onyx Sober Living:

- (715) 245-1275
- [onyxsoberliving@gmail.com](mailto:onyxsoberliving@gmail.com)

**As always if this is an emergency please contact 911!!**



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  
Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700  
E-Mail: [willowriverparish@gmail.com](mailto:willowriverparish@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.willowriverparish.org](http://www.willowriverparish.org)

Willow River Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Willow-River-Parish-103076225619623/>

Hakki Min, Pastor  
Office Hours: Tues-Friday 1-3 pm

Anitra Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary  
Email: [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: Fridays 1-3 pm

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer  
Email: [WRParishconnect@gmail.com](mailto:WRParishconnect@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 @ Clear Lake and Faith Family  
3:15 on Wednesdays @ CL  
4:30 pm on Wednesdays @ FF