

THE PARISH CONNECTION

April 2026

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

Lectionary Readings

APR 01 | Wed. of Holy Week (Purple or Red)

Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 70 (UMH 793)
Heb 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

APR 02 | Thursday of Holy Week/ Maundy Thursday (Purple or Red)

Exod 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 (UMH 837);
1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

APR 03 | Friday of Holy Week/ Good Friday (No Color)

Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22 (UMH 752);
Heb 10:16-25; John 19:1-42 or Mark 14:1-15:47

APR 04 | Holy Saturday/Easter Eve (No Color prior to sunset)

Job 14:1-14; Ps 31:1-4, 15-16 (UMH 764);
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

APR 05 | Easter Day (White or Gold)

Jer 31:1-6; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839);
Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43;
John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

APR 12 | 2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Ex 15:1-11; Ps 111; 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

APR 19 | 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Min. Sunday (White or Gold)

Isa 51:1-6; Ps 34:1-10;
1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

APR 26 | 4th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Ezk 34:7-15; Ps 100;
1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Spiritual Retreat: Pastor Hakki will be at a spiritual retreat April 7-12. Paul Webster will fill the pulpit on April 12th. Pastor Bryan Anderson is the emergency contact: Church: 715-263-2846; Parsonage: 715-263-2848; Cell: 715-6071704



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 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—Catherine's family as her sister passed away.

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 or The Fourth Quarter of Life.

Holy Humor Sunday: April 12th 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.

Lent Activities:

During Lent, members gathered for a variety of Lenten activities and meaningful messages. Some activities included puzzles, bingo, hymn sing, beads, and bible trivia. We're truly grateful for the precious hands that carefully prepared the suppers. All generations came together. It was not just a time of fellowship, but also a time of prayer — asking God to help us take one faithful step at a time.

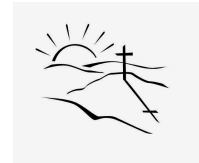


Maundy Thursday service will be held at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church at 6:30 pm.

April 3 Covenant Clear Lake - Good Friday Ecumenical Service @ 7:00 pm



Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast



Youth will be doing the service and serving breakfast on **Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am @ CLUMC**. Please come out and support our youth for a wonderful service and yummy breakfast! Regular worship times also.

Safe Sanctuaries Training

The Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal Area will offer **Safe Sanctuaries training on Saturday, April 25, from 9am-12 pm via Zoom**. Cost is \$15 and includes the required background check. Full attendance is required for certification.

The Conference is also providing adaptable policy templates to support local churches in creating or updating their Safe Sanctuaries practices. For questions, contact Rev. Eric Swanson at eswanson@wisconsinumc.org.

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 11th** 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

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

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

April 5th Reader: Baylie Millermon
Communion: Baylie Millermon
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres
Potluck/Coffee: EASTER/NO COFFEE
Sonrise Breakfast follows Sonrise Service

April 12th Reader: Diane Blanchard
Acolyte/PwrPt: Vidalia Gorres
Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family

April 19th Reader: Dawn Cress
Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood
Coffee: Camilla P

April 26th Reader: John Koerper
Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery
Coffee: Linda J

May 3rd Reader: Vidalia Gorres
Communion: Oliver Gorres
Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr
Potluck/Coffee: Joan L and Dick D

Counters for April: Carla & Roger B
Counters for May: Debi & Dawn

Faith Family

April 5th TBD
Communion: TBD
April 12th Paul Webster
April 19th Terri Wilson
April 26th Michael Clark
May 3rd Jordyn Millermon
Communion: Jordyn Millermon

Amen! To a New Office Computer

A huge thank you to all who generously donated to the Computer fund so we have an updated computer in the Parish Office that will serve our parish for many years to come. Amen!!

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

- Native American Ministries Sunday ~ April 19
 - Peace with Justice Sunday ~ May 31
 - World Communion Sunday ~ October 4
 - United Methodist Student ~ November 29
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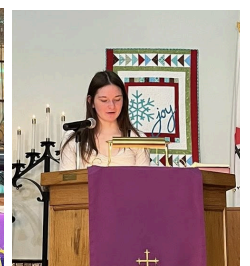
WRP Youth: Sunday funday with the youth group! We had such a great time watching Gracie perform as Dr. Pickell in the play "Sideways Stories from Wayside School" on March 8th @ the Phipps Center for Arts in Hudson. She was incredible! So glad we could be there to support her. So proud of you, Gracie!



Wednesday, April 22nd; 3:30-6:30—youth bake at CL for missions at Thrift Sale

2025–2026 Confirmation Class

On March 1st, we were so blessed to have our confirmands, Baylie, Vidalia, and Michael, serve as liturgists and communion servers. A special shout-out to Baylie, who is part of the Faith Family congregation, but joined us at Clear Lake UMC to serve in worship! It was a beautiful example of cross-congregational fellowship and a truly meaningful time for all of us. Please continue to keep these young leaders in your prayers.



May Newsletter Deadline is April 27th

April Birthdays

Dan Severson	4/04
Susan Larson	4/06
Michael Clark	4/09
Ian Ruble	4/12
Linda Jurisch	4/13
David Webster	4/17
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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Community Center Senior Luncheon Update

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.



Bibles Needed for Jamaican Prison Ministry

Midwest Mission is partnering with Food For The Poor to provide 6,000 Bibles for a prison ministry in Jamaica. By donating a gently used Bible you no longer use, Willow River Parish members can help place God's Word directly into the hands of someone who deeply needs it. Bibles can be brought to the church. We hope to get the bibles to Midwest Missions sometime in April. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile mission.

If Teapots Could Talk

On Saturday, May 2, 2:00pm we will be having our 150th Anniversary Celebration with a Tea for the women and past members and extended family are being invited.



6th ANNUAL SOCIAL ACTION DAY

"Responding in Love" Social Action Watch Party will be held at RL UMC on Saturday, April 11th from 9:00am-12:00pm. Pre-registration is appreciated but you can also register that morning from 8:30-9:00. Muffins, coffee, and juice will be served during registration period. Registration is \$10. REGISTER ONLINE (Preferred) at: <https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/UWInfaithsocialactionday2026>

This is open to anyone interested!

Tragic Accident--Mark Gilbertson: Jessica (Wood) Gilbertson's husband, Mark Gilbertson, was involved in an accident a few weeks ago. He has been at Regions--many serious things happened to his body. It will be a long time before he can work on his farm again. Jessica and their children are doing their best to keep things going. Jessica's grandparents were Clayton and Else Wood, very active members in our church. Three of Jessica's children were baptized in our church. They have been members of the 1st Lutheran Church in Clear Lake. Please pray for all of the family, especially Mark. It's financially very difficult. They have a Go Fund Me on Facebook. Here is their address if you would like to help them out. Jessica Gilbertson, 423 County Line St, Clear Lake, WI 54005.

Gluten Free Chocolate Cookies

From: Debi Ahrens Makes: 2 ½ doz

Ingredients

2 ½ cups powdered sugar, sifted
¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
3 large egg whites - room temp.
2 tsp. vanilla
Pinch of salt
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper
3. Sift powdered sugar & cocoa into large bowl
4. Fold in the 3 beaten egg whites
5. Add vanilla & salt and mix until thick & glossy
6. Add chocolate chips
7. Scoop Tbsp of dough onto sheets
8. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the tops are shiny and slightly cracked.



Happy Easter! If you are reading this before April 5th, it might feel a little early for an Easter greeting. In that case, how about I greet you this way? Amen! To a New Computer! Hahaha 😊

During this Lenten season, we held a fundraiser to purchase a new parish computer that will help us gather and manage our parish's records and ministries. By God's grace, we were able to reach our goal even earlier than expected. We hope that by Easter, you will be able to see and use this new computer. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort through your prayers and generosity.

As many of you know, I have received a new appointment from Bishop Schwerin. Lately, many of you have asked how I am feeling—whether I am excited, nervous, or even a bit afraid. Honestly, my heart has not changed much before or after hearing this news. I believe that God called me to serve here, and now God is also calling me to serve in a new place. Each church has its own unique situations, challenges, and stories, and I simply seek to follow where God leads.

At this time, my focus is on finishing my ministry here well and preparing for a smooth transition for the next pastor. According to the Book of Discipline, pastors who have served six years may take a sabbatical leave, and I was encouraged by colleagues to consider it. However, with the ongoing work in our parish—including the merger process—and my desire to support the next pastor's beginning here, I have chosen to remain fully engaged and do my best to complete what needs to be done.

You may not see all of it, but these days have been especially full and busy.

As I prepare to conclude my ministry here and reflect on the past six years, I find myself thinking back to when I first arrived. It was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the transition was not easy. I remember feeling overwhelmed and uncertain, not knowing where to seek help. For example, several years of Charge Conference materials—specifically from 2014 to 2019—were not available, which made it difficult to fully understand the life and history of the Willow River Parish. Because of that experience, I am committed to making this transition as smooth and well-prepared as possible for the next pastor.

I ask for your prayers—that I may finish my ministry here faithfully, and that together we may prepare a healthy and graceful transition for the one who will come after me.

Blessings, Pastor Hakki

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- We'd like to make another delivery soon if you can donate!!

Send Offering to: Josy Wood, 260 40th Avenue, Clear Lake, WI 54045

CL Noisy Cans:

2nd quarter—CL School Back Pack Program
3rd quarter—Clear Lake Food Pantry
4th quarter—Clear Lake Ambulance

1-3. We will continue working on getting some walker bags made for the hospital. All are invited to lunch also that are working on the history albums, posters and anniversary plans and our May 2nd Tea.

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. On Saturday, April 26th we will be playing at services for the Seventh Day Adventist Church and on Sunday, April 27th we will be playing at Redeemer Lutheran in Amery.

Church Cleaning Donation: If you want to help pay \$120 for cleaning the church, which is done once a month. You can write a check to UMC Please put in an envelope that says for cleaning and put in the collection plate.

Dorcas Piecemakers Work

Days: On Monday, April 13th, we will meet at Irma's for lunch and sew/History from 1 to 3 pm.

On the 20th we will meet at Irma's at noon and sew from



**UWF SPRING ENRICHMENT
APRIL 18, 2026
MENOMONIE UMC**

The start time to register and have refreshments is 8:30 AM at the Menomonie United Methodist Church, 2703 Bongey Drive, Menomonie, WI 54751. Anyone who comes, is encouraged to bring a picture of nature that they cherish. The picture can be a photo, painting, drawing or any other form of portable media. Write a short description of why this picture is so meaningful to you and place it in front of your item—they will be on display. If you choose, you can stand by your item and speak with the viewers as they come.

CL Methodist Thrift Sale

Thursday, April 23rd & Friday, April 24th
9 am-5 pm

You may bring your items and place them in the correct places Sunday April 19 through Wednesday April 22.

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. PLEASE HANG ALL CLOTHES (except small items.)

Please help set up after church on Sunday, April 19th if it's not done before that. Thank you.

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

Nursing Home Visit

On Wednesday, April 8th, UWF will play bingo and give out prizes and cake to residents in the Amery Memory Care beginning at 1:15 pm.

UWF 3/11/26 Meeting Ridgeview 2:00

10 Present Mission Statement Read
Easter Scriptures Read for Roll Call
Sec. Min read and approved
Treasurers Report \$1,458.02 Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

August 30 lunch: Betty: Pasta Salad, will purchase Buns, coffee and lemonade also fruit salad.

NEW BUSINESS:

TEA PARTY MAY 2 @ 1:00. Invitations will say If Tea Pots Could Talk-Celebrating Heritage 150 Years. There will be a program and other fun, then tea and food. Jonele Leadhome may help. FOOD—Betty and Jennie: Cucumber sandwiches, Camilla: Scones, Joan & Deb: Sandwiches, Stacia: rye bread with cheese whiz and olives, Betty: Sweet treat, sugar cubes, milk or cream, Linda: Variety of tea, coffee, mints. Anyone should bring teapots for decoration. Carafes will be filled with hot water on each table. Camilla: Table cloths; Betty, Camilla, Deb: dishes, Deb: hats, Dave S: maybe linen napkins. Deb has a list of who to invite. Most of the ones invited have had a connection with our church. People are assigned who to send the invitations to. One invitation will be sent to a family and they will notify the other family members. There will be an RSVP date on the invitation so we can get a count.

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

Holy Socks

The United Women of Faith are gathering clean, (they can be used) holy socks for a cash donation to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We'd love to have anyone's donations.

Please note: We can take what we have on April 18th to our Spring Conference, but from then on, they will no longer accept any brand of sock other than **Gold Toe Socks**, which can be purchased at Walmart, Kohls or Target.

Clear Lake United Methodist Church Ad Council Meeting--March 12, 2026

Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report read and approved.

Old Business:

The stained glass window has been repaired and replaced.

New Business:

1. Discussed the church merger with Deer Park. Deer Park will decide if they want to merge with Clear Lake or Faith Family. The decision will be presented to the DS who will report to the Bishop for his approval.

2. Deer Park will continue to use their church until the end of March.

3. A special church conference will be held to announce the decision.
4. Deer Park will continue to pay apportionments for the year. They will also pay any expenses til the end of the year.
5. After the merge the apportionment percentage will be readjusted for 2027 budget.
6. The merged church will receive the remaining Deer Park assets.
7. A motion was made that the Clear Lake church would like to merge with the Deer Park church. Motion by Gail Kuhl, 2nd Debi. Motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Notes:

Pastor Hakki will be in Fond du Lac the week of March 16. He will be unable to attend the Wednesday Lenten Service. Dawn will lead the devotions and Diane will lead the craft.

Pastor Hakki will be on vacation April 7 - 12. Paul Webster will do pulpit supply.

Maundy Thursday service will be in Clear Lake April 2, 2026.

Son Rise service Easter Sunday at Clear Lake.

Next meeting April 15, 2026.

Jennie Keller, Recording Secretary

Dear Fellow United Methodists of the Willow River Parish,

As Chairman of the Staff, Pastor, Parish Committee, I have several important announcements to make that will affect each of our Three Congregations.

Firstly, after a long search we finally have a new Parish Treasurer. Her name is Daniell Green. She is the granddaughter of Liz Larson of the Faith Family Congregation and brings a lot of new enthusiasm to the position. She is a new graduate of a local accounting program having graduated top of her class. We welcome her on board and wish her well in the important work she does for all of us.

Secondly, I need to announce that according to United Methodist traditions of itinerancy of our Pastor, Hakki Min will be leaving us on July 1,

2026. Hakki has been with us six years and has brought us through the Covid Crisis with his excellent computer and zoom skills. He has developed a wonderful series of action-based Lenten Wednesday services where the message is combined with such activities as Bingo, Jigsaw Puzzles, prayer bead making, and Bible Trivia. Hakki has also led a very Congregation involved Confirmation Series with our youth that not only has included learning about the Bible, but learning about our founder John Wesley and the Methodist Quadrilateral, United Methodist organization including our General Boards of Global Ministry, Education, and Social Principles. Members of the Confirmation classes have had mentors from each of three Congregations and have helped lead in worship services and serving of Holy Communion. They have attended Administrative Council Meetings and learned about Church Governance at the local level. We look forward to seeing their Confirmation Ceremonies in a few weeks.

It has been announced that Hakki and his family will be transferring to Salem United Methodist Church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin where he will be the Lead Pastor. We wish him well. We invite the Congregations in the Willow River Parish to organize going away festivities for Hakki and his family in the coming months. Having gotten us through Covid and the daily challenges of small church pastoring, we know he will do well in his new Appointment.

The SPRC Committee is working closely with our District Superintendent, Peace and with the Conference Bishop's Cabinet who will appoint a new Pastor to lead here in the Willow River Parish after July 1st.

Finally, I would like to sadly announce that our beloved Deer Park Congregation has voted to close their doors at the end of March. They have suffered both aging and declining attendance over the past several years and feel that it is time to look for another arrangement. Therefore, they have contacted the Clear Lake UMC to discuss merger. Once that is concluded, the combined Congregation will be able to deal with liquidation of assets and potential sale of the building in Deer Park. We wish all involved with faith that God will move them into a better position and that His Work will continue in Deer Park and throughout the Willow River Parish.

Your Servant in Christ, Paul L. Webster,
Chairman

Faith Family Church HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pancake Breakfast/BAKE SALE April 19th.
- Church service Saturday April 18th at 6:00pm
- Bake sale baking day: April 18th bake sale funds go to MS Crawl.
- Garage Sale TBA likely in May
- Son rise in Clear Lake 7am and youth
- April 4th dispersing of baskets to the event in the park. Amanda will open the church.

Next meeting is
Friday April 17th at 6:00pm.

spring's prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the change of seasons. As I leave behind a winter that wore out its welcome, I step into spring with a fresh heart, ready for nature to take its course. May this season bring joy and light, peace and prosperity, and a spirit in full bloom.



prayables.com

Noisy Can—Autism & Multiple Sclerosis Send Offering to:

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

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



Community Events:

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

HOP ON OVER FOR
EMERALD COMMUNITIES

Annual Easter Egg Chase

Join us on
April 4th
at 10am

FOR SOME EGG-CITING FUN!
REGISTRATION 10:00AM
EGG CHASS 11:00AM

- EASTER EGG CHASE
- DOOR PRIZES & EASTER BASKETS
- VISITS AND PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
- FREE BIKE RAFFLE ENTRY

Emerald Park Emerald, WI

PANCAKE BREAKFAST/ BAKE SALE April 19th 9am-1pm



Faith Family Church



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)

Church School @ Faith Family & Clear Lake

“Funday” School– Wednesdays 5:30 @ Faith Family

Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake