

THE PARISH CONNECTION

April 2025

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

April 2025 Lectionary Readings

APR 06 | 5th Sunday in Lent (Purple)

Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126 (UMH 847)
Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

APR 13 | Passion/Palm Sunday (Purple or Red)

Palms Lit:

Luke 19:28-40; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Passion Lit:

Isa 50:4-9; Ps 31:9-16 (UMH 764);
Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

APR 17 | Maundy Thursday (Purple or Red)

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

APR 18 | Good Friday (No Color)

Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22 (UMH 752);
Heb 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

APR 20 | Easter (White or Gold)

Festival of God's Creation Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839);
1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

APR 27 | 2nd Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Acts 5:27-35; Ps 150 (UMH 862);
Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Zoom: Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at **8:30 a.m.**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88613652777?pwd=UlpSVhGN0g1Qnc3VDV5T0Jhcn83UT09>
Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777 Passcode: 421072

IN OUR PRAYERS:

Joys—Pastor's ordination interview success, Lenten Hymn Sing, Lenten Puzzles, Lenten Bingo, Beautiful Spring, Penny's good news
Concerns—Missy, John, Duane, Becky Hahn, Georgia, Stryder, Charlie Clark, Young Charlie, Tim Dreier, Debbie, Penny, Ruth, Meghan, all countries with wars--Ukraine, Gaza--especially the children, Betty, Sheldon, migrants, immigrants, and refugees under the threat of forced deportation, Nephew Ben, Maeki, Linda, and Carol

Remembering—Family and friends of Mary Benson and Jackie Pearson

Holy Humor Sunday: April 27th 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.

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 kuhlq@cltcomm.net

Good Friday Community Service

Friday, April 18th

United Covenant Church @ 7pm

Bells will be playing

WRP Youth April 20th 7 am @ Faith Family

Sunrise Service- Easter Sunday

Breakfast to follow and Easter Egg Hunt!

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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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 12th** 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.

Willow River Parish Youth

Youth met at the Avery home on Saturday, March 1st at 6:30 pm for movie night, snacks and discussion. They had a nice turnout and great discussion following watching a movie from the series *"God's Not Dead."*

Seder Meal at the Clear Lake Church

All youth are invited to share and experience a Seder meal on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30. We will share some traditional foods, discuss the Passover, Last Supper and share the readings to go along with it.



**May Newsletter Deadline
is April 25th**

Lenten Activities & Very Short Message

Join us every Wednesday during Lent for a time of reflection, fellowship, and meaningful activities! Locations rotate weekly – All are welcome to join!

Schedule of Events:

March 5 – Faith Family: Ash Wednesday Service

March 12 – Deer Park: Lenten Hymn Sing

March 19 – Clear Lake: Lenten Puzzle Night

March 26 – Clear Lake: Lenten Bingo Night

April 2 – Deer Park: Lenten Movie Night

April 9 – Clear Lake: Lenten Garden Night

April 17 – Faith Family: Maundy Thursday Service

6:00PM – Soup Supper

7:00 PM Lenten Activities & Very Short Message (Yes, we promise—very short!)

Bring your children, grandchildren, and neighbors! Let's come together as a faith community to reflect on the meaning of Lent and share this special season with loved ones.

UMC Special Sundays: Listed below are the special Sundays for 2025. Donation envelopes will be at the back of the churches.

- Native American Ministries Sunday ~ May 4
- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ June 15
- World Communion Sunday ~ October 5
- United Methodist Student ~ November 30

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Clear Lake

April 6th Reader: Alison Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery

Pot Luck: Debi Ahrens

April 13th Reader: Dawn Cress

Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard

Coffee: Ryan Blanchard Family

April 20th Reader: Diane Blanchard

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood

Coffee: NA

April 27th Reader: John Koerper

Acolyte/PwrPt: Ben Avery, Jr

Coffee: Linda Jurisch

May 4th Reader: Debi Ahrens

Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres

Potluck/Coffee: Joan L & Dick D

Counters for April: Carla L & Roger B

Counters for May: Debi A & Roger L

Faith Family

April 6th Michael Clark

April 13th Paul Webster

April 20th Terri Wilson

April 27th Debbie Stevens

May 4th Michael Clark

Dear WRP Family,

As we journey through this sacred season of Lent, I am reminded of the beauty of connection—both with God and with one another. This Lent, we've embarked on a meaningful new tradition called Lenten Activity and Message, gathering on Wednesday evenings at our three churches on a rotating basis.



In March, we began with Ash Wednesday, grounding ourselves in repentance and reflection. Since then, we've shared in creative and joyful activities like Lenten Hymn Sing, Lenten Puzzles, and Lenten Bingo. These gatherings have been filled with laughter, fellowship, and an uplifting sense of community. Alongside the fun, we've been engaging with God's Word, reflecting on its truth, and finding fresh meaning in the Lenten season. This approach is quite different from the traditional Bible studies or Wednesday worship services we've held in the past, and I understand it may have felt unfamiliar to many of you. I, too, spent much time in prayer and reflection, wondering how best to approach this. But I am truly grateful to see how positively it has been received by so many of you.

As we move into April, I look forward to what lies ahead: a Lenten Movie Night, a Lenten Garden, and the solemn observance of Maundy Thursday. My prayer is that, just as we have carefully and joyfully "threaded the buttons" of this Lenten season so far, we will continue to do so faithfully until Easter. For the true joy of Easter belongs to those who have walked intentionally and prayerfully through Lent.

Another aspect of this Lenten season that brings me great joy is the way it has brought our three churches together as a parish. Following the Methodist tradition of connectionalism, our churches are not isolated from one another but deeply connected as part of the body of Christ. While we honor the unique histories and identities of each congregation, we also recognize the profound meaning of coming together as one. On months with a fifth Sunday, we celebrate this connection with a Parish Combined Worship. I encourage all of you to see this as a time of unity—an opportunity to strengthen our bonds, share in each other's joys, and support one another in Christ's love.

As I reflect on the direction of my ministry, I find myself drawn to the vision of intergenerational ministry. I believe it is vital for all generations—children, youth, adults, and seniors—to come together to worship and praise God as one. When three churches and multiple generations join hands in worship, I believe we reflect the fullness of God's kingdom, and this pleases the heart of God.

Let us continue to walk this Lenten journey together, mindful of the ways God is calling us to be one body in Christ. May our gatherings, worship, and shared faith lead us ever closer to the joy of Easter and the hope of resurrection.

In Christ's love, Pastor Hakki





Deer Park UMC News

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

Noisy Can--2nd Quarter to Various Charities

Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee and pot luck **BEFORE** church at 10:15
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month **BEFORE** church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday

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

CL Noisy Cans:

2nd Qtr-Clear Lake Community Center
3rd Qtr.- Family House (Polk/Barron Shelter)
4th Qtr- Salvation Army

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.

Clear Lake Sunday School is trying something new this year- "Bible in a Binder", Kids can come into church and grab a binder and work on it after the children's sermon. The scripture for the day will be reinforced with what they find in the binder.

On Wednesday, April 23rd, youth will meet from 3:30-6 to bake for their mission fundraiser during the Thrift Sale, Thursday and Friday, April 24-25th.

Dorcas Piecemakers Work Days: On Monday, April 7th we will meet at Irma's for lunch at noon and then sew from 1-3. On Monday, April 21st we will meet at Irma's for lunch at noon then sew from 1:00 -3:00. All are welcome to join us just for lunch or lunch and sewing, ironing, and putting fabrics together.

Bell Choir Spring Concert at CL Sunday, April 27th Service 11:00 am



United Women in Faith's next event will be April 9th with bingo at Amery Memory Care. Be there at 1:15; start at 1:30. Joan is bringing lemon cake. Bring sweet treats for prizes. No meetings for a while.

Holy Socks

The United Women of Faith are gathering clean, mismatched, old, worn out holy socks for a cash donation to Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We'd love to have anyone's donations.

CL Methodist Thrift Sale

Thursday, April 24th & Friday, April 25th
9 am-5 pm

You may bring your items and place them in the correct places Sunday April 20 through Wednesday April 23. 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.)

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

CL UMC February Ad Council Minutes

Old Business:

1. Clear Lake will host the Lenten Services March 19, March 26 and April 9. There will be a sign-up sheet for donations of soup, sandwiches and bars.
2. As of now we are still insured by Church Mutual. The conference will bill the church when the new insurance will begin.
3. Church cleaning - we will make a list of the anticipated duties of the cleaning person.
4. Received a quote from Domestic Divas for \$45 per hour. Anticipating 8 to 9 hours per month.
5. Received a quote from Jennie Walberg for \$120 per month.
6. Motion was made by Debi to offer the position to Jennie Walberg, 2nd Dawn. Motion approved.

New Business:

1. Pastor Hakki will check with Deer Park and Faith Family for hosting the church picnic.
2. 10% mission donation from the Potato Luncheon will be donated to the Community Center.

Pastor's Notes:

- Pastor Hakki passed his Ordination Interview and will be ordained at Annual Conference in Middleton June 7. Pastor Hakki will be sharing an online service invitation with the parish.
- Pastor Hakki's parents will be visiting the end of May and into June to attend his Ordination.
- Pastor Hakki will be taking Communion to our shut-ins.

Next meeting is April 6th at 4:00.



Faith Family Church News:

-Pancake Breakfast: April 13th 9-1pm Faith Family
Ad Council minutes
March 13, 2025 at 6:00 via zoom

Present: Pastor Hakki, Terri, Debbie and Gary,
Penny, Paul, Joyce and Dennis and Heather

Pastor opened in song and prayer

Discussion:

1. Discussed the Food Pantry: Discussed and
Voted to send \$50 to the Boyceville Food Pantry.

2. Faith Family will host the soup/ sandwich service
on Maundy Thursday on April 17th.

3. Pancake breakfast/fundraiser: Pancake
Breakfast is scheduled for April 13, 9:00-1:00. We
will have Sat. night service at 5. I asked for a grant
from Kwik Trip and will need to get groceries and
put an ad in the paper. More discussion at coffee
time.

4. Still working on new insurance. We looked at
information from the conference.

5. Easter is April 20, with Sunrise service location
to be determined.

6. Emerald Community Easter Egg Hunt will fill
baskets at the church.

7. Had a leak in the roof and Dennis and Paul fixed
it, hopefully.

8. Looked at financial reports from Jan and Feb.
discussed and motion made and passed to accept
them as is.

9. Pastor Update: Congratulations to Pastor Hakki
because he will be ordained in June.

Pastor will take vacation when his parents come
in May/June.

Pastor will attend Ordination Retreat March 23-24
Next meeting: May 8 at 6:00 on zoom

Closed in Prayer

Submitted by Debbie

Fun Day School Kids:

The kids have been enjoying game night with a
Bible lesson. It was a lot of fun! This month we
played battleship and helped with Ash Wednesday.



COMMUNITY SERVICE: Easter is coming up; we
can start collecting items for Easter Baskets.



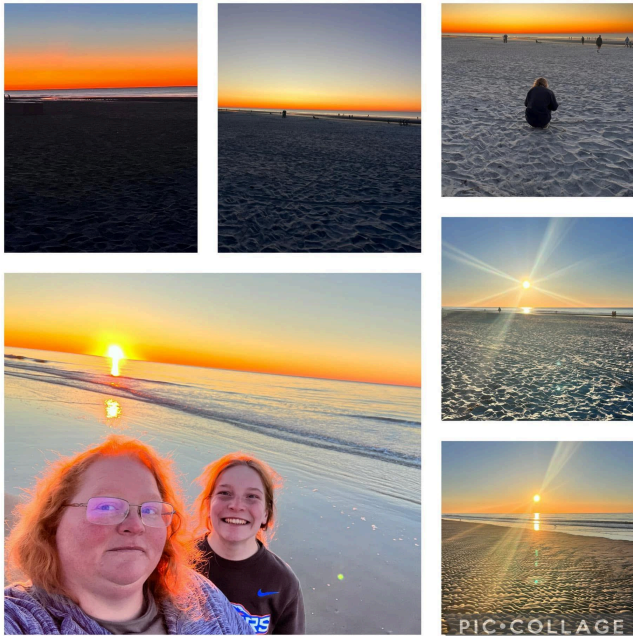
Community Events:

Tuesday April 15th pack Easter Baskets
Saturday April 19th Emerald Easter Egg hunt.
Sunday April 27th Sunnyside Shamrocks 4-H
meeting

EASTER SONRISE SERVICE:



(Led by our Willow River Parish Youth and breakfast served afterwards. Check out these beautiful sunrises)



(Photo credits from Millermon's of beautiful sunrises)

FAITH FAMILY ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST:



April 13th 9-1pm:

Come enjoy some delicious pancakes, eggs, sausages and fellowship. Join us in community with others.



Our Little library is in need of some books. If you are doing some spring cleaning of your bookshelves, please bring them down to the little library at the church, or at the park in Emerald.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
The breakfast doesn't happen without you, we need everyone that is able to to come and help make pancakes, eggs, sausage and clean up.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:

[Faith Family Church | Facebook](#)

Noisy Can—Grace Place (Salvation Army)

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





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 Kaczmariski, Parish Secretary
Email: wrpsecretary@gmail.com

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer
Email: WRParishconnect@gmail.com

Sunday Worship
8:30 a.m. – Faith Family (also Zoom) 9:45 a.m. – Deer Park
11:00 a.m. – Clear Lake

Church School @ Faith Family & Clear Lake
“Fun Day” School– Alternate Wednesdays 6 pm @ Faith Family
Bible in a Binder Sundays @ Clear Lake