

# THE PARISH CONNECTION

May 2024

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

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## Lectionary Readings

### MAY 05 | 6th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98 (UMH 818);

1 John 5:1-5; John 15:9-17

### MAY 12 | 7th Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday; Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home (White or Gold)

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps 1 (UMH 738);

1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

*Ascension of the Lord Lections:*

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47 (UMH 781);

Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

### MAY 19 | Pentecost Heritage Sunday (Red)

Acts 2:1-21; Ps 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 826);

Rom 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### MAY 26 | Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday (White or Gold)

Alsa 6:1-8; Ps 29 (UMH 761);

Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

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## IN OUR PRAYERS

*Joys*— Workday in CL, Sonrise Service, joy to visit with Arlene, spring season, rain,

*Concerns*— Megan Slagle, Steve Benson, Mark Telljohn, Gloria, Maddi W, Ruth, Ann, Betty, Jamie, Todd, Mike Kirk, Edison, Mary, Libby, Julie, Ron & Linda, Holly, Alison's Friend, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine, Steve K, Barb's family

*Remembering*—family of Sue Haley



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**Pastor's Vacation: May 7 - 16**

Pulpit: Rev. Webster

Emergency: Pastor Tim 715.702.2061



Savanna Millermon, daughter of Shawn & Amanda Millermon, graduates from GCHS on Saturday, May 18th. Congratulations Savanna!

Her grad party is Sunday, May 19th from 12-4 at the Wilson Community Center.

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**UMC Special Sundays:** Listed below are the remaining special Sundays for 2024. 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.

- Peace with Justice Sunday ~ May 26
  - World Communion Sunday ~ October 6
  - United Methodist Student ~ November 24
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**Zoom:** Please use the following information to join us on Sundays for worship at 11:00 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 886 1365 2777

Passcode: 421072

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## Save the Dates

May 19 Confirmation Sunday  
June 7-10 Annual Conference  
@ Green Bay

June 17-20 Vacation Bible School  
June 27-30 Clear Lake Days

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## Mardell is turning 102!

On May 9th, Mardell Anderson will turn 102! On Sunday, May 5th the Clear Lake Combined Bell Choir will be playing for her and all of the residents at

Golden Age at 1:30. Her birthday party will be from 2-4 with cake and coffee served.

**If you can send a card, she would love it! Her**

**address is: Mardell Anderson**

**220 Scholl Street**

**Amery, WI 54001**

## May Birthdays

Sheldon Simonson	5/2
Renea Boe	5/3
Mardell Anderson	5/9
Mitch Thompson	5/10
Linda Fouks	5/11
Ardys Warner	5/11
Scott Warner	5/16
Carla La Blanc	5/17
Josh Severson	5/17
Elijah Millermon	5/18
Holly Malack	5/19
Cassie Pietz	5/20
John Reed	5/22
Judith Coyer	5/22
Samantha Thaemert	5/25
Jennie Keller	5/26
Chad Lillie	5/27
Diane Pietz	5/28

## May Anniversaries

Steve & Jennie Keller	5/4
Greg & Kristi Severson	5/8
John & Jewel Severson	5/13

## WRP YOUTH GROUP

Our WRP Youth Group did a wonderful Tale of 3 Trees Son Rise Service. Thank you to our youth for an amazing service and breakfast!



**Youth Night - Sunday, May 26th**  
**Games, fun, food and study**  
**Celebrate our Senior!!**  
**Blanchard's Home 6-8:30**

Watch for 2024 Church Camp info at your church!

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

## MAY WORSHIP MINISTRIES

### Clear Lake

May 5th	Reader: Alison Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Lily Avery Brunch: Justin and Josy Wood
May 12th	Reader: Debi Ahrens Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Wood Coffee: Joan L. and Dick/Vicki D
May 19th	Reader: Ben Avery Acolyte/PwrPt: Oliver Gorres Coffee: UWF Brunch Confirmation
May 26th	Reader: Diane Blanchard Acolyte/PwrPt: Jordan Blanchard Coffee: Pat Lillie family

*Counters for May: Debi & John*

### Faith Family

May 5th	Debbie Stevens
May 24th	Terri Wilson
May 19th	Paul Webster
May 26th	Penny Warner

**Clear Lake Community VBS**  
**Monday, June 17th-Thursdays, June 20th**  
**6-8 pm evenings UCC**  
**SCUBA diving into friendship with God**  
**4 years old through grade 5**  
**Please put this on your calendars**  
**Attend, donate, work a night or two**  
**Register for this fun, faith-filled event**  
**Questions-715-263-2665**

**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 **May 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](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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**Ingathering at Annual Conference 2024:** WI Conference Mission Motivation Committee will again be collecting items for Midwest Mission at Annual Conference. We are focusing on Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits but appreciate any items found at [midwestmission.org/kits](http://midwestmission.org/kits). All items should be NEW – and all kits should have only the items requested.

Donations should be brought to Annual Conference at the KI Center in Green Bay. They can be dropped off at the Midwest Mission truck which will be located on Elm Street behind the KI Convention Center. Volunteers will be on hand to load supplies: Friday, June 7th, 10am – 4pm & Saturday, June 8th, 8am – 4pm.

[Click here for full details about Ingathering 2024](#)

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## Clear Lake UMC News

- Coffee after church
- Potluck-1st Sunday of each month after church.
- Food shelf donations any Sunday

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

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### CL Noisy Cans:

2nd qtr.- Food shelf; 3rd qtr. -Temba and Mujila Falls ; 4th qtr.- Interfaith CareGivers

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**Sunday School–End of Year Supper and Auction** will be held on Wed. May 15th at 5:00. Please mark your calendars–the kids love the auction fundraiser! We'd appreciate any donations you'd care to share and come bid! All are invited!

**Feed My Starving Children:** On Friday, April 26th five students from Midweek school attended a packing event at the Polk County Fairgrounds from 6:00-8:00pm. They helped pack 88 boxes and filled enough bags to feed 52 kids for a year!



**Bell Choir Concert**  
**Wednesday, May 8th at 7pm**  
**First Lutheran Church**

We are having our spring concert to be held on Wed. May 8th, followed by coffee, treats and fellowship! Save the date!

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**BackPack Bash Amery Firehall 4-8pm June 7th**  
Hundreds of families in our communities struggle to provide food for their families. The backpack program helps feed hungry kids in Polk County and Clear Lake too. They are collecting baskets for silent auction and baked goods for bake sale.

**Clear Lake Work Day:** A huge thank you to all the workers (17) at our workday. A lot was accomplished or begun. It was a beautiful day full of sunshine, work, fun, food and fellowship.

A few pics from our workday, it's very fun sitting on a tractor at church!!



John K and Ben Jr pruning the tree.  
Josy sitting on the bell tower, cleared off and will be power washed and repainted.

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**Dorcas Piecemakers :** Our Circle group will meet the first Tuesday of May, the 7th at noon at Irma's for lunch and then sew at church from 1-3 and the third Monday, May 20th sewing from 1-3.



Dorcas Piecemakers Working crew! Ironing, sorting, matching, cutting and sewing! Come join the fun! Thankful for Becky and Paula joining us!

## **Clear Lake March. Ad. Co. Highlights**

Opened with prayer and secretary and treasurer's reports.

### Old Business:

Jennie contacted the Gideon's, they will be contacting Pastor Hakki for availability.

Work day April 13. Remove landing and stairs, bell tower, flower box, clean up Parsonage gardens, banner racks in bell storage, etc.

Debi contacted North County Signs in Barron for a quote on a new sign for the bell tower. The salesman stated that he will be in the area soon and will give us a quote at that time.

A motion to reimburse Ruth the \$100 that she paid Julie for the audit. Motion by Debi, 2nd Dawn. Motion carried.

### New Business:

Bell choir will be playing before the April 21 service in Clear Lake at 9:30.

End of year Sunday School fundraiser May 15 at 5:00. Everyone is invited.

Deer Park is supposed to host the parish picnic on June 30 but are unable to get the park. Is the Clear Lake or Emerald park available?

### Pastors Comments:

Northwest District Gathering is April 13, 9-3 at the Rice Lake UMC.

Pastor Hakki will be participating in the memorial service at Madison Korean United Methodist Church to commemorate the victims of the Sewol ferry disaster in South Korea.

Pastor Hakki will be on vacation May 7 to May 16. Pulpit fill-in is Paul Webster. Emergency contact to be determined.

***Next meeting May 1st @ 4 pm.***

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**Clear Lake Heritage Days—June 27-30th:** The Clear Lake Church will be selling their Stuffed Baked Potatoes on Friday and Saturday of CL Heritage Days. We begin on Friday evening at 4 till sold out and begin Saturday, selling at 10 am and will continue through the parade till sold out. We will need lots of help, prep, set up, serving in the kitchen and outside and clean up. We will serve inside.. Please set parts of these days aside to help out, this is a big fundraiser for our church.

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**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.

**United Women in Faith:** United Women in Faith had an enjoyable afternoon on April 10th visiting and playing Bingo with some of the residents at Memory Care in Amery. We all enjoyed some lemon cake to end our visit.



Wednesday April 17th some of the United Women in Faith worked on the history books from the Clear Lake Church. All enjoyed looking through the pictures from past years.

Next meeting May 8th, 2:00 @ Ridgeview (Potluck)

**Clear Lake Thrift Sale:** Huge thank you to Linda J for all her planning, organizing and all those who were working. Also a big thanks to Peggy Kirk, she quietly helps put all the donations out. Big thanks from The Midweek School for the chance to sell snacks and goodies for their mission projects. Thanks to all of those who donated baked goods to their cause.

## **Deer Park UMC News:**

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

### **2nd Quarter Noisy Can--Various Charities**

**Pastor's Pen:** On April 16, 2024, my family and I attended a memorial service to remember the 304 victims who perished in the sinking of the MV Sewol, hosted by Trinity United Methodist Church in Madison.

Some of the congregation members showed interest in that tragedy and requested further

explanation from me, so through this pastor's pen page, I will explain in a way that you can understand as much as possible.

The Sewol ferry accident is one of the most significant events that caused considerable social impact and repercussions in 21st-century South Korean society. The Sewol ferry was a vehicle-passenger ferry operating in South Korea, originally built and operated in Japan. After being purchased from Japan, the ferry underwent modifications to accommodate more passengers. During the modification process, the vessel's weight increased by 307 tons (614,000 pounds), indicating that it should carry less cargo. However, at the time of the accident, the ferry was loaded with 2,142 tons (4,284,000 pounds), twice the maximum cargo capacity of 1,077 tons (2,154,000 pounds). This overloading contributed to the sinking of the Sewol ferry.

In South Korean high schools, it is customary for students to go on a school trip for about three nights and four days typically during their 10th or 11th grade. For reference, when I was in 10th grade, I went on a school trip to Gyeongju, South Korea, and there were about 600 students in our grade of the school. To travel to Gyeongju, the school arranged 17 buses, and we created good memories with friends while exploring the cultural sites of Korea there.

On the ferry, there were a total of 476 people on board, including 339 students and teachers heading to Jeju Island for the school trip.

However, the ferry began to sink around 8:30 a.m. on April 16, 2014, about a day after departing from its origin, at a point off the coast of South Korea's southern sea. One of the students, not crew members, made a call to 911 requesting rescue, but miscommunication between the student and rescue personnel led to delays in the rescue process. Meanwhile, the ferry was tilting at an angle of 45 to 50 degrees.

Amidst the chaos, announcements repeatedly instructed passengers to remain calm and stay inside the ferry. However, as the ferry continued to tilt, the captain and crew abandoned the passengers, fleeing first and getting rescued. Unaware of what was happening outside the ship, the students trusted only the announcements instructing them to wait calmly inside for rescue.

About an hour after the accident was reported, maritime police arrived on the scene, but they did not attempt to communicate with the Sewol ferry nor did they instruct passengers to evacuate. Meanwhile, nearby fishing vessels were rescuing passengers. If those vessels had not been there to

help, there might have been no survivors. (In other words, if rescue personnel had started rescuing passengers from the beginning, all of them would have been saved.) Passenger rescue efforts continued for about an hour, but then had to be halted as the ferry was nearly submerged, endangering the safety of rescue personnel.

304 young students, unable to bloom the flowers of their lives, perished with the Sewol ferry as they heard announcements to stay put inside the ship. Their golden window of survival underwater was 72 hours, during which the entire nation of South Korea watched scenes of their impending death through news broadcasts. Even worse, the media initially aired false news claiming that all passengers had been rescued, only to later retract and apologize for the misinformation.

There was no politician, broadcaster, or public official willing to take responsibility for this tragedy. Even the president attempted to conceal the truth and did not take any subsequent actions.

The parents and families of the 304 children couldn't even find the bodies of the victims. It's difficult to comprehend rationally, but when this tragedy occurred, the government at the time hesitated to salvage the ferry from the sea and obstructed investigations into the truth.

In the end, this incident became a trigger, leading to an explosion of public discontent towards the president at the time. Approximately 16.56 million people gathered in Seoul Plaza, holding candles, and protested from October 2016 to April 2017. As a result, the president resigned. Finally, it wasn't until April 2017, when a new administration took office, that the Sewol ferry was salvaged, and the children's remains were returned to their families' arms.

The sinking of MV Sewol is too complex to be summarized in a few pages; it requires a multifaceted approach. Therefore, if I were to summarize this tragedy very briefly, it would be as follows: The lives of 304 innocent children were trampled upon by the greed and ambition of adults, falsehood and hypocrisy, corruption, and incompetence within a capitalist society.

I am currently teaching the Confirmation kids about the Confirmation vow (United Methodist Hymnal page 34). One of the vows is as follows: "Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?"

April 16th, 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of the MV Sewol accident. We attended the memorial service to honor their memory, signifying that we still remember their deaths. Remembering their

deaths means resisting human greed and ambition, repenting of our sins, and striving tirelessly to provide a better society and future for our children.

In the past, yellow ribbons were used to express hope for the safe return of soldiers who participated in wars and to commemorate fallen soldiers. However, in Korea, yellow ribbons have been used to express hope for the safe return and remembrance of the students from the Sewol ferry, and have since become a symbol of the Sewol ferry tragedy. While it may bear some resemblance to the symbol used in breast cancer campaigns, the yellow ribbon is distinctly associated with the Sewol ferry.



I hope you all take a moment to reflect on your Confirmation vows in your own situations:

"Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?"

I earnestly hope and pray that your response will be "I do."

In Christ, Pastor Hakki

A purple diamond-shaped graphic with a white cross and the text "HOPE aLIVE" inside. The top right corner of the diamond says "FAMILY FUN FEST". Below the diamond, it says "ALL AGES WELCOME FREE FOOD FREE MUSIC FREE GAMES" and "JUNE 4 MICHAEL PARK, AMERY, WI 5 PM TO 8:30 PM". At the bottom, it says "SPONSORED BY" followed by logos for Amery Free Lutheran Church, Apple River Community Church, East Lincoln Alliance Church, Trinity Church, and United Methodist Church.

# Faith Family Church News:

Ad Board meeting May 23rd 6:30pm.

Congratulations to Savanna Millermon for being named one of two valedictorians of her class. We are proud of you!



**Hilltoppers**  
Daughter of Shawn & Amanda Millermon  
Plans to attend UW Stevens Point for  
Speech Pathology and Wrestling  
**CLASS OF 2024**

The most influential staff member would be Ms. Lamb. She is a teacher I can come to no matter if it is a math problem or just to talk. She also listened to me rant a lot, and not just about math.

Advice for underclassmen: Life is going to knock you down, but keep going with the punches. High School is short. Enjoy it!

**SAVANNA**  
*Millermon*

We celebrate all of our graduates this year, but especially the ones we know the best: Savanna Millermon as she graduates High School and enters into college at UW Stevens Point, Abel Greene as he graduates from Kindergarten, Gracie Greene and Michael Clark as they Graduate from 8th grade and enter into high school!



## **Fun Day School Kids:**

The kids have been working on learning about how God can help us when we are anxious. We have learned skills we can use every day of our lives that God has given us to help us live our lives. We have learned this through doing arts and crafts, breathing, taking time to listen to music, read our Bible, connect with God in prayer, eat food together with friends and family and listen to each other as we talk about our lives. Sharing our time together every week in the Bible has given each of us time to grow with Christ and helped to live a less anxious life. We have 4 more lessons and hope to learn more about how God can be with us in our troubles!



Photo taken by Baylie Millermon of Bella Weina and Jordyn Millermon.



**Thank you,  
Joyce, for all of  
the beautiful  
music you play  
for the Lord and  
our church! You  
are appreciated!**

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

## **ANCHOR OF HOPE:**

Our website can be found at  
<https://anchorofhopeemeral.wixsite.com/my-site>  
[e](#)

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### **WHO WE ARE:**

At Anchor of Hope we believe we are all in recovery at some point in our lives may it be mental health, addiction, drugs, alcohol, food, grief, trauma, all around inclusion, our society, our church or so much more.

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### **HOW TO CONNECT:**

If you need to connect with someone from Anchor of Hope please reach out District Superintendent Peace  
[pkim@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:pkim@wisconsinumc.org) or 608-478-4527.

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### **WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

Anchor of Hope has been put on hold by the Wisconsin United Methodist Church Cabinet. Over the course of the next 1-3 years it will be reinvented and recreated into something new. Stay tuned.

If you are in need of a service/meeting we have been connecting with the Church of the Resurrection on Thursdays at 6:00pm  
<https://resurrection.church/recovery/>

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

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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

Parish Secretary  
Email: [wrpsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wrpsecretary@gmail.com)  
Office Hours: To Be Determined

Amanda Millermon, Parish Treasurer  
Email: [WRParishconnect@gmail.com](mailto:WRParishconnect@gmail.com)

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

Children's Church School  
"Fun Day" School–5:00 pm on Wednesdays @ Faith Family  
Sunday School–9:55 am on Sundays @ Clear Lake