

THE PARISH CONNECTION

October 2020

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

Lectionary Readings

October 4th [Green]

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14 - Matthew 21:33-46

October 11th [Green]

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9 - Matthew 22:1-14

October 18th [Green]

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99

Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 - Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th [Green]

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 - Matthew 22:34-46

(CLAY) Christ Led Area Youth

Tasha Shuh will be sharing her message of faith at the United Covenant Church at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23rd.

Offering

Because we will not be physically meeting for church service this month, it is very important that we continue our offerings in order to keep the parish operating. Our church counts on all of you!!! If you wish to continue your giving, please send your offerings to: Arlene Althoff (CL); Terri Wilson (FF), and Janice Thompson (DP)

Church Times

We are currently meeting virtually via zoom for worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays and for bible study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. We would love for you to join us. Please email us at willoriverparish@gmail.com for an invite. If in-person worship resumes at some point this month, the times will be as follows:

8:30 – Deer Park

9:45 – Clear Lake

11:00 – Faith Family

CL Sunday School

Diane will be contacting the families about Sunday School--meeting outside for a few weeks as weather allows.

Prayer and Concerns

Joys— The changing colors, our youth, good health

Concerns— Tyler, our congregation, social injustices, Covid-19, Sheldon, Steve Keller, Chuck Kuhl, Bob, Betty Rake, Jim, Teachers and students, wildfire victims, peace and wellness for our world

Remembering—Family and friends of Jim Duncan



...Because you eat

Ruby's Pantry food distribution will take place October 10th in the AmTec parking lot at 241 Venture Drive Amery. There is a \$20 cash donation per share. You will receive an abundance of grocery items. 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. We will start sending cars through as soon as we are set up which is much quicker with our drive through set up. Please do not be late because it goes fast. Also we will load your vehicle from the passenger side and prefer to just put the items into the back of your vehicle. For everyone's safety, please have your vehicle empty to receive food in the back so volunteers do not need to walk around to the other side of the vehicle. We look forward to seeing you. 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.

SPRC Update

We are meeting monthly at this time. Since SPRC is a private meeting and we are not able to post our minutes I will just give a brief update. We had a meet and greet meeting at the beginning with Pastor Hakki and Anitra over zoom. We discussed roles and expectations. We do want to remind everyone that Bishop Jung and the WUMC cabinet has recommended that we stay virtual at this time until the end of 2020. We will continue to work on ways for people to connect with each other. If you have ideas on how to stay connected please let Pastor Hakki or a member of the SPRC know. We want to make sure that we are connecting with everyone during this difficult time. We also discussed that it is that time of year again and we need to remember to get all of our paperwork in if you are in a role that typically does paperwork it is available on the WUMC website now. Our next meeting is via zoom on October 4th at 5:00pm.

Thank you, Heather Greene (SPRC Chair).

Need help with your fall yard chores?

If you're a senior or adult with a disability in Polk County, contact Interfaith Caregivers for 1-2 hours of help at no charge call 715-485-9500.

Donations appreciated.



Volunteer groups and families are needed to help Interfaith Caregivers with their fall yard work. Put your Faith in Action and call 715-485-9500 or email info@interfaithpolk.org to sign up now.

October Birthdays



Arlyn Severson	10/1
Lily Avery	10/2
Vickie Danielson	10/3
Billy Warner	10/7
Shawn Millermon	10/7
Kristen Poremba	10/8
Amelia Pietz	10/10
Ryan Blanchard	10/12
Nick Elmer	10/15
Sandi Reed	10/16
Benjamin Avery, Jr	10/16
Makenzi Gehrman	10/18
Erin Gorres	10/22
Stacia Koerper	10/22
Katie Warner	10/27
India Pederson	10/29
Jason Warner	10/31
Wayne Ailts	10/31

Anniversaries



Dennis & Joyce Petersen	10/7
Josh & India Pederson	10/8
Tom & Nikki Pietz	10/9
Ron & Renee Boe	10/10
John & Stacia Koerper	10/21
Ron & Linda Jurisch	10/22
Troy & Julie Elmer	10/25



It has already been a month since I came to this beautiful Clear Lake, WI. When I first came here, the tree in front of the parsonage was green, but now it is turning yellow and red. The temperature also dropped a lot in a month. When I take a walk around the neighborhood with my family, the smell of charcoal with the cold air reminds me of the winter when I served in the Korean military as a soldier in South Korea. I really missed autumn foliage and snowy winter while I was in California. I feel blessed to be able to enjoy them enough in Clear Lake.

These days, I am thinking a lot about worship. We worship every Sunday, but I am not sure that we have ever thought what the meaning of worship is for us. Worship is central in the biblical tradition. The First Commandment says that God is the only one we must worship (Exodus 20:2-3). The psalms call the faithful to worship: "Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing"(Ps. 100:2, NRSV). Matthew 2:11 describes how the magi worshipped and praised Jesus. Paul extends the realm of worship: "To present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1b, NRSV). Surely worship is an important part of Christian life.

We, Methodists, believe the prevenient grace. God is at work in our lives even before we know it. When the Holy Spirit touches our minds, we come to embrace and believe the fact that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (John 3:16a, NRSV), and Jesus died on the cross on behalf of our sins. We realize that we are sinners and repent our sins. However, we are vulnerable to sin, so we continue to repeat confessions and absolutions during the journey of life, which we call the sanctification. We have an obligation to respond to the grace received from God. Traditionally, we respond to the grace God have given us through worship.

There are four main components of worship: 1) Gathering, 2) Proclamation, 3) Response, and 4) Benediction/Sending Forth. Willow River Parish worships via Zoom during Covid-19. This is a very unfamiliar time for us, who had traditionally worshipped in church. However, we gather through Zoom, reading and listening to the proclamation of God's word, and praising God with prayer. I am still praying about whether to maintain online worship or open the church.

However, what we must keep in mind is that beyond the form of worship, we must love God, and love our neighbors. If we choose the in-person form of worship, we must find a way to love those who can't attend the worship service in person due to Covid-19 or personal reasons. If we choose to maintain the form of online worship, we also need to find a way to take care of those who can't attend the Zoom worship. Although online worship can feel awkward for us, we cannot deny that it has freed us from the constraints of the place. Any person can participate in worship anywhere, and praise God. Finally, we, Methodists, should not harm others. Online worship provides a good alternative that does not harm others in this difficult time.



As Covid-19 continues for a long time, many people are struggling and exhausted. However, I believe that during this time God is teaching us how to practice His commands beyond the constraints of space and time. I also believe that He will lead us in the best way and in the right way. We are going through this difficult time, but may our spirituality become deepen. Most of all, may we act the true love of God to the world by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. With the love of Christ, Pastor Hakki



Swap Corner

A Google doc labeled “Swap Corner” was circulated via email in September. The purpose of this document is to allow people to list items that they *no longer need* and/or list items that they *want* along with their contact info. If you do not have access to email/Google docs, please call the parish office and you can be added to the list.

<u>Contact</u>	<u>No longer need</u>	<u>Item wanted</u>
Anitra K.--715-643-4053 or anitrakaz@yahoo.com		*Minivan. . 6-10 years old. . around 100,000 miles *boys size 8-10 hunting clothes camo and blaze orange
Heather Greene 612-799-6215 Mr.mrs.greene5@gmail.com	3 lawn mowers (not running) —good for parts (Scott’s, roper, toro)	
India Pederson 1 715 607 0357		Looking for canning jars wide mouth if so.

New Church Plant

When Faith Family Church was offered the opportunity to a new building formally at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 we were also presented with the opportunity of using the same building as a “new church start”. The District has been working hard to get this ministry started and we are now in the transition of Phase 3 and 4. The goal is to start this ministry starting on January 2021. The Ministry is going to be a Recovery Ministry which will start with small group options and lead into worship opportunities. There is a church planters and supports coming in to help with this program through the district. We are thankful for this and are looking forward to new adventures. This is an exciting time. If you know someone that is working on their own Recovery or would like some leadership in this please reach out to Pastor Hakki or the office so we can get them connected. Thank you for everyone that has helped with this I know the Rev. Barb and the district strategy committee has been working hard to make this ministry happen even during our current pandemic. Heather Greene (Ad Counsel Chair)

Faith Family Update

This month has been a busy month of getting the trees removed outside and cleaning up the wood chips. We also picked up the new countertops and have started to install. We are needing some painters to come in and paint the walls in the kitchen. Thank you for all those that have helped with getting this completed. We have started back our virtual Facebook “Sunday” school lessons. Thank you to those working so diligently on getting our name changed legally, this has not been an easy task with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to everyone making phone calls, emails, visits to each other as we are in our new “normal” and needing more support from each other. Heather Greene (Ad counsel chair)

Thank you . . .

A huge thank you goes out to Heather Greene for sharing her time and technical talents with us. The ZOOM services have kept us connected to church during this Covid-19 Pandemic. It's been a learning experience for many and is greatly appreciated.



United
Methodist
Women

No meetings from April to
Aug. due to Covid.
Lead by Pres. Joan Lillie
12 present. Mission
Statement read. Pastor

Hakki introduced himself and family, Ester and
Evan. Fall Poem Read by Joan.
Sec. min read and approved.
Treasurers report: \$422.34
2020 Pledge for Missions paid \$200.
2021 Linda moved, Bev 2nd \$100 from Evening
and \$100 from afternoon
circle for
Pledge for Mission.
Lake St Methodist Church is having Silent
Auction in their Church in Eau
Claire from now to Oct 8, to raise money for
their \$7,000 pledge for
mission.
Need money for Thank Offering by Dec.
Thank you cards from Ivan and Madison

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Thrift Sale profit about \$1400. \$130 given to
school backpack program
2. Cleaning of Parsonage much thanks to
Roger & Diane, Dawn & Dean, Deb, Heather,
Deena Babcock and Betty Rake who paid her
for half the cleaning and anyone else who
helped
3. Old bathroom remodeled by Ben Avery,
items donated by Dawn and Linda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussed Dec. Cookie, Baked Potato and
Christmas Items Sale. Will have to have all
things boxed for take out
2. Christmas for Children. Need replacement for
Carla, ASAP.
3. Grace Place is overflowing because of the
Covid crisis. Many more homeless in Polk
County
4. Officers for 2021 by Oct 31.
5. UMW Special Recognition Sunday will be
done on Zoom this year.
6. UMW Virtual Annual Conference Sat. Oct 17,
9-12.
7. Signed cards for shut ins.
8. Flood Buckets needed. Deb moved Linda
2nd \$75 from Evening and \$75 from Afternoon
Circles will be sent. Prayer by Joan

Submitted by Linda Jurisch

CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church
will be sponsoring the "Christmas for Children"
drive again this year to provide gifts for area
children who otherwise may not receive gifts at
Christmastime. "Christmas for Children" is
designed to reach more needs of our local
community. We are coming up on our 27th year
and are so grateful for all of the support that we
have received from everyone.

Anyone wishing to donate items to "Christmas
for Children" can do so by leaving them at **True
Value Hardware, CB Styles, Associated
Bank and Northern Roots Family Spinal
Care, Clear Lake Physical Therapy, from
November 2, 2020 through December 11,
2020. Also check for barrels at your Church.**

Suggestions are toys, watches, games, jewelry,
videos, DVDs (nothing higher than PG-13
please) appropriate Music CDs, books, etc.
Please do not wrap your gifts. Donations of
wrapping paper are also welcome. Monetary
donations for the purpose of gifts should be
mailed to Christmas for Children c/o Debi
Ahrens
PO 42 Box Clear Lake, WI 54005. Please
make checks payable to Christmas for Children

All gifts will be given to children ages 0- 18 in
the Clear Lake School District Area.

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if
you know of other families in the Clear Lake
School District area who are in need of
Christmas gifts for their children, we would like
to hear from you. Call Debi Ahrens 715-441-
5477 or Diane Blanchard 715-263-2690 (if no
answer, please leave a message). All names
will be kept strictly confidential.

We hope to make this "Christmas for Children"
a great success and in order to do so, we need
your help. As in the past, we thank you for your
support.

Christmas for Children
United Methodist Church

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

From Bishop Jung

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
(Romans 12:9-13)

This year has been difficult in so many ways. We have been tested, afflicted, frustrated, separated, masked, sprayed, disconnected and disinfected until we want to pull our hair out, shouting, "Enough!" In so many ways, it has almost been too much.

But through it all, I must admit, I am overwhelmed and deeply impressed by your faithfulness. The generosity, giving, sacrifice, and commitment of our laity and clergy across the Wisconsin Conference has never been greater. Your support of critical ministries has been unflagging and dedicated. We have seen a very small drop in our connectional giving, allowing us to continue to support key ministries. We have been able to keep our financial commitments to Harbor House Shelter, United Methodist Children's Services, and Northcott Neighborhood House. We have been able to provide crucial resourcing to our Camps at Pine Lake and Lucerne and to support our campus ministries. We have met our denominational commitments to the very best of our abilities, and this is at the Conference level.

Congregations have provided amazing ministries in their communities, continuing to worship in creative and virtual ways. Support of feeding, shelter, and crisis intervention ministries has continued unabated. Though we have not been able to engage in hands-on mission experiences this year as a Conference, many local church groups have participated in providing essential services across the state.

I need to commend you all on your abundant generosity and your sacrificial giving of time and talent in addition to financial resources. I especially want to thank the clergy and laity who have participated in peaceful demonstrations and protests across the state. I want everyone to be aware of the pastoral and

spiritual aid given by our leaders to protesters, law enforcement, business owners, and residents, in Kenosha and other cities, towns, and communities around the state. The pandemic has caused us to be more cautious and considerate of others, preventing us from gathering in our sanctuaries, but it in no way has slowed the faithfulness of Wisconsin United Methodists. My beautiful people, I am so proud of you!

It is a testimony to our deep faith that we continue to give and serve in difficult times. I pray for the day when the virus will pass, the quest for equitable justice might be achieved, and we can gather together to raise our voices in worship and praise. I hope this day comes soon, but I know that in the meantime our churches will continue to witness to the goodness, the love, and the abundant generosity of our God. Thanks be to God, and thanks be to all of you.

Clear Lake Ad. Council

Highlights of September meeting.
We got to meet Pastor Hakki via Zoom.
The thrift sale was a huge success, our 10% went to the backpack program.
We approved Pastor, Alpha and Bailey to figure out computer needs for the parish.
Huge thanks to all who helped clean and purchase items to get the parsonage ready.
We approved updating the internet service at the church and office.
We received the \$1000 from the United Methodist Conference to be used for computers and technology for services and keeping connections in our church family.
NEXT MEETING-WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7th at 5:00pm at the CL church. If anyone needs a zoom connection please let Diane know.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Youth will meet on Sunday, October 18th
5 pm at Blanchards

**November Newsletter Deadline is
October 22nd**

WILLOW RIVER PARISH
SURVEY

After completing the survey, please send it to the office: PO Box 269, 420 4th Ave, Clear Lake, WI 54005 or email willowriverparish@gmail.com

Church: Clear Lake / Deer Park / Faith Family (please circle one)

Name (optional): _____

- 1. If Willow River Parish decides for In-Person worship, would you like to worship in the church?** (If you say "Yes," please explain why; If you say, "No," please explain why)

- 2. Please describe which parts of worship are your favorite and why?—**For example: Praise, Prayer, Bible Reading, Call to worship, Confession and Pardon, Benediction, Sermon, Children's sermon, Offertory, Doxology, etc...
(If you like praise, please let us know what your favorite hymns are/ If you like bible reading, please let us know what your favorite verses are.)

- 3. Please describe which parts of the church community are your favorite and why?**

- 4. Please feel free to share any other thoughts you may have:**



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

Hakki Min, Pastor

Parish Secretary: Anitra Kaczmarski

Parish Office Phone: 715-263-2700

E-Mail: willowriverparish@gmail.com

Website: www.willowriverparish.org

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. virtual service via ZOOM

Upon in-person worship resuming, times are as follows:

8:30 a.m. – Deer Park 9:45 a.m. – Clear Lake

11:00 a.m. – Faith Family