
**April
2026**

River Glen Shared Ministry

“United in Christ”

Pastor Vicky Strupp
Pastor's Cell: (715) 404-5284
Parsonage Phone: (715)749-6351
Pastor's email: trustandobey24_7@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

Grace and joy to you in this beautiful season of renewal!

As Easter approaches, we find ourselves surrounded by the signs of spring—trees budding, flowers blooming, and the world awakening from the grip of winter. This transformation in nature is a reflection of the deeper renewal we celebrate in Christ's resurrection. Just as spring brings new life, Easter proclaims the greatest renewal of all: the victory of life over death through Jesus Christ.

On the fifth Sunday in Lent, the Gospel reading relates the raising of Lazarus from the dead. There is much to learn in this account, including how the disciples' faith is strengthened when Jesus proves he is indeed the Resurrection and the Life.

Though we rejoice that Jesus brings new life from the grave, we still grieve in this life. It's comforting to know that Jesus grieves with us, sharing all our sorrows. And the apostle points out specifically that Jesus LOVED Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Yet their relationship with Jesus did not mean that bad things did not happen to them: Jesus did not prevent Lazarus from dying. Even though they felt abandoned by him for a time, he proved he did not abandon them. Jesus' raising of Lazarus is referred to as a sign. A sign that reveals the character and commitment of God to his children. The story of the raising of Lazarus is a testimony of God's glory, and God's glory is revealed in God's time, not in ours.

These are challenging times. War, sickness, disappointments, loss..... But the good news is we are not alone. God is with us! I firmly believe that God is at work in us and through us. Like Martha and Mary, we may feel discouraged over God's delays, but we rejoice in the words of Jesus to Martha, "Did I not promise you that if you would believe and rely on me, you would see the glory of God?"

We are called to participate in that glory, to join God in that work, not just to wait idly. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. I am confident that if we believe and trust God, we will see the glory of God in greater and more powerful ways!

He is risen!

~Pastor Vicky

Keep Praying! April 2026

Dear Friends,

I encourage you to continue to pray daily for all our churches. We want to see God at work in our churches, and a crucial step is becoming people of faithful prayer.

God is always up to something new! We need discernment to see where God is leading us, and we also need grace as we seek to follow his lead.

Look for the cardstock copies of the prayer at the churches so you can place one somewhere that it can be seen and remembered.

Remember to listen as you pray. Please let me know where **you** think God is leading us and how these prayers are helping you.

~Pastor Vicky

“I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word, I hope.”

Psalm 130:5

Loving God, we thank you for the hope that you give. Open our eyes to the new things you're doing among us, and help us to join you in your work. Give us wisdom to see and act on your new possibilities.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

In times of uncertainty, I will not fear; I will have faith.

3-9-26 Upper Room



Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 29 Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Joint Service & Potluck
at Boyceville

April 2 Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Service at Prairie Farm Faith

April 3 Good Friday

7 p.m. Ecumenical Service at
United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. Service at Prairie Farm Faith
10 a.m. Service at Glenwood City

Be Good Minnesota

Our Congregations raised \$515 to send to Be Good Minnesota as well as countless paper grocery bags. Be Good Minnesota uses the cash donations to buy food, to help with rent, and other emergency needs. Thank you for your support in caring for our neighbors.

5th Sunday Celebration

We will be having a 5th Sunday Celebration on Palm Sunday, March 29th. With a 10 a.m. joint service and potluck at the United Methodist Church of Boyceville. There will be no services at Prairie Farm, Glenwood City, Downing or Wheeler that day!

PRAYER list

Sister Alegria	Carol Cherney
Julie Babbit	Sister Confianza
Ray Wreford	Nancy Smith
Harry Christian	Karen Wreford
Darrell Nykanen	Pete Bodette
Pastor Sue Oeffler	Karolyn Larson
Myron Anderson	
Sylvia Stang	Colton Peskar
Nguyen Ly (Win Lee)	Marlene Larson
Vernon Swinson	Mary Swinson
Pastor Shannon Mattison	
The Family & Friends of Roxanne White	
The Family & Friends of Scott Swanepoel	
Victims of natural disasters	
Our shut-ins & those in nursing homes	



APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

April birthdays:

2	Corey Goodell, Terry Wilcox
3	Kathy Neck
4	Robin Burke
10	Penny Koehler
14	Bruce Drinkman, Pat Frisle
15	Marvin Booth
17	Shane Tews
19	Marvin Jones
21	Connor Berends
23	Gerald Schlottman
24	Tom Tone
26	Cody Smith
27	Kiley Leduc
28	Jason Heutmaker, James Hall
30	Rick Schmidt

Anniversaries:

*20	Chris & Deanna Schone
*25	Dick & Marlys Tews

Congratulations and God bless you!

NewsLetter DEADLINE

Gleaner news is due by noon on Tuesday, April 21st. Please contact Tammy Nelson at 715-505-2657 or rtsmnelson@hotmail.com or riverglensharedministry@gmail.com with your news. Thanks.

***God shows up in unexpected places.
3-26-26 Upper Room***

Women's Evening Fellowship Group

The Monday night Bible study will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 6 at Irma's home in Glenwood City. We will be doing Lesson Six "Resounding Joy" in the Contagious Joy book. All are welcome to attend! If interested, please contact Judy Bender at jbender298@gmail.com or (715)265-7362

Men's Group

The Men's Fellowship Group will meet at the Glenwood City Methodist Church in April. Dates tbd. If you are interested, contact Julian Bender at 715 265 7362 or jbender167@gmail.com.



Thank You to our March Worship Leaders:

Bonnie Walters Bruce Drinkman

We couldn't do this without you!

Weekly Audio or Video Sermons Available

Sermon by Phone is an audio version of the weekly service - call 715-309-5114. This is a Menomonee number. The service is update each Sunday afternoon and is usually available by 4 pm. A video of each week's service is available on the United Methodist Church of Boyceville Facebook page, the Glen Hills Parish Facebook page, and at : boycevilleumc.org.

Thrift & Bake Sale

Thursday, April 23 12-6 p.m.

Friday, April 24 9-5 p.m.

Saturday, April 25 9-3 p.m.

At the Downing United Methodist Church
219 Tainter St., Downing, WI

Most items 50 cents

I will be open to nudges from God to step out of my comfort zone.

3-22-26 Upper Room

**Peace
United Methodist Church
Wheeler
Worship Service at 11:15 a.m.**

JOIN US FOR A SOUP,
SANDWICH & PIE
SUPPER



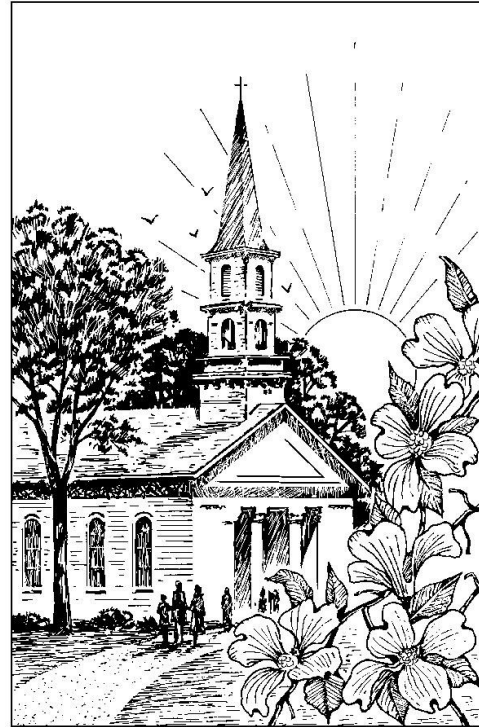
THURSDAY, APRIL 16
4:30-7 PM

SERVING: POTATO SOUP WITH HAM,
CHILI, CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP,
EGG SALAD SANDWICHES,
HAM SANDWICHES, AND A VARIETY
OF PIES AND BEVERAGES.

GLENWOOD CITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
240 E. OAK ST., GLENWOOD CITY

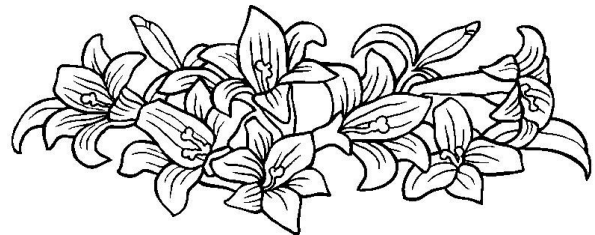
FREE WILL OFFERING

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO AREA CHARITIES



Thanks to your generosity we were able to donate:

- 1518 Empty Pill Bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries



God can use me to make a difference wherever I am.

3-16-26 Upper Room

United Methodist Church of Boyceville

Worship Time: 10 a.m.

Scripture Readers for Boyceville

	Reader
March 29	5th Sunday Celebration
April 5	Easter at Faith & Glenwood
April 12	Marguerite Blodgett
April 19	Jim Strupp
April 26	Earl Blodgett

Boyceville Coffee Time

Coffee Time is Sunday, April 26 after the service. Marguerite Blodgett is serving.



April-May Mission Project

We will be putting together Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits for the Wisconsin Annual Conference Ingathering.

Personal Dignity Kits:

- 1 Hand Towel (no kitchen towels)
- 1 Washcloth (no dishcloths)
- 1 Adult Toothbrush (no multipacks)
- 1 Bar Soap 3-4 oz
- Shampoo 12-19 oz (tape lid shut)
- 1 Deodorant 2-3 oz (stick, roll-on or pump)
- 1 Lotion 8-10 oz (tape lid shut)
- 1 one gallon resealable plastic bag

All items must be **NEW** & placed inside the plastic bag

\$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag per kit

Home Care Kit:

- Liquid Household Cleaners 58-80 oz (no spray bottles)
- Dish Soap 42-64 oz
- Liquid Laundry Detergent 100-150 oz
- 1 Scrub Brush (with or without handle)
- 1—5 gallon round bucket with resealable lid

All items must be **NEW** & place inside the bucket

God loves me just the way I am.

3-17-26 Upper Room

Faith United Methodist Church Prairie Farm

Worship Service at 8:30 a.m.

thank you

- To all who have been a support during our "grief period" with your prayers, cards, phone calls, acts of kindness, love, and inspiration.
- To Pastor Vicky for a beautiful service for Roxanne on March 21st. It, also, was a beautiful day--70 degrees!
- To Lay Readers: Jim Strupp, Leslie Frisle, Robin Burke, Bill Wiseman.
- To Coffee Servers: Leslie Frisle, Robin Burke

Administrative Council will meet on Thursday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m.

HAPPY
Easter

Lay Reader Coffee/Snack

Apr 5	Leslie Frisle	Open
Apr 12	Bill Wiseman	Open
Apr 19	??	Open
Apr 26	??	Open

United Women in Faith

United Women In Faith postponed their meeting until April 9th at 4:00 p.m. Margie has the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program. Bring an offering for this.



With Sincere Sympathy

Roxanne Alice White, 61, entered her eternal rest on Sunday, March 8th at home with hospice. God needed another angel and He welcomed her home. We will miss her smiles, enthusiasm, and fun in whatever she did.

I can build up my community by following God's guidance.

3-14-26 Upper Room

DOWNING UMC

Worship time: 11:00 a.m.



We will be having a garage sale April 23-25. Gently used donations are welcome! Bake sale donations are also welcome!

Downing United Women in Faith

The Downing United Women in Faith met at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at the home of Juanita James. There were 5 present. Highlights from the last meeting were read. Treasurer's report was given. Hostess duties were chosen thru June. Group agreed to have baked goods for sale at the garage sale. Spring Day of Enrichment in Menomonie was discussed. Cindy DeSmith and Charl Draxler gave a presentation on their mission trip to build a house in Guatemala with Casas por Cristo.

Downing Administrative Council

The Downing Administrative Council met at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at the church. There were 6 present. Dick Tews opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the last meeting and treasurer's report were read and approved by consensus. A motion was made by Tammy Nelson and seconded by Dick Tews to transfer \$2000 from the money market fund to the general fund. Motion passed. Tammy will email Pastor Vicky the financial reports so she can discuss them with the DS.

Behlings will be called to service the basement furnace. The batteries in the thermostats have all been changed. Downing will provide the meal for the March 11th Lenten service. Details: Juanita - soup, Marlys - bread and Tammy - bars. On March 19th we will have a short UWF meeting at Juanita's home followed by a presentation about Guatemala from Cindy DeSmith. All are welcome. Pastor's report included updates on the Wheeler church, Bishop's Day Apart, delivering winter gear to schools, dinners, visits and India presentation and blessing of the mats.

Tom Berends, Drew Mason & Dick Tews have been taking care of snow removal. Slama Trust Fund has been moved to Thrivent. Winter gear was delivered and very much appreciated at both schools. Church items from Emerald will be sold with items from Peace UMC. Insurance renewal was discussed. We will have a thrift sale April 23-25. The Memorial Day Lunch will be on May 25th.

Our next meeting will be at 2 p.m. on May 7th. Pastor Vicky closed the meeting with prayer.

God can make a way where there seems to be no way.

3-25-26 Upper Room

GLENWOOD CITY UMC

Worship time: 9:15 a.m.

The Glenwood City United Women in Faith is currently collecting the following items for Terracycle:

- Bread Clips (plastic)
- Coffee Bags (bulk) & K-pods
- Coffee Creamers (individual)
- Candy & Granola wrappers
- Drink Pouches (Capri or any brand)
- Treat Bags (chip bags, etc)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste tubes
- Flosses
- Electric toothbrush heads
- Deodorant Containers
- Eye Glasses & Cases
- Make up Containers
- Pumps & Triggers from plastic bottles
- Socks (mismatched or holey) Gold Toe
- Ribbons & Bows
- Cancelled Stamps (NOT Christmas or flags)
- Glue Sticks
- Expired Gift Cards
- Tape Dispensers
- Pens, Pencils, Markers or Crayons
- Styrofoam Meat Trays
- Cereal, Cracker and Bread Bags



Glenwood City UWF

The Glenwood City United Women in Faith will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8th at the church.



Easter Blessings

***My faith grows when I put my trust and hope in God.
3-6-26 Upper Room***



Starting With What We Have April 2026

In a Lenten devotional I read recently, Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail reflected on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. When the disciples saw the crowd gathering, they immediately began doing the math. There were simply too many people and far too little food.

Their focus was on the problem.

But Jesus started somewhere else.

Instead of beginning with what was missing, Jesus began with what was already present: five loaves and two fish. What seemed impossibly small to the disciples became the starting point for a miracle in the hands of God.

Churches can fall into the same pattern of thinking. We sometimes begin by naming everything we lack — too few volunteers, tight budgets, or not enough people in worship. Scarcity can shape the way we see our future.

But the Gospel story reminds us that God does not begin with scarcity. God begins with what we have.

I once heard a pastor describe stewardship this way: imagine placing everything your church has on a table — your people, your ministries, your building, your finances, your passion for serving others. It might not look like much compared to the needs of the world.

But that is exactly how the miracle of the loaves and fishes began.

The miracle did not start with abundance. It started with a small offering placed into Jesus' hands.

And that is often where God's work begins today as well.

This reflection was inspired by a devotional by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail in the Sanctified Art Lenten devotional The Good News Is... Together, the Impossible Is Possible.

Rev. Jason Mahnke, Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation
Contact me at: 608-837-9582 or jmahnke@wumf.org
Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation at www.wumf.org or
[Facebook/wumf.org](https://www.facebook.com/wumf.org) or call 1-888-903-9863

RIVER GLEN SHARED MINISTRY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 129
GLENWOOD CITY WI 54013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Gleaner
April 2026
Newsletter of Boyceville, Downing, Glenwood City,
Prairie Farm Faith and
Wheeler Peace United Methodist Churches
Pastor Vicky Strupp
Parsonage: 715-749-6351
Prairie Farm: Faith Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
Glenwood City Worship Service: 9:15 a.m.
Boyceville Worship Service 10 a.m.
Downing Worship Service 11 a.m.
Wheeler: Peace Worship Service 11:15 a.m.
Welcome