

Willerup Whispers

... To Glorify Christ in Word & Deed

OCTOBER 2022



Am I a Bad Christian?

Skepticism is the trendy way culture evaluates everything these days. *Healthy* skepticism is good. It stops us from clicking on an email sent by a savvy criminal trying to get into our bank account. It can include a gut-check to slow down on making a decision that has enormous future impact and requires more time for second thoughts. Healthy skepticism is good.

But, when it comes to the Bible or our belief...skepticism will derail a robust faith in a New York minute. WHY? Several reasons come to mind: 1. We underestimate the Adversary. 2. Our ego gets in the way. 3. We aren't confident about what we believe. 4. We don't know how to defend our faith.

Everyone experiences times of confusion, doubt and uncertainty. Often, when we are most vulnerable, we are faced with a situation or circumstances that test our faith. A child dies. A family member gets mixed up in a court battle. Your marriage is in trouble. Mental illness is taking over the life of a family member. Something or someone was taken from you and you feel abandoned. Your past keeps showing up in your present. Few of us are prepared for the battle of a faith crisis. Even fewer of us know *who* to turn to when we have questions or doubts about faith, the Bible or Jesus. Most often...we say nothing or do nothing while we suffer in silence.

Often the path to intimacy with God is paved with honesty. If you have doubts or are losing faith in God,

start by telling Him. He won't shame you nor condemn you. He will meet you where you are—in your confusion, doubt and uncertainty.

Remember that your faith will be investigated and tested. Think about the disciples. They all fell away! Yet, these were the guys whom Jesus loved and hand selected to follow through with His kingdom plans and agenda. Your faith isn't a checklist where you get points for doing the right thing. Doing the right thing has its own rewards. Following Jesus is identified as 'The Way' because to know Jesus is to know how to live in a greater, God-honoring, purpose filled life. His life, death and resurrection paved a way forward. But, you're guaranteed to experience some difficult faith building challenges.

You're not a bad Christian if you are feeling distant from God, having doubts about what you've been told or confused about what you believe. Trust that He is not absent from you. Call out and He will answer. Bring Him your pain, frustration and unmet expectations. God knows what's going on. God cares about what's happening and He will show you The Way.

Here's something to practice this week:

Be honest with God. When you feel angry, empty or resentful—tell Him about it. Write it down. Share your situation with a trusted friend. God can handle your hurt, your anger and your skepticism. He'd rather you be honest with Him than walk away from Him.

In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. Psalm 86:7 ESV

Pastor Jen Wilson



Join a small group

We will study together the book: *Another Gospel?*
a 6 week study, By Alisa Childers.
Sign up table is in the hallway or
call church office !

Leader: Pastor Jennifer Wilson

Sunday mornings before worship, 8:30 am

Location: Church fellowship hall

Childcare Provided in Preschool Room

Leaders: Bob and Donna Kenas

Monday evenings 6:30 pm

Location: Church Wesley room

Leaders/host: Alice Watson and Jeanette Retzlaff

Tuesday mornings 9:30 am

Location: Church Lounge (1st room to right as you enter church from parking lot)

Leaders/host: Steve & Julie Kriedeman and Ken & Ellie Schemenauer

Tuesday evening 6:30pm

Location: Kriedeman home: 1842 State Road 73, Cambridge

Leader/host: Dick and Barb Legge

Wednesday evening 6:30 pm

Location: Their home, W9335 Gusta Lane, Cambridge

Leaders/Host: Pat Bryan and Becky Grasso

Wednesday evenings 6:30pm

Location: Becky Grasso's home,
W9190 Bluewater Pass, Cambridge

Leader: Megan Retzlaff

(Tentatively) Thursday evenings 6:00pm

Possibility of ZOOM!

Leaders/Host: You!

Are you interested in leading or hosting a group? Talk to Pastor Jen or Pastor Bob!

Spiritual Study Hall

Leader: Tina Langhough

Thursday evenings 6:30pm

Location: Willerup

You're invited! I love fall and fall campaign time. I love that we are all the same page, learning and growing in the same direction. In campaigns in the past, ideas have percolated up and I have thought, "I should explore that -whatever that is- more deeply!"...then the week slips away and we are on to the next topic. I need this "study hall" to flesh out ideas further and drive them deeper into my head and heart. I invite you to join me. We will start each "study hall" with a little praise, some scripture, and by prayerfully setting our intention to go deeper in whatever God is putting on our individual hearts. Like a good study hall, it will be mostly quiet time. Provided will be paper for writing, paper & a variety of coloring things for non-verbal exploration and expression. (For doodlers like me.). I will also provide a variety of examples of how to explore an idea if you need to do better with direction. We will end with a little sharing (or not sharing), gratitude and prayer. This is meant to be in addition to your regular small group time. Drop in once, or every time! The door is open and you are invited!



**Saturday Mornings 9:00am—11:00am
October 1—29**

GriefShare is a special video/support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. Your Journey From Mourning to Joy videos feature nationally known experts on grief recovery topics. Some of the sessions include “The Journey of Grief”, “The Effects of Grief,” “Your Family and Grief,” “Why?” and “Stuck in grief.” Each session is “self-contained” so you are welcome to join us at any session.

A GriefShare group will meet every Saturday morning, October 1 – 29, 9:00 – 11:00am, at Willerup Church, 414 W. Water St., Cambridge, WI.

For more information, Call the church at 608-423-3777 or one of the co-facilitators: Carl Nurmi at 608-807-8522; Sue Christianson at 608-423-4254; or Jeanette Retzlaff at 608-423-3360.

rightnow MEDIA
Over 10,000 free videos for you and your family

**“The Netflix of
Christian Bible Study”**

This resource is available to you as a friend of Willerup. Not signed up? It's easy! Just contact the church office for the sign up login information.

secretary@willerupumc.org

Groups —For Fellowship and Bible Study

Some groups break or meet less frequently in summer. Check with your leader. Leaders, contact the office if you want to change your listing!

Knitters Group

Mon 10 am, at Willerup, call Becky 608-333-2519
*Beginners to Experts—All are welcome!

BC Christianson & Tom Smrcka

Tues 6:30pm, at Home Again Auditorium, 608-423-3128

Tom Smrcka

Wed 6:30 pm, at Willerup, Bob-262-370-3676

Pat Bryan

Fri 9:30 am, at home, Full!
Pat-608-423-3454

Class with Pastor Jen

Fri 10 am, at Willerup further sermon insights

Men's Group, Tom Schmude

Sat 8 am at Willerup 608-219-2098

Awana

Wed. 3: 25pm - 5:30pm at Willerup
Contact Andrea Kendall, awana@willerupumc.org, 608-333-9623 for info!

Youth Group 6-12th Grade

Wed. 6 pm at Willerup
Contact Andrea Kendall, awana@willerupumc.org, 608-333-9623 for info!

What the youth are doing...



Recent Willerup Highlights

Evangelism Training Worship by the Navigators



Wednesday Nights!

Awana Leader Training



Lalvon Sivertsen Celebration of Life



**WE PRESS ON:
A History-Making Event!
November 2-5, 2022
Grand Wayne Convention Center
120 W Jefferson Blvd Fort Wayne, IN**

It has been the practice, even before the United Methodist Church was formed in 1968 from merging the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren denominations, that the administrative structural levels of the “Methodist” Church would include local churches, grouped into districts, which were grouped into conferences, which were grouped into jurisdictions, which were grouped together and accountable to each other at the world-wide, or General, level. The local churches were connected to each other from bottom to top and top to bottom. At their own Annual Meeting, they elected representatives to their Conference’s Annual Meeting. Those representatives elected delegates to the Jurisdictional and General Conference meetings. And those delegates consider and approve policies that affect all the members, at every level, all the way down to the local church. I have been elected to be a Jurisdictional delegate 3 times by the lay representatives at our Wisconsin Annual Conference, in 2011 for 2012, in 2014 for 2016, and in 2019 for 2020. As such, I also can fill in at the General, if needed. Our North Central Jurisdiction has 10 conferences: The Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Illinois Great Rivers, Michigan, Indiana, West Ohio, and East Ohio. According to our United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, the General and Jurisdictional Conferences are to meet every four years, with the Jurisdictional meeting to follow after the General meeting. This is because legislation at the General Conference may affect policies at the Jurisdictional level and would have to be attended to at that Jurisdiction meeting.



However, you know how Covid-19 upset the operations of our Willerup church. It did the same for the world-wide United Methodist Church at every level. Most importantly, we could not have a General Conference in 2020. Delegates remain delegates until the next General Conference occurs, but the one set for 2020 in Minneapolis did not happen, and now it won’t happen until 2024.

In the meantime, Bishops across the United States have been retiring and even dying. It has required some bishops to double up on the number of conferences they lead and even some bishops to come out of retirement to help. So, the bishops have met and made an unprecedented decision- stepping in to do what our *Discipline* does not allow except in extreme emergencies. They have agreed that ‘for such a time as this,’ in the United States, the Jurisdictions will meet and elect new bishops on November 2-5 at selected meeting sites in each Jurisdiction. Ours will be in Indiana. These are in-person meetings. All delegates elected in 2019 must appear, and if they can’t, the next person elected must take their place. In Wisconsin, 3 lay delegates have dropped out and 3 others have moved forward to replace them. I am seated as 5th out of 6. There also are 6 clergy delegates. The voting delegates and the 1st elected reserve have their costs paid for them by local church apportionments. (Thank you for supporting me in that way!)

So this Jurisdictional Conference is an unprecedented history-making event. And choosing bishops ‘for such a time as this’ is very important to the future of the United Methodist Church, even as it comes “Un-tied.” We need to choose people who have vision for the future UMC and who will treat ‘kindly’ those Traditionalists who are left behind because they can’t pay the requirements of Par. 2553 of the *Discipline* or because they didn’t make a decision soon enough to be able to leave before Dec. 31, 2023. And even beyond that, there may be some people who thought all versions of theology could be honored under a “Big Tent” concept, but then find out that in practice, they are not.

I ask for prayers for all of us (approximately 200) delegates who will be meeting in Fort Wayne in November. We will be arriving with information about all 10 bishop candidates, which we have received from official bios submitted to the Jurisdiction leaders for publication in a booklet, from their websites and Facebook pages, from email recommendations sent by delegates to each other, by videos they made for us to watch online, and by a day of interviewing them via Zoom.

No bishop candidate in our Jurisdiction is a Traditionalist. We will be electing two bishops. The hope is that we will elect one or both who will respect the Traditionalist members and churches who remain. In our interviews, most have said that they will do that and that they will support legislation in 2024 that will allow a gracious exit for churches that wish to leave (although bishops can’t vote on it, only carry out what is decided by the delegates).

Please hold the whole November conference in prayer that we will discern God’s will in choosing bishops who can lead through the turmoil of disaffiliations. *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)*

Judy Vasby – Willerup Historian



YWAM WEST VIRGINIA

Mission Adventures

This summer we had 2 mission adventure teams come and help serve Keyser. They enjoyed learning more about God from daily teachings, washing peoples cars and praying for them, maintaining the community garden, evening campfires, picking up trash around town, and meeting and praying for people in downtown Cumberland. It was a blessing to have these young people join us this summer.



A Student felt called to missions during their week in Keyser. She noticed the birds flying "out into the world" and felt the Lord speak to her about her going out into the world to preach the gospel. She doesn't know exactly what that looks like yet but we are excited to see where God takes her!



Local Summer Camp

In June we felt led to host a 3 day, overnight summer camp for local kids. We had an amazing time with the local kids of Keyser. We had 15 kids and 3 students who started a relationship with Jesus! We tie-dyed shirts, played many games, had a campfire, planted potatoes for the community garden, and went swimming. We learned things like, spending time with Jesus, the power of forgiveness, God wants relationship with us, our identity comes from God, and being an authentic christian.

One student believed that God was just in the sky waiting to smack us down if we do anything wrong. Our staff explained to her that Jesus is about relationship and He's not waiting for us to fail so He can punish us. They challenged the student to think of Jesus as a friend and to really seek out who He really is. Two days later the student came back to the staff and said how they have been "thinking about Jesus a lot". She wanted a true relationship with Jesus and didn't want to just say a prayer and forget about Him. Since camp she is having quiet times and Jesus is more personal to her now.



Who are We at Willerup?

Our Mission

To **Seek** the Lost, To **Strengthen** the Lord's Disciples,
and To **Serve** in the Lord's Kingdom

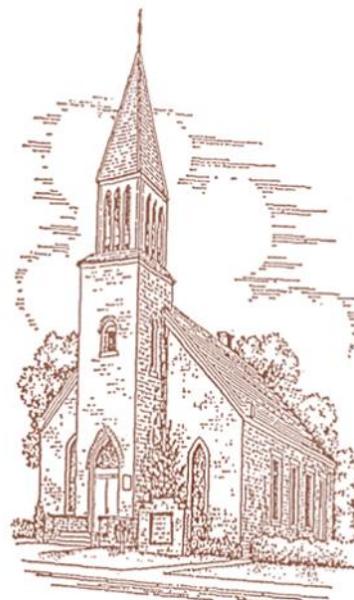
Our Purpose

To **Glorify Christ In Word and Deed** by....

- ♥ Reaching out and receiving new people, introducing them
 - ♥ to the person of Jesus Christ.
- ♥ **Connecting people** to the community of **faith** which is growing in the **grace** and **knowledge** of the **Lord**.
 - ♥ **Developing** people to **Christ-like** maturity.
 - ♥ **Equipping** & sending **disciples** in ministry & mission.
- ♥ ... All to the end of **exalting** & **honoring God's** name.

Our Conviction

We Believe a Great **Commitment** to the
Great **Commandment** and the Great **Commission**
Will Grow a Great **Church!**



Willerup United Methodist Church 2022 Contact information

Accountability Leadership Board

Some members have specialties, but any member can be contacted to share a concern or question.

Chairperson: Orvin Kendall Cell: 608-371-4727 Email: aokendall@hotmail.com	Trustee Co-Leader: Lisa Kalata Cell: 920-222-0788 Email: ltkalata@gmail.com
SPPRC Leader: Dick Legge Cell: 608-772-4738 Email: dblegge@charter.net	Trustee Co-Leader: Steve Kriedeman Cell: 608-225-2255 Email: juliekriedy@gmail.com
Financial Team Leader: Shannon Ghorbani Cell: 832-978-9832 Email: shannon.ghorbani@willerupumc.org Or giving@willerupumc.org	Pastor Jen Wilson – non-voting member Parsonage Phone: 608-423-2085 Email: pastor@willerupumc.org
Lay Leader: Carl Nurmi Home: 608-807-8524 Email: pkcwnurmi@gmail.com	Secretary: Julie Kriedeman – non-voting member Cell: 608-225-4014 Email: secretary@willerupumc.org
Communications Liaison: Judy Vasby Cell: 608-576-0173 Email: jvasby.office@gmail.com	Church Phone: 608-423-3777 Church Email – goes to Pastor and Secretary: churchoffice@willerupumc.org



Sunday Worship

10:00am

On-Site & Live -streamed

Willerup Church
414 W. Water St.
Cambridge WI 53523
608-423-3777

willerupchurch.org

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