



Creeks & Valleys

October 2025

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Tuesday: 9am—3pm

Wednesday: 9am—3pm

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"Ash Creek Church"

"Willow Valley Church"

facebook

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." — Mark 12:28-31

Dear Family of Christ's Church,

Many goals have been ascribed to the Christian spiritual life. These goals range from the glorification of God, union with Christ, love for God and love for neighbor, theosis (divinization), salvation, mystical union, imitation of Christ, beatific vision, sanctification of the soul, and others. But among these many theological concepts, love for God and love for neighbor remain pivotal. Jesus taught that if we love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, and all our mind, then we will love our neighbor as ourselves as well.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, held a conviction that we are bound to God through divine love and that this divine love invites us to participate in the life of the Triune God. As the three persons of the Trinity are bound together by divine love, so too are we bound to God and to one another through divine love. Love cannot remain turned inward on itself. Love calls us beyond ourselves. Love calls us into relationship with others and with the whole created world.

God's love is not something we can keep to ourselves. Our love for God and for God's children is shown through acts of service and mercy. There are many ways we can share God's love. Sharing his Word, bearing witness to our faith, caring for the sick, visiting the homebound, praying for others, welcoming the stranger, and serving God through missions at home and abroad are all ways we share the love of Christ. Love compels us to care not only for those in our own congregation, but to care for the larger world as well, and so we are called into missions in a variety of ways.

There are many people in the world who are unable to cope with their hardships on their own. They need someone else's help and care through their desperate times. So as John Wesley says:

*Do all the good you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
For as long as ever you can!*

During this fall season, I pray that our hearts will be warmed by Christ's love so we can share this love with our neighbors.

In the Lord Jesus' Love,
Pastor Grace

Report from the Church Office

Contributed by
Logan Willis

I have a personal update to inform you. I have now officially moved into the Baraboo area. This move has allowed my wife Chay to be closer to the Baraboo school district she is now teaching in, and the house we have bought, despite the labor we've had to put into renovating and updating it, is a cozy little place.

What this now means is that I will have a slightly different work arrangement with the Ash Creek and Willow Valley churches. I have now started a hybrid work arrangement with the churches. This means that, during my regular 9am to 3pm hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, I will be working remotely from my Baraboo home. I have set up call forwarding through La Valle Telephone and will be able to answer all phone calls to the church line from my home. I will not be physically in the office until my usual 9am to 3pm hours on Thursdays, so the easiest and quickest way to reach me would be either through a call or an email. Through this new arrangement, it has allowed all of the church office's usual projects and tasks to remain possible; so my contributions to the newsletter, bulletins, and other church projects will remain unimpeded.

I want to thank everyone in the SPRC and the Ash Creek and Willow Valley leadership for their willingness, insight, and assistance that has allowed me to make this transition into a new chapter of my life as easy and as fulfilling as it has been.

Month in Review

Willow Valley's Growing in God (GIG) after-school youth program started back up! The first session of the 2025-2026 academic year was held on September 17. So far, we have 24 children and youth signed up ranging from Pre-K through to high school freshmen. A few photos of the September 17 session

can be seen below, on page 5, and on the Willow Valley G.I.G. Facebook page. Thanks to all of our GIG staff that has made this possible!

There was also the start of a new bible study hosted by WV Lay Leader Teri Richards. The study is a free study made available by the United Methodist Conference. It will continue up through the end of October, and there is still time to participate!

GIG also participated in last week's Homecoming Parade for the Ithaca Public Schools. Heather and the GIG staff arranged for a truck to drive in the parade celebrating the GIG program, and kids were invited to ride in the truck bed as well as walk alongside the truck. Pictures of the truck and the kids can be seen on page 5 as well as on the G.I.G. Facebook page.

The Month Ahead

The churches are about to enter into their busiest ordinary season month, with two of the churches' largest events coming up.

Both churches will be hosting their annual Lord's Acre Dinners and Sales. Willow Valley's, organized by the WV United Methodist Men, will begin serving



food at 4:30pm. The menu will include chicken, mashed potatoes, and a variety of dessert bars. Simultaneous to the meal, there will be a silent auction on small items including homemade pies. The full auction will begin at 7:00pm. The flyer can be seen on page 6.

Ash Creek's Lord's Acre Dinner & Sale will be coming up the following weekend on October 25. Their dinner will start serving at 5:30pm. The sale will begin with a children-only auction at 6:30pm, and the full auction will begin at the children's auction's conclusion. The flyer can be seen on page 7.

Teri Richards' bible study sessions will be continuing on every Sunday at 9:30am up through the end of October. The final session will be on October 26. If you have any interest, come on by the Willow Valley church to participate!

Coming up in November, the churches' start times will be changing. After Ash Creek, Richland Center UMC, and Willow Valley came together to discuss, the plan is that a new arrangement of start times will begin on the All-Saints Sunday service on November 2. Willow Valley's service will start at 9:00am, Richland Center's will begin at 10:00am, and Ash Creek will begin at 11:00am. This is also the date that Daylight Savings Time ends, so be sure to change your clocks so you're not late to service!

Coming up on November 2, both churches will see the All-Saints Sunday service. Pastor Grace and the church office will be collecting the names of family members and friends who have entered into Heaven in the past year and lift up their names in celebration during this service. Candles will be lit for these individuals. If there are family or friends you want to lift up in this way, please fill out the information on the bottom of page 5 and submit it to the church office by phone, email, or into the

collection plate no later than October 29.

The Rest of the Year Ahead

Later on in November, Willow Valley will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical service. This is the service Willow Valley jointly holds with clergy and congregants from the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Keyesville. This year, the service will be held at Willow Valley. More details will be announced closer to the date.

The churches will also have their Charge Conference coming up before the end of the year. The date has not been set yet, but we are expecting that this date will be later in November or in early December—a bit later than in previous years. This gives the office and our leadership teams a little more time to work out all of the information we need to send, especially now that much of the information is split between three churches. All congregants are invited to attend; more information will be published once everything is confirmed.

In other area news, the Richland Concert Association will have two concerts coming up in October and November. Coming up on Sunday, October 12, the Wingra Wind Quintet will be performing. The Wingra Wind Quintet are comprised of the wind faculty members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Their repertoire for this concert is a particularly exciting round of contemporary music from some of the most talented living American-based composers, including former Los Angeles Philharmonic Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen. However, a highlight from their performance will be a multi-movement wind quintet from Pulitzer Prize-winner John Harbison, a composer who has long-standing connections to the Madison area through his Madison-born wife Rose Mary Harbison. This is going to be a very personal

and very intriguing set of pieces that would show listeners new horizons in the classical music scene. The concert will be held October 12 at 2:00pm at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richland Center just off of Crestview Drive. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 per adult or season tickets of \$50 per adult and \$80 per couple, and children and youth can always attend for free.

The Richland Concert Association's November 16 concert is also shaping up to be a fantastic highlight of local talents. Stephanie Pedretti is a flutist who has worked and lived in the Viroqua area for most of her career and will be performing with guitar. More information will be posted at a later time on the Richland Concert Association Facebook page, so follow them for further information on this and all the other 2025-2026 concerts.

And, as always, if any of you have events, fundraisers, or other info that you would want known by the Ash Creek, Richland Center, or Willow Valley churches, please reach out to us! We're always open to voicing our support for our neighbors' projects!



Willow Valley Finance News

WV Financials (through September 30):

Sept. Giving: \$7,574

Year-to-Date Giving: \$64,483

Sept. Church Expenses: \$7,095

Year-to-Date Church Expenses: \$72,050

Checking account balance: \$7,782

Year-to-Date Cattle Center Income \$7,610

Year-to-Date Surplus of \$43

Over the last few months, our trustees have been working hard to make minor renovations and repairs to the Willow Valley parsonage on Clary Lane so that we can rent it to a tenant. As many of you know, Pastor Grace is residing in the Richland Center UMC parsonage. To date, this remodeling work, cleaning costs, and monthly utilities total \$10,014.66. Just under half of this was paid from our parsonage fund, while the remaining \$5,570.86 was borrowed from the Willow Valley Fund. We expect this loan to be paid back from rental income in the first year. Kyle Dickey and Marty Richards took on the task of finding a suitable tenant; we expect the new tenants to move in around November 1. Thanks to Marty, Kyle, and the rest of the trustees for all of your hard work!

In our ongoing efforts to reduce expenses, we have switched our telephone and internet service providers from Frontier and Wi Connect to LaValle Telephone. We anticipate savings on the order of \$134 per month, or nearly half of our prior telephone/internet expense.

We are up-to-date on paying all of our bills with the exception, however, that we are slightly behind on apportionment payments to the Wisconsin Conference. Those are fully paid through the month of August.

Willow Valley Finance Committee

Barb Clary, Annette Louis, Bonnie Jones,
Suzanne Anderson, Pastor Grace Cho



All Saints Sunday Service

All-Saints Sunday will be observed on November 2nd and is a day of remembrance for all saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead, both of the Church universal and of our local congregations. Please use this form to submit names of persons who have entered into eternal life since November 3 of last year. Those names will be solemnly read as a Response to the Word during all-Saints Sunday worship as well as printed in the bulletin. The space on the back allows for the listing of your contributed names. **Please submit your form to the office no later than Wednesday, October 29.**

Individual's Name Date of Death Relationship

The person(s) named, with whom I shared much in life, is/are near and dear to me and will be remembered in love by me, our friends, and our loved ones. May God bless our lives through theirs. Amen.

Your name: _____

To the one requesting the memorial listing: Please place the completed form in the collection plat or send it to the office. May their memory be forever a joy in your heart.

Willow Valley UMC

Lord's Acre

Dinner & Sale

Saturday, October 18 at the Willow Valley Church



Dinner:

Chicken, Mashed Potatoes &
Gravy, Stuffing, Salads,
Rolls, and Dessert Bars

Serving from 4:30pm—7:00pm
made available for a free-will offering

Silent Auction with Pies to coincide
with Dinner

Live Auction begins at 7:00pm



Willow Valley UMC
24811 State Hwy 58
In Beautiful Downtown Ithaca!



You are cordially invited to
Ash Creek UMC's
Lord's Acre
Dinner & Sale
Saturday, October 25
28820 Henry Clark Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581

Dinner begins at 5:30pm; offered for a
free-will donation.

The children's auction will begin at 6:30;
The general auction will follow.

ASH CREEK

Birthdays:

Cody Jurgensen—10/04
Sheila Sims-McCauley—10/06
Dustin Jurgensen—10/09
Cam Johnson—10/09
Triton Clary—10/09
Heidi Unbehaun—10/14
Barry Ziegahn—10/20
Betty Emerson—10/29
Bob Johnson—10/29
Chris Brown—10/31
Victoria Unbehaun—11/01
Isaiah Hines—11/03
Donna Sims—11/11
Tom Jurgensen—11/14
Kassidy Kadousek—11/16
Josh Hines—11/17
Antje Ziegahn—11/19
Monte Schmidt—11/28
Vanessa Stibbe—11/28
Heidi Clary—11/30

Anniversaries:

Chris & Shai Brown—10/14
Bob & Cam Johnson—10/16
Robert & Heidi Clary—10/17
Fritz & Sue Stibbe—10/25
George & Dianne Nachtigal—10/26
Dustin & Samantha Jurgensen—10/27
Josh & TyLacey Hines—11/01
Ron & Cindy Deckert—11/05

WILLOW VALLEY

Birthdays:

10/02—Will Burnley
10/03—Cheryl McNurlin
10/03—Andy Nelson
10/07—Carmen Oelke
10/08—Summer Roh
10/08—Tom Walker
10/11—Austin Durst
10/13—Ellyn Brown
10/15—Linda Peterson
10/17—Rodney Gochenaur
10/17—Courtney Hemphill
10/22—MacKenzie Clary
10/25—Debbie Richards
10/26—Sue Meyer
10/26—Marge Brock
10/26—Jeff Oelke
10/30—James Oelke
11/19—Sawyer Willis
11/20—Harriet Goetz
11/20—Cole Miller
11/25—Brianna Louis
11/26—Ron Richards
11/27—Brooklyn Dickey
11/27—John Peterson
11/30—Tim Willis

Anniversaries:

10/01—Cody & Courtney Willis
10/04—Larry & Sherry Nelson
10/05—Austin & Megan Durst
10/23—Chas & Katie Burnley
11/02—Vince & Betsy Wiedenfeld
11/10—Aaron & Bonnie Jones
11/27—Andy & Suzanne Anderson
11/28—Ron & Debbie Richards

		<div> <div>October</div> <div>Creeks & Valleys Page 9</div> </div>				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			GIG 5:15pm @ WV			Ithaca Home-coming Weekend
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM WV Bible Study @ 9:30am			GIG 5:15pm @ WV			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM WV Bible Study @ 9:30am RCA Concert: Wingra Wind Quintet 2:00pm @ Seventh-Day Adventist in RC			GIG 5:15pm @ WV			WV Lord's Acre Dinner & Sale Dinner @ 4:30pm Auction @ 7:00pm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM WV Bible Study @ 9:30am	WV AD Council Meeting @ 6:00pm		GIG 5:15pm @ WV			AC Lord's Acre Dinner & Sale Dinner @ 5:30pm Children's Auction @ 6:30, adult auction after
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov. 1
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM WV Final Bible Study @ 9:30am			GIG 5:15pm @ WV			
Nov. 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
New Start Times: WV @ 9:00am RC @ 10:00am AC @ 11:00am						

Ash Creek & Willow Valley United Methodist Churches

Willow Creek UMC & Charge Office

24811 State Hwy 58

Richland Center, WI 53581

Phone: (608)-585-2281

E-mail: acwvumc@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook — [“Willow Valley Church”](#)

Ash Creek UMC

28820 Henry Clark Lane

Richland Center, WI 53581

Visit us on Facebook — [“Ash Creek Church”](#)

Creeks & Valleys

October 2025

Address Service Requested

SERVICE TIMES CHANGING ON NOVEMBER 2 — Info Inside

Upcoming Administrative Council Meetings:

Ash Creek:

Next Meeting is October 19 after service

Willow Valley:

Next Meeting is October 20 @ 6:00pm

AC Worship Time:

Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

STARTING NOVEMBER 2:

Sundays at 11:00am

WV Worship Time:

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

STARTING NOVEMBER 2:

Sundays at 9:00am

G.I.G. Time:

Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.—7:00pm

(September—May)