



# Creeks & Valleys

# September 2025

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**I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. — John 15:5-8**

Dear Family of Christ's Church,

Have you ever seen a wild grape vine? The branches are tangled together and encircle one another. The vine's branches can be hard to tell apart as they intertwine together. Yet the origin of each branch can be seen clearly at the point where it connects to the vine. It is the connection to the vine that gives the branch its strength and life. No one branch is better than another. Each branch is valued. Each branch may be a little different, and it's okay to be different. It is the branch's connection to the vine that matters.

To abide in Christ means to dwell in Christ and to be connected to Christ and to one another. As Christians, we are bound to each other as we are bound to God. We are a part of the larger Christian fellowship through which we engage in a common mission to bear witness to the Gospel's message of love. We are different branches of the one vine. Even though we may express our Christian faith in different ways, we are simply different branches on the one vine. What matters most is not the variation between branches but our connection to the vine, our connection to God. It is God who is the source of our fruitfulness, our faithfulness, and our very life. We are all one in Christ's love.

As Methodists, we share a particular expression of our bond in Christ. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, strongly emphasized our connection to God and to one another as Methodists and as Christians. The Methodist Church, in its various forms, is a "connectional" church. In the term's early usage, the Methodist "connection" referred to the link between John Wesley and his preachers. To be a Methodist preacher, or class leader, one had to be in "connection" with John Wesley. This meant adhering to the basic Doctrines of the Christian faith and committing oneself to Wesley's vision of holiness of heart and mind.

Underlying Wesley's understanding of connection was a conviction that we are bound to God through divine love. This divine love invites us into a participation 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. It is this divine love that binds us to God and to one another. Let us give thanks for all the different branches that are part of the one vine. Let us continue to be faithful disciples working together to share God's love. Let us give thanks for God's love, made flesh in Christ, the love that makes us one.

In the Lord Jesus' Love,  
Pastor Grace

**Charge Office:**  
(608)-585-2281  
acvvumc@gmail.com

**Hours:**  
Monday: 9am—3pm  
Tuesday: 9am—3pm  
Wednesday: 9am—3pm  
Thursday: 9am—3pm  
Friday: None  
Saturday: None  
Sunday: None

**Pastor Grace Cho:**  
Phone: (404)-502-3544  
Email: gracecho0503@gmail.com

**Admin. Assistant**  
Logan Willis  
ltwillis16@gmail.com

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["Willow Valley Church"](#)



# Report from the Church Office

Contributed by  
Logan Willis

The start of the school year is always busy, but it proved more than usual for my wife and me. We made the decision to purchase a house in Baraboo, and the deal closed on August 19. However, despite the fact that we were hoping to move in prior to the first day of school, our list of expected renovations grew as we proceeded through them. At first, we thought it was only some of the basement carpeting that would need to be replaced; the discovery of black mold underneath those carpets—in the room that was meant to be the master bedroom—quickly rewrote those plans. We have since taken out all drywall four feet up from the ground in half the basement, sealed some found cracks in the concrete, and installed new mold-resistant drywall. Once the drywall is done, we can resume with our painting and flooring expectations. However, we will also need to replace all of our kitchen appliances. We knew at least the dishwasher was broken and would need to be replaced, but when we found issues with the fridge, stove, and overhead vent (all of which were original to the 1974 house), since replacement parts and schematics couldn't be found, we'll need to get those replaced too. And we haven't even touched any renovations in the main bathroom, as we had found mold in the drywall there as well. Our delayed move-in date was meant to be the weekend of September 20-21, and, in light of all of these additional projects, neither Chay nor I are fully expecting that everything will be finished prior to moving in. However, I am very thankful that our parents

have been so courteous and willing to assist with their time and experience.

Once I have moved into this Baraboo residence, I will begin hybrid work for the ACWV churches. What this means is that I will only be in the charge office once a week—on Thursdays, at the usual time—to perform tasks like final preparations of the bulletins and of the church spaces and checking mail. For my usual Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday hours, I will be working remotely from Baraboo—producing the bulletins, responding to emails, and answering any phone calls that come into the office. I want to thank the SPRC and Marty Richards for their willingness to make this arrangement work and for the assistance I have needed in pivoting to this new arrangement.

Strangely, I didn't expect these renovations and moves to be happening at the same time the Willow Valley trustees were renovating the Sextonville parsonage! I hope their process has not been as full of surprises as mine!

## Month in Review

The churches remained busy in the past month! On August 1, Pastor Grace held an open house at her parsonage. It was the first time any ACWV pastor had held an open house in recent memory. This was held in the Richland Center UMC parsonage in Richland Center, on West Fern Street. RC congregants had noted that it was the first time many of them had even seen inside the parsonage. And now you can too, courtesy of Pastor Grace's photos from the open

house on pages 4 and 5.

On August 23, Willow Valley held its annual Hog Roast and Corn Boil dinner. This year, the event was jointly hosted by the Willow Valley chapters of the United Methodist Men as well as the United Women in Faith. The event featured tasty pulled pork sandwiches and a ton of sweet corn. Thank you to everyone who attended, and thank you to all those in UMM and UWIF that helped make this dinner possible!

As mentioned earlier, the Willow Valley Trustees have been hard at work renovating the parsonage in Sextonville. Since Pastor Grace has been living in the RCUMC parsonage, the WV trustees have made many renovations to the Sextonville parsonage, including a new shower and floors. This being done to bring the property up to date and offer it as a rental property like Ash Creek's parsonage. With the last projects expected to be wrapped up in the next month, I want to thank Kyle Dickey, Annette Louis, Aaron Jones, and all the youth for all of their time and labor they've put into the parsonage.

### The Month Ahead

The coming months look even busier! Willow Valley's Growing in God (GIG) youth program is returning on Wednesday, September 17! The sessions will be weekly from 5:15pm to 7:00pm, the same as last year.

However, there will be plenty of opportunity for Biblical education for adults as well! Willow Valley's Lay Leader Teri Richards will be starting a bible study at Willow Valley on Fridays. The

first session is September 19 from 8:00am to 9:00am in the Prayer Room; this is the room just inside the double-red doors. The resources are freely provided by the United Methodist Church, so there is no cost for any study materials. If you're interested, feel free to come on by!

Coming up in October, both churches will be hosting their yearly Lord's Acre Sale. Details for both are still pending, so be on the lookout in the next week for confirmed dates and our flyers!

In other local news, the Richland Concert Association will be continuing with its 60th Anniversary Season concerts with a performance by the Alloy Horn Quartet. This group of four female French horn players from the Chicago area has been a frequent guest of the Richland Concert Association and have been lauded for their cutting-edge approach to the horn as a chamber instrument. It promises to be an exciting performance that the whole family will love! The performance will be at the Richland Center Seventh-Day Adventist Church off Crestview Drive on September 14. Tickets can be purchased at the door prior to the 2:00pm performance; tickets are \$15 per adult, \$50 per adult season ticket, \$80 per couple season ticket, and children are always admitted for free. I hope to see you there!

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!

# Pastor Grace's Open House

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Photos courtesy of Pastor Grace.



# Birthdays and Anniversaries

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## **ASH CREEK**

### Birthdays:

Brittany Anderson—09/02  
Allison Unbehaun—09/03  
Nancy Gher—09/04  
Geoff Ziegahn—09/04  
Macy Seifert—09/06  
Brittany Niemeyer—09/07  
Mercedes Clary—09/08  
Morgan Twedt—09/24  
Deb Klinzing—09/30  
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

### Anniversaries:

Bob & Jan Stibbe—09/07  
Barry & Kay Ziegahn—09/09  
Kirk & Shelly Stibbe—09/14  
Mark & Rochelle Schmidt—09/19  
Elliot & Brittany Anderson—09/28  
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

## **WILLOW VALLEY**

### Birthdays:

09/01—Trudy Kinyon  
09/04—Normand Bedard  
09/04—Vickie Bedard  
09/06—Deb Manning  
09/08—Ken Anderson  
09/09—Emelia Dickey  
09/11—Leah Richards  
09/19—Dakota Wiedenfeld  
09/21—Stetson Clary  
09/26—Briggs Maxwell  
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

### Anniversaries:

09/13—Brad & Rhonda Louis  
09/19—Paul & Barb Denman  
10/01—Cody & Courtney Willis  
10/04—Larry & Sherry Nelson  
10/05—Austin & Megan Durst  
10/23—Chas & Katie Burnley

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM  RCA Concert: Alloy Horn Quartet 2:00pm @ Seventh-Day			First GIG Session! 5:15pm @ WV		WV Bible Study @ 8:00am	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM	WV AD Council Meeting @ 6:00pm		GIG 5:15pm @ WV		WV Bible Study @ 8:00am	
28	29	30	Oct. 1	2	3	4
AC 8:00 AM RC 9:30 AM WV 11:00 AM			GIG 5:15pm @ WV		WV Bible Study @ 8:00am	

## 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**

September 2025

Address Service Requested

## Upcoming Administrative Council Meetings:

### Ash Creek:

Next Meeting TBA

### Willow Valley:

Next Meeting is September 22 @ 6:00pm

### AC Worship Time:

Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

### WV Worship Time:

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

### G.I.G. Time:

Wednesdays 5:15 p.m.—7:00pm  
(September—May)