



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Jacoba Koppert
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
www.neillsvilleucc.org

JULY 2017

Jesus says,

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ... I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

John 15:7,11

Jacob's jottings... Praying for others is right and good. Jesus also lets us know that we can pray for ourselves too. Yet, many of us have told ourselves we ought not to pray for our own needs; we believe others have greater concerns. Some of us may not even know how or what to ask for ourselves. So, this month, I ask you, what do you want God to do for you? Not what do you want for your family or your friends or for the world. I am asking what do YOU want from God for YOU? What is your deepest prayer for yourself – just for you. It took me a bit to figure out the answer to that question for myself. But once the answer came to me, I knew this is really what I want.



Once we realize what we want, Jesus encourages us to ask. Ask in his name. Ask and we will receive. We know Jesus is true to his word. We also know that what we ask for needs to be in line with his teachings. If we ask him for revenge against someone who has hurt us, we will not likely receive the answer we want. However, Jesus might help us change our perspective which in turn could change a challenging relationship. Asking him to bless us while denying those same blessings to others will not likely be granted. However, Jesus might open our eyes as to how we can mutually bless one another. If we ask for good health, we might have physical health in mind, however God's response to us may have more to do with mental or spiritual healing. While Jesus promises to do for us what we wish, God is still free to do what God wants to do. We may not want to hear God's answers, we may not want to respond to the Holy Spirit's guidance – but have no doubt God will take seriously our prayers.

Of course, God's answer to our prayers will not just be for us. When God answers prayers, God will intend for others also to know joy, peace, hope, love, faith. God's answers our wants and needs will make the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit evident in the world. God wants joy for you and me and joy for the world. Do not hesitate to ask God for what you want. Let God surprise you. And then watch how God's answer to you touches the lives of others as well.

Prayer: Surprising God, hear our prayers for what we want; Help us to use your responses to create joy not only in our lives but also in the world. Amen.

PASTOR JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE

Joe Resigns...

Our Choir Director, Joe Anderson offered his resignation on June 4.

Joe is stepping down from several roles in his life as he devotes more time to his family, including his aging mother. It is with regret and understanding we receive Joe's



resignation. He served our congregation as the Senior Choir Director for 28 years, never having interviewed for the position. In his letter of resignation Joe writes he is grateful for his many relationships at UCC and he, Kris, Ben, Alec and Rachel hope to participate as members of the Senior Choir when their time and schedule allow. We rejoice in all the music and relationships the Anderson family have brought to us. We look forward to our continuing relationship with them as active members. Thank you, Joe for the music and so much more. Thank you, Kris, Ben, Alec and Rachel for all the ways you participate in our congregation. You are each greatly appreciated, not only for all you have done, but also for who you are.

The Music Committee members have a plan to both celebrate Joe's ministry among us and to hire a new a new choir director. There will be ads in area newspapers. If you know someone, who would be available, please speak to Music Committee Members (Corinne, JoAnn and Donita) or Pastor Jacoba.

Funeral Dinners

This morning, a committee met to respond to Betty Opelt's desire to step down from overseeing Funeral Dinners. Again, we are getting a plan. We are creating teams – so no one will be expected to help each time we serve a meal. We are now making a list of jobs that need to be done. How can YOU help? Please volunteer; call the church office and let us know your willingness to serve. We will need a phone team to ask for donations, people to set tables, folks to make sandwiches, folks to cut bars and cheese, servers, folks to do dishes and clean up. Please consider saying yes when asked to help. There are tasks men, women and youth can do

to help. ☺ Some tasks will need to be done the day of the funeral; other tasks can be done the night before. We thank all who have made this important ministry of our congregation possible over the years. We want to continue this vital ministry.

Welcome New Members

We welcomed three new members in June.



Krista Hamm is well known to some of us as a VBS helper. We also know her as Jenna's sister and a much loved aunt. She comes with her daughter, Kinsley,

wanting her to also know the love of Jesus.

Carol and David Harnisch also became members on June 4. Carol grew up in

Neillsville. Several church members were her classmates. Dave and Carol have a love for gardening and you might also find them making maple syrup.



They bought Sue and Rollie's home, adding their personal touch (Sue was delighted to see what they had done.)

We welcome Dave, Carol and Krista – do get to know them. They are delightful folk.

Weird Church Workshop

Wendy Sigurdson, (Sue Vornholt and I attended a workshop on "Weird Church" at Green Lake. The author helped us understand Spiral Dynamics (a way to describe how culture and individuals evolve and how that evolution affects society), where the church in the US is today and what we might do so that the Gospel of Jesus will continue to be shared in our culture. We had a fun exercise figuring out how to solve a problem with the resources we were given. Problem solving to meet the needs of our church and community with the resources available to us will be a valuable skill as we try to discern where God is leading us. I think we will be amazed at what we can do.

Weird Church Book Study



We are meeting Sunday nights at 7:30 pm. If you have not picked up your book or need the handouts, they are in the church office. Last Sunday nine of us met – enjoyed some serious conversation and laughter.

July 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 am Summer Worship Communion-Intinction Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neillsville Retirement	3 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (Office Closed)	5	6	7	8
9 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour 6:30 pm Potluck Dinner at Calvary – VBS Kickoff	10 1-5 pm VBS Day Camp at Calvary 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	11 1-5 pm VBS Day Camp at Calvary	12 1-5 pm VBS Day Camp at Calvary	13 1-5 pm VBS Day Camp at Calvary 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting	14	15
16 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	17 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nar-Anon	18	19	20 10:30-11:30 pm Memory Cafe	21	22 10:30 am-10:30 pm “Sowing Seeds of Mercy” Benefit for House of Mercy at the Allan & Connie Walter Farm
23 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	24 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nar-Anon Newsletter Week	25	26	27	28	29
30 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	31 6:30-7:30 p.m. Nar-Anon	Notes:				

July Newsletter 2017

Hi Everyone,

How is your June going for you? I hope you are getting in some of those fun summer activities. It's hard to believe, but it is time to get the July Newsletter printed. It's been pretty quiet here at the church. Representing our church at the Wisconsin Conference Annual meeting at Green Lake was Pastor Jacoba, Sue Vornholt and Wendy Sigurdson June 8 through June 11, They reported back that it was a very good meeting this year. On Thursday, June 15 Pastor Jacoba presented her program on her Holland trip and we were served some very special Holland snacks and tea/coffee. It was a fun informative and entertaining afternoon for our guests and myself. Thank you Pastor Jacoba for your presentation.

July 10 – July 13 VBS Day Camp will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church from **1:00-5:00 p.m.** UCC and Calvary kids (4K-6th grade) will be joining together again as we have done in the past years. They will begin with a VBS kickoff “potluck supper” on **Sunday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m.** at Calvary. Parents get your child(ren) registered. Contact Calvary at 715-743-2225. Register as soon as you can. Thank you.

See you in church! – Audrey

Sunday Volunteers for July

Acolytes

Sunday, July 2

Paige Voigt
Karsen Czarnecki

Sunday, July 9

Parker Voigt
Bryce Erickson

Sunday, July 16

Dayne Loberg
Mackenzie Hediger

Sunday, July 23

Alex Northup
Logan Erickson

Sunday, July 30

Mackenzie Keller
Karsen Czarnecki

Please let the church office know (715-743-2147) if you are unable to light the candles as scheduled.

(Acolytes continued)

Our Acolytes are a very important part of our worship service and we thank you for your help.

Note: This fall our 8th graders will be in Confirmation and we will need some more of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th graders to help with Acolyting. We would like to teach the following kids: Brody Bergemann, Sydney Subke, Macci Elmhorst, Dante Erickson and Delaney Rochester. Think about it kids. We really need your help.

Nursery

Note: Our nursery does not have scheduled volunteers, but it is open to anyone who wishes to use it. Our only requirement is that an adult/parent must be with your child(ren) If the nursery is used, please be sure the toys/etc. are put away. Thank you for your help. **Note:** We could really use a good clean-up in the Nursery. Sort through the toys, wash and clean everything. Anyone wanting to help out with this? Contact the church office, 715-743-2147.

Ushers for July

Sunday, July 2

Paul Schmidt, Brian Eddy
Substitute needed, Tim Steinbach

Sunday, July 9 & 16

Todd Averill, John Schermitzler
Mat & Hunter Roenz

Sunday, July 23 & 30

Hap Eddy, Russ Karl
Tom Barr, (we need a substitute)

Note Ushers: If you are unable to usher when you are scheduled - please exchange with someone else if possible and call the church office to let us know. 715-743-2147. Thank you.

Thank you to our volunteer ushers who help to fill in on Sundays when our scheduled ushers are unable to be here.

Greeters for July

Sunday, July 2

Carole Romens & Marge Goetsch

Sunday, July 9

Fran Ormond & Anita Lulloff

Sunday, July 16

Bernard & Delores Walker

Sunday, July 23

Tim & Cheryl Steinbach

Sunday, July 30

Doris Bakker & Delores Johnson

It is always nice to have a warm welcome to our church when you walk in the door. Thank you for serving as a greeter. If you are unable to greet, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Coffee Hour

Note: Bonnie Weyer has volunteered to pick up donuts from the bakery in Loyal for the Coffee Hour for the month of July and August. We will have a free-will basket for your donations to cover the cost. We will *still need* volunteers to help with the clean-up. If anyone is willing to bring some fruit or veggies, please feel free to do so.

The volunteer server list is on the bulletin board – please take a look and see if you can sign up for a Sunday beginning in September through January 2018. Thank you.

Communion Assignments

Communion - Sunday, July 2 – Intinction

Team 1: Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Brian Eddy, Betty Barr, Ben Wilson

Bread: Sue Vornholt

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for the

Month of July

Sunday, July 2

Janice Miller 715-743-7070

Sunday, July 9

Brian Eddy 715-743-3215

Sunday, July 16

Marge Goetsch 715-937-0793

Sunday, July 23

Jake Ratsch 715-937-1612

Sunday, July 30

Betty Barr 715-743-3283

Facts & Figures

Attendance

Sunday, May 28	56
Sunday, June 4	69
Sunday, June 11	37
Sunday, June 18	54

Offerings

Sunday, May 28

General Offering \$1945.00

Sunday, June 4

General Offering	\$1674.00
Strengthen the Church Offering	60.00
Advertising Fund	50.00

Sunday, June 11

General Offering	\$1257.00
Radio Fund	37.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	10.00
VBS	25.00
Todd Wall Memorial (Choir Music)	395.00
Todd Wall Memorial Fund	80.00

Sunday, June 18

General Offering	\$1648.00
Audio Visual Fund	50.00
Strengthen the Church Offering	45.00
VBS	25.00

June Automatic Giving

\$2195.00

Are you interested in giving to your church by "Automatic Giving?" If you are – stop by the church office and we will get you set up. We have quite a few people that give this way. It is a good way to keep up your "faith promise." Check it out.



Radio Broadcast Sponsors

On Sunday, June 4 the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On Sunday, June 11 the radio broadcast was sponsored by Anita Lulloff in memory of her and Bob's Wedding Anniversary.

(Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)

Mission & Outreach News

Mission Projects

Food Pantry - Bring your donations – ALL food pantries are in need of food and non-perishable items - especially in the summer time. Kids are home now from school and do not have the school lunches to rely on. Thank you for your support!

Back Pack Program - Even though school is no longer in session – they will begin again in the fall with the Back Pack Program. Thank you for your continued support for this program. If you wish to contribute to this special mission and want to write a check make the check out to United Church of Christ and in the memo line specify “Back Pack Program.” If you have any questions about this program, contact Deb Perkl. 715-743-4047

Memory Café “Sun Catchers” – is an informal get-together for people with early memory loss or dementia. It’s an opportunity to socialize, listen to speakers and to participate in activities. Come on your own or bring a spouse, friend or family member. Refreshments will be provided. The Memory Café meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month. **July 20** will be the date of the next meeting here at the United Church of Christ from **10-11:30 a.m.** For more information or questions contact Deb Holman 715-937-5530.

Mission Committee: *Cheryl Steinbach, Sue Gurney, Deb Perkl, Carole Romens, Kathy Mathis, Tim Voigt*

Stewardship News

Strengthen the Church. We want to thank those of you that supported this special mission. So far we have received \$110.00 for our Strengthen the Church offering this year. If you still wish to give to this special mission, please do so. Neighbors In Need will be the next special offering. This will begin in September.

Spring Cleaning – Jim wants to extend a BIG THANK to Donita Follen for scrubbing down all the orange chairs. Good Job Donita ! Do you know how many orange chairs there are in this church? Way too many of them had gum stuck on the underside of them. What a job! Yuck!

On *Sunday, June 18* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Ruth and Bob Schmidt in memory of daughter, Tammy Backus and Mom and Dad, Walter and Lucille Schmidt.

And on *Sunday, June 25* the radio broadcast will be sponsored by Trink Jenkins in memory of loved ones.

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the June broadcasts.

Note: I am taking sponsorships for 2018 radio broadcasts. Give me a call to set up a date. (Especially if you want a special date.) The cost is the same: \$75.00 full broadcast- \$37.50 Half – \$25.00. third.

**The radio broadcast portion of our
Sunday Worship Service can be heard
On WCCN AM 1370 on Sunday
morning at 11:00 a.m.**

Hospital News - We will no longer be reporting on the hospital news. Because of the privacy laws and the privacy of individuals we do not know if you want your stays reported in the newsletter. The newsletter goes out on line and everyone has access to it. If you want us to know of your hospital stays and want to see/talk to Pastor Jacoba, give us a call or have your family call. Please inform us of your wishes.

Please remember our shut-in’s, those in nursing homes and assisted living. They really do enjoy your cards, calls and visits. We want to *thank* those of you that send cards, make calls, visits, clinic runs, sit with people and share your time. If you wish a call from Pastor Jacoba, give her a call or call the church office and we will give her the information.

Circle of Friends News

The Circle did it again! They donated \$100.00 towards the new church signs. Thanks again to your continued support to our church.

Remember if nobody is in the card room to help you and you want to purchase a card(s) you can use the self-service change jar or the I.O.U. tablet which is on the table in the card room. Thank you for your continued support!

Note: If you are interested in helping with the recycling of the cards – check with Darlene and she will tell you what day and time to be here. They are getting a little short of help and could use you.

Again, we want to remind you, if you donate cards please leave the verses in them. We sometimes get some really nice cards but we cannot use them if the verses are not there.

The next meeting of the Circle of Friends will be on **Thursday, July 13 at 1:30 p.m.**



July Birthdays

1- Adam Slemec
Tyler Williams
Ben Fields
Brennan Wilson

2-Pam Stitt
3-Arianna Rochester
Mathew Roenz
4-Tom Wallace
5-Donna Erickson
9-Sandra Schmidt
Jo Ann Voss
Sophie Heck
10-Ruth Van Gorden
11-Emile Miller
Berdella Carl
13-James Mohr
16-Kathy Turner
Neil Czarnecki

(Birthdays continued)

17-Guy Jodarski
18-Pat Garbisch
19-Gayle Schermitzler
Roger Carl
Neil Czarnecki
20-Katie Elmhorst
21-Robert Shaw
Kobe Roenz
24-Karsen Czarnecki
25-Bonnie Shaw
Carol Opelt
Kathy Carl
26-Reese Ziegler
Mitchell Erickson
27-Hunter Roenz
28- Dan Patey
29-Eileen Zank
Barb Shoemaker
Mel Eddy
30-Erik Sigurdson
31-Brittney Averill

*Happy Birthday to all of you with a July Birthday.
Did we miss your birthday or have the wrong date?
Let us know if we did.*



July Wedding Anniversaries

7-Ray & Bonnie Weyer
13-Dick & Carolyn Lewis
14-Joe & Kris Anderson
29-John & Gayle Schermitzler
31-Eugene & Carol Opelt

Happy Anniversary! Did we miss your wedding anniversary? Let us know if we did,

From Bonnie Weyer



Thanks to all who helped in organizing the Lamplight Concert! The Lamplight Concert was held on May 13th at the Clark Cultural Art Center in Neillsville, Wisconsin to raise money for the House of Mercy. The Lamplight Concert is designed with the idea of helping congregations to raise money for the homeless. The songs in the concert were selected with the theme of the love and comforts of home, both to entertain and inspire the audience. The Lamplight Concert was performed by Kate Jennings, vocal and Judith Permann, piano. They come from the United Church of Christ located in River Falls, WI. The concert blended voice, piano, musical styles, and the love of home. While enjoying the performance, the audience hopefully thought gratefully of their own homes and gave generously to those who don't have a home of their own. It worked, we raised \$1200 for the House of Mercy. The concert was sponsored by Neillsville United Church of Christ. Thrivent Financial donated seed money to cover advertising, gas money for the musicians and tuning of the piano.

The House of Mercy is a home to Clark County families of women and children who would otherwise be homeless, and it relies on continued generosity from Clark County to continue its mission of alleviating poverty and strengthening families. If you would like to support this mission, on Saturday, July 22, a local committee is hosting ***Sowing Seeds of Mercy*** on the Allan & Connie Walter's farm, W4077 Heintown Road, Loyal, WI. For more information see the poster published in our newsletter or check out the following website.

<http://cclse.org/loyal-beyond-shelter/>

Do Justice - Love Kindness - Walk Humbly
Shift: Our Unfolding Story
55th Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

Wisconsin Conference UCC was held June 9-11 at Green Lake Conference Center. I represented our church as a delegate. This year's Annual Meeting continued to explore how we are SHIFTING from maintenance to mission. The conference attendees learned about new opportunities and new resources for growth and change in our congregations. Inspiring stories of faithful witness and ministry in the Wisconsin Conference were shared.

A new addition to Annual was the Share Fair. 21 Wisconsin congregations exhibited their inspiring stories of ministry. Attendees could talk with the people involved in innovative Ministries and learn how they got started, challenges they faced, where they found resources, what results they're seeing, and more. It was fun to gather fresh ideas for new ministries to bring back to our congregations. Connecting with folks to lend their experience is a good way for a congregation to take on a new initiative. I talked with Calvary UCC & Wilmot UMC Twin Lakes about their Angels Blankets of Caring ministry, Memorial UCC Fitchburg about their Dr. Who & Theology, First Congregational Genoa City- Free Community Meal, First Congregational UCC Waukesha - KickStart Cooking for kids and First Congregational UCC River Falls- Resource for biblical literacy.



I coordinated an informational / resource table for Lay Academy at the share fair. It was fun to have my Lay Academy colleagues share time working at the table.

My year 3 Lay Academy class received certificates for completion of 3 years of study. We were presented at the Saturday evening gathering. I will be continuing with year 4 in September. Thank you for your support. (Sue is 3rd from the right in the picture)

A resolution to become an Immigrant Welcoming Conference was introduced at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The vote to begin a year of study on this topic passed with strong support at the 2016 Annual meeting. 70 congregations were engaged in study throughout the year. The vote to formally adopt the resolution passed at 2017 Annual Meeting. The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ declares itself an “Immigrant Welcoming Conference” and that it encourages the development of policies dedicated to facilitating the respectful welcome and inclusion of all immigrants in Wisconsin.

We had inspiring new worship experiences this year. The Many is an indie folk/ gospel, liturgically- grounded, new kind of worship band. Gary Rand, Director Worship activities and professor of worship at McCormick Theological Seminary engaged us in worship through music and activities. Just a few of our worship leaders! Worship art by our conference art team was so creative and breath taking.

Thank you for sending me to Annual Meeting to represent our church. I always enjoy seeing friends and forming new friendships.

Grace and Peace,
Susan Vornholt

Pastor Jacoba’s Reflections on the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting 2017

I very enjoyed the speakers this year again. The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, President and General Minister of our Denomination brought a message of hope. John was my Association Minister when I was a pastor in St. Louis. Filled with compassion, John leads our denomination demanding justice for all who endure injustice. He reminds us to be the church God has called us to be – a church welcoming and affirming of all. John spoke of our white privilege and our need to address the injustice our privilege continues to cause to people of color. While many lament declining attendance and financial resources, Dorhauer reminded us of the particular ministry at the heart of who the UCC is. He encouraged to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit and to live into the hope of the gospel.

The Saturday morning speaker was Rev. Everett Mitchell, pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church and Dane County Circuit Court Judge. He was very engaging, speaking to us of race relations, telling stories from his work as a Circuit Court Judge and pastor. He encourages us to get to know people who are different from us. I am ready to take a group down to worship at his church in Madison!

Our Conference Minister, Rev. Franz Rigert also spoke twice. He spoke of his recent trip to the Middle East (with John Dorhauer) and he also encouraged to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance. He reminded us to wait for the Spirit’s leading as we move forward with hope.

I am told that the addresses by our speakers will be on line at wcucc.org in the near future.

I also want to thank Betty Opelt, Joy and Don Abel, Jim Sjolín and Donita Follen for together leading worship in my absence. Those who were present on the 11th heard a sermon very similar to the one we heard at the Annual Meeting by Franz Rigert. I have been attending Annual Conference Meetings for nearly forty years. I enjoy them and thank you for making it possible for me to attend.

In addition, I want to make you aware that the General Synod of the UCC takes place in Baltimore on June 30-July 4. Plenary sessions will be live-streamed on UCC.org. I will watch as much of it as my schedule allows. Worship services at Synod are always unique and creative with many languages and music from around the world. Check the schedule at ucc.org

Bazaar News

Remember your church bazaar while you are doing your spring cleaning. We are looking for the following items to create news items for sale:

- Old pails
- Pallets
- Old and/or new pine or barn boards
- Shutters
- Old wooden framed screen doors
- Old wooden framed windows(with or without the glass)
- Old wooden kitchen chairs
- Old milk cans
- Old wooden sleds
- Old license plates
- Any metal containers

If you have or know where we can obtain any of the above items to be donated, please contact Carla Marty at 715-937-0077 or Emile Miller at 715-937-4626

Thanks, and Happy Spring!

Have a GREAT July!