



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Neillsville, Wisconsin  
Church 715-743-2147  
Pastor Jacoba Koppert  
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117  
[www.neillsvilleucc.org](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)  
AUGUST 2017

*“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*

**Jacoba’s jottings...** Church and community partnership has been on my mind this summer. Father Steve Bryce, along with pastors from the ELCA, the United Methodist Church and the UCC worked together to put together a service of worship for the House of Mercy celebration. While we were doing that, another group was putting together the meal under Bonnie Weyer’s direction, others were fund raising and others were doing decorations, parking, layout of the building at the Connie and Allan Walter family farm. Businesses, Clark County churches, WEAU, local newspapers, and lots of people worked together to make “Sowing Seeds of Mercy, Hope for the Homeless” Event a success.



Working with partners is among the things we have talked about in our Weird Church: Welcome to the Twenty-first Century book study. Already we are partners with Feed My People, Cummins, Listeman Foundation, Neillsville Public Schools and many donors from UCC and community individuals and groups to make the Back-Pack ministry possible. Sending food home with school children every other weekend would not happen without our partners.

Another thing that came up in our discussions was having neighborhood block parties. Many of us don’t know our neighbors. We are also unaware of the needs of our neighbors, neighborhoods and community. Is there a neighbor who needs someone to notice if a light goes on or off in the living room, making sure that that person is still doing ok? Is there a safety concern in the neighborhood? Are there common concerns- speeding down the street, wondering if a neighbor is involved in drugs? Does someone need yard work done? Do other neighbors know who can be hired in the area?

The connection between my thoughts in this issue of *Jottings*, is are there areas where UCC can be a partner in our community? Block parties, conversations with our neighbors can make us aware of the needs and gifts of our community and then we can begin to find partners to respond to what our neighbors need.

The question of how to reach out to share God’s love with our neighbors can only be answered by knowing the needs and resources of our community. Are you willing to host a block party – to get to know your neighbors and ask what needs they notice in our community? If the church is to continue responding to the needs of this community –and UCC with the help of many partners does that well, we need to know what the needs are and what we can do together to make a difference. Fifty-eight families have asked for help since November of 2016 because they are homeless in Clark County. Who knew? To what other needs does UCC with partners have the ability to respond? Block parties are one way to learn those needs and the willingness of our neighbors to work together. Our Book Study Conversation suggested the Clark County Health Department’s survey done in 2014 as another resource.

Jesus sends his disciples out to do mission – heal the sick, raise the dead, throw out demons; his expectation is that his disciples will feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. We need to listen for the Holy Spirit’s guidance as to the ministries we are called to do and then find our partners so we can follow Jesus’ ways.

## **PASTOR JACOBA'S 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE**

We are keeping busy even in the summer... The Music Committee has put out flyers and ads seeking a new choir director. If anyone knows someone or suggestions ... please speak up. The Funeral Dinner Steering Committee has also been working hard. Emile Miller is taking the lead and doing a great job helping us figure out how to move forward. Please read her article and see how you can support this important ministry.

Plans are progressing to change Audrey and my email addresses. Watch for those changes and update your contacts. Technology changes often take more time than expected.



Again, we participated in VBS with Calvary. Attending from UCC were Dottie, Clayton, and Quinn joined by Lexi one day. I thought the program was good. The twenty to thirty kids each day really

enjoyed themselves. The young leaders from Luther Camp had lots of energy. There were no videos or characters or background scenes. The kids learned camp songs and heard Bible Stories. There were skits including Disney movie skits acted out by the leaders. There was a lot of running! Inside and outside! Tag and one game where we walked round and round Calvary's building hoping not to be caught moving by the leaders. The kids loved it. The time from 1-5pm just did not work for our families. The Christian Ed Board is already trying to figure out what would work for our families with young children.



The House of Mercy –Sowing Seeds of Mercy Event took a bit of my time. I was even interviewed on TV by Judy Clark (WEAU) here is the link if you want to see it.

<http://www.wEAU.com/content/misc/TODAY-INTERVIEW-Sowing-Seeds-of-MercyHope-for-the-Homeless-435623293.html>

Bonnie Weyer did a tremendous amount of work. A year ago, when we met together in our "SHiFT" meetings we said we wanted to be involved in the homeless shelter opening up in Loyal.

Bonnie made that happen. As part of our participation Bonnie with Carla Marty's help designed and sewed a banner to represent UCC. Where shall we hang it?



Bonnie also took pictures... one is of my Clark County UCC

colleagues with our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Rob MacDougall. Rev. Asafa is pastor at Greenwood and Owen and Rev. Doris Ruben is pastor at Dorchester and Stratford. Pastor Terry Hansen, not pictured, is the pastor of our Colby church.

## **Confirmation Classes**

I am aware of possibly eight students in Confirmation Class this year. I would like to meet with the students and their parents on Wednesday August 23 at 7:30 pm.

## **Continuing Education**

I am attending Weird Church Camp in Estes Park Colorado August 29-September 1. I will be meeting with the authors of the book, Weird Church and clergy from around the country to talk about church, ministry and mission in the coming decades. I decided to drive to Estes Park and on the way, I am going to stay at a retreat center Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. I am interested in learning more about Native Americans; my particular interest has to do with the effect of the boarding schools, such as the one we had in Neillsville the lives of Native Americans today. As with many things, we would not do today what was acceptable years ago. I want to learn more.



## August Newsletter 2017

Hi Everyone,

Here we are heading right into August next week. Wow, has this summer gone fast. It's time to begin thinking about our fall programs. But first we do still have August to look forward to. It seems like all the Vradenburg's are doing is mowing lawn. I believe this has been the wettest summer we have had in many years and does the grass ever grow fast because of it! July was pretty busy here at our church. VBS took place at Calvary Lutheran, July 10-July 13 this year. Our number of kids attending was down. I think mostly it was due to the time it was held this year. 1:00-5:00 p.m. A lot of our moms work and live out of town, making it a lot harder to get their kids here. I think the later time works better for our kids? We had Gordon Vine's funeral this month, on Saturday, July 15 and the fundraiser for the House of Mercy was held on Saturday, July 22 with great success due to the hard work of Bonnie Weyer and her co-workers. The big thing for me in August is the Clark County Fair. I have been working in the Dairy Bar for many years there and this year Arlene Stark and I will again be there. Hope you stop by and see us. Our Church service will be held on Sunday, August 13. We will again share with Calvary Lutheran. Pastor Chad and Pastor Jacoba will lead the service. This service will begin at 9:00 a.m. Our board meetings will begin August 15. 5:30 p.m. Trustees; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Deacons & Deaconesses; Church Council at 7:30 p.m. This is a good sign that summer is ending when the board meetings begin. Pastor Jacoba will be Continuing Education time beginning on August 24. She will return on September 2.

*See you in church! – Audrey*

## Sunday Volunteers for August

### Acolytes

#### Sunday, August 6

Dayne Loberg  
Mackenzie Hediger

#### Sunday, August 13

Karsen Czarnecki  
Paige Voigt

#### Sunday, August 20

Bryce Erickson  
Parker Voigt

## (Acolytes continued)

### Sunday, August 27

Alex Northup  
Logan Erickson

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

Our Acolytes are a very important part of our worship service and we thank you for your help. **Note:** This fall our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be in Confirmation and we will need some more of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to help with Acolyting. We would like to teach the following kids: Brody Bergemann, Sydney Subke, Macci Elmhurst, 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 August

#### Sunday August 6 & 13

(August 13 – Fair Sunday)

Don Abel, Ray Weyer,  
Mike Perk, Wayne Voss (Wayne will not be able to usher on the 13- we will need a volunteer)

#### Sunday, August 20 & 27

Don Quicker, Dale Opelt  
John Vornholt, Jim Sjolin

**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 August

### Sunday, August 6

Russ & Susie Karl

### Sunday, August 13 (Fair Sunday)

Joe & Deb Holman

### Sunday, August 20

Wayne & Jo Anne Voss

### Sunday, August 27

Butch & Kathy Carl

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

It looks like we have some volunteers signed up for a couple of Sundays in August. Sunday, August 6 Betty Opelt has signed up and on Sunday, August 27 Karen Mohr has signed up...always looking for volunteers to work with our signed up. (Nice to have two families.) Fair Sunday, August 13 – we need some people to donate bars for the coffee/fellowship following the fair service. Bring your bars to the church on Thursday (store in refrigerator;) Circle of Friends will be here at noon for their picnic and the east door downstairs will be open or bring them directly to the fair service on Sunday.

**Note:** Bonnie Weyer has volunteered to pick up donuts from the bakery in Loyal for the Coffee Hour for the Sunday's we have no volunteers. 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 look and see if you can sign up for a Sunday beginning in September through January 2018. Thank you.

## Communion Assignments

### Communion - Sunday, August 6 – Pews

**Team 2:** Janice Miller, Marge Goetsch, Wayne Voss, Jake Ratsch, Karlene Wallace

**Bread:** Jake Ratsch

## Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for the Month of August

### Sunday, August 6

Karlene Wallace.....715-743-6723

### Sunday, August 13

Ben Wilson.....715-937-2929

### Sunday, August 20

Sue Vornholt.....715-797-4031

### Sunday, August 27

Wayne Voss.....715-937-3072

## Facts & Figures

### Attendance

Sunday, June 25.....57

July 2.....60

July 16.....69

July 23.....53

July 30

## Offerings

### Sunday, June 25

General Offering.....\$2205.00

Strengthen the Church Offering.....25.00

### Sunday, July 2

General Offering.....\$1265.00

Strengthen the Church Offering.....10.00

### Sunday, July 9

General Offering.....\$1995.00

Gordon Vine/Memorial Fund.....45.00

### Sunday, July 16

General

Offering.....\$1368.00

VBS.....25.00

### Sunday, July 23

General Offering.....\$2324.00

Advertising Fund.....50.00

July 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, July 2* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, July 9* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker for the church family.

On *Sunday, July 16* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, July 23* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was again given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

And on *Sunday, July 30* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service will be given by Doris Bakker.

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

**TAKE NOTE!**  
**WE NEED 2018 RADIO SPONSORSHIPS PLEASE SIGN-UP NOW. THANK YOU!**  
**Give me a call to set up a date. (Especially if you want a special date.) The cost is the same as last year: \$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.

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. *August 17* 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*

## **Circle of Friends News**

The Circle of Friends will be gathering in August for their Annual Summer Picnic. The date is Thursday, August 10. They will meet here at the church at noon. Bring a dish to pass and come and join them!

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.



### **With Sympathy**

Delores Harwick, age 89 died June 27 at the House of the Dove in Marshfield. Delores was a member of the United Church of Christ. She has

lived in Marshfield with her daughter for many years due to ill health. Many of you will remember her as the sister of Gilbert Staffon and sister, Joann Lynch. Private graveside service will be held at a future date. Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Delores Harwick.

Gordon Vine, age 93 died on Monday, July 3 at his home in the care of family and hospice. Gordon was a longtime member of the United Church of Christ. He served on many boards and committees in our church through the years. Gordon enjoy life belonging to many organizations, the country club, hunting, card games and even wrote several books in his lifetime. Funeral services were held here at the United Church of Christ on Saturday, July 8 with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Gordon will be missed by his family and friends. Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Gordon Vine.

**George Rizner Death** - Pastor Jacoba officiated at a private memorial service for George Rizner, age 94. George was the brother-in-law to Irma Rizner and uncle of Elsbeth Johnson. He was preceded in death by his brother, Bill Rizner and many other brothers and sisters. Our deepest sympathy to Irma and Elsbeth and family and friends of George Rizner.



### **August Birthdays**

- 1- Ruth Schmidt  
Sue Voigt
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Jerry Johnson  
Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
- 8- Sydney Subke
- 11- Jessica Fitzl  
Alexis Bergemann  
Quinn Sexauer
- 17- Bill Sisson
- 18- Jameson Bennett
- 19- Ben Mathis
- 21- Pat Wall  
Karen Mohr
- 23- Cole Hediger  
Craig Heck
- 27- Cody Northup  
Kathy Marshall
- 28- Sandra Bieneck
- 29- Nancy Boon  
James Repinski  
Cassie Suda

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



### **August Wedding Anniversaries**

- 9- Wendell & Linette Kuhn
- 11- Howard & Kathy Mathis
- 13- Marilyn & Robert Marty
- 14- Bob & Lorraine Shaw
- 14- Mike & Deb Perkl
- 15- Paul & Sandra Schmidt
- 18- Francis 'Butch' & Kathy Carl
- 19- Jim & Karen Mohr (50<sup>th</sup>)

**(August Wedding Anniversaries continued)**

- 20-Barb & Steve Miller
- 22-Kellie Murphy & Neil Czarnecki
- 22-Craig & Stephanie Heck
- 28-Sandra & Roy Bieneck
- 28-Jerry & Judith Quicker
- 29-Cynthia & Nathaniel Craig
- 30- Jessica & Kent Fitzl
- 30- Wallace & Pat Garbisch

***Happy Anniversary! Did we miss your Wedding Anniversary? Let us know if we did.***

**Bazaar News**

Remember your church bazaar while you are cleaning this summer. We are looking for the following things (see list) so that we may create some special craft items to sell at our Holiday Fair in November.

- Old pails
- Pallets
- Old and/or new pine 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 old metal containers

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

***“New to You Treasure’s” from Wendy Sigurdson***

We are still taking gently used items for our church bazaar. If you have any items to donate please bring them in now. If you would like us to pick up your donations call Wendy at 715-743-6138 or Audrey at the office 715-743-2147. This is one of the “favorite shops” at our Holiday Fair in November and everyone looks forward to browsing

and purchasing items for our little store. Thank you for your help.

***Blessings Wendy***



**Thank You Dale Opelt**

Did you know that Dale Opelt comes with his truck here to the church and loads up all those aluminum cans that are collected in our fenced in area in back of the church and takes them to the recycling center? We netted \$48.00 this trip. Thank you Dale we know this is a sticky/dirty job. We do know that Betty helps him too! Thank you both. Thank you to those of you that bring your cans here.

***Thanks from Bonnie Weyer –***

Dear Members of Neillsville UCC,  
I would like to thank you for your contributions to the House of Mercy. Pastor Jacoba’s leadership on the committee, money, and food donated made this fundraiser a great success. Our church not only talks about mission we live it.

You helped make a big impact in our community.

***Blessings, Bonnie Weyer***

**Funeral Lunch Information –**

On page 8 & 9 of the Newsletter you will find Emile Miller’s report on Funeral Lunches at Neillsville UCC. There are many places you will be able to help out. Please let us know if we can add your name to any of the job descriptions. Thank you.

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Fest**

**When: Sunday, September 10**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Where: Clark County Rehab**

**& Living Center, Owen, WI**

**Enjoy an afternoon of great food-serving pulled pork sandwich plates or hotdog plates, live music, activities for the kids and raffles. All proceeds go to further develop CCRLC’s Memorial Park.**

## **Funeral Luncheons Held at Neillsville UCC report by Emile Miller 715-937-4626**

**emilejmiller@yahoo.com**

With Betty retiring her apron in handling the whole funeral luncheon operation (coordinating, preparation, and clean up), we are going to catering meals for funerals with the families selecting from one of the following four (4) choices. (Information on costs/etc. will be available when needed)

- Gordy's of Neillsville
- Hansen's IGA of Neillsville
- M & M Catering of Neillsville
- Roger's Grocery of Granton

Church members will still donate bars, cakes, and/or Jell-O salads for church funerals, except if the family chooses M & M Catering, they will supply the complete meal.

Kathy Mathis, Barb Petkovsek and I (Emile Miller) have agreed to be co-coordinators.

We are in hopes of not having the same people working at each funeral, but looking at maybe having two to three (2-3) from each team. If you would like to be on a team listed below, contact Emile

### **UCC Funeral Teams**

#### **Calling Tree Team**

Members of this team will be calling church members asking for a donation of bars, cakes, and/or Jell-O salads.

- Carla Marty, Chairman
- Audrey Vradenburg
- Carole Romans
- Michelle Grap
- Tammy Loberg
- Joy Abel
- 

#### **Setting Tables Team**

Members of this team will be setting the tables with placemats, napkins, silverware, salt and pepper shakers, creamers, coffee cups, and water cups.

- Betty Opelt, Chairman
- Francis Short
- Donita Follen
- Doris Bakker

#### **Preparing Food Team**

Members of this team will be cutting up the bars and/or cakes, getting water pitchers filled, and making coffee.

- Susie Karl, Chairman
- Arlene Stark
- Donita Follen
- Karlene Wallace



### Waitress/Waiter Team

Members of this team will be serving coffee and/or milk and clearing off the tables.

Emile Miller

Jo Ann Voss

Janet Meredith

Deb Holman

### Clean Up Team

Members of this team will be washing (using the dishwasher) and drying dishes; mainly working in the kitchen.

Mike Perkl, Chairman

- Jim Sjolín
- Bob Petkovsek
- Hap Eddy
- Don Abel
- Paul Schmidt
- Joe Holman

### Anywhere Needed Team

Kathy Carl

Kathy Mathis

Janice Miller

Cheryl Steinbach

Doris Bakker

Betty Opelt

Krista Hamm

Carole Romens

Our caretaker, Jim Vradenburg will set up extra tables and chairs, if needed, in the classrooms.

Thanks to all that have responded to my texts and phone calls and your willingness to be a steward for your church.

# August 2017

August 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10 am Funeral Luncheon Committee meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 am Worship Communion (Pews) Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neillsville Retirement 7:30 pm Weird Church Book Study	<b>7</b> 6:30-7:30 Nar-Anon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 12 Noon Circle of Friends Annual Picnic  Clark County Fair	<b>11</b>  Clark County Fair	<b>12</b>  Clark County Fair
<b>13</b> 9 am Worship Service At Clark County Fair – WCCN Tent – Fellowship Coffee Time following 7:30 Weird Church Book Study	<b>14</b> 6:30-7:30 Nar-Anon	<b>15</b> 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacons/Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:30-11:30 am Memory Café	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9 am Worship Service Fellowship/Coffee Hour 7:30 Weird Church Book Study	<b>21</b> 6:30-7:30 Nar-Anon Newsletter Week	<b>22</b> 2:30 pm Neillsville Care & Rehab Service – Pastor Jacoba leading	<b>23</b> Confirmation meeting with parents – 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Pastor Jacoba leaving Continuing Ed	<b>25</b> Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed	<b>26</b> Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed
<b>27</b> 9 am Worship Pastor James Mohr Fellowship/Coffee Hour Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed	<b>28</b> 6:30-7:30 Nar-Anon  Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed	<b>29</b>  Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed	<b>30</b>  Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed	<b>31</b>  Pastor Jacoba Continuing Ed		

