

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

www.neillsvilleucc.org

October 2017

"Those who wait for the Lord, shall renew their strength" Isaiah 40:31

Jacoba's jottings... As most of you are aware, I traveled to Colorado last month for a continuing Education event. expecting to discuss the book, Weird Church. There was little discussion of what we read; instead we experienced what the book recommends. Meeting in deep listening groups, we waited for the Holy Spirit to guide our conversations. It was a powerful experience as we discussed our ministries and our lives as pastors. In our groups we centered ourselves, and allowed silence before and after speaking. We learned again that those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength and be led by the Holy Spirit.



Estes Park

While, my small group didn't talk so much about our "weird" ministries, I did hear about what pastors were doing across the US. I was most touched by ministry taking place in Toledo, Ohio. Eleven years ago, Steve moved his young family to Toledo. He did not serve a church, but instead walked in the city, listening to people he encountered and their needs. He realized the folks on the street needed medical care and so bought a bus, transformed it into a moveable

Labyrinth at YMCA Camp in medical clinic, sought out Medical Students and together they offered medical care. Each Saturday, he and others take sandwiches, a bag of chips in a lunch bag and while passing them out are open to conversation if the person wants to talk. The first

Saturday of the month, Steve opens his home to anyone who wants to come for supper and then they have an open microphone. Some people tell stories, some share poems, some songs. The evening goes on until the last person leaves; then Steve straightens up his house again. I asked about theft – Steve says, yes, some folk do steal – adding, anytime we are generous, we can expect some will take advantage of the situation. I asked about

funding for his ministry – he works part time jobs; a few friends offer donations. He is now serving half time in a traditional church. Soon he will begin a new church start, building on relationships he has taken eleven years to form.... They that wait upon the Lord...

I continue to wonder where God is calling us. And honestly, listening for the Spirit is not for your pastor to do alone. We need as a congregation to do that. What I also learned in listening to my colleagues and what we read in the book, is that we need to listen to the community where we live. What are our needs? What are our resources and with whom can we partner? We have some



YMCA Camp at Estes Park. CO

ideas already percolating; we have some folks listening to the needs and resources of the community. As we continue to do these things, we need to be listening for our Still-Speaking God. Will you pray with me, asking God to guide our ministry?

PASTOR 2nd JACOBA'S PAGE CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes have begun. We have six students and mentors: Dayne Loberg, (Carole Romens), Karsen Czarnecki (Don Abel), Tye Kranz (Jim Filitz), Santana Subke (Tim Voigt), Mackenzie Keller (Sue Vornholt), and Mason Roenz (Russ Karl). In addition,



we have four teaching assistants: Larry Marshall, Jim Sjolin, Don Abel and Mike Perkl. Thank you, folks for your help in guiding these young people in a faith that will support them throughout their lives.

We are using a new curriculum, re:form. It begins



with a study about the Bible. The first session was "Who Wrote the Bible, God or Humans?" – the confirmands appreciated a definition of inspired (breathed in -as in God breathes in). The second lesson was "Is the Bible True?" The third lesson is "Why Does the Bible Contradict Itself at Times?". We have

had some interesting conversations and activities as we wrestle with these questions.

Because we have a number of adults working with me, these conversations have also taken place outside of class among the adults. We have had interesting conversations. I invite you to consider what you believe regarding the Bible too. I have wondered if there are some adults who want to look at the videos and discuss the questions in a fourweek session.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

I received a letter from Prison Fellowship Ministries this month informing us that in 1982 they

had trademarked and federally registered the name "Angel Tree" We either need to stop using that name or join their ministry (or face legal action). I contacted Stacy who told me that the official name according to the bylaws of our ministry is "Christmas Angel Project". We must now use that name. I have had some trouble keeping the name straight in my head – so noticed the first letters spell CAP. I don't intend for us to use CAP as a shorthand name – but it does help me to remember the order of the words in the name. Remembering this name is important. We must make this change

in all our publications and in our conversations in the community. Please help share the official name of our ministry "Christmas Angel Project" whenever you have the opportunity.

HOLY SPIRIT – SERMON SERIES

Folks tell me all the time, Pastor I know who God is, I know Jesus, but I just don't get the who and what of the Holy Spirit. I feel called to preach some sermons and maybe lead a Bible Study on the Holy Spirit and will do that in the month of October. Tell me what you want to know. Name your questions and I will attempt to respond on Sunday mornings.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY -AND CHICKEN DINNER October 1

We will serve communion in the pews so that we might all eat and drink as one people. Again we will have a variety of breads from other nations. Join us. The worship service will be followed by our Potluck Dinner with the grilled chicken prepared by the UCC Men's Club. Bring a side dish or dessert, your place setting and enjoy fellowship around the table.

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses on the doors of the Wittenberg Church. His actions laid the groundwork of the Reformation of the Catholic Church. Pastor Jim Mohr and I will help our congregation celebrate this important even in church history during worship on October 29.

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS FALL CLEANUP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

The Confirmation Class and CDs will again participate in leaf raking for older adults in Neillsville. Recently, we have also had a number of our adults help with the project and driving the youth from place to place. Bring your rakes – tarps, and leaf blowers if you have them and can help. Those who need our assistance are asked to contact Judy Morrow at (715) 743-2885.

This fall UCC is again hosting all the groups who will participate. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 am and lunch is often also offered at UCC. My hunch is Betty Opelt would appreciate hearing from anyone who can assist.

October Newsletter 2017

Hi Everyone,

Where did September go? I can't believe we are in the last week of my favorite month. Thank you everyone for the birthday cards. I had a great birthday. Family and friends are so good to me. I got to go to the Marshfield fair this month and enjoyed a couple of concerts and had some good fair food including a cranberry cream puff. I also got to go to the Cranberry Fest in Warrens. It was HOT! 92 degrees; we got there at 6:30 a.m. and it was not to bad then but by 10:30 a.m. it was too hot to stay. I ended up at Wal Mart where it was nice and cool and then we treated ourselves to a Culvers "turtle sundae." I hear that a lot of you are happy that we are back to our 10:00 a.m. worship time. That's good! CD's, Confirmation and Sunday School have all started and the church is full of activity again. October starts out with World Communion Sunday, October 1, our Neighbors in Need special offering and then following worship service our ANNUAL POTLUCK CHURCH PICNIC will take place. The UCC Men's Club will be furnishing the grilled chicken and the rest us will be bringing a dish to pass. We hope you come and enjoy some good food and fellowship!

See you in church! – Audrey

Sunday Volunteers for October

Acolytes

Sunday, October 1

Parker Voigt Logan Erickson

Sunday, October 8

Bryce Erickson Alex Northup

Sunday, October 15

Mackenzie Hediger Paige Voigt

Sunday, October 22

Parker Voigt Logan Erickson

Sunday, October 29

Bryce Erickson Alex Northup

(Acolytes continued)

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

Our Acolyters are a very important part of our worship service and we thank you for your help. **Note**: We are still looking to train some more 4th,5th, 6th and 7th graders to help with Acolyting. We would like to teach the following kids: Haylee Erickson, Colton Williams, Reese Ziegler, Brody Bergemann, Sydney Subke, Dante Erickson, Cali Moseid, Jada Gurney 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 with this? Contact the church office, 715-743-2147.

Ushers for October

Sunday, October 1 & 8

Dave Steiger, Phil Follen (we need 2 more volunteer)

Sunday, October 15 & 22

Hap Eddy, Travis Vine Allan Hoesly, Jerry Quicker

Sunday's October 29 & November 5

Mark Brunette, Neil Armitage Craig Sigurdson, Tom Barr

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 October | Facts & Figures | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Sunday, October 1 | | | |
| | Attendance Sunday August 27 52 | | |
| Sandra Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann | Sunday, August 27 | | |
| Sunday, October 8 Neil & Corinne Armitage | Sunday, September 3 | | |
| ĕ | Sunday, September 17. | | |
| Sunday, October 15 | Sunday, September 1794 | | |
| Cris & Lisa Hediger | Sunday, September 24 | | |
| Sunday, October 22 | O 00 1 | | |
| Darlene Mueller & Fran Ormond | <u>Offerings</u> | | |
| Sunday, October 29 | Sunday, August 27 | | |
| Nancy Boon & Glenna Rhoades Marg | General Offering\$2120.00 | | |
| It is always nice to have a warm welcome to our | Sunday, September 3 | | |
| church when you walk in the door. Thank you for | General Offering\$1492.00 | | |
| serving as a greeter. If you are unable to greet, | PEO (use of church) General Offering200.00 | | |
| please contact the church office. Thank you. | Radio Fund. 825.00 | | |
| | Hurricane Donations. 1425.00 | | |
| Coffee Hour | | | |
| We are looking for volunteers to sign-up for Sunday | Sunday, September 10 | | |
| October 8 and 15. (Really nice to have two family's | General Offering. \$2044.00 | | |
| sign-up per Sunday.) | Dump the Debt (General Offering)500.00 | | |
| Sunday, October 1 - Annual Church Picnic | Advertising Fund | | |
| Sunday, October 22 – Stewardship Committee | Hurricane Donations | | |
| Sunday, October 29 – Deacon/Deaconesses | Transcand Donations | | |
| builday, October 25 | Sunday Sentember 17 | | |
| The volunteer server list is on the bulletin board – | Sunday, September 17 General Offering\$3607.00 | | |
| please look and see if you can help us out by | Dump the Debt | | |
| volunteering a Sunday. Thank you for helping out! | Radio Fund | | |
| volunteering a Sunday. Thank you for helping out: | | | |
| C | Confirmation | | |
| Communion Assignments | Hurricane Donations | | |
| World Communion Sunday, October 1 | G . 1. G. 4 1 24 | | |
| (Intinction) Team 2 – Janice Miller, Wayne Voss, | Sunday, September 24 | | |
| Jake Ratsch, Karlene Wallace | General Offering\$3263.00 | | |
| Bread: Sue Vornholt & Wayne Voss | Radio Fund | | |
| | Quilters (use of church) General Offering 180.00 | | |
| Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for the | Hurricane Donations | | |
| Month of October | | | |
| Sunday, October 1 | September Automatic Giving\$2145.00 | | |
| Jake Ratsch715-937-1612 | | | |
| Sunday, October 8 | Automatic Giving | | |
| Betty Barr715-743-3283 | Are you interested in giving to your church by | | |
| Sunday, October 15 | "Automatic Giving?" If you are – stop by the | | |
| Karlene Wallace715-743-6723 | church office and we will get you set up. We have | | |
| Sunday, October 22 | quite a few people that give this way. It is a good | | |
| Ben Wilson | way to keep up your "faith promise." Check it out. | | |
| DOII W 115011 | , to theep up your jumit promises theen a out | | |

Sunday, October 29
Sue Vornholt.....715-797-4031



Radio Broadcast Sponsors

On *Sunday*, *September 3* the radio broadcast portion of

our worship service today is given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, September 10* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades Marg in honor of the Rhoades/Marg families.

On *Sunday, September 17* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Dolores Johnson in loving memory of her sister, Erma.

And on *Sunday, September 24* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Ruby Ambelang in memory of her husband, Harry and brothers, Don and Hap.

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

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

TAKE NOTE!

WE NEED 2018 RADIO SPONSORSHIPS PLEASE SIGN-UP NOW. THANK YOU! Give me a call to set up a date. The cost is the same as last year: \$75.00 full broadcast- \$37.50 Half – \$25.00. third.

We still have many dates to fill (see list) – Please take a look and see if there is a date you can sponsor:

January – 7, 14 March – 4, 18, 25

April – 8, 22, 29

May - 6, 13

June - 10

July - 1, (Half) 8, 15, 22, 29

(dates continued)

August – 5, 19 September – 2, 9, 30 October – 7, 21, 28 November 4, 11, 18 December – 9, 16

If we want to continue our radio ministry we need to fill up these dates before the end of the year. (This is not a budgeted item so monies for these broadcasts must be in by the end of 2017) Thank you to those that continue to support this important ministry of our church.

Update on three of our members

New addresses:

Ruth Van Gorden

Clark County Rehabilitation Living Center W4266 County Hwy. X Owen, WI 54460

Arlene Kernz

Neillsville Care & Rehabilitation 216 Sunset Place Rm. 313 Neillsville, WI 54456

Joyce Johnson (715-238-7420) N4083 Cty. Hwy. W Granton, WI 354436 (Joyce is back home)

Visits and cards would be appreciated by Ruth, Arlene and Joyce.

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

<u>Food Pantry</u> - The food donations and non-perishable items will be taken to the Neillsville food pantry this month. Bring your donations – ALL food pantries are in need of food and non-perishable items - Next month items will be taken to Loyal Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!

Back Pack Program - Now that school has started the "Back Pack" program has resumed. 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 gettogether 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. October 19 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 Perkl 715-743-4047

<u>Mission Committee</u>: Cheryl Steinbach, Sue Gurney, Deb Perkl, Carole Romens, Kathy Mathis, Tim Voigt

Circle of Friends News

The next meeting of the Circle of Friends will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m. Remember anyone is welcome to come to this meeting. Come and join them. Also, if you would like to help out with recycling cards they are always looking for extra help. Check with Darlene and she will tell you what day and time to be there.

(Circle of Friends continued)

Note when buying cards - 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!

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.

CHOIR MEMBERS

TAKE NOTE: We will be meeting for practice on Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m. Men and women are both needed. High School students can also join. If you like to sing....come and join us. We NEED you!



Congratulations To.....

On Saturday, September 23 here at the United Chruch of Christ the wedding of Mitchell Erickson and Casidhe Suda was performed by Pastor Jacoba Koppert. We want to congratulate Mitchell and Cassie and

wish them God's Blessing on their marriage.

Second Half Group On Tuesday, October 17 the Second Half Group will meet at 12:00 noon. We will begin with a M&M catered lunch. \$7.50 (plus tax) payable at the meeting. Following the lunch Ryan Neville CEO of Memorial Medical Center will present a program on the proposed new hospital that is being planned here in Neillsville. Sign-up on the bulletin board if you plan on coming. All are invited to come! Bring a friend!



World Communion Sunday October 1 and Neighbors in Need special Offering

Stewardship Sunday is coming soon!!!

Stewardship Sunday will be celebrated this year on Sunday, October 22. This year's theme, "**Journey to Generosity ~ The Way of Jesus**" takes shape from this passage in Matthew 9:35-10:23, when Jesus said to his disciples:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few: therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

If we relate this passage to our lives as Christians in a faith community, it's easy to see that the plentiful harvest is God's blessings and we are the laborers. God expects us to give our time, talent and treasure to help gather the bounty and share it with our church community, and the world. **God expects us to be generous because God is generous**. This is the very essence of making a stewardship commitment.

In the coming weeks we will have several members of the congregation speaking to us during worship about their personal journey to generosity. We encourage you to think about your own journey and how your generosity helps the church and its mission.

Soon you will be receiving a packet in the mail urging you to consider your financial donation for the coming year. We are so fortunate to have an active church and congregation that does many wonderful things for our members and the community. However we need your support to continue doing these important things, to keep our building up and running, to support our congregation and to undertake new missions that need our help. Our church offers several ways in which you can make donations: weekly offering envelopes, monthly automatic giving, bill pay through your checking account, proceeds from stocks, special donations for specific causes, or wills and trust, etc. If you would like more information regarding any of these methods feel free to contact a Stewardship committee member or speak with Audrey in the office.

Please take some time to pray about what you can give, fill out the Faith Promise card that will be in the packet mailed to you and plan on attending church on October 22 when our Faith Promise cards will be received and dedicated. We will also be serving a light soup luncheon following the service. We hope you can join us in this important time of fellowship.

Faithfully Yours,

The Stewardship Committee



October Birthdays

- 1- Kayla Ratsch
- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Mickey Marty Alex Northup Tammy Holm

7- Brian Eddy Hannah Raine Corliss Fields

10-Luke Erickson

11-Tim Voigt

12-Clarissa Rochester

16-Avery Marshall

17-Dante Erickson

19-Todd Averill

21-Dolores Johnson Marian Vornholt

22-Brenda Wilson

24-Susie Gall

25-Natalie Hauge David Harnisch

26-Kim Stetzer

30-Derek Zschernitz

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



October Anniversaries

4- Jim & Rosie Repinski

4- Michelle & John Bergemann

7- Fred & Dixie Hediger

7- Joe & Deb Holman

8-Darwin & Ruth Zweg

9-Clinton & Julie Woods

13-Randy & Natalie Hauge

14-David & Karen Northup

16-Tim & Sue Voigt

17-Kevin & Jenny Romens Erickson

19-Gary & Christy Anding

22-Amber & Michael Vine

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

Stewardship News

"Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering"
Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

This **Sunday, October 1** we will be receiving this special Neighbors in Need offering. Look for the special offering envelopes in the pew racks. Please give generously. Thank you for your support.

Bazaar News "Holiday Fair" Saturday,

November 11 - We sure hope you crafters have been working on some crafty items to donate to our 'Holiday Fair.' You know it's not only crafts; knitting, crocheted items, baked goods, candies etc. are also needed. If you have any questions contact Carla Marty at 715-937-0077 or Emile Miller at 715-937-4626.

"New to You Treasure's" We are still taking gently used items for our church bazaar. (Sunday, October 29 is the deadline for donated items) 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. Remember Wendy will need lots of HELP! HELP! When it comes time to clean, price and set up. Thank you for your generous donations!

Still Shifting After 500 Years: The Reformation for Today Saturday, October, 28 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (Lunch Included)

Join us in commemorating the Reformation as we hear from two scholars on the relevance of the 16th century Reformation on our 21st century lives.

Morning – Professor Lee Palmer Wandel, (UW-Madison) offers a new understanding of the event which split apart Christianity.

Afternoon – Margaret Bendroth, Executive Director of Congregation Library in Boston – speaks about the importance of understanding the past for a "Still Speaking" church.

Where: Wisconsin Conference Trost Center,

4459 Gray Rd., DeForest, WI 53532

(608) 846-7880 Cost: \$20.00

Register: www.wcucc.org

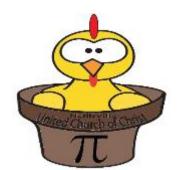
More information is on the WI Conference Website

Campital Campaign Fund Raiser – It is that time of the year again!

We have raised \$5,000 for our 2016 commitment to the Campital Campaign. We are committed to raising \$5,000 for 2017. This is our only fundraiser for the Campital Campaign. These monies will be used to refurbish the UCC camps here in Wisconsin. Our goal is to raise \$5000.00 per year for 3 years. We are working our way to this year's total plus more if we can do so. We are also accepting money donations. As usual if you write out a check please designate on the memo line "Campital Campaign." campaign. This year we are offering vegetable/meat pies and just meat pies. The cost of a pie is \$15.00. Pie orders will begin Sunday, November 5 and run to the 12th. Pick up will be Sunday, November 19. Volunteers are needed November 13-15. Signup will be posted on the bulletin board.

Campital Campaign Committee:

Bonnie Weyer, Hannah Erickson, Marge Goetsch, Sue Vornholt



October 2017

| Sep 2017 | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|-----|---|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| | 2 | | 4 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 7 p.m. Sr. Choir practice | 5 | 6 | 7 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast 11 am Iris Gerger Memorial Service | |
| 8 9 am Sunday | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | |
| School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neills. Retirement Comunity | 6:30-7:30 pm Nar- Anon | 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at UCC | 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmaton 7 p.m. Sr. Choir practice | 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting | | | |
| 15 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour Following worship | 16 6:30-7:30 pm Nar- Anon | 17 12 Noon- 2 nd Half Ryan Neville - Memorial Medical Center – speaker 5:30 pm Trustees meet 6:30 pm D & D meet 7:30 pm Church Council meets | 18 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 7 p.m. Sr. Choir practice | 19 10:30-11:30 am Memory Café meets here at UCC | 20 | 21 | |
| 22 Stewardship Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Congregational Quarterly Meeting following worship | 6:30-7:30 pm Nar- Anon Newsletter Week | 24 | 25 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmaton 7 p.m. Sr. Choir practice | 26 | 27 | 28 Interfaith Care Givers Fall Clean-Up meet at UCC 8 a.m. | |
| 29 Reformation Sunday 9 am Sunday 10 am Worship Pastor Jacoba & Pastor Jim Leading service – 500 th Ann. Of the Reformation Fellowship/Coffee Hour | 30 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon | 31 | | | | | |