

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

January 2018

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.” Psalm 90:1

Jacoba's jottings... Where do you dwell? I don't mean your address. I mean where is your spirit and where is your head? I read a Still-Speaking Devotion by Marchaé Grair back in November and I keep going back to it because the way she asked the question hit home for me. I know the places where I dwell – and some of them could be better places. (Again, I am not talking about my address here in Neillsville – I like where I live and work.) However, at times I dwell in places where I am hard on myself, but don't do what would make me feel better about myself. Sometimes, I know what I need to do to break a habit, but then when I feel lonely or stressed, I return to the very thing I do not want to do.

Sometimes the places where we dwell are not healthy for us. Maybe we have stayed too long in an unhealthy relationship or at a job that just was not good for our wellbeing. We keep hoping “things will get better” – even praying that it would get better, but truth is, it did not. Marchaé Grair writes, “Too often we dwell in unhealthy habits, people, or places when we should really be dwelling in the promises of God.”

God wants what is good for us (and the world.) Grair asks what if we quit calling on God to save us as we dwell in places we shouldn't and instead ask God to help us move into new dwelling places. A home I visited had a big white board with the family schedule for the month and a spot for prayer reminders. At this home, the prayer named was “weight” ... I asked about that... he responded it was not that he expected God to increase his weight – but when he prayed to God he dwelled in God's presence, and trusting God, he listened more carefully to how God was encouraging and leading him to dwell in a new place.

In the New Year, some of us want to make changes. However, many of us soon go back to our old dwelling places, old habits or continue to dwell in dysfunctional places in spite of wanting to move on. Maybe it is because we neglect to ask God if where we are living is where God wants us to be. Maybe we ask God to help us where we are instead of asking God to make us bold enough to move to places that are better for us and our mind, body and spirit.

God wants what is good for us; God wants to be our dwelling place. God's dwelling places are good.

Let's move to God's dwelling rather than living in places where we hurt, are hurt or are unhappy. God in Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly. (John 10:10); Jesus also says he wants us to have his joy within us. (John 15:11). So where would you like to dwell?

Happy New Year!

PASTOR 2nd JACOBA'S PAGE

It seemed Christmas came faster than usual. Shoppers did not feel it, but the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Christmas Eve made it feel like we only had three Sundays before Christmas. The Choir sang three of the four Sundays of Advent. Thank you, Choir, Roni (who has been directing) Karen and Deon who returned to play for the choir and the 7:30 Christmas Eve Service. Eileen has also been busy at the organ and piano this season – playing the second, fourth, and the 4:30 Christmas Eve Service.

Deon reprogrammed our Bells for Christmas again. We received a note of appreciation from one of our Park Street neighbors who wrote how the bells remind her to pray.

The Children's Christmas program was great. You can see it on our Closed Facebook page and on our Website – neillsvilleucc.org The children acted out the Christmas story with Reese and Colton as



narrators. We had twenty children involved in the program.

Each Sunday in Advent one of our families lit the Advent Candles: Scott and Jill Williams and their sons, Chad and Lacey Erickson with their children, Destini and Michael Sexauer with their two children and Travis and Ashley Vine with their two daughters and baby boy. At the Family Christmas Eve Service Jenna and Josh Ziegler lit the candles with their three children and Hannah and Jason Raine with their two sons and two daughters (while the new baby stayed at home with a Grandpa) lit the candles.

The Confirmation Class members also read scripture during several of the services – Mackenzie (and mentor Sue Vornholt), Mason (and mentors, Russell and Susie Karl) Karsen, Tye (and mentor Jim Filitz) and Dayne on Christmas Eve. Many people helped with the work of preparing particularly for Christmas Eve Services. Jenny

again put up the aisle candles. Janice Miller helped in many areas including helping my Mom and I arrange the poinsettias. (Sorry, I don't have a picture.) I particularly thank Janice for all her help and oversight as a Deaconess with the Christmas Eve Services.

The money counters worked overtime to count the money from the three services including the special offerings in the Advent Folders and Christmas Fund. Thank you for your generosity everyone!

I also thank you for your cards, gifts and well wishes this Christmas Season. I do like it here! God has blessed me through you. Thank you!

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14
Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day
at UCC
Easter Sunday on April Fool's Day

Memory Café – The Sun Catchers



I joined the Sun Catchers in making Gingerbread Houses. (I had never made one.) The group is a mixture of people, some with memory challenges and others who come for a nice morning activity. Neillsville Retirement



Center residents come with Linda Rodriguez when weather permits, a few of our own members and a few folks from the community and our church helpers – often Deb Holman, Carole Romens, and Deb Perkl make for a nice group. Janet Evans of the ADRC is our leader. They have some good programs and conversations, often with a homemade snack. The next meeting is January 18 at 10 am.

OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
2-4PM & 6:30-8:30 PM.
My Home – 506 W. 2nd St.
All are invited.

January Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas! It was so nice to see old friends, familiar faces and families together on Christmas Eve. We are so thankful to all that helped from the decorating of the church, the families that helped with the Advent lighting of the candles, the music, organists, choir and director. Our deacons, deaconesses (and to those that filled in to help with communion.) Our ushers and greeters. Thank you to those of you that ordered poinsettias and to those that helped with the Candlelight service. Thank you to Pastor Jacoba for leading us in three services. The Sunday School Christmas program was so nice (nothing like the little children to make you appreciate what Christmas is all about.) Again, we thank the moms that helped with that. The Christian Education committee that served for Jesus' Birthday Party. The Circle of Friends that invited Pastor Jacoba and myself to their party. Again, we thank all that helped in any way with our Advent/Christmas Season. It was a good Christmas at the Neillsville United Church of Christ. We now look forward to 2018 and a new year. We hope you all have a Blessed and Happy New Year. *See you in church! – Audrey*

Volunteers for January Sunday's

Acolytes

Sunday, January 7

Mackenzie Hediger
Paige Voigt

Sunday, January 14

Parker Voigt
Logan Erickson

Sunday, January 21

Bryce Erickson
Alex Northup

Sunday, January 28

Mackenzie Hediger
Paige Voigt

Please let the church office know (715-743-2147) if you are unable to light the candles as scheduled. We are always looking for other youth to help with lighting our candles. Let us know if you want to help, we will help teach you.

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.

Ushers for January

Sunday, January 7 & 14

Joey Kranz, Lane Kranz
Darin Loberg, Tammy Loberg

Sunday, January 21 & 28

Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker
Joe Holman, Joel Raine

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.

Greeters for January

Sunday, January 7

Cynthia Craig & Tammy Holm

Sunday, January 14

Brian & Marcia Eddy

Sunday, January 21

John & Sue Vornholt

Sunday, January 28

Mickey & Carla Marty

It is always nice to offer 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

Looking for volunteers to sign-up for January. Look for the list on the bulletin board (we will have the whole year (Sundays) listed) after we get our bulletin board back after Christmas. Please look and see if you can help us out by volunteering a Sunday. Thank you for helping! Call the church office if you would like to host a Sunday. 715-743-2147.

Communion Assignments January

(Intinction) Team 1 – Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Brian Eddy, Betty Barr, Ben Wilson

Bread: Ben Wilson

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for the

Month of January

Sunday, January 7

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

Sunday, January 14

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

Sunday, January 21

Travis Vine.....,715-797-2991

Sunday, January 28

Janice Miller.....715-743-7070

Facts & Figures

Attendance

Sunday, December 3.....	98
Sunday, December 10.....	129
Sunday, December 17.....	69
Sunday, December 24.....	69
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m.....	70
December 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m....	183

Offerings

Sunday, December 3

General Offering.....	\$1794.00
Christmas Angel Project.....	270.00
Radio Fund.....	75.00
Campital Campaign	230.00
Advent Offering.....	20.00

Sunday, December 10

General Offering.....	\$2084.00
Advent Offering.....	80.00

Sunday, December 17

General Offering.....	\$2143.00
Advent Offering	159.00
Advertising Fund.....	50.00

Sunday, December 24

General Offering.....	\$5968.71
Radio Fund.....	525.00
Advent Offering.....	189.50
Christmas Fund.....	45.00
Audio Visual.....	500.00
Campital Campaign.....	300.00

(Facts & Figures continued)

Christmas Eve 4:30 Service

General Offering.....	\$378.00
Advent Offering.....	45.00
Christmas Fund.....	55.00

Christmas Eve 7:30 Service

General Offering.....	\$2038.00
Back Pack.....	100.00
Advent Offering.....	130.00
Christmas Fund.....	125.00
Audio Visual.....	100.00

December Automatic Giving.....\$2195.00

Automatic Giving

Would you be interested in giving to your church by “Automatic Giving” in 2018? If you are – stop by the church office and we will get you set up. This is a good way to keep up your “faith promise.” Check it out.



Radio Broadcast Sponsors

On *Sunday, December 3* the radio broadcast

portion of our worship service was given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, December 10* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Frances Short and family in loving memory of Kenneth Short and our parents.

On *Sunday, December 17* the radio broadcast was sponsored today by Berdella and Roger Carl in loving memory of husband/father, Herman Carl.

On *Sunday, December 24* the radio broadcast was sponsored by two of our church families; it was given anonymously by one of our members and also given by Anita Harder in loving memory of her husband, Rene Harder.

And on *Sunday, December 31* the radio broadcast is sponsored by Wanda Smith in memory of her husband, Raymond and her wedding anniversary on December 31.

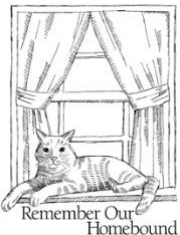
(Radio Broadcast sponsors continued)

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the December 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.

Good News: *Our radio broadcast sponsorships are filled up for 2018. A BIG Thank You to two people who have filled up the last 16 broadcasts. They both wish to remain anonymous. I want to thank again all of you who support our radio ministry. This is not a budgeted item so we are always looking for sponsors. Keep in mind....we will be looking for 2019 sponsors.*

Remember our Shut-Ins/Homebound



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 non-perishable and paper product donations – ALL food pantries are in need of all items - Thank you for your support!

-continued support for the “Back Pack Program.” If you wish to contribute to this special mission and -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



(Mission & Outreach News continued)

Memory Café’ “Sun Catchers” – This 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. **January 18** 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.

Quilts Given – Our quilters who get together and work/tie/sew quilts donated two quilts to a family that lost their home to fire. We know that the family will enjoy these nice warm quilts. Thank you quilters for this donation.

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

Circle of Friends News

The Circle of Friends held their annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 14. Few members were able to attend due to sickness, hospitalization etc. Needless to say their was plenty of good food. Pastor Jacoba and I both thank the Circle for inviting us to their party and presenting us with generous gift certificates. The next meeting of the Circle will be held on **Thursday, January 11 at 1:30 p.m.** **Note:** Pastor Jacoba will be holding her “Open House” that day as well. I do believe the members will have a short business meeting and then go to the “Open House.” Check this out with your President.

Greeting Cards: You know that their cards are always available for you to look at and purchase. When buying cards –if no one is in the card room to help you and you want to purchase a card(s) you can use the self-serve change jar or the I.O.U. tablet which is on the table in the card room or give your money to Audrey in the office. Thank you for your continued support!

Again, we want to remind you if you donate cards, please leave the verse in them. Thank you.

Senior Choir Members – The Senior Choir is still looking for some more people to join them. Men, women and high school students are all welcome to come and sing. The choir practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. when they sing.

Stewardship News

Christmas Fund – The Stewardship Committee want to thank those of you who donated to the Christmas Fund. This ministry cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors in need, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees. Your gifts were needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs.

Letter Received - The following letter was received from the National Office of UCC.

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your gift of \$2785.00 we received to support Hurricane 2017 Relief Efforts. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back in their homes. We are asking for prayers for everyone impacted by the storms and for your continued support as the long-term recovery take shape.

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, thank you! Thank you for being inspired by God’s grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world for all

Second Half Group - We will not be meeting in January but put on your calendar, ***Tuesday, February 20.*** Our guest speaker will be Kathy Levac. This will be a program on Health and Wellness. Pastor Jacoba was at a program she presented and felt this would be a good program to have for the 2nd Half Group.

2017 Contribution Statements

We will have these ready for you by ***Sunday, January 7.*** They will be on the table out in the narthex. If you need your statement before then, just give Audrey a call. 715-743-2147 Also there still are some 2018 Offering Envelopes out on the table as well. Please pick them up. If you do not want envelopes let, me know.

Annual Report - I know you don’t want to think about it, but I do need an annual report from each chairperson of all boards and committees. The due date is **Monday, January 8.** Thank you for your help.

I am also working on **Usher/Greeter** schedules for 2018. If you do not want to be on either of these lists, please let me know or if you want a certain time of the year to be scheduled let me know as well. Again, thanks for your help.

**Annual Meeting
Neillsville United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2018
Following Worship
Downstairs in Fellowship Hall**

Silent Angels – The “Silent Angels” were again out and about during the month of December, delivering special treats to our shut-in’s. Thank you!

From Ruby Ambelang – Thank you “Silent Angels for the beautiful plate of goodies. It was very thoughtful. I will enjoy! And for Hap Eddy for delivering. *Ruby*

From Lois Lonning – Merry Christmas to all “Silent Angels.” Thank you for the Christmas treats and all the goodies. I enjoyed it all very much. And may the New Year bring the best to all. Thanks to your helpful driver “Hap.” *Lois*

Thank you Dale Opelt – We again thank Dale for taking the aluminum cans to the recycling center for us. We netted \$43.00. Thank you to all who bring their cans to our bin. Please hold your cans now until spring.



January Birthdays

- 3- Kathy Mathis
Joseph Slemec
- 5-Michael Holub Jr.
- 6-Ruby Ambelang
Allan Hoesly
- 8-Donna Dekker
- 9-Wayne Voss
- 10-Tammy Loberg
- 11-Everett Raine
Lexi Woods
- 12-Sam Craig
- 15-Landin Slemec
- 16-Dale Opelt
Michael Holub Sr.
- 18-Landon Bergemann
- 19-Keith Loberg
- 23-Dorothy Steiger
Parker & Paige Voigt
- 25-Jim Vradenburg
- 28-David Steiger
- 29-Jill Williams
Clinton Woods
- 31-Lisa Hediger

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



January Wedding Anniversaries

- 3- Gary & Lois Corey
- 18-Tom & Karlene Wallace
- 26- Joe & Marjorie Felser

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



***From Audrey
Thank you so very much for the
Christmas cards and gifts!
Your love and support is appreciated.
I am truly blessed my church family.***

January 2018						
◀ Dez 2017						Feb 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day (Office Closed) Happy New Year Everyone! No Nar-Anon	2	3 3:30 pm CD's and Confirmation 7 pm Sr. Choir practice	4	5	6 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
7 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship Communion Fellowship/Coffe Hour	8 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	9	10 3:30 p.m. CD's and Confirmation 7 pm Sr. Choir practice	11 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting "Open House" at Pastor Jacoba's 2:30-4:00 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	12	13
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	15 6:30-7:30 pm. Nar Anon	16 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacon/ Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	17 3:30 pm CD's and Confirmation 7 pm Sr. Choir practice	18 10-11:30 am Memory Cafe	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship	22 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	23	24 3:30 pm CD's and Confirmation 7 pm Sr. Choir practice	25	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Following worship	29 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	30	31 3:30 pm CD's and Confirmation 7 pm Sr. Choir practice			

