



**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)

March 2018

**Jacoba's jottings....** The Lectionary Text suggested for Ash Wednesday is always Matthew 6:1-21 which is about prayer and how to pray. In the season of Lent we are encouraged to pray. Among other things in that reading (which includes the Lord's Prayer), Jesus encourages us *"Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you,"* (Matthew 6:6). Quiet, personal prayer supports us in life, strengthens our

relationship with God, gives us the opportunity to lift up in prayer those in need, and gives the Holy Spirit an opening into our lives to guide us. Jesus often left his disciples, so he could have some alone time to pray. I know when I am disciplined about my prayer life, I am more faithful, less anxious, more aware, more connected with God and to others. The ways I pray are varied- sometimes only a quick thought, at times led by a scripture reading or other writing, sometimes meditation, sometimes lifting up particular people or events. Yet, to sit quietly or even speaking or weeping in prayer is not enough. Prayer is not an end but a means toward living out our faith.



After a time alone, Jesus returned to his ministry. He called and supported his disciples, he healed the sick; he allowed his arrest. The author of the book of James wrote faith without works is dead. I would say, prayer which does not lead to works or action is incomplete.

Prayers often ask God to act and Jesus says whatever we ask in his name, he will do it (John 14:14). Prayers also give the Holy Spirit our permission to lead us, so we act or enact what God calls us to do. Our prayers often guide us to "follow up" on what we lift up to God.



May this season of Lent be a time of prayer and action- pray for the sick – and call them or send a card or bring them something they need. Pray for the grieving and encourage them with your faith. Pray for the hungry and donate to the food pantry. Pray for victims and take their words and needs seriously (believe them) send money or write letters to those in power or work for change so they are no longer victimized. Pray for those who need housing, a job, hope and help them find what they need.

*"Not my will, but thy will done"* Jesus's prayer in Gethsemane, is the perfect prayer which is always answered. It asks God to act, it also invites God to lead us to do what God calls us to do.

**Soup Supper at 6pm**  
**Worship at 7pm**

**Wednesdays in Lent "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

*February 28 – at UCC* Pastor Chad preaching *"Mary Magdalene"*  
*March 7 – at Calvary* Pastor Jacoba preaching *"Peter"*  
*March 14 – at UCC* Pastor Chad preaching *"Pilate"*  
*March 21 – at Calvary* Pastor Jacoba preaching *"Jesus"*

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

Our youth have been busy in the last month. The



Confirmants are studying the Ten Commandments preparing to lead the worship service on March 18. Fourteen CDs and friends enjoyed tubing, skiing, and snow-



boarding at Bruce Mound on January

28. I enjoyed conversations with Sue Voigt and Jenny Romens Erickson as we watched the kids having fun. Several CDs also helped with setting up and serving the Lenten Supper on Ash



Wednesday and then

yesterday the 7<sup>th</sup> grade CD's, Carole Romens and Jenny delivered our 526 Souper Bowl Soup cans to the Department of Aging. (We had learned that Calvary delivered their 391 cans of soup to the Food Pantry on 5<sup>th</sup> Street.)

I want to add my congratulations and thanks to UCC for your generous collection of cans of soup.

When we were having heating problems in December we learned that the radiators needed to be cleaned: thank you Bob Petkovsek for vacuuming them out.

All three Funeral Luncheon Coordinators, Emile Miller, Kathy Mathis and Barb Petkovsek have now taken the lead on a funeral lunch. Each of the four funeral luncheons we hosted have included different logistics. From my view, they all went well. Thank you to all the teams.

## **SUNDAYS IN MARCH**

*March 4* – Sacrament of Communion by Intinction

*March 11* – Sue Vornholt will lead worship with me. This is part of Sue's Lay Academy Studies; she and I have been working together as she learns more about the how tos and whys of leading worship.

*March 18* – The Confirmation Class will lead worship with my help.

*March 25* – Palm/Passion Sunday – we will wave our palms and celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

## **HOLY WEEK**

*Thursday, March 29* – **Maundy Thursday 7pm**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served and this year we will again wash feet and hands.

*Friday, March 30* – **Good Friday 7pm at UCC**

This ecumenical service includes the other Protestant Churches in the Ministerial Alliance. Pastor Chad will be the preacher.

*Sunday, April 1* **Easter Sunday 10am** We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with joyous music and the sacrament of Holy Communion served in the pew.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH (& Adults)**

I am so excited two of our girls, Reese Ziegler and Haylee Erickson are going to church camp this year. (Yes, I am going with them.) They are going to Music Art, Dance and Drama Camp June 10-16. There are many other camps available – check the website [ucci.org](http://ucci.org) for youth and adults – families and grandparents with their grandchildren (Talk to Wendy and Owen about their experience.)

This year the **Great Lakes Regional Youth Event** takes place July 5 – 8 at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, IL. This event is for youth who have finished 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.



## **A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters!**

Come ponder, pray, and play, guided by the 3 Great Loves of neighbor, children, and creation in the UCC's mission statement: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

This four-day youth event draws over 300 youth and leaders from the Great Lakes area. Music and worship leadership will be provided by Andra Moran, Bryan Sirchio, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, and Christopher Grundy of the [Convergence Music Project](#).

(I encourage our youth to consider attending. You will meet other UCC youth and adults; you will have fun; you will grow closer in your relationship with God.)

## **March Newsletter 2018**

Hi Everyone,

It's the last full week we have left in February and time to get going on the March Newsletter. I made it to the office today, BUT the parking lot and sidewalks are glare ice. Meetings have been canceled for today and rescheduled for next week Tuesday, February 27: 12 Noon Second Half Group; 5:30 p.m. Trustees; 6:30 p.m. Deacons & Deaconesses; 7:30 pm, Church Council. Hope the weather will cooperate with us. March will be a very busy month so keep your calendar handy so the times and dates for all the activities this month are readily available for you to see.

*See you in church! – Audrey*

### **Volunteers for March Sunday's**

#### **Acolytes**

##### **Sunday, March 4**

Mackenzie Hediger

Paige Voigt

##### **Sunday, March 11**

Bryce Erickson

Alex Northup

##### **Sunday, March 18**

Parker Voigt

Logan Erickson

##### **Sunday, March 25**

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. Thank you to those of you that help out on Sunday mornings! Our candle lighters are a very important part of our worship

#### **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 : please be sure the toys/etc. are put away. Thank you for your help.

## **Ushers for March**

### **Sunday, March 4 & 11**

Ray Weyer, Mickey Marty

Dale Opelt, Dick Lewis

### **Sunday, March 18 & 25**

Chad Erickson, Mitchell Erickson

Dan Patey, Dick Lewis

**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 March**

### **Sunday, March 4**

Ken & Barb Shoemaker

### **Sunday, March 11**

Bob & Barb Petkovsek

### **Sunday, March 18**

Butch & Kathy Carl

### **Sunday, March 25**

Scott & Jill Williams

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 March. Look for the list of dates on the bulletin board (we will have the whole year (Sundays) listed.) 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 Assignment for Sunday**

**March 4- Team 1** – Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis

**Bread:** Travis Vine

## **Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for March**

### **Sunday, March 4**

Mitchell Erickson.....715-937-2984

### **Sunday, March 11**

Betty Barr.....715-743-3283

### **Sunday, March 18**

Jim Vradenburg.....715-743-2403

**(Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for March continued)**

**Sunday, March 25**

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

**Facts & Figures**

Sunday, January 28.....76  
Sunday, February 4.....81  
Ash Wednesday, February 14.....79  
Sunday, February 18.....74

**Offerings**

**Sunday, January 28**

General Offering.....\$1670.00  
Radio Fund.....450.00

**Sunday, February 4**

General Offering.....\$1429.00

**Sunday, February 11**

General Offering..... \$2330.00  
Nar-Anon (use of church).....68.00

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

General Offering..... \$120.00

**Sunday, February 18**

General Offering.....\$2295.00  
Radio Fund.....187.50  
Lenten Offering.....25.00  
Hearts for the Home .....50.00  
Holiday Fair.....9.00

**February Automatic Giving**.....\$2255.00

**Automatic Giving**

*Are you be interested in giving to your church by “Automatic Giving” this year? 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.*

**Annual Meeting**

The Neillsville United Church of Christ held their Congregational meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2018. Many items were presented. (Annual Reports may be picked up here at the church) Among one of the items presented was the

**(Annual Meeting continued)**

Nominating Committee’s new candidates and appointments. Following are the people elected to serve our church:

**Moderator:** Mike Perkl

**Vice Moderator:** Butch Carl

**Trustees:** Doris Bakker, Bob Petkovsek, Don Abel, Wendy Sigurdson, Hap Eddy, Kevin Erickson

**Deacons/Deaconesses:** Jake Ratsch, Wayne Voss, Travis Vine, Jim Vradenburg, Mitchell Erickson  
Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Janice Miller, Karlene Wallace, Kathy Mathis

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Weyer

**Assistant Treasurer:** Don Quicker

**Recording Financial Secretary:** Audrey Vradenburg

**Recording Secretary:** Lorraine Shaw

**Pastor/Parish Committee:** Larry Marshall, Marian Vornholt, Jim Sjolín, Tom Wallace, Ruth Zwieg, Lacey Erickson

**Christian Education Board:** Jenna Ziegler, Jill Williams, Betty Opelt, Stephanie Heck, Lacey Erickson, Ashley Vine, Lydia Schumacher

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

**Music Committee:** Corinne Armitage, Donita Follen, JoAnn Voss

**Memorial Committee:** Dan Patey, Tim Voigt, Allan Hoesly, Dave Steiger, Don Quicker, Barb Miller

**Stewardship Committee:** Sue Voigt, Bonnie Weyer, Marge Goetsch, M.E. Sjolín, Emile Miller

**Nominating Committee:** Darwin Zwieg, Harold Eddy, Russ Karl

Installation of these officers was held on Sunday, February 18. Thank you for accepting these important jobs of our church. Also thank you to all of outgoing members.

***Annual Reports do have the list and schedule of Greeters and Ushers for 2018.***

**Soup Supper NEEDS** - On the bulletin board we have some sign-up sheets for bars and milk for our Lenten soup suppers for Wednesday, February 28 and Wednesday, March 14. Thank you for helping out.





## **Radio Broadcast**

### **Sponsors**

On *Sunday, February 5* the radio broadcast

portion of our worship service was given by Dan Patey in loving memory of his wife, Elvira Patey.

On *Sunday, February 11* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades Marg in loving memory of Herb Rhoades.

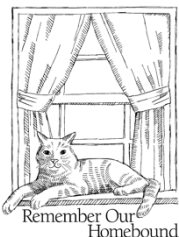
On *Sunday, February 18* the radio broadcast was given by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of sister, Lois Mendenhall and Mom, Luella Mohr.

And on *Sunday, February 25* the radio broadcast is given in loving memory of wife/mother, Anne Filitz's birthday on February 24 by Jim and Jim John Filitz.

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

## **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. ***(Request has been made seeking members to do some visiting of our shut-ins and folks that just need a visit. If you are interested in this special ministry - check with Pastor Jacoba.)***

**World Day of Prayer** – service will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Friday, March 2, at 11:00 a.m. Lunch to follow.

## **Mission & Outreach News**

### **"The Souper Bowl Challenge"**



Wow! A Big Thank You to all that brought in cans of soup for this years "souper bowl challenge." We really did out do ourselves this year. It looks like we won the challenge this year with 526 cans; Living Hope 364 cans; Calvary 391 cans for a total of 1441. Our food pantries are the ones that will really be the winners of the soup challenge. Thank you again for your generous donations!



### **"Hearts for the Home"**

During the month of February our church takes part in the "Hearts for the Home" mission project. The monies raised with this project go to helping our residents at Neillsville Care & Rehabilitation, Neillsville Retirement Community, Rivers Edge Assisted Living and the Clark County Rehabilitation and Living Center. The financial support will help those without resources, to participate in activities, receive haircuts, perms, etc. Look for the display table in the narthex and in the pew racks where you will find little envelopes that will be labeled, ***"Hearts for the Home."*** If you write a check, make it out to United Church of Christ and in the memo line indicate, ***"Hearts for the Home."*** Thanks for your continued support with our local missions.

**LENTEN OFFERINGS** – Remember your Lenten offerings this year. If you do not want to fill the Lenten folders with quarters, you may give by writing a check or giving cash for this special offering. Monies from these offerings go for local missions. Thank you!

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

**"Back Pack Program"** - Thank you for your continued support for the "Back Pack Program." If you wish to contribute to this special mission and you wish to write a check Make the check out to the 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

**“Sun Catcher’s Café”** will meet on **Thursday, March 15** from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will be making “Easter Gingerbread Cottages.” All supplies will be supplied. Sun Catchers Café is a once a month get together for older adults interested in lifelong learning, brain-healthy activities and socializing with others. It is free and is sponsored by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Clark County. For more information contact the ADRC at 715-743-5145.

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

**Circle of Friends News** – The Circle of Friends meet on the second Thursday of each month. You are more than welcome to come and join them. The next meeting of the Circle will be held on **Thursday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m.** Come and check them out. They also can always use help with the greeting cards during their Monday morning work times.

**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.

**Second Half Group** – Due to the bad weather yesterday the Second Half Group was canceled and rescheduled for this coming **Tuesday, February 27** at 12 noon. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Group. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. M&M will cater our lunch. (Please let me know if you signed up for this weeks and cannot make next Tuesday or if you did not sign up and want to come, let me know.) Thanks. The cost is \$7.50 plus tax payable at the meeting. Hope to see you there.

Our March Second Half meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 20** at 12 noon. Again, there will be a sign-up on the bulletin board. Another M&M catered lunch and our guest speaker will be Dee Zimmerman our well-known Neillsville Historian. Her topic will be on Neillsville History. All are invited to attend.

***Note:*** We are always looking for interesting programs to present to this group. Let me know if you know of someone/something we can do.

### **Stewardship News -**

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

It is that time of year when we promote the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. The theme this year is “More Than We Can Imagine.” Sharing resources through One Great Hour of Sharing is an invitation to imagination! Through our sharing we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does ***“immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”*** When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders God works, our imaginations go wild! Just imagine how God is bringing transformation! This special offering helps in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck. God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine! And when we contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing we are part of God’s work in the world. Look for the OGHS envelopes in the pew racks. Please give generously. Thank You!



### **With Deepest Sympathy**

Ruby Jeanette Ambelang died on Tuesday, February 13. Funeral services for Ruby were held on Friday, February 16 here at the United Church of Christ. Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiated. Ruby was a long-time member of the United Church of Christ. She was a hard-working farm wife who attended church when she could but was an avid radio listener to our worship service every Sunday. She sponsored many of our radio broadcasts. Ruby will be missed by her family and many friends. Our deepest sympathy to all her family.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

### **Daylight Savings Time**

**BEGINS!** Here we go again changing our time. On Sunday, March 11. Turn those clocks ahead Saturday night or you will be late for Sunday church.



### **Order your Easter**

**Lilly** We are taking orders for Easter Lilies now.

Falls Florist will furnish them to us. The cost will be \$14.00 each for a single 6-8 blossom plant. Deadline for orders will be Palm Sunday, March 25. If you write a check, please make it out to **Falls Florist**. We will again print the names in our Easter Sunday bulletin. Order in memory, in honor or for any other reason you may have. Please take your lily home with you following the Easter worship service.



### **Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

Sponsored by UCC Men's Club  
Sunday, March 4

Following Worship – Fellowship Hall  
Regular/Potato/Blueberry Pancakes  
12 years-Adult \$6.00 – 5-11 years \$3.00  
Under 5 FREE



### **March Birthdays**

1-Wendell Kuhn  
Dick Lewis  
4-Mary Lou Meredith

7-Dixie Hediger  
8-Randy Hauge  
Betty Barr  
9-Lois Corey  
10-Sherri Holub  
11-Mark Brunette  
12-Larry Marshall  
Lisa Schermitzler  
13-Krue Czarnecki  
Robert Petkovsek  
Ben Wilson  
15-Jennifer Roenz  
16-Butch Carl  
17-Glenna Rhoades Marg  
20-Russell Karl  
21-Howie Mathis  
23-Frances Short  
Brody Bergemann  
Julie Bennett  
25-Wallace Garbisch  
29-Lane Kranz  
30-Kellie Murphy  
31-Joe Anderson

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



### **March Wedding Anniversaries**

10- Bernard & Delores Walker  
20-Lydia & Ron Schumacher  
20-Patricia Acheson & Herman Seebandt  
23-Michael & Destini Sexauer

***Happy Anniversary! Did we miss you Anniversary or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.***

**Would you be Interested in Helping to Organize  
(or otherwise become involved with a)  
UCC/COMMUNITY WALKING CLUB?  
Sign-up on the bulletin board if you are  
THANK YOU!**

March 2018						
◀ Feb 2018					Apr 2018 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 11 am World Day of Prayer Calvary – Lunch to follow	3 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
4 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship  Communion/Intinction Pancake Breakfast following worship 3 pm Communion served at Neills. Retirement Community	5  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	6	7 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper Calvary 7 pm LENTEN Service at Calvary	8 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting	9	10
11 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Sue Vornholt leading One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Fellowship/Coffee Hour DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	12  6:30-7:30 Nar-Anon	13 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at Calvary	14 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper UCC 7 pm LENTEN Service at UCC	15 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Café	16	17
18 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Confirmands leading Fellowship/Coffee Hour	19 Newsletter Week 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	20 12 Noon – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Group meeting - Dee Zimmerman leading 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacon & Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	21 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper Calvary 7 pm LENTEN Service at Calvary	22	23	24
25 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Palm Sunday Service Theo Vine Baptism Fellowship/Coffee Hour	26  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	27	28 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	29 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service/Communion Foot/Hand Washing	30 GOOD FRIDAY 7 am Good Friday Service at UCC	31











