

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

April 2018

Jacoba's jottings.... Years ago, I celebrated Easter on Ash Wednesday. I can still tell you where I was sitting and how it struck me. On that day, I knew new life not the death the ashes proclaim; I knew the joy of being in the Savior's presence. I knew God had new things in store for me. After a time of struggle, something clicked on Ash Wednesday for me and I could sing, with gusto, "Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted head, Alleluia." The season of Lent was very different that year for me than what we usually experience.

I have also known Good Friday on Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is the day before Ash Wednesday. It is the day we use up all the fat in the house and party like there is no tomorrow; games for the children, beads and craziness. But that year, I was filled with grief, and loneliness, feeling abandoned, betrayed and dying. Easter could not come soon enough.

Where are you this season of Lent? Mardi Gras? Ash Wednesday? Palm Sunday? Maundy Thursday? Good Friday? Holy Saturday? Easter? Those days can come at any time in our lives. For me, I think I am more aware of them in Lent as I reflect on the stories of Holy Week.

My mind this year is on the farmers who are struggling with milk prices that are so low that many will not be able to continue as farmers. Their grief, their fear, their despair is being acted out as more farmers than veterans are taking their lives every day. Hearing their experiences, I remember again the year we were told to leave the farm – Maundy Thursday and Good Friday probably came the day in October when the landlord told my parents our contract was up in February. We surely felt betrayed and it sure felt like death rather than life. We had little hope. The day the cows were auctioned and a week later when the U-Haul pulled out with all our earthly belongings was Holy Saturday for me. As I think about it, Easter probably came for me months later, the day we first visited Bethel UCC and knew we had found a new church. Again, I knew hope, joy and peace. My family would likely tell the story differently. Can you tell a story of Lent that happened in your lifetime?

I invite you to consider where you are this Lenten Season. When have you known joy, betrayal, denial, abandonment, dying, and new life? We all experience the ebbs and flows of life – good times, hard times, and again good times; or as Brueggemann names it, Orientation, Disorientation and Reorientation.

Wherever we are, as followers of Jesus, we know Easter comes. New life is promised and will be ours. As God raised Jesus in the tomb, we too shall surely be raised to new life. Wherever you are at this moment, look forward to again singing:

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave the skies! Alleluia!

PASTOR JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE



I am so proud of our Confirmation Class. Not only for the work they did on preparing the bulletin, writing their paragraphs about the Ten Commandments and leading worship, but also for the ways they took care of each other. They knew who could comfortably do which part of the service and while there was some teasing about it, they took care of one another. They thank you for your words of encouragement and compliments!

The midweek Lenten services and soup suppers are complete for this year. In the midst of them, we also had two funerals and luncheons. I want to thank the Deaconesses and their teams, the CDs and their teachers, Jenny and Tammy, and the funeral teams led this time by Kathy and Emile for all their work in providing delicious meals and hospitality.

I sure like Potato Pancakes- they were delicious at the Men's Breakfast! Thanks Guys!

I want to thank Eileen for playing for the Lenten Services, Karen and Jodie for preparing the joint choir, the choir, Joe Anderson and Corinne Armitage for singing solos and Roni for running between the two churches to direct in the season of Lent. The Sunday School Choir was small – but wow they sang with power! We could hear them clearly. Check out our Face Book Page and website to hear them. It was quite a shock to Eileen and all of us when the organ made a very loud noise again – first during the funeral for Frank Zank and then in the Sunday Service the next day. Eileen has been putting the organ through its paces all week and finally she got it to repeat. There is now a plan that will hopefully fix it. Eileen was able to recover from her shock during worship and continue the music on the piano. On Sunday when the organ went out she played a beautiful offertory on the piano. The congregation showed their appreciation by applauding her just before the benediction.

Northwest Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21 9:30 am – 3:30pm

First Congregational Church, Eau Claire

The keynote presentation will be by Heather Ann Moody of U-W Eau Claire, a member of the Ho-

Chunk Nation. She will speak about Native Americans, 'Getting to Know Our Neighbors – Past and Present.' She will be joined by the members of the Winnebago Indian Mission Church, UCC who will also share their story with us. You the members of UCC are encouraged to attend. I have very much enjoyed getting to know our church neighbors at the Mission Church as we worked with them planning the meeting. Come listen to their story. Let Audrey or me know you want to attend and she'll register you.

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference takes place on June 9-11 at Green Lake. We are looking for members interested in serving as delegates. Speak to Mike Perkl or me if you are interested in attending.

HOLY WEEK AND APRIL WORSHIP

Palm/Passion Sunday 10 am, March 25. We will wave the Palm Branches, hear the stories of Holy Week and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Maundy Thursday 7 pm, March 29. This year with the participation of our Confirmands, we will wash feet and hands – (remember – in the UCC – all have the freedom to participate or not according to their own desires and faith). We will also gather in groups of twelve to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

Good Friday 7 pm March 30 at UCC. This service led by the pastors of the Neillsville Ministerial Alliance includes as offering to assist people with gas and food costs. Pastor Chad Anderson will preach. A joint choir practices at 6pm.

Easter Sunday 10am April 1 We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior and the new life he brings to all his followers. The Choir will sing. Communion will be served in the pew. Christ is Risen! (We're not joking!)



April 8 New Members Received

Anyone interested in becoming an official member of the church, please speak to me about your desire.

April 29 Confirmands will read their Statements of Faith

April Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

Can you believe it? Holy Week next week and Easter Sunday, April 1. I know Easter is early this year, but March just flew by. We want to get the April Newsletter out this week – Next week will be too busy. Hope you were able to attend some of the Wednesday Lenten services and soup suppers. We especially want to thank our teams that helped with the preparing, serving and cleaning up for the soup suppers. Thank you too to the youth that helped with the soup suppers and the service. Thank you UCC Men's Club for the delicious pancakes and sausage you served on March 4. We all look forward to that Sunday. Good news the Pie/Baked Goods Auction is scheduled for ***Sunday, April 29***. Read more about it in the Newsletter article. Be sure you put this date on your calendar. Lots of fun and "good food!"

See you in church! – Audrey

Volunteers for Sunday's

Acolytes

Sunday, April 1

Mackenzie Hediger
Paige Voigt

Sunday, April 8

Bryce Erickson
Alex Northup

Sunday, April 15

Parker Voigt
Logan Erickson

Sunday, April 22

Mackenzie Hediger
Paige Voigt

Sunday, April 29

Dante Erickson
Volunteer

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 April

Sunday, April 1 & 8

Bob Petkovsek, John Vornholt
Allan Hoesly, Mark Brunette

Sunday, April 15 & 22

David Harnisch, Darwin Zwieg
Dave Steiger, Neil Czarnecki

Sunday, April 29 & May 6

Travis Vine, Ben Wilson
Don Quicker, Kevin Erickson

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 April

Sunday, April 1

Kevin & Jenny Romens-Erickson

Sunday, April 8

Kathy Turner & Barb Miller

Sunday, April 15

Pat Acheson & Herman Seebandt

Sunday, April 22

Volunteers needed

Sunday, April 29

Dave & Carol Harnisch

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 April. 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

April 1- Team 1 – Janice Miller, Wayne Voss, Jake Ratsch, Karlene Wallace, Jim Vradenburg

Bread: Karlene Wallace

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for April

Sunday, April 1

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

Sunday, April 8

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

Sunday, April 15

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

Sunday, April 22

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

Sunday, April 29

Jake Ratsch.....715-937-1612

Facts & Figures

Sunday, February 25.....37

Lenten Service February 28.....58

Sunday, March 4.....92

Sunday, March 11.....68

Lenten Service March 14.....46

Sunday, March 18.....90

Offerings

Sunday, February 25

General Offering.....\$1206.00

Memorial Fund.....\$1060.00

Lenten Service February 28

General Offering.....\$33.00

Lenten Offering.....38.00

Sunday, March 4

General Offering.....\$1927.00

Radio Fund.....75.00

Lenten Offering.....10.00

Hearts for the Home.....109.00

One Great Hour of Sharing.....175.00

Memorial Fund.....25.00

Sunday, March 11

General Offering.....\$1847.00

Radio Fund.....75.00

Lenten Offering.....30.00

One Great Hour of Sharing.....127.00

Hearts for the Home.....25.00

(Offerings continued)

Sunday, March 18

General Offering.....\$1980.00

Lenten Offering.....20.00

One Great Hour of Sharing.....100.00

Advertising Fund.....50.00

Lenten Services (combined)

General Offering.....\$261.00

March Automatic Giving.....\$2255.00

Automatic Giving

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. This is a good way to keep up your "faith promise." Check it out.



Radio Broadcast

Sponsors

On *Sunday, March 4*, the radio broadcast portion of

our radio broadcast was given anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, March 11* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of brother, Marvin Mohr.

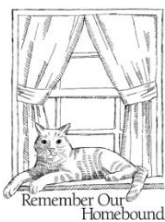
On *Sunday, March 18* our radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously.

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

***First Quarterly Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 22
Following Worship
Downstairs in Fellowship Hall***

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. ***(A 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.)***

Mission & Outreach News

Farmers Appreciation Luncheon – In light of the recent crisis facing daily farmers in the state of Wisconsin, the Missions and Outreach Committee is requesting your help and support with a project to show the local farmers that we care and support them, and remind them that God is still taking care of them.

We plan to host a Farmers Appreciation Luncheon on **Saturday, April, 28, 2018 at the Clark County Fairground Municipal building in Neillsville.** We will serve food from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This luncheon will be free to farm families and there will be a small program for them. We have the following requests for your help.

1. Please help us promote the event to the farm families in our congregation.
2. In order to ensure that we have enough food, we are also asking for **reservations** and then call those to Cheryl Steinbach at 715-937-4838 by **Saturday, April 21.** We will still allow people to attend if they did not register, but we need a planning number. We want to be sure and have enough, but not yet be wasteful.
3. There will not be a charge for the event but we would appreciate any financial contributions that our church may be able to contribute to the event. We plan to have pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, cheese, pickles, milk, coffee and bars.

4. We are asking for donations of bars to the event. They may be brought to the municipal building on Saturday, any time from 9 a.m. on.
5. If you would like to help with the event, please call Kathy Mathis at 715-937-0690. We will need help preparing the meat prior to the event, as well as serving food, setting up and cleaning up that day.

We have no idea how many people will participate, but we want to reach out to the farmers in their time of need. We are limiting it to the areas mentioned in order to keep it manageable. Please help us with this special mission project. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

(Note: This letter went out to the Neillsville, Granton, Greenwood and Loyal community churches.)

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 you may write a check made 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 – The Sun Catchers Café will hold their monthly meeting on **Thursday, April 19** from 10-11-30 a.m. at the United Church of Christ. Dr. Bruce Davis will be on hand to talk about the benefits of chiropractic, new insights and research; and answer questions from the audience. The Café is for people interested in lifelong learning, brain-healthy activities and interesting, positive discussion. It is sponsored by the ADRC of Clark County and is free. Refreshments will be served.

Thank you received: Dear United Church Mission Committee: Thank you for your generous donation of 500 cans of soup from your “Souper Bowl” Sunday. This donation stocked our food pantry shelves very well. Again, thank you for your support. Sincerely, Mary Sladich, Director

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

House of Mercy – Thank You

Dear Neillsville Circle of Friends & United Church of Christ Congregation,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to the House of Mercy located in Loyal, Wisconsin. With the money we bought three lamps for our bedrooms and a floor lamp for Judy’s office/living room area. We also bought flatware for the kitchen. This area was just newly remodeled and houses homeless mothers and children on a short-term basis. It has three bedrooms with two bathrooms. The kitchen, wash-room, and living room areas are shared by the families.

The HoM has graduated two families this past fall. Our first family that entered the HoM reached her goal. She wanted to live in Greenwood so her boys could walk to school and be in the same town as their friends. She is working three jobs. One fulltime and two part time jobs and still struggles as she raised her boys. The staff at HoM still mentors her and gives her guidance wherever we can.

Our second Mom ironically is renting in the same building as our first Mom. She now has a safe place to have shared custody of her three children. The children are doing much better since they can have time with Mom. They also go to school in Greenwood. Again, we stay in contact with the family and help where needed.

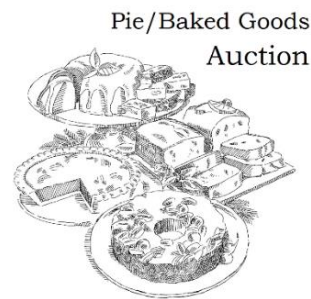
Thank you for your continued support,

Judy Morrow – House of Mercy Coordinator
Bonnie Weyer - Volunteer

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, April 12 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.



Pie/Baked Goods
Auction

Pie/Baked Goods Auction Scheduled

The date has been set for the Pie/Baked Goods Auction – **Sunday, April 29** right after church in the Fellowship Hall.

Remember, we added

new items to the auction such as bars, casseroles, hot dishes, or any other type of baked goods. So now for the first step of this fundraiser, we need the help of our trusty bakers/cooks of the church, so if you can make any items, whether it is a pie or any baked goods, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Bidders, if you have a favorite pie or baked goods, talk to the bakers/cooks so you get the one you want and offer a good donation to the church; what a deal!!

Let’s see if our auctioneers can outdo themselves again this year by getting those bids rolling.

The sign-up sheet is in the narthex on the bulletin board to bakers/cooks that are interested in donating to our auction.

Thanks for your continued support and get ready to bid!

Emile Miller & Carla Marty

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 - The Second Half Group met this Tuesday, March 20. We had another M&M delicious lunch served to us. Our guest speaker was Dee Zimmerman, our well-known Neillsville Historian. Her topic was on Neillsville History. She told us how Neillsville came to be; about the men and families who first settled here and where they lived. We want to thank her for this most informative program.

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. We do not have any program scheduled for the month of April at this time.

Stewardship News

One Great Hour of Sharing - Thank you for your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. We have received \$402.00 for this special mission.



April Birthdays

- 4- Carla Marty
Edna Lemons (96)
- 5- Tye Kranz
Santana Subke
- 6- Bonnie Weyer
- 9- Ray Weyer
Trink Jenkins (90)
Dottie Holm
- 10- Marlys Riedel
Michael Sexauer
- 11- Kevin Erickson
- 13- Kathy Seelow
Jim Filitz
Olive Bennett
- 15- Jake Ratsch
Janice Miller



With Deepest Sympathy

We report to you this week that Frank Henry Zank 99½ died on Wednesday, March 14 at the Clark County Center in Owen. Frank lived in his lovely home on the farm up to just a few weeks ago. He was a long-time member of our church as his wife Jeanette was too. He served as a deacon and always willing to usher. We will miss him. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 17 with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and many friends.



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 this **Sunday 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.

- 17- Scott Vradenburg
Alexis Averill
Marcia Eddy
- 18- Marian Ray (96)
- 21- Darlene Mueller
Mason Roenz
Marshall Roenz
- 23- Stephanie Heck
- 24- Jennifer Romens Erickson
- 25- Bryce Erickson
- 27- Susie Karl
- 28- Ben Mathis
- 30- Scott Williams

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



2- Jenna & Josh Ziegler
6- Neil & Corinne Armitage
14-Chad & Lacey Erickson
21-Tammy & Keith Loberg
21-Nancy & Harold Boon
26-Lynne & Thomas Abel
27-Russ & Susie Karl
28-Joel & Marla Raine

Happy Anniversary!

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

The following list is the United Church of Christ Priorities that were drafted by the SHiFT, Weird Book and Church Council. These are not any specific order just a (working draft)

MEMBERSHIP

- *New Member Mentors
- *Membership Drive
- *Social/Activity Events
 - Family Fun Nights
 - Game Nights
 - Walking Club

MISSION/OUTREACH

- *Friendship Sunday
- *Mission Trip
- *Community Soup Kitchen

WORSHIP

- *Music
 - Utilize More Familiar Contemporary Hymns
 - Guest Music (i.e. Pokka, Jazz, Guitar. etc.)
 - (Cassette Records)
- *Video Screen (Technology)
- *Communion at Assisted Living
- *Outdoor Service (Hospital Shelter)
- *Incorporate Liturgists
 - (Children's Sermons/Readings/etc.)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- *Youth Family Activities
- *Community Church Youth Groups
- *Adult Bible Study
- *Encourage & Support Camp Participation
- *Sunday School/VBS
 - (Explore Time & Day Adjustment)

OTHER GOOD IDEAS

- *Produce Table
- *Beverage Mugs

| April 2018 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----------|--|
| ◀ Mar 2018 | | | | | | May 2018 ▶ |
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 1 EASTER SUNDAY 9 am Sr. Choir practice NO Sunday School 10 am Easter Worship Communion (Intinction) No Fellowship/Coffee Hour | 2 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon | 3 6 pm Pastor Parish | 4 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation | 5 | 6 | 7 7 a.m. UCC Men's Club Breakfast |
| 8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship New Member Reception Fellowship/Coffee Hour | 9 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon | 10 10 am Ministerial Alliance - UCC | 11 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation | 12 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Hour | 16 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon | 17 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacons & Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council | 18 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation | 19 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Cafe | 20 | 21 9:30 am- 3:30 pm Northwest Association Annual Meeting First Congregational UCC Eau Claire |
| 22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour QUARTERLY MEETING | 23 NEWSLETTER WEEK 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon | 24 | 25 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Confirmands Reading Statements of Faith Fellowship/Coffee Hour PIE/BAKED GOODS SAUCTION NRC Worship 3pm | 30 | | | | | |