



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

May 2018

Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you" John 15:4

Jacoba's jottings.... In The Still-Speaking Devotion, "*With*" published April 24, Tony Robinson wonders if God's name is "**With**." Remember the promise God made to be "**with**" Moses as Moses returned to Egypt to free the Hebrew slaves. When the Risen Christ was about to leave this earth, he proclaimed, "I am "**with**" you always."

I know God is with us, however this struck me with more intensity this week. I have been asked more questions lately about why God does or does not do this or that. Why did God allow this or that? Why does God not stop terrible things from happening? Some of us find it hard when it seems God is not intervening in our lives. We question why cancer strikes a loved one or why a family has so many crises or why good people suffer. Can God not prevent such calamities or heart aches?

Robinson suggests, "*We may think we need a God who will do it all, who will protect us from every peril or pain. Do we?*" Robinson knows he doesn't want friends or family to tell him what to do, or even to fix what are his problems. – "*that is not our deepest need. We do not need others to lead our lives for us or deal with our challenges on our behalf. But we do need a God who is "with." With us. Fully present. Engaged.*"

Who do you need God to be for you? Do you want God to be a fix-it God, who fixes all the challenges you face? If so, are you willing to lose all control over what you do? Do you want a God who stops all things which are bad for you – but what if those things might be things you enjoy? Do we really want God to control our lives and the world? That might sound good, however I think most of us enjoy our freedom and choices.

As I reflect back on my life, I remember some good times and some hard times. In the middle of the hard experiences, I sometimes prayed God would fix them or get me out of them. I now know, that even in my most challenging times, there was some good to come out of them. (Please don't tell anyone else that good will come out of their hard times while they are in the middle of them – we can only know that through our own history – not for anyone else's experience.) I also know that God was with me in the good and hard times. God *with* us is what gives me the hope to get through.

A doctor called his patient at her home to see how she was doing. His call let her know he was with her. A boss stopped by the work station to support the worker with the new task. A friend stopped by to give a hug after hearing it had been a hard day. A parent rushed from work to watch the ball game. The Farmer Appreciation Luncheon does not take the challenges farmers are currently facing away; but that dinner does say we noticed and we care. By our actions we show we, and most importantly, God are with you. To know someone is with us; cares, laughs and cries with us makes all the difference.

I agree with Tony Robinson, I want a God who is with me and goes with me. I want to abide in Jesus (live *with* – remain *with*), knowing he abides in (lives *with* – remains *with*) me.

PASTOR JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE

I was not impressed! I do remember five years ago trapesing through knee high snow with Jim Sjolin



on St. Patrick's Day when I first came to Neillsville.

So, I guess I should not be surprised by

the snow and ice that sometimes visits us. But



yikes – enough already. I express the congregation's gratitude to Custom Heating and Warren Struensee for plowing the parking lot, to Kevin and

Logan Erickson and Bob Petkovsek for clearing out the basement door entrances, and Hannah, Luke, Logan and Jenny Erickson and Ellie and Cindy Moseid for shoveling out the front doors and Jim Vradenburg who shoveled and salted and shoveled around the church.

I also thank Dave Harnisch for taking me to WCCN on the Sunday we cancelled church services. I was able to broadcast a sermon for that day live. Members told me they huddled around the radio as they had done years ago when listening to the Lone Ranger. ☺ Also, during that service, I had Larry Hoeser play the anthem our choir sang on Easter morning. It was indeed a beautifully done and worthy of a repeat on our radio broadcast.

I also want to add my thanks to the Deacons and Deaconess for all their help with the Holy Week Services – communion prepared and served, feet and hands washed, serving as ushers and greeters.



It is always a delight to enjoy some time with the Circle of Friends. Thank you, ladies for all you do to support the ministry of

UCC and inviting me to join your fellowship.

I understand, Doris Bakker, Mike Perkl and Hap Eddy had a good day out, buying supplies for our kitchen... new roasters, frying pans, knives, spatulas and paper cups too! Thanks folks for taking on this task.

Mike Perkl, Bonnie Weyer, Sue Vornholt and I attended the Northwest Association meeting. It was most interesting hearing about and from members of the HoChunk Nation.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

We welcome Linda Stalsberg, Kelley Burch and Paul Vine into congregation on April 8. Linda and Paul were confirmed at UCC. Linda is the daughter of Betty and Dale Opelt. Paul is the son of Gordon and Faith Vine. Linda, married to John is employed by Cummins working in the office and on the line when needed. Paul and Kelley manage the Vine Family Christmas Tree Farm. Paul is a retired School Superintendent and Kelley works from home as an RN for Gunderson Health System, LaCrosse. They all enjoy their children and grandchildren – Linda's are here in town and Kelley and Paul travel to see theirs. Linda enjoys camping and exercising... Paul and Kelly get their exercise on the golf course and riding their bikes. Their mentors are: Linda - Corinne Armitage; Kelley - Barb Petkovsek; and Paul - Mike Perkl. Our mentors will help our new members get acquainted with the members and ministries of UCC.

CONFIRMATION

The confirmation class will present their Statements of Faith this coming Sunday, April 29. I appreciate the thought they have put into them and how they have included their beliefs and their doubts. I also thank the parents, mentors, and class assistants who worked with me to share their faith and understanding of what we believe. The class will confirm their baptism and become official members on May 6.

CHURCH CAMP There is still time to register for Camps at Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center. There are family camps, grade level camps, camps for families who have someone who has Autism, and camps for families with someone who has dementia. There are Grandparent/ Grandchild camps. They are also hiring staff. Ask Pastor Jacoba for more information or go on line to ucci.org

ANNUAL WISCONSIN CONFERENCE MEETING

This meeting takes place at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center on June 8-10. Sue Vornholt and Pastor Jacoba are attending. We are entitled to one more delegate. Speak to Pastor Jacoba or Audrey if you would like to attend.

May Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

We made it through the month of April! What a month it was. SNOW, RAIN, ICE, COLD we had it all. I only remember one other time we had to cancel church services in the forty years I have been here. It looks like spring is here now! Let's hope so. It's newsletter week and time for the May Newsletter. It was and still is a busy April. Last Sunday the Quarterly meeting was held; this Saturday, April 28 will be the Farmer Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by our church and next Sunday, April 29 we will hold our famous Pie and Baked Goods Auction. Hope we see you there!

See you in church! – Audrey

Volunteers for May Sunday's

Acolytes

Sunday, May 6

Mackenzie Hediger

Paige Voigt

Sunday, May 13

Bryce Erickson

Alex Northup

Sunday, May 20

Parker Voigt

Logan Erickson

Sunday, May 27

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 be there with your child(ren). If you use our nursery, please be sure the toys/etc. are put away. Thank you for your help.

Ushers for May

Sunday, May 6

Travis Vine, Ben Wilson

Don Quicker, Kevin Erickson

Sunday, May 13 & 20

Tim Steinbach, Phil Follen

Jake Ratsch, Tim Voigt

Sunday, May 27 & June 3

Mat Roenz, Hunter Roenz

Jim Sjolín, Volunteer

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 May

Sunday, May 6

Mitchell & Cassie Erickson

Sunday, May 13

Mark & Merrill Brunette

Sunday, May 20

Dale & Betty Opelt

Sunday, May 27

Russ & Susie Karl

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 May. 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

May (Intinction) Confirmation- Team 1 – Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis

Bread: Sue Vornholt

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for May

Sunday, May 6

Kathy Mathis.....715-937-0690

Sunday, May 13

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

Sunday, May 20

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

Sunday, May 27

Jim Vradenburg.....715-937-3881

Facts & Figures

Palm Sunday, March 25.....94

Maundy Thursday March 29.....43

Good Friday, March 30.....87

Easter Sunday, April 1.....143

Sunday, April 8.....102

Sunday, April 15...(worship canceled due to weather)

Sunday, April 22.....84

Offerings

Sunday, March 25

General Offering.....\$1705.00.

Radio Fund.....300.00

Lenten Offerings.....134.50

One Great Hour of Sharing.....50.00

Maundy Thursday, March 29

General

Offering.....\$283.00

Sunday, April 1

General Offering.....\$1995.00

Lenten Offering.....274.00

Hearts for the Home.....109.00

Granton Food Pantry.....50.00

Sunday, April 8

General Offering.....\$1900.00

Sunday, April 15

NO Offerings Due to WEATHER

Sunday, April 22

General Offering.....\$9078.31

Farmers Appreciation Luncheon.....25.00

Pie Auction.....10.00

Audio Visual.....1000.00

Campital Campaign.....1000.00

April 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.

1st Congregational Quarterly Meeting –

On Sunday, April 22 the 1st Congregational Quarterly meeting was held on Sunday, April 22 following worship service. We have quarterly reports here in the office if you wish to pick one up. We want to thank the Deacons and Deaconesses for the refreshments they served.



Radio Broadcast

Sponsors

On *Sunday, March 25*, the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given in loving memory of June Johnson Feely by her family.

On *Sunday, April 1* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Bob and Lorraine Shaw in loving memory of family.

On *Sunday, April 8* our radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, April 15* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Bob & Ruth Schmidt in memory of sister, Joyce Schmidt.

On *Sunday, April 22* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Neil & Corinne Armitage in memory of Ben and those suffering depression.

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the April 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. (*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.*)

Note: Donna Dekker a long-time member of our church has moved: Many of you are asking for her address: Donna Dekker,

Mildstone Assisted Living – Apt. 111
4686 North Shore Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501

We also want to give you Joyce Johnson's new address: Joyce Johnson

Wells Nature View
601 East 21st Street
Marshfield, WI 54449

(I am sure both of these ladies would like to receive a card from you.)

Mission & Outreach News

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, May 17** from 10-11-30 a.m. at the United Church of Christ. At this time, we do not know who the guest speaker will be. The Café is for people interested in lifelong

(Sun Catcher’s Café continued)

learning, brain-healthy activities and interesting, positive discussion. It is sponsored by the ADRC of Clark County and is free. Refreshments will be served.

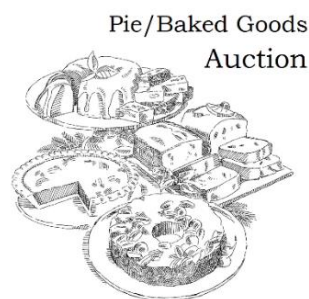
Farmers Appreciation Luncheon -THANK YOU ! The Mission Committee want to thank **all** that helped in any way with the Farmer Appreciation Luncheon.

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, May 10 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 Scheduled

This **Sunday, April 29** the Pie/Baked Goods will be held right after church in the Fellowship Hall.

Remember, new items have been added to

this year's auction. Go down and check it out. You know we have some of the best cooks in town donating to our auction and you don't want to miss out.

Emile Miller & Carla Marty



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, March 25 the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Theamore Richard Vine, son of Travis and Ashley Vine was observed here at our church. Theamore's sponsors are Liza Bourget and Daniel Edelson. Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiated. Theamore's name will be added to our Cradle Roll.

Second Half Group – The Second Half Group will not be meeting in May. We were unable to get anyone for a program. We will work on getting something for September. We do not meet in the summer time.

Note: We are always looking for an interesting program to present to this group. If you know of someone/something we can do let us know. Thank you.

Stewardship News

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

A little love can go a long way. When our lives become unpredictable or chaotic, when we're facing into a storm, when we're weary and discouraged, fearful or confused...a little love can give the boost we need.

Many of us find that love in our church. But there are many people still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word. They have not found a church that's reaching out with an extravagant welcome, where they can hear the message of the unconditional love of our still speaking God. That's where the Strengthen the Church special mission offering steps in.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church. This offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it sends the God is Still Speaking Ministry's message of extravagant welcome and inclusivity into our world.

(Strengthen the Church continued)

We will receive this offering on May 20 – the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday. I invite you to celebrate by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

Spread the Love. Strengthen the Church. God is still speaking. You will find Strengthen the Church special offering envelopes in the pew racks.

Thank You's Received

Dear Members of the United Church of Christ – Thank you so much for your generous donation for the residents of Care & Rehab. Your thoughtfulness means a lot.

Sincerely, Residents & Staff
Care & Rehab – Neillsville

Dear United Church of Christ Members:
Thank you for your generous donation of \$200. The money will be used to continue the Memory Café Program. Your thoughtfulness for the elderly of Clark County is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Mary Sladich, Director

Dear United Church of Christ:
Thank you for your recent donation to The Hannah Center. Your donation of \$200 was received. Your support and generosity is deeply appreciated. Thanks to your generosity, we will meet our mission to assist women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurturing environment. Thank you again for your support of the Hannah Center. Warmest regards.
The Hannah Center

(Note monies collected from Advent/Lenten offerings and Hearts for the Home are used for local missions) Thank you all for your donations!

Needed: Yarn for the Christmas Angel project. Bring to the church. Thank you.

Dates to remember

Confirmation Sunday – On Sunday, May 6 we will confirm our six confirmands.

Baccalaureate Sunday – Sunday, May 20 we will honor our UCC High School, College/Tech graduates. We are looking for names. Please let us know so that we can honor them. Thank you.

Pentecost Sunday May 20 – WEAR RED!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May Birthdays

- 1- Don Quicker
- 2- John Subke
- 3- Emily Voigt
Erin Voigt
- 4-Bernie Opelt
- 6-Ashley Vine
- 7-Jocelyn Vine
- 9-Rachel Anderson
Haylee Erickson
- 11-Destini Sexauer
- 12-Marge Goetsch
- 13-James Sjolín
Lacey Erickson
Carol Harnisch
- 15-Sue Jodarski
- 16-Ann Schoengarth
- 17-Delores Walker
Bernard Walker
- 19-Clayton Sexauer
- 20-Wanda Smith
- 26-John Schermitzler
Arlene Stark
Ben Anderson
- 27-Michelle Bergemann
Victoria Ratsch
- 29-Paul Schmidt
- 30-Craig Sigurdson

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 1 and 2

Friday 4-8 pm

Saturday 9am-2pm

At UCC



- 1 – Roberta & Bob Gaier
- 3- James & Autumn Marshall
- 4- Ruth & Bob Schmidt
- 9- Ben & Kelly Mathis
- 11-Charlotte & David Tetzlaff
- 18-Don Quicker & Cindy Grotta
- 22-Bernie & Hanna Opelt

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

May 2018						
◀ Apr 2018						Jun 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:30 pm Worship Service at Neillville Care & Rehab. Pastir Jacoba leading	2 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	3	4	5 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
6 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship Confirmation – Communion Fellowship/Coffee Hour	7	8 10 am Ministerial Alliance Hillside	9 3 pm Audio Visual Committee meeting	10 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	11 Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	12 Pastor Jacoba - Vacation
13 Mother's Day 9 am Sunday (Last Session until Fall) 10 am. Worship – Pastor James Mohr – leading Fellowship/Coffee Hour Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	14 Pastor Jacoba returning	15 5:30 pm Trustees meeting 6:30 pm Deacons & Deaconesses meeting 7:30 pm Church Council	16	17 10-11:30 am Suncatchers Cafe	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship Baccalaureat Sunday Fellowship/Coffee Hour	21	22	23 Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	24 Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	25 Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	26 Pastor Jacoba – Vacation
27 10 am Worship Pastor Julie Garber – Leading Fellowship/Coffee Hour Pastor Jacoba - Vacation	28 Pastor Jacoba - Returning Memorial Day (Office Closed)	29	30	31		