



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

July 2018

Jacoba's jottings.... Romans 12:9-21 says what needs to be said in our time and place more fully than I could begin to say it. The Apostle Paul writes to the Roman Church about church matters - yet what he says is true for life in the family, the church, the nation and the world. We are in need of kindness and civility in our interactions with one another. To be followers of Jesus we must learn to walk with one another, work with one another, and be known for our love for one another. As I wrote last month, God created us to become one. Jesus prayed that all may be one. It is time as God's people to live by the Marks of a True Christian.

Marks of the True Christian

Romans:12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal*, be ardent^ in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,⁺ but associate with the lowly;
do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written,
"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

*Zeal – synonyms are enthusiasm, passion fanaticism, eagerness

^Ardent – synonyms are passionate, enthusiastic, fervent, eager, devoted

+Haughty – synonyms are proud, arrogant, superior, condescending

PASTOR JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE

I am grateful to report that my suitcases are put away. I thank you for understanding as my times away spanned alternating weeks for two months. I see our attendance (and offering) has lagged. I hope that even though it is summer, and many of us are away periodically, you will make every effort to attend worship at UCC when you are in town. These have been full weeks for the church and for me filled with much joy.



With my Mom

June began with Vacation Bible School. It was a Polar Blast! We had 32-34 children attend on Friday May 31, 4-8pm and Saturday June 1, 9am -2pm.



We were led by Ashley Vine and Stephanie Heck and the Board of

Christian Education who did a great job. I counted 13 adult and youth helpers.

Lydia, Betty O, Jenna, Lacey, Stephanie, Ashley, Linda, Jill, MacKenzie, Kara,

Howie, Rick and me. Our children came from our own church and were friends and family members of our congregation. It was a joy to see again some of the children we have baptized in my



time here. VBS this year was truly a blessing. We

have a power point of pictures from VBS. You are welcome to see them.



On June 8-10 Sue Vornholt, Bonnie Weyer and I attended the Annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference. Sue (and John) helped create the beautiful back drop on the stage and boats on our



tables in the cafeteria to remind us of the theme. The boat on the stage moved across the lake throughout our meeting.

Really cool, Sue. Sue also graduated from Year Four Lay Academy. Congrats, Sue.

The meeting theme was based on Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus and the disciples crossed the lake;

Jesus was asleep as a storm frightened the disciples. We heard Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness



and Local Church Ministries, speak on how we might improve our relationships with people who are different from us. She was joined by Rev. Bryan Sirchio and Rev. Karl Kuhn who powerfully also addressed the ways we relate to one another. While you heard a sermon by the Rev. Franz, we heard stories from our Conference Associate Conference Ministers as they remembered times where they or family and friends encountered the effects of racism.

In the next year, each church is asked to study and discuss what took place in our history with Native Americans. We will look particularly at the Doctrine of Discovery which was written by the Pope in 1494 and has not been repudiated. I am in conversation with our Association leadership and the Ho-Chunk church in Black River Falls about how we might meet together to get to know one another again. The Conference Meeting was an interesting meeting to say the least.

I want to thank Betty Barr who led the worship service on June 10. I hear she could have a have a new call calling! ☺ I also thank Barb Petkovsek who served as liturgist when Julie Garber led worship on June 24.

After the meeting, I drove directly to Moon Beach Camp where I met Reese and Haylee who were there for MADD Camp



(Music, Art, Dance and Drama.) The girls had a great time meeting



Praying in Color

new friends and enjoying the activities. I used the time for Sabbath and to do some planning for worship in the next month or so.



I also visited Donna Dekker in Rhinelander who says hello to all her friends. On my way home I visited with Ruth Van Gorden, Natalie Hauge and Janet Harrington.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

On **July 15** we will worship at the Lion's Club Shelter on Ferguson Street behind Care and Rehab at 9am. Be sure to invite anyone you know who lives at Countryview Apartments, at Care and Rehab, and at Sunset and Riverside Assisted Living facilities to join us. There are also people who say they will only attend a worship service when it outdoors. Our worship service at the Lion's Club Shelter is a marvelous opportunity to invite them to worship with us. Let us know if you need a ride to the service. Please leave the closest parking places for people who have a difficult time walking.

July 22 is the day Eileen Zank will retire from playing our organ and piano. I have asked her to choose some hymns she enjoys and of course play some of her favorite pieces for prelude, special music, offertory and postlude. Please make every effort to come to worship God as Eileen leads us with some of her favorite songs.

August 12 is Fair Sunday this year. Come and join us worship God with Calvary and Pine Valley Churches.

I am planning to preach on the theme of "Crossing the Lake." For the next few weeks. I am thinking we all have places where we would rather not go or fear to go— how do we navigate those places with our faith and fears?

Topics are: (I reserve the right to change these)

July 1 – "Going to the Other Side" Mark 35-41

July 8 – "On the Other Side" Mark 5:1-20

July 15 – "From Sin to Life" Ephesians 2:1-10,
Psalm 130

July 22 – "Singing the Lord's Song" The Psalms

July 29 – "Breaking Down the Dividing Walls"
Ephesians 2:11-22 , II Samuel 7:7-14a

August 5 – "Rooted and Grounded in Love"
Ephesians 3:14-21, Psalm 145:10-18

MUSIC

The Music Committee is meeting to address music leadership now that Eileen is retiring. Karen will be our sole organist. Karen and Pastor Jim like to travel so she will not always be available to play the organ and piano. The Committee is seeking and interviewing possible musicians. They have also purchased CDs which will provide accompaniment for our hymns on Sundays when we do not have a musician.

The Committee is also hoping for special music – are any church members, your friends or family members willing to sing or play an instrument for worship?

BIBLE OR BOOK STUDY

I would like to see us enjoy the summer with a Bible or Book Study. Has anyone read a good book or want to delve into a particular book of the Bible? Let me know! Sunday evenings seemed to work last year. I am also open to a different time and day if that works better for the group.

I read Being Mortal this winter. It is high on my list of one of the most thought-provoking books I have ever read. It deals with aging, life and death decisions, living arrangements as we age. The author did this with stories and research in such an interesting way that I could hardly put it down. It helped me think about family members who are aging and what I want and do not want for myself – such as where do I want to live and what kinds of medical treatment do I want to pursue as I age. If I must choose, do I want quality of life or length of days, and what does that mean? For me, the book also helped me consider how to support people as they made decisions concerning their health and lifestyles.

Are there any books or topics you want to delve into with a group – of course I am also always eager to study the Bible with you.

NEW TO ME TREASURES

We are looking for someone to take over the "New to me Treasures" part of the Bazaar. Wendy is retiring and will be a snow bird so we are looking for someone give leadership to the "New to Me Treasures". Anyone interested please contact Carla Marty. The person who is interested can set it up anyway they want.

July Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

Yes, I know it's time to get the July Newsletter out. I cannot believe how fast the summer is going. I hope you are all enjoying it as much as I am. The hot weather isn't even bothering me after our long winter. Pastor Jacoba has also enjoyed some time off in June to be with her family. She also attended the Wisconsin Conference Annual meeting the first part of June. You will have read her news article to see what has been going on in her busy life. Enjoy these summer months!

See you in church! – Audrey

Volunteers for Our July Sundays

Acolytes

Sunday, July 1

Mackenzie Hediger
Paige Voigt

Sunday, July 8

Bryce Erickson
Alex Northup

Sunday, July 15

(This is our Outdoor Service - will not need Acolytes this Sunday)

Sunday, July 22

Parker Voigt
Logan Erickson

Sunday, July 29

Dante Erickson
Sydney Subke

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

Note: Our 7th grade Acolytes will be going into Confirmation this fall....so we will need some more Sunday school kids to help us out. 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 July

Sunday, July 1

Joel Raine, Jeff Raine
(We need two more volunteers)

Sunday, July 8 & 15

Joe Holman, Butch Carl
Dick Lewis, Tom Barr

Sunday, July 22 & 29

Bob Petkovsek, Jim Repinski
Ray Weyer, (We need one more 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 July

Sunday, July 1

Paul & Sandra Schmidt

Sunday, July 8

Dorothy Steiger & Arlene Stark

Sunday, July 15

Phil & Donita Follen

Sunday, July 22

James & Karen Mohr

Sunday, July 29

Frances Short & Kim Stetzer

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 July. Look for the list of dates on the bulletin board (we 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 Assignments for Sunday

July 1 (Intinction) Communion- Team 1 –

Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis

Bread: Betty Barr

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for July

Sunday, July 1

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

Sunday, July 8

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

Sunday, July 15

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

Sunday, July 22

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

Sunday, July 29

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

Facts & Figures

Sunday, June 3.....41

Sunday, June 10.....34

Sunday, June 17.....54

Sunday, June 24.....40

Offerings

Sunday, June 3

General Offering.....\$1442.00

Strengthen the Church Mission.....25.00

Milk Fund Mission67.00

Sunday, June 10

General Offering.....\$1965.00

Sunday, June 17

General Offering.....\$2218.00

Milk Fund Mission.....156.00

Sunday, June 24

General Offering.....\$.893.00

Radio Fund.....37.50

Milk Fund Mission.....167.00

Strengthen the Church Mission.....25.00

June Automatic Giving.....\$2015.00

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, June 3* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades Marg in honor of the “Rhoades Girls.”

On *Sunday, June 10* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Phyllis Embke in memory of her husband, Norbert Embke.

On *Sunday, June 17* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob & Ruth Schmidt in memory of daughter, Tammy Backaus and in memory of parents, Walter & Lucille Schmidt.

And on *Sunday, June 24* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Trink Jenkins in honor of family and friends.

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

2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

Would you like to sponsor a radio broadcast for **2019?** Now is the time to sign-up. The radio broadcast that is heard on the radio every Sunday is not a budgeted item, so we have to find sponsors for these broadcasts. The cost to sponsor a full broadcast is \$75.00; a half broadcast \$37.50 and a third broadcast \$25.00. We believe this is a wonderful ministry of our church and would like to continue to keep it up. You may sponsor in memory of someone-in honor of someone- in thankfulness for something or someone or for any other reason you may have. Monies for these sponsored radio broadcasts must be in by the end of

(2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed continued)

this year (December 2018) We thank you for your continued support of our radio ministry! Call the office (715-743-2147) soon and sign-up for a Sunday – most Sundays are still available.

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

JUNE MILK DRIVE FUND

"WOW WE DID IT!"

\$504.00 WAS RAISED

**We have an overflowing milk jug
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Food vouchers will be created for the
Food Pantry and Office on Aging &
Nutrition. 1 voucher = 1 gallon of milk**

Food Pantry - Bring your non-perishable food and paper product donations – ALL food pantries are in need of all items - School is out and the food pantries are especially busy with needs for children. Cereals, soups, macaroni/cheese, peanut butter etc. Thank you for your support!

"Back Pack Program" – Even though school is out the "Back Pack Program" still needs your financial support. The program will again begin with the fall opening of school. 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. Thank you for your continued support.

"Sun Catcher's Café" – The Sun Catchers Café will hold their monthly meeting on **Thursday, July 19** from, 10-11-30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ. The guest presenter will be Christine Keller, master Gardener. Christine will talk about beneficial insects and pollinator gardens. This program is sponsored by the ADRC of Clark County and is free. Refreshments will be served.

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, July 12**. They meet at 1:30 p.m. *Note:* They can always use help with the greeting cards during their Monday morning work times.

Greeting Cards – If you need a card – they are always available. Go down to the card room where there is a nice selection to choose from – 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 or you can give your money to Audrey in the office. How handy is that? Thank you for supporting us.

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

Second Half Group – The Second Half Group will not be meeting during the summer. We are hoping we will find someone/something for September. **Note:** We can use your help. If you know of something we can present, please let us know. Thank you.

Needed: *Yarn* for the Christmas Angel Project. Bring to the church. Thank you. Any questions check with Doris Bakker.



July Birthdays

1- Tyler Williams
Ben Fields
Brennan Wilson

2- Pam Stitt
3- Arianna Rochester
Mathew Roenz
4- Tom Wallace
5- Donna Erickson
9- Sandra Schmidt
Jo Ann Voss
Sophie Heck
10-Ruth Van Gorden
11-Emile Miller
Berdella Carl
13-James Mohr
16-Kathy Turner
Neil Czarnecki
17-Guy Jodarski
18-Pat Garbisch
19-Gayle Schermitzler
Roger Carl
21-Robert Shaw
Kobe Roenz
24-Karsen Czarnecki
25-Bonnie Shaw
Carol Opelt
Kathy Carl
26-Reese Ziegler
Mitchell Erickson
27-Hunter Roenz
28-Dan Patey
29-Eileen Zank
Barb Shoemaker
Kelley Burch
30-Erik Sigurdson.

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



July Wedding Anniversaries

7- Ray & Bonnie Weyer
13-Dick & Carolyn Lewis
14-Joe & Kris Anderson
29-John & Gayle Schermitzler
31-Eugene & Carol Opelt

“Happy Anniversary” to all who have a July Wedding Anniversary! Did we miss your anniversary or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.

July 2018						
◀ Jun 2018						Aug 2018 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Summer Worship Communion (Intinction) Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neillsville Retirement Community	2 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	3 2:30 pm Care & Rehab Church Service – Pastor Jacoba leading	4 Independence Day (Office Closed)	5	6	7
8 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	9 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	10	11	12 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting	13	14
15 9 am Summer Worship at the Neillsville Care & Rehab Outdoor shelter – Fellowship Coffee Hour to follow	16 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	17	18	19 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Cafe	20	21
22 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	23 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	24	25	26	27	28
29 9 am Summer Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	30 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	31				