

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Neillsville, Wisconsin Church 715-743-2147 Pastor Jacoba Koppert Pastor's Office 715-743-2117 <u>www.neillsvilleucc.org</u> October 2018

Jacoba's jottings... A Chrysanthemum appeared on my back patio last week. I could only try to guess who had given it. A member had come into the office the week before, she too had received a mum and had no idea who had given it to her. And then Dolores Johnson asked the people sitting at the table with me during coffee hour this week if she could share a story with us. Of course, we replied. While she was shopping in the grocery store, she noticed a woman who was smiling at her. Dolores smiled back. When



Dolores went to pay for her items, she learned they had already been paid for by the lady. Dolores did not know who she was, but it made her day. Dolores too, was the recipient of an unexpected gift.

When I discovered the mum, I immediately realized what a gift it was. It came at a time when I could use some uplifting, a reminder that I am loved. I immediately began to wonder how I could share the joy I had received. Who else would be delighted and surprised by a mum. As Dolores shared her story, her joy and surprise were evident in her twinkling eyes. She too wondered about paying for someone else's groceries. As I visited church members recently I had heard Dolores had already gifted a family with a meatloaf dinner and an unexpected gift. As it turned out, my own gift to others was to wear a clergy shirt (one with the little white neck tab) so that as I wandered among the Viet Nam Veterans at the Highground they would know that a pastor was available to listen and support them as memories of hard and painful times in their lives came flooding back. When I listened to the speeches at the Highground, I learned that the Viet Nam Veterans had already been paying forward the welcome our community gave them last weekend. Since returning to the US in the 1960's and 70's, the Viet Nam Vets have made sure that all who served our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan have received the "welcome home" they deserve.

The three of us I mentioned in my first paragraph were delighted by the unexpected gifts given to us. We are not alone in receiving unanticipated gifts. Telling the story of what we had received increased the value of the gifts we received. We wanted to share with someone our joy. My hunch is the Viet Nam Veterans who saw the yellow ribbons and the crowd that greeted them along the parade route in Neillsville returned to their homes, wanting to tell the story of how at last they had been "welcomed home."

The truth is, all of us often receive unexpected gifts – which when take notice of them, delight us. And the truth is we often give others a variety of surprising gifts. As people of faith, we know God is at work through those gifts. I frequently receive a gift when I need it most. God touched the heart of someone to bless me with a word, a smile, a phone call, a gift – they may not know I needed it – but God did. It also happens we give to others unaware of the effect of our gifts upon those who received them. God has used us. And it is true, that sharing the delight of what we have received is what Jesus followers are called to do. At the empty tomb, Jesus told his followers, "Go and tell the others!"

My hope as our Annual Stewardship begins, is that we reflect on what God has given to us through our faith, church and congregation. I hope we will consider how we can or have paid God's gifts forward and how we can share the story of what God, our church and congregation have done for us.

JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE

The children and youth have returned to their church school classes. I want to thank Jenna Ziegler and all the parents who are teaching our younger ones. Barb Petkovsek and Howie Mathis have stepped up to teach our 5th graders on Sunday mornings. Jenny Romens Erickson is again teaching the 6th and 7th graders after school on Wednesdays; and I am assisted in the confirmation class by Don Abel, Larry Marshall and Jim Sjolin. Thank you, teachers!

The Church Council, Committees and Boards are again at work. I thank them for the leadership they give to the church. I also celebrate the return of the choir and the music of the children. Karen Mohr spends much time choosing choir music that she hopes follows the theme of the worship service. Church members are also preparing for the Bazaar making crafts at church each Wednesday evening beginning a 6 pm. They welcome all to join them; It is good to again see many church members who took a season away involved in other summer activities.



As I said in worship Sunday, I am not sure our community is aware of the gift you gave to the Viet Nam Veterans as you lined the parade route welcoming them home. One Veteran told me he did

not know Neillsville had so many people who appreciated their service. Several of our members were involved in making and hanging up the yellow ribbons all over town... thank you for your time and effort.

CONFIRMATION BEGINS

The CD's much enjoyed a pool party on September 12 at Cindy and Kai Moseid's home. It was a gorgeous day – The Students (and teachers) were glad we did not have to go into the classrooms on such a sunny day.

The Confirmation class begins their study with a unit on the Bible – who wrote it, is it true, how to read it. This class also appreciates beginning with Centering Prayer and so we will emphasize the power of and kinds of prayer that help us relate to God and manage our stress.

Class members and their mentors were introduced to the church last Sunday as the congregation pledged their love, care and support to the Confirmands, their parents, mentors, teaching assistants and me their teacher. Class members and their mentors are: Dante Erickson – Mitchell Erickson, mentor; Logan Erickson – Mike Perkl, mentor; Mackenzie Hediger – Jenny Romans Erickson, mentor; Alex Northup – Tim Voigt, mentor: Delaney Pochester – Sue Voigt, mentor:

Delaney Rochester – Sue Voigt, mentor; Derek Zschernitz – Ray Weyer, mentor.



I thank the mentors who will read the Gospel of Luke with the students, talk about their faith and help the confirmands write their Statements of Faith next spring.

We are also looking for male and female chaperones to accompany the youth on their Retreat at Pilgrim Center, November 9-11 and Urban Immersion March 29 and 30.

ADULT STUDY

Sunday Evenings 6pm October 16- November 18 The Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

The Wisconsin Conference has asked churches to study the Doctrine of Discovery. Because of our close connection with the HoChunk (Ho-Cak) Nation and my work in the Northwest Association to grow in our relationship with our neighboring church in Black River Falls, I am asking you to join me in this study. We will use a booklet written by several members of the Tribes. It includes scriptural references and discussion questions as well as some background from the perspective of Native Americans. The material is on the internet if you want to look at it; We will make paper copies of the 32-page booklet for anyone who would like to read it.

http://uccfiles.com/pdf/DoctrineofDiscovery.pdf My suggestion would be for participants to read the material and then gather for discussion of the Bible readings and suggested questions. If we need to change the time and day we meet, let me know.

October Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

Here we are the last week of September! It is time to get the October Newsletter to you. We are now back to our fall schedule; gathering for worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School began last Sunday for children age 3 through 5th grade. They meet at 9 a.m. beginning with their music in the Sanctuary and then going to their class's downstairs. On Wednesdays a bus has been arranged to bring our 6th and 7th grade students and the 8th grade Confirmands here to the church at 3:30 p.m. It is nice to see the church filled with kids again! September is and has been busy already. A Baptism, Second Half Group and Board meetings have already taken place. Be sure to check out the October calendar for our upcoming church activities. See you in church! – Audrey

Volunteers for Our Sundays in October Acolytes

Sunday, Sunday, October 7

Bryce Erickson Parker Voigt

Sunday, October 14

Sydney Subke Paige Voigt

Sunday, October 21 Iris Vine

Reese Ziegler

Sunday, October 28

Haylee Erickson Dottie Holm

Please let the church office know (715-743-2147) if you are unable to light the candles as scheduled. We are looking for more Sunday School kids to help with lighting candles. Let us know if you want to help us out. Our acolytes are an important part of our worship service. Thanks to those of you that light our candles on Sunday morning.

<u>Nursery</u>

<u>Note</u>: 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 October

Sunday, October 7

Larry Marshall, Jim Marshall Dave Harnisch, Tim Steinbach

Sunday, October 14 & 21

Hap Eddy, Mike Perkl Ray Weyer, (Need a volunteer)

Sunday, October 28 & November 4

Cris Hediger, Cole Hediger Neil Armitage, 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 October

Sunday, October 7 Joey & Michelle Kranz

Sunday, October 14

Ray & Bonnie Weyer

<u>Sunday, October 21</u>

Gary & Lois Corey

Sunday, October 28

Travis & Ashley Vine 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 October Look for the list of dates on the bulletin board (the <u>Sundays</u> are listed for the rest of the year) 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.

Note: On *Sunday, October 21* the Annual Potluck Church Picnic is scheduled. In order for the UCC Men's Club (who will be furnishing the grilled chicken) to know how much chicken to order we have a sign-up on the bulletin board to find out how many plan on coming. (If we have enough signed up the picnic <u>will</u> be scheduled.) Watch for further notice...On *Sunday, October 28* the Stewardship Committee plan on a "soup luncheon." It will be served before the Quarterly meeting that Sunday.

Communion Assignments for Sunday October 7 "World Communion Sunday"

Pews - Team 2 – Janice Miller, Jim Vradenburg, Wavne Voss, Jake Ratsch, Karlene Wallace Bread: Sue Vornholt, Jim Vradenburg,

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for October

715-743-3283
g715-937-3881

Facts & Figures

Sunday, September 2	49
Sunday, September 9	60
Sunday, September 16	109
Sunday, September 23	85

Offerings

Sunday, September 2

General Offering	\$1270.00
Neighbors in Need	10.00

Sunday, September 9

General Offering	\$1967.00
Neighbors in Need	
Memorial Fund	

Sunday, September 16

\$2532.00
150.00
500.00
300.00
200.00
100.00
370.00

Sunday, September 23

General Offering\$2219.00
Radio Fund150.00
Town & Country Quilters (use of church)180.00
Neighbors in Need Offering50.00

September Automatic Giving......\$1815.00



Committee

The Stewardship Committee would like to say "Thank You" for your past year's donations. We are so appreciative of your continual monetary support, as well as ways you have shared your time and talents.

Within the next two months you again will have an opportunity to pledge your support to the church and its missions. In October you will hear how we are active in our community and the greater world: -Neighbors in Need -Backpack Program

-Christmas Angel Project

-Funeral Meals

In mid-October, the "Faith Promise Cards" will be mailed to our members. To help families budget for their 2019 monetary giving, church members will have an opportunity to learn more about automatic giving and the donation of appreciated stock. If you would like more information about either of these two methods, please contact a member of the stewardship committee:

M.E. Sjolin	715-743-4200
Sue Voigt	715-743-8263
Bonnie Weyer	715-937-0871
Marge Goetsch	715-937-0793
Emile Miller	715-937-4626

To celebrate the giving of our "Faith Promise Cards" during church on October 28, the Stewardship Committee invites you to a soup luncheon following worship on that Sunday. Everyone is welcome!

Again "Thank You" for your ongoing donations and contributions!!!



<u>Radio Broadcast</u> Sponsors

On *Sunday, September 2* the radio broadcast portion

of our worship service was sponsored by Doris Bakker in memory of her parents.

On *Sunday, September 9* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Phil and Donita Follen for the church family.

On *Sunday, September 16* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Craig and Wendy Sigurdson in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

On *Sunday, September 23* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim and Rosie Repinski in memory of Frank Zank's 100th birthday.

And on *Sunday, September 30* the radio broadcast is sponsored by the late Ruby Ambelang in memory of her husband, Harry and brothers, Don and Hap.

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the September 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 need 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 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 - lots of Sundays are still available.

(2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)

Following is a list of Sundays. Let's keep this special radio ministry. Sponsor a broadcast!

2019 Dates Available:

January: 20-27 February: 10 March: 3-17-24-31 May: 5-26 June: 9-16-30 July: 7-14-21 August: 4-18-25 September: 1-8-15-22-29 October: 20 November 3-10-24 December 1-8-15-22 (Half)-29

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: Anita Lulloff is now residing at Riverside Assisted Living. Her new address is:

Riverside Assisted Living 1214 West 4th Street Neillsville, WI 54456

Her telephone number is 715-743-3351. Give Anita a call or a visit. Welcome her to her new home. I'm sure she would appreciate hearing from you.

Mission & Outreach News

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

"Back Pack Program" – The "Back Pack Program" is still in need of your financial support. The program has begun again with the fall opening of school. Backpacks are filled with food and sent home on weekends for families in need. 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.

<u>"Sun Catcher's Café</u> – The October meeting of the Sun Catchers Café will be on *Thursday, October 18* from10-11-30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ. October's program will be" Making Halloween Cottages" with Rachel McBride. (All supplies will be provided. Refreshments will be served. A big thank you to Deon Spangler on her presentation of "birds."

Helping Hearts and Hands - Our Mission and Outreach committee has decided to have a new fund raiser! We have called it "Helping Hearts and Hands." Brenda and Aaron Maitke (Brenda is Barb and Bob Petkovsek's daughter) are missionaries with CRU, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ. They with their children have been involved for 15 years. We have decided to partner with them for one year. We need \$100 a month to do so. We are asking people to purchase a hand for \$50. You can go together with another person if you so choose. We will put your hand on a heart shape located in the church somewhere. You can purchase these hands by filling out the envelope in your pew. Our committee thanks you for your help! Brenda and Aaron will speak to church in the fall to answer any questions.

Mission Committee: Cheryl Steinbach, Sue Gurney, Deb Perkl, Carole Romens, Kathy Mathis, Tim Voigt <u>**Circle of Friends News**</u> – We want to again thank the Circle of Friends for their continued support to our mission projects. They sponsored a radio broadcast for \$75.00 and donated \$100 to the Back Pack Program. The monies given for these special programs come from their recycled card sales and that happens because of your continued donation of cards and the purchasing of their cards. A Big Thank You to all!

The next meeting of the Circle of Friends will be on Thursday, October 11 at 1:30 p.m. Anyone is invited and welcome to come to their meetings.

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. Thank you for supporting us. Again, we want to remind you if you donate cards, please, leave the verse in them. Thank you. *Note:* Help is always appreciated when we work on our cards. Check with us to find out when we meet. Thank you.

Second Half Group – The Second Half Group met on Tuesday, September 18. A very delicious catered lunch was served by M&M Catering. Following the lunch Deon Spangler presented a slideshow of birds and wildlife of the lower Rio Grande Valley which included many of the different species that we have here. The pictures were beautiful. The question answered by Deon about many of the bird were very interesting. We want to thank Deon for this special presentation.

There will be a Second Half Group meeting in October on Tuesday, October 16 at 12 noon with a catered lunch from M&M Catering again followed by a presentation of *"Eating By Color"* presented by Kelsey Wussow and Rebecca Rosandick from Clark County Public Health on choosing healthy foods that are enjoyable and fun!

We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The cost of the meal will be \$8.00 plus tip. Please sign-up so we know how many are coming.



With Deepest Sympathy – Arlene June Kernz, 86 died on Friday, September 7 at Care & Rehab – Neillsville where

she had lived for the last year. Funeral Services were held here at our church on Tuesday, September 11 with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Arlene was a long- time member and friend of our church. She loved to crochet and was well known for the many 'scubbies" she made for the Holiday Fair. Many of us rushed down to the bazaar to get our supply for the year. She also was a member of the Circle of Friends. She will be missed by her family and many friends of the church. Again, our deepest sympathy to the family.



Baptized Sacrament of Holy

Baptism – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was observed on Sunday, September 16 for Vera Catherine Knoll, daughter of Jonathan and Molly (Brunette)

Knoll. Sponsors for Vera are Jacob Brunette, Melissa Pilgrim and Christopher Knoll. Vera is the granddaughter of Mark and Merrill Brunette and the great-granddaughter of Trink Jenkins. Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiated for the Baptism of Vera Knoll.

Bazaar News: We are pleased to report to you that we have co-workers ready and willing to work with the "New to You Treasurers" formerly known as the Twice Around Shop. So that means if you are doing some fall cleaning or have been storing up some hidden treasures or some nice clean and usable items for our shop, please bring them to the church NOW as we will be sorting and pricing soon. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Marty 715-937-0077. Thank you!

NOTE: *We are meeting every Wednesday night beginning at 6:00 p.m.* All are welcome. We have a lot of fun and you can visit with friends. You don't' need to be an expert at painting (which we are doing right now) – it's all easy painting. Hope to see you there. Bring your ideas with you. We are always looking for new projects. Thank you!

Neighbors in Need – "Love of Neighbor" is the theme for the Neighbors in Need special UCC offering. The NIN offering, which will be received on Sunday, October 7, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by UCC's justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice, NIN also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC including the Mission Church of Black River Falls congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make A Just World for All possible. For this to occur, it needs your support. Please give generously! Look for the special offering envelopes in the pew racks.

Thank You Bob Petkovsek for taking the aluminum cans to the recycling center. We netted a profit of \$31.60. Thank you to those of you that bring your cans here to the church. These monies go to the general fund. Thank you for your support! Keep on bringing them!!!



October Birthdays

 Kayla Ratsch
Tim Steinbach
Mickey Marty Alex Northup Tammy Holm
Brian Eddy Hannah Raine Corliss Fields

10-Luke Erickson

11-Tim Voigt

16-Avery Marshall

17-Dante Erickson

19-Todd Averill

21-Dolores Johnson Marian Vornholt

25-Natalie Hauge David Harnisch

26-Kim Stetzer

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

4- Jim & Rose Repinski 4- Michelle & Lucas Bergemann 7- Fred & Dixie Hediger 7- Joe & Deb Holman 8- Darwin & Ruth Zwieg 9- Clinton & Julie Woods 13-Randy & Natalie Hauge 14- Karen & David Northup 16-Tim & Sue Voigt 17-Kevin & Jenny Romens-Erickson 19-Darlene & Herman Muller 29-Thomas & Betty Barr "Happy Anniversary" to all who have a October Wedding Anniversary! Did we miss your anniversary or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.

Oops- I did mess up on a Wedding Anniversary date last month. Travis & Ashley Vine's Wedding Anniversary is September 12 and NOT the 9th. Sorry about that.



Sunday, October 21 Following Worship (If enough people sign up) Potluck Picnic Chicken furnished by UCC Men's Club Bring a dish to pass and your Own table service if you wish

Sunday, October 28 Stewardship Sunday (Bring your Faith Promise Cards) Soup Luncheon All Are INVITED! 3rd I Quarterly Congregational Meeting Following Worship Service Downstairs in Fellowship Hall

> "Coming in November" <u>Sunday, November 4</u> "All Saints Day" Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends

<u>Tuesday, November 6</u> "Election Day" Chili Feed 11:00-7:00 p.m. UCC (Watch for a list of donations needed for the chili)

Saturday, November 10 HOLIDAY FAIR UCC

Sep 2018 October 2018 Nov 2018 Nov 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Jacoba out of the office October 1-5	2	3 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Bazaar Workshop	4	5	6 7 pm UCC Men's Club Breakfast
7 9 am Choir practice 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship World Communion NIN Offering Fellowship Coffee 3 pm Communion served at Neills. Retire. Comm.	6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon 8 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	9 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at Living Hope	10 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Bazaar Workshop	11 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	12	13
14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Cue Fund Raiser- free-will Luncheon 6 pm Adult Bible Study	15 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	16 12 Noon 2 nd Half Group "Eating By Color" presentation 6:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess 7:30 pm Church Council	17 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Bazaar Workshop	18 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Cafe	19	20
21 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship James Sadowska Baptism Church "Potluck" Picnic?? 6 pm Adult Bible Study	22 Newsletter Week 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	23 5:30 pm Trustees	24 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Bazaar Workshop	25	26	27
28 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Stewardship Sunday Soup Lucheon following Worship Quarterly Meeting Following lunch 6 pm Adult Bible Study	29 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	30	31 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 pm Bazaar Workshop			