



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

September, 2018

Jacoba's jottings... I received a text this morning from a friend, who reminded me that I am daily in his prayers. His message, even at 6:04 am brought a smile to my face – and some clarity about what to write for this issue of Jottings. Carl has often told me he prays for me daily, but I forget that until he tells me again. I appreciate his daily prayers for me and his openness about telling me each time we connect that he still is. Anita L. also tells me she prays for me each Sunday morning before church. I do not receive lightly the prayers of others and hearing that someone is praying for me is a treasured gift. Is there someone for whom you pray regularly? What causes you to pray for that person or those people – the relationship you have with them or maybe their needs? With Carl, I was among the first on the scene of a car accident that should have killed him. I took seriously his calls for God as others worked to free him from his vehicle and gave him medical treatment. Each time, he called out the name God, I finished his prayer – praying for healing, hope, peace. He continues to be grateful to all of us who helped him survive that morning.



A conversation with another friend this week caused me to consider again what would I name as my favorite text. Luke 23:31-32 is one of my personal favorites.

“Simon, Simon listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers (sisters).”

To know that Jesus prays for Simon and for you and me, gives me comfort, hope, and peace. We are not alone.



Jesus is praying for us that our faith will not fail us – and he knows that at times it will. At times we will have doubts; at times we will stray from our faith; at times like Simon Peter we may even deny Jesus. Yet, even as Jesus knows we will fail, he continues to have faith that in time we will return to our faith – and at that time, he expects that we will be able to strengthen others. Realizing Jesus is praying for me, when I am faithful and when I fail (sin) helps me through and encourages me on my journey. It is good news that Jesus prays for all of us and for our world.

When I teach our confirmands about worship, I often mention the prayer I ask us all to pray before I preach. I smile as several of them can either recite it or say it with me.

“May the words I speak be faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may you hear what the Spirit intends for your ears.”

I am not sure when or how it came to be that I pray those words; did I pray them with another colleague who spoke them, or did the Holy Spirit give them to me and then they stayed with me? Today, I do not think about the sermon I am about to preach, but the possibility of those words being a prayer at the beginning of the day or as we encounter one another on the journey.

“May the words we/I speak, be faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may we/I hear what the Spirit intends for our/my ears.”

What do you think? How would praying that prayer affect your day and your relationships throughout the day? How would it affect your speaking and your hearing? Might our prayer also affect the speaking and hearing of others?

In any case I am grateful to know Jesus, Carl, and Anita and others – including me- continue to pray for you, me and our world. Ah, the power of prayer –the prayers of Jesus and others for us. and our own prayers for ourselves. Thanks be to God for the gift of prayers prayed for us and by us!

JACOBA'S 2nd PAGE

Someone commented that I have had a busy summer. Yes, that is true; family events and concerns and working through the changes we have in music were particularly what kept me busy and sometimes preoccupied. I very much appreciate the work of the Music Committee this summer as we worked through options and solutions as to how to provide music for worship. Vicente Cortez was hired to play the music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. I heard many compliments from people who enjoyed his music on the organ, piano and keyboard last Sunday. Karen will play on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and when she is away, either Deon will play, or we will use CDs. We have used the CDs on two Sundays and with Bonnie Weyer as a song leader and familiar hymns we are doing pretty good. (Thank you, Bonnie!) Corinne and I also worked with Vicente to help him learn our music. (Thank you, Corinne!) Alan added his expertise with the sound system working with Vicente to use his keyboard and with us on the CDs. Yes, it has added some work for all – including Audrey! Thank you, church for your patience and support!

As always, I enjoyed the Fair and being with our church families. I again took pictures mostly of kids and projects. Ask me if you want to see them. Pastor Chad and I like leading worship together at the



Fair. We hear from church folk who attend and our radio audience that they also enjoy it. This year a school bus was provided by Calvary to get folks

from our churches to the Fair Grounds. Thank you, Calvary!



Scrolling through Facebook I saw a beautiful picture of Wally and Pat Garbisch celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary with their family. August 30 was the day they were married – having met on a blind date. One of my

favorite stories is how Pat passed out treats to kids on special occasions on Wally's school bus route. They have always been partners. Congratulations!

CONFIRMATION BEGINS

Classes begin on September 12 at 3:30pm with a Pool Party at the Moseids. Our class sessions begin September 19. Once again, Don Abel, Larry Marshall and Jim Sjolín will be teaching assistants. I am glad when they notice class members not understanding what I am trying to teach (theology is hard stuff sometimes); then together we try to explain things in another way; it also happens that sometimes the assistants and I have different perspectives; the students benefit as we discuss our differences in class. I am grateful for our teaching assistants! The class and their parents have already shared with me how these students valued quiet prayer walks last year. We will learn a variety of ways of praying as we begin our sessions. Again this year, we will use the re:form curriculum which includes videos and activities which last year led to some powerful discussions.

Class members are expected to attend worship services, participate in mission experiences; the Confirmation Retreat at Pilgrim Center and the Urban Immersion experience in Milwaukee. We hope to have some speakers come to the church to share with us their faith. The Confirmands will also prepare and lead a worship service and write their Statement of Faith.

At this point, the class members, their parents, church members and I are praying about who will be the mentors for our class members this year. Please join us in those prayers and consider saying yes if asked or letting us know you are willing to be a mentor.

Class members, parents and mentors will be introduced to the congregation on September 23 as they sign their covenants.

BIBLE STUDY – BOOK STUDY

Are you interested in participating in a Bible-Book study? Is there a book of the Bible or another book you would like to read or discuss? Another option is a study on “The Doctrine of Discovery” which was the basis for colonizing nations to kill indigenous people who were not Christian. It is a six-session study with scripture study written by Native Americans including Larry Littlegeorge from Black River Falls.

Last year Sunday evenings seemed to work best for most people. Let me know what interests you and when you can meet.

September Newsletter 2018

Hi Everyone,

Wow! August is almost done and now we need to get the September Newsletter out. The Clark County Fair is over. I took some vacation time to enjoy it. It was a great year for the Dairy Bar, HOT and DRY.... good ice cream weather; lots and lots of chocolate/vanilla malts went out of there. It was great to see familiar faces again. Our worship fair service co-hosted with Calvary was on Sunday. I hope you were able to attend. On Thursday, August 16 the Circle of Friends held their annual summer picnic to which I was invited. Thanks to Pastor Jacoba for hosting the picnic at her home. Good food was served as always! This last week Jim and I attended the Marshfield fair. We saw some great concerts, really nice exhibits and of course we had some good fair food.

Now it is time to start our fall programs here at church. Check out the September calendar for dates and times of all activities.

See you in church! – Audrey

Volunteers for Our September Sundays

Acolytes

Sunday, Sunday, September 2

Bryce Erickson

Parker Voigt

Sunday, September 9

Sydney Subke

Paige Voigt

Sunday, September 16

Iris Vine

Reese Ziegler

Sunday, September 23

Haylee Erickson

Dottie Holm

Sunday, September 30

Bryce Erickson

Parker Voigt

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.

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 September

Sunday, September 2 & 9

Don Abel, Tom Barr

Kevin Erickson, Luke Erickson

Sunday, September 16 & 23

Mitchell Erickson, Travis Vine

Ben Wilson, Craig Heck

Sunday, September 30 & October 7

Larry Marshall, Jim Marshall

Dave Harnisch, Tim Steinbach

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 September

Sunday, September 2

Mike & Deb Perkl

Sunday, September 9

Jim & Rosie Repinski

Sunday, September 16

Sandra Bieneck & Michelle Bergemann

Sunday, September 23

Neil & Corinne Armitage

Sunday, September 30

Keith & Tammy Loberg

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 September Look for the list of dates on the bulletin board (the Sundays 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.

Communion Assignments for Sunday

September 2 (Intinction) Communion- Team 1

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

Bread: Mitchell Erickson

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for

September

Sunday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 16

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

Sunday, September 23

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

Facts & Figures

Sunday, August 5.....	55
Sunday, August 12.....	80
Sunday, August 19.....	47
Sunday, August 26.....	71

Offerings

Sunday, August 5

General Offering.....	\$1995.00
Back Pack	100.00
Christmas Angel Project.....	250.00
Use of church.....	76.00

Sunday, August 12

General Offering.....	\$918.00
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Sunday, August 19

General Offering.....	\$1573.00
Radio Fund.....	1400.00

Sunday, August 26

General Offering.....	\$2072.00
Confirmation.....	100.00
Mission/Outreach.....	100.00

August 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, July 29* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Doris Bakker in memory of her parents.

On *Sunday, August 5* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, August 12* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob & Lorraine Shaw in honor of their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

On *Sunday, August 26* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Wally & Pat Garbisch in honor of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the July/August 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 **(2019 Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)** 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 – most Sundays are still available. Following is a list of Sundays. Let's keep this special radio ministry. Sponsor a broadcast!

2019 Dates Available:

January: 6-13-20-27
February: 10
March: 3-17-24-31
April: 28
May: 5-26
June: 2-9-16-30
July: 7-14-21-28
August: 4-18-25
September: 1-8-15-22-29
October: 20-27
November 3-10-24
December 1-8-15-22 (Half)-29



Sunday School News

After a nice summer break, we are looking forward to welcoming the kids back to Sunday School and CD's. Sunday School will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 16.

Fifth grade CD's will also begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 16. Sixth and Seventh grade will begin Wednesday, September 12 at 3:30 p.m. If you have questions about Sunday School or CD's, please speak with Jenna Ziegler. We are always looking for congregation members who are willing to teach a Sunday School class or two!

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

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

“Back Pack Program” – The “Back Pack Program” still needs your financial support. The program will begin again 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, September 20*** from, 10-11-30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ. The September meeting will be presented by Deon Spangler with a slide program on “Birds of the Rio Grande Valley” as well as some Wisconsin birds and wildlife. Refreshments will be served.

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.

Thank You! – We want to thank the Ringstad family for the large donation of yarn that was donated to the church. This yarn will be used by the inmates of the Black River Correctional Center to help in making projects for the Angel Tree Project (especially the teddy bears.) Thank you Doris and Marian for delivering a car load of yarn to Black River.

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

Circle of Friends News – The Circle of Friends met for their annual summer picnic on Thursday, August 16. Thank you to Pastor Jacoba for hosting the picnic at her home. The next meeting of the Circle of Friends will be on Thursday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.

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 will meet on Tuesday, September 18 at 12 noon. I checked in with the new owners of M&M Catering and they are willing to serve us a noon lunch. The cost will be the same \$7.50 plus a tip. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. She needs to know how many to prepare for.

Our program will be presented by Deon Spangler. She will have a slideshow of the birds and wildlife of the lower Rio Grande Valley which will include many of the different species from what we have here.

Our Deepest Sympathy



We want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Edna Lemons, age 96 who died on Saturday, August 18 at the Riverside Assisted Living facility here in Neillsville. She is the mother of Bonnie Shaw as well as mother, grandmother, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren of many. She was a hardworking farm wife and cook for many years. She was a long-time member of the United Church of Christ. She will be missed by her family and friends.

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!



From Bob & Lorraine Shaw
We would like to thank everyone in our “church family” for helping us celebrate our 70th Wedding Anniversary which was August 14. The many cards and gifts received, Pastor Jacoba’s fine words and all the fellowship is very much appreciated. May God Bless you all for your kindnesses.

-Bob & Lorraine

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 Hock 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.



- 1- Logan Erickson
Jerry Quicker
- 2-Fritz Hediger
- 3-M.E. Sjolín
Cindy Craig

- 4-Gene Opelt
- 5-Donita Follen
Joel Raine
Cheryl Steinbach
Hannah Erickson
- 6-Charlotte Gress
Audrey Vradenburg
Crispin Hediger
- 7-Annette Felser
- 10-Karlene Wallace
- 11-Michael Perkl
- 12-John Vornholt
- 16-Iris Vine
- 17-Mary Finney
- 18-Mollie Stetzer
Anna Raine
- 19-Wendy Sigurdson
- 20-Kris Anderson
- 22-Linette Kuhn
Leah Wilson
- 23-Carole Romens
- 24-Michelle Kranz
- 25-Rosanne Ripinski
- 26-Mackenzie Hediger
- 28-Ruth Zwieg
Oliver Raine

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



- 8- Mickey & Carla Marty
- 9-Travis & Ashley Vine
- 13-Guy & Sue Jodarski
- 13-Brian & Marcia Eddy
- 14-Deon & Jim Spangler
- 16-Barb & Ken Shoemaker
- 16-Craig & Wendy Sigurdson
- 20-Scott & Jill Williams
- 22-Dale & Betty Opelt
- 23-Crispin & Lisa Hediger
- 24-Kim & Terry Stetzer
- 29-Mathew & Jennifer Roenz

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

September 2018						
◀ Aug 2018					Oct 2018 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 am Summer Worship Communion (Intinction) Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neillsville Retirement Community	3 LABOR DAY (Office Closed)	4	5 6 p.m. Bazaar Workshop	6	7	8
9 TIME CHANGE 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	10 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	11 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at St. Mary's	12 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation Pool Party at Moseid's 6 p.m. Bazaar Workshop	13 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	14	15
16 9 am Sunday School BEGINS 10 am Worship Vera Knoll Baptism Fellowship/Coffee Hour	17 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	18 12 Noon 2 nd Half Group Birds & More by Deon 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacon & Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	19 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 6 p.m. Bazaar Workshop	20 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Cafe	21	22
23 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	24 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	25	26 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 5:30 pm Supper with Confirmation Mentors 6 p.m. Bazaar Workshop	27	28 Pastor Jacoba (Vacation)	29 Pastor Jacoba (Vacation)
30 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship – Sue Vornholt leading Fellowship/Coffee Hour Pastor Jacoba (Vacation)						

