



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

[www.neillsvilleucc.org](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)

January 2019

*"The things announced in the past—look— they have already happened, but I'm declaring new things. Before they even appear, I tell you about them." Isaiah 41:9*

**Jacoba's jottings...** Two things catch me as I read this text: the past has happened and is done; God intends to do new things and tell us about these new things on the horizon.

It is easy to hold onto the past. The glory days. Hurts, angers and sadness that broke our hearts. Fears that linger long after danger has passed. Honors once achieved. Mistakes made long ago. A self-portrait of what was, hoping it will be again. Good times. Hard times. Sins committed. Debts owed. Loving relationships.

The past – good and hard memories, filled with joy and sadness, anger, fear and love experienced or rejected rolling in our heads filling or breaking our hearts can so overwhelm us that we miss the present moment.

God has new things in mind for us—for each of us, for our world. There is new joy, new beauty, new wholeness to experience. It is not that bad things won't happen, yet even as they do, God is recreating hope and healing, restoring life. Things that were, are not the same. Isaiah asks, "do you not perceive it?"

To perceive what God is doing in the world, open eyes, ears, hearts are needed. God intends to inform us about what God is doing, even before the newness comes into being.

And, yes, not only is it our choice as to whether or not we will recognize what God is doing, it is also our choice as to how we will receive what God is doing in our lives and in the world. God is always hoping that we too will choose to work toward bringing God's hope, peace, justice, joy and love into the world. Again, our response to what God does remains our choice. Yet as self-proclaimed followers of Jesus to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbors as ourselves is what we will choose to do. When we keep those two commandments, we fulfil what it means to love God and follow Jesus.

It is a New Year! Let go of the past – and remain in the present. May we receive and rejoice in the new things God offers to us and our world.

### Worship in January

*January 6 – Epiphany* – the day when we celebrate the coming of the Wise Men to worship the newborn King. Matthew 2:1-12 is the text. Learning from Outsiders will be the focus. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served at the altar.

*January 13 – Baptism of Jesus* – We will renew our commitment to our baptismal vows – again proclaiming what we believe and our relationship to God in Jesus Christ.

*January 20* – Our Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Rob MacDougall will preach this Sunday. Conference Staff often say, invite us to come and be with you. We finally found a date that works. At this moment, he is considering talking about "The Why."

*January 27* – Annual Congregational Meeting follows the Worship Service. I Corinthians 12:12-31a will be our text – congregational relationships will be our focus.

## **Pastor Jacoba's 2<sup>nd</sup> Page...**



Eight children and ten adults sang Christmas Carols for the residents at our older adult

facilities in town. We also sang for the Schermitzlers. Thank you, Christian Board of Education for encouraging us to do this.



Christmas Angel Project would not happen as it does without the support and involvement of our congregation. Not only do we



host the community in gifting families in need, we have many members among the volunteers wrapping and delivering gifts. Stacy Schilling and her helpers work

year-round to find gifts, however when Christmas Angel Project moves in, our members from 12-90+ years old help out. Church members are among those who help Stacy with organizing the family names, wants and needs. Set-up happens under the direction of Jim Vradenburg and Mike Perkl. Gift gathering from community sites happens through the work of Jim Filitz and his assistants (Larry, Wayne and Butch). And our members are among those who wrap and deliver the gifts. In addition, I do not want to neglect thanking the folks who prepare/serve the meals for the volunteers. And then just as fast as CAP moved in, church members help them move out returning the boxes and extra items to storage until needed next year. It is an amazing operation. We are blessed to be the hosts each year. We touch many lives with God's love.



The Sunday School Children with a little help from the Choir sang the Christmas Story for us in their Christmas Program this year. Everyone enjoyed them... the kids not only learned their lines, they

learned the familiar Christmas Carols. Listeners on the radio told me how clearly they could hear the



words and the songs. Thank you, Children, Jenna and Jill who directed the program, parents who helped the children learn the songs and their lines, and choir members.

We are always blessed by our musicians. The Choir sang four out of five weeks in December and for the Christmas Eve Candle-light service under the direction of Roni and Corinne with Karen at the piano. Reese, William, Iris, Colton and Tyler delightfully sang "The Friendly Beasts"— with solos and a duet. At the Christmas Eve 4:30 service Jenna and Reese sang "Do You Hear What I Hear?" without accompaniment! It gave me goose bumps, it was so lovely. Karen and Vicente also added inspiring music on the organ and keyboard throughout the season. On the 16<sup>th</sup> when neither Karen nor Vicente were available Kelly Nielsen played the organ for us. The congregation remained standing and silent as she play the postlude. She also played for the 4:30 Christmas Eve services. Iris played Deck the Halls, her favorite Christmas song on the piano on the 30<sup>th</sup> during the Children's Time. I thank all our musicians. Your music greatly enhances our services.



Our six confirmands and their mentors read Scriptures for us during Advent and Christmas Eve. We enjoyed 22 poinsettias – thank you— and thank you to Karlene for helping me arrange them. Jenny and family set up the pew candles. Thank you to Cole and Luke, Crispen, Kevin, Jake, Janice and Karlene who helped with the Candle-lighting service. Janice was super Deaconess helping at both Christmas Eve services. I also thank those who assisted with communion serving. Audrey cleaned up the glass candle holders and she and Jim made sure all things were ready for our candle-lighting services. Allan, Jim and Craig worked the sound system for our services. Bonnie recorded them. Many people help to make our Christmas and Advent services special. Please forgive me, if I forgot any names.

I also thank you for your cards, gifts and well-wishes this season. It is always fun to receive your cards, letters and see your family pictures. You bless me in so many ways. Thank you for your kindness throughout the year.

## **January Newsletter 2019**

Hi Everyone,

Here we are in the New Year! 2019! We are a little late with our January Newsletter but we will get you caught up on what is going on in January and review our Christmas/Advent season. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season! Thank you everyone for the beautiful Christmas cards, gifts and calls. It was a very busy December for all of us. Pastor Jacoba took some vacation visiting her family the last week of December and I worked on recording contributions and year end reports. It was kind of different this year with another Sunday (5<sup>th</sup>) in December. It gave us one more day to get 2018 contributions to the bank, but also meant we worked on December 31 to get 2018 in the books.

*See you in church! Audrey*

## **Volunteers for January 2019 Sundays**

**Note:** Our new schedules (Ushers/Greeters) February 2019-January 2020 will be in the Annual Report. If you have any preferences to when you want or not want to be scheduled...talk to Audrey soon.

### **Acolytes**

#### **Sunday, January 6**

Sydney Subke  
Paige Voigt

#### **Sunday, January 13**

Iris Vine  
Reese Ziegler

#### **Sunday, January 20**

Haylee Erickson  
Dottie Holm

#### **Sunday, January 27**

Bryce Erickson  
Parker Voigt

*If you are scheduled to light the candles and cannot be here, please let the Church office know. (715-743-2147) Our acolytes are an important part of our worship service and we thank you for helping with the lighting of our candles. We are always looking for more volunteers to light the*

### **(Acolytes continued)**

*candles...let Pastor Jacoba know if you would like to help out.*

**Nursery** We do have a nursery downstairs and a small nursery upstairs off the Narthex available for mothers/dads with small children. We do not have scheduled volunteers to take care of your children. It is required that an adult/parent be there with your child(ren) if you plan on using the nursery. Please leave it cleaned up when you leave. Thank you.

## **Ushers for January 2019**

#### **Sunday, January 6 & 13**

Allan Hoesly, Scott Williams  
Craig Heck, Volunteer Needed

#### **Sunday, January 20 & 27**

Don Abel, Larry Marshall  
Joel Raine, Jeff Raine

**Ushers Note:** *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 for your help.*

## **Greeters for January 2019**

#### **Sunday, January 6**

Doris Bakker & Dolores Johnson

#### **Sunday, January 13**

Tim & Cheryl Steinbach

#### **Sunday, January 20**

Jenna Ziegler & Krista Hamm

#### **Sunday, January 27**

Clint & Julie Woods

*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**

As soon as we get our bulletin board back in the Narthex, we will hang up the 2019 coffee schedule sign-up sheet. Look at the dates and see if there is a Sunday(s) you can volunteer to serve. Find a friend and sign up together. Our Fellowship/Coffee Hour is a fun time to get

together with some of your church family and enjoy talking to them. Come and join us! (No need to put on a full meal (one thing is all you need to serve)...some bars/cookies, cheese, fruit etc. If you have any questions give us a call. The coffee, lemonade, plates, napkins are provided. Some people like to serve more than one thing; we let the volunteers do and serve what they want...but we are all satisfied with one thing being served. We are just happy to have some volunteers to serve. Thank you for your support! (*Just so you know the coffee is always ready and the lemonade is made and in the refrigerator.*)

### **Communion Assignments for Sunday, January 2019 – (Intinction)**

Team 1 – Travis Vine, Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis

**Bread:** Travis Vine

**Note:** Our new schedule will begin in February 2019. Our only outgoing member this year is Travis Vine. One new Deacon will be added to our 2019 list. All the rest of the teams will be the same. Thank you - Travis for serving as a Deacon.

### **Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for January 2019**

#### **Sunday, January 6**

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

#### **Sunday, January 13**

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

#### **Sunday, January 20**

Volunteer Needed

#### **Sunday, January 27**

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

### **Facts & Figures**

Sunday, December 2.....	72
Sunday, December 9.....	102
Sunday, December 16.....	137
Sunday, December 23.....	78
Sunday, December 24 (Early Service).....	100
Sunday, December 24 (7:30 Service)....	140
Sunday, December 30.....	61

### **Offerings**

#### **Sunday, December 2**

General Offering.....	\$1950.00
Radio Fund.....	150.00
Advent Offering.....	10.00

#### **Sunday, December 9**

General Offering.....	\$22569.00
Advent Offering.....	45.00
Christmas Fund.....	30.00

#### **Sunday, December 16**

General Offering.....	\$2946.00
Radio Fund.....	262.50
Back Pack.....	145.00
Advent Offering.....	30.00
Hearts to Hand Mission.....	100.00
House of Mercy.....	150.00
Christmas Fund.....	70.00

#### **Sunday, December 23**

General Offering.....	\$6250.34
Advent Offering.....	110.00
Christmas Fund.....	185.00
Memorial Fund.....	4000.00

#### **Christmas Eve (Early Service)**

General Offering.....	\$1437.00
Advent Offering.....	60.00
Christmas Fund.....	10.00

#### **Christmas Eve (7:30 Service)**

General Offering.....	\$3640.00
Advent Offering.....	100.00
Christmas Fund.....	10.00

#### **Sunday, December 30**

General Offering.....	\$2067.00
Radio Fund.....	300.00
Advent Offering.....	204.00
Memorial Fund.....	200.00
Christmas Fund.....	30.00
Audio Visual.....	130.00

#### **December Automatic Giving**.....\$2150.00

**Automatic Giving** – Are you interested this year (2019) in giving to your church by “Automatic Giving?” If you are, stop by the church office and we will help you with the forms that need to be filled out. Very easy to do. You decide how much you want to give monthly and about the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month that amount will be taken out of your account. Another option you can do to give to your church is to set the church up on your automatic bill pay through your bank.

## **Campital Campaign 2018**

We have reached our goal for the third and final year of a three- year commitment. Our profits from the Chicken Pot Pie sales were \$2693.80. As a result of money donated throughout the year and profits from the Chick Pot Pie fundraiser, \$5000 was sent to the Conference Office in January.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who donated their time, talent and money to this cause. Our outdoor ministry will be enhanced by the improvements that these funds are supporting. This year would be a good time to check out Pilgrim Center or Moon Beach. Information for this ministry can be found on the web at <https://www.ucci.org/>.

*Committee members are Kathy Mathis, Sue Vornholt, Marge Goetsch, Hannah Erickson and Bonnie Weyer.* Submitted by: Bonnie Weyer

**Contribution Statements** – I will be working on the 2018 contribution statements this month. If you need your statement right away. Just give me a call (715-743-2147) and I can send it to you or give you your information over the phone.

**2019 Offering Envelopes** – for those of you using envelopes – they are on the table in the Narthex. Please pick them up.

**Annual Reports** – Just a reminder I need an Annual Report from all boards and committees. These reports are due by **Monday, January 6**. All chair persons **take note**. Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 27.

## **Radio Broadcast Sponsors**



On *Sunday, December 2* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service

was sponsored by the late Mildred Lawson in memory of her husband, Arlo and in honor of her family and friends.

On *Sunday, December 9* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Dolores Johnson in memory of her sisters, Emma and Dorothy.

On *Sunday, December 16* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, December 23* the radio broadcast was sponsored by two of our church families; Jim and Rosie Repinski sponsored in memory of loved ones and it was also sponsored anonymously by another church member.

On *Sunday, December 30* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored anonymously by a faithful radio listener.

***Thank you to our December radio broadcast sponsors.***

**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** - A Big Thank you to all of you sponsoring a radio broadcast for 2019. We do still have a few Sunday's that we could fill. If you are interested, just give me a call.



## Remember our Shut-In's/Homebound

Let's not forget our shut-in's, those in nursing homes and assisted living during these long winter months. Send a card, give them a call, or go visit them. This can be a lonely time of year for them. We know that many of you send cards, call and visit and even do clinic runs and we *thank you!* If you know of anyone needing a visit from Pastor Jacoba, please call her or the church office. If you would like to help with serving communion to our shut-in's with Pastor Jacoba. Let her know. We can always use extra hands.



## Mission & Outreach News

### “Soup”er Bowl Challenge

 The challenge is on again. This year both Calvary and St. Mary's are participating. We are looking for donations of cans of soup. Bring them to the church. Last year we surpassed our goal of 300 cans. Can we do it again? The cans of soup are divided up between the food pantries and aging office. Super Bowl Sunday is February 3.



**Hearts for the Home** – February is the month our church takes part in the “Hearts for the Home” mission project. Monies raised go to helping our residents in our care facilities. Your support will help those without resources to participate in activities, receive haircuts, premes etc. Envelopes will be in the pew racks that are labeled “*Hearts for the Home.*” If you write a check make it out to United Church of Christ and in the memo line indicate “Hearts for the Home.”

**Wild Game Feed** – Mark your calendars ‘*April 7*’ we will be having a “Wild Game Feed” luncheon after church. The “free will” offering proceeds will go to Barb and Bob Petkovsek’s daughter and son-in-law to help support their mission work with CRU. In February Brenda and Aaron will do a “Mission Moment” telling us about some of the work they do.

We are also looking for some wild game food donations to be used for the meal. Please let a mission member or the church office (715-743-2147) know if you can help.

**Sun Cather’s Café** – The January meeting of the Sun Catcher’s Café will be on ***Thursday, January 17*** from 10-11:30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ. The program has not been decided but we will meet.

**ADVENT Offerings** – Thank you for your continued support with your ADVENT offerings. These offerings will be used for local missions.

*Report by Deb Perkl*  
**Committee members:** Tim Voigt, Kathy Mathis, Cheryl Steinbach, Sue Gurney, Carole Romens Deb Perkl.

## Stewardship News

**The Christmas Fund** - Thank you for supporting The Christmas Fund. It is greatly appreciated that we continue to support this special mission. Our next UCC fund raiser will be One Great Hour of Sharing.

## Thank You's

**Thank You from Lois Lanning** – Thank you Neillsville UCC Silent Angels. Thank you for remembering me with your Christmas goodies. Merry Christmas to you all and Best Wishes for the New Year.

***Thank you to all that purchased Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve services. They looked beautiful!***



## **Our Deepest Sympathy**

John Schermitzler, age 73, died Thursday, December 27 following a battle with cancer. John was a long-time member of our church serving our church in many ways. He was a Deacon, a Mentor and a Liturgist/

Reader many times; he also served as an Usher. He was especially known for his famous "chili." We still use his recipe for our chili suppers. John was always willing to help in the kitchen and always willing to play a part in many of our services. We will miss him. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Gayle, his daughters Lisa and Robin and her family and his many friends. A Memorial service was held at our church on Saturday, January 5 with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Members also assisted in serving a lunch to his family and friends.

## **Sun Catchers Café**

The Neillsville High School Choir sang for the Sun-Catchers Café in December. We had a nice group of people who came to hear them.



– I hope they will consider coming to more of the Sun Catcher's programs. The choir included three of our church youth singing. Thank you, Jim Vradenburg for running the Sound System.

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
January 27, after worship  
A luncheon will be served  
prior to the meeting  
Annual Reports are now due**

## **BIBLE STUDY – BOOK STUDY**

If there is interest, the Pastor is willing to teach a short series on one of the letters of Paul before Lent begins on March 6. I am considering one the Thessalonian letters or Philippians. Let me know soon if you want to participate.



## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 11- Everett Raine  
Lexi Woods
- 12- Samuel Craig
- 16- Dale Opelt  
Michael Holub Sr.
- 18- Landon Bergemann
- 19-Keith Loberg
- 23-Dorothy Steiger  
Parker Voigt  
Paige Voigt
- 25-Jim Vradenburg  
Haddie Mathis
- 28-David Steiger
- 29-Jill Williams  
Clint Woods
- 31-Lisa Hediger

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



- 3- Gary & Lois Corey
- 18- Tom & Karlene Wallace
- 26- Joe & Marjorie Felser

*Happy Anniversary! Did we miss your Wedding Anniversary? Let us know if we did.*

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> New Year's Day (Office Closed) HAPPY NEW YEAR!	<b>2</b>  3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
<b>6</b> 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship/Communion Fellowship/Coffee Hour 3 pm Communion served at Neillsville Retir. Community	<b>7</b> Annual Report Due  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	<b>8</b> 10 am Ministerial Alliance at Calvary 6:30 pm Audit Committee  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9 am Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b> <b>Baptismal Renewal</b> <b>Fellowship/Coffee</b>	<b>14</b>  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	<b>15</b> 5:30 pm Trusteesa 6:30 pm Deacon & Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	<b>16</b>  3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	<b>17</b>  10-11:30 am Sun Catcher's Cafe	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9 am Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b> <b>Rev. Rob MacDougal</b> N.W. Assoc. Minister Fellowship/Coffee	<b>21</b>  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9 am Sunday School <b>10 am Worship</b> ANNUAL MEETING	<b>28</b>  6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	<b>31</b>		