



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

February 2019

Jacoba's jottings... UCC you are amazing! And you are surely competitive and caring. What fun it was to gather the soup for our local food pantries. I enjoyed watching how you supported each other – reminders in the grocery store as you met each other in aisles – “soup is on sale and with your senior discount you can get even more cans;” you shopped for those who could not shop; when the polar vortex passed by leaving icy roads and parking lots you picked up soup cans from those who could not get their purchases to the church. From the sidelines I watched how you cared for one another as you worked together toward a goal. I watched the cans multiply. Pick-up trucks backed up to the doors and cars were left running (didn't want to risk them not starting again) as members ran in with their contributions. Jesus was surely watching – much as I imagine him watching as the 5000 were fed. He surely blessed our endeavors to feed the hungry as we encouraged one another to be generous.



The competition with the other three churches, but particularly with Calvary added to our motivation. We wondered, how are they doing? Do we have any reason to stop in their building giving us a chance to peak at their stash? Friends among our two churches teased each other. I know the Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13, love is not arrogant; it is not boastful...however we also need to celebrate a little. **We collected 841 cans; Calvary 761 and with Hillside and Living Hope the total soup cans collected was 1978!** I could not have imagined! We cannot get too smug – the difference was only 80 cans. (smile). Already I heard someone say today they were going to watch for soup sales; I reminded them to watch the expiration dates. But yes, game on for 2020!



All those cans had to be delivered – great ministry for our seven CD's. they packed them up and took a third to the Office of Aging where Mary Sladich told then about people who were indeed hungry and would very much appreciate the soup. And they took a third to “Grandma's Panty”, the Clark County Food Pantry of 5th St. Our generosity provided an opportunity for our sixth and seventh graders to offer their time and abilities and to have their eyes opened to folks who could use a hand-up.



Yes, UCC once again, you are amazing in your care for one another, our community and the joy we experience in working with our neighboring churches to address a community need. We may again be the Souper Bowl Challenge winners; but let's not deny we are Super.

Jacoba's 2nd page.....I received an email from the hospital saying all staff and volunteers (I am a volunteer chaplain) who have not been vaccinated against the flu, must wear a mask at all times; others are encouraged to wear masks. I choose to be vaccinated and have been yearly since the early 1990's. I take seriously that at any time I may be called on to visit someone whose health is fragile. And yes, today, since I have a cold, you may find me wearing a mask to protect you.

It has been an interesting winter... Jim Vradenburg and I want to say thank you to Kevin, Luke, Logan and Bryce and their friends who have cleared the snow from near the church (and tonight my driveway). The teens have also been helping others in town who are not as able to clear their own drives and sidewalks. I want to give a shout out to all our folks who see a need and offer their help.



Since our last newsletter, new church leadership has been voted in. I want to again say thank you to Mike Perkl for his persistent, wise, kind, and astute leadership as our church moderator for the last

three years.

Jenny Romens-Erickson has been elected our new Moderator. Jenny has been our lead CD teacher for the five years I have been here. She was on the Search Committee and recently on the Technology Committee. She is passionate, cares deeply about our church, loves God and all our neighbors. I look forward to working with Jenny.



For a number of years, UCC has been working toward putting in a permanent screen and projector. This week the equipment was installed by



Projector near balcony

Audio Architects assisted by electrician Randy Henchen. In the next few months, we will be learning how to use the screen and projector – figuring out what works and



what doesn't work for our setting.

We want your feedback... could you read the words better with one kind of background better than another? How did the letter style or size help or hinder your ability to read what was on the screen? Is there a song you really enjoyed or one you wish we would sing? As I said, using the screen will be a

work in progress. The Technology Team (Allan Hosely, Don Abel, Bonnie Weyer and Jenny Romens-Erickson) appreciate your patience and feedback. Along with the new screen and projector we also made an update to our twenty-five-year-old sound system. You will notice the new microphones – especially the one I will wear on my face and we hope be able to hear more clearly.

There has also been an upgrade to our radio transmission system; we understand our listeners notice the difference. Check it out when you can't come to worship in our sanctuary – 1370am WCCN at 11 on Sunday mornings. Allan Hosely, we thank you for all your work and efforts to bring us to this point with our new and renewed technology. You have worked hard, you have encouraged us.

Lent 2019

Wednesday Evening services begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6 at Calvary with Soup Supper at 6 and the worship service at 7pm.

I have been taking an on-line class called "ReBoot Your Worship". The class intends to help pastors preach a series of services based on a theme. The theme I have chosen for Sunday mornings in Lent is from Isaiah 55:6 "*Seek the Lord while God may be found; call upon the Lord while God is near.*" I have been working with the confirmands on that theme – asking them to help me think about it and creating a visual focal point – something ordinary that will help us remember the theme when we are out and about throughout the week. I am hoping our carpenter skilled and creative confirmation class might build us something.

This is a new way for me to put together worship services – we will have a theme song each week and will return to the theme throughout the services of Lent. Plan now to join us.

Hiding in Plain Sight

On Sunday March 3, U-W Extension will create a teen-ager's bedroom in one of our classrooms. All adults (over 21) will be invited to tour the bedroom from 9-10am and 11am-1pm. In the bedroom will be ordinary items that might be used to hide inappropriate activities while in plain sight. I have seen the exhibit and it is fascinating. Plan to check it out and invite your friends to come. Ask them to come before or after their worship services or to join you at UCC. Let your eyes be opened!

March 3 also happens to be the Sunday the Men's Club is serving their pancake breakfast – all are welcome to join us for breakfast (donations accepted).

February Newsletter 2019

Hi Everyone,

I'm here in my office – it is Tuesday, January 28. COLD! but I am here. Yesterday, Monday I did not come in. Too much snow, cold etc. January has been a crazy month with meetings being canceled or rescheduled due to our weather. It is Wisconsin and this is not a new thing for us to experience. We do want to get the February Newsletter out to you. January was a busy month getting the Annual Report ready for the meeting last Sunday, January 27. I want to thank those of you that got your reports to me. We still have some 2018 contribution statements that need to be picked up (or if you want me to send it to you...let me know.) You will find them here in the office. If you want an Annual Report you will find them here in the office too. Now on with the February Newsletter.....It is now Monday, February 4 and we will get this Newsletter out to you by this Sunday, February 10...We are sorry we had to change our schedules due to the weather....but I think a lot of us had to change schedules.

See you in church! Audrey

Volunteers for February Sundays

Usher & Greeter Schedules will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. **Note:** we have the wrong Greeter Schedule in the Annual Report. Sorry about that...that's what happens when you don't delete the old schedule.

Acolytes

Sunday, February 3

Paige Voigt
Sydney Subke

Sunday, February 10

Iris Vine
Reese Ziegler

Sunday, February 17

Haylee Erickson
Dottie Holm

Sunday, February 24

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

(Acolytes continued)

helping with the lighting of our candles. We are always looking for more volunteers to light the 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 February

Sunday, February 3 & 10

Joey Kranz, Lane Kranz
Darren Loberg, Tammy Loberg

Sunday, February 17 & 24

Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker
Joe Holman, Hap Eddy

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 February

Sunday, February 3

Don & Joy Abel

Sunday, February 10

Darwin & Ruth Zwieg

Sunday, February 17

Ken & Barb Shoemaker

Sunday, February 24

Butch & Kathy Carl

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

We are looking for coffee hosts for February. The Schedule is on the bulletin board. We hope we can get some volunteers. 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

(Coffee Hour continued)

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,

February 3– (Pews)

Team 2 – Janice Miller, Jim Vradenburg, Jake Ratsch, Karlene Wallace, Volunteer

Bread: Janice Miller

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for

February

Sunday, February 3

Sue Vornholt.....715-797-4031

Sunday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 17

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

Sunday, February 24

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

Facts & Figures

Sunday, January 6.....	73
Sunday, January 13.....	79
Sunday, January 20.....	61
Sunday, January 27.....	60

Offerings

Sunday, January 6

General Offering.....	\$1546.00
Memorial Fund.....	10.00
Campital Campaign.....	400.00

Sunday, January 13

General Offering.....	\$1394.00
Advent Offering.....	15.00
Hearts to Hand Mission.....	100.00
Memorial Fund.....	50.00
Wisconsin Conference.....	50.00

Sunday, January 20

General Offering.....	\$1477.00
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Sunday, January 27

General Offering.....	\$2089.00
Hearts for the Home.....	20.00
Soup.....	60.00

January Automatic Giving.....\$2175.00

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 10th 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.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors



On Sunday, January 6 the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored

by Karen Northup in memory of her mother, Ruby Ambelang's 88th birthday.

On Sunday, January 13 the radio broadcast was sponsored by the Circle of Friends.

On Sunday, January 20 radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Dolores Johnson in memory of their wedding anniversary.

On *Sunday, January 27* the radio broadcast was given by the Miller children in loving memory of their parents, Clarence and Anita Miller.

Thank you to our January 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.**



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

Our "Soup'er Bowl challenge has come to an end as of Sunday, February 3 Super Bowl Sunday.

We do not know the exact count yet, but will know the number soon! Most likely before I get to the end of this

Newslettter. WOW what a response we had. If Calvary had the same response...the "food pantries" will be the big winners. We want to thank all that participated in our "soup'er bowl challenge.



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, perms 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. On Sunday, February 17 Brenda and Aaron Miatke will have 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 Catchers Café – The February meeting of the Sun Catcher's Café will be on **Thursday, February 21** from 10-11:30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ in Fellowship Hall. Something to get us out of the winter blues and thinking about spring! Guest will be Ben Lindner, Owner/Operator of Tender Shoots Greenhouse. Ben's program, "A Glimpse into the Growing Season", will interest gardeners and other outdoor enthusiasts as we look forward to warmer days. Ben will discuss how the greenhouse came to be and tell us what is going on at the greenhouse this time of year. He will show participants how to propagate succulents and will bring a succulent for each attendee to grow themselves.

The Sun Catchers Café is sponsored by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Clark County. Sun Catchers Café is a get together for people interested in lifelong learning, brain-healthy

activities, and interesting, positive discussion. It is free and meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10 a.m.-11³⁰ a.m. Refreshments are provided.

Mission & Outreach Committee members: Deb Perkl, Bonnie Weyer, Kathy Mathis, Sue Gurney, Carole Romens, Tim Voigt, Carol Harnisch

Congregational Meeting



Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 27 our Congregational meeting was held following worship on a very cold day. We thank the 31 approximate voting

members that attended. Financial reports were given by Assistant Treasurer, Don Quicker. The 2019 Proposed budget was approved. Allan Hosely went over the Memorial Endowment Fund report and the Nominating Committee was given by Russ Karl. Following are names of the people that will be serving on our Boards and Committees.

Moderator Jenny Romens-Erickson

Vice Moderator

Mike Perkl

Trustees

Doris Bakker, Hap Eddy,
Bob Petkovesk, Kevin Erickson,
Wendy Sigurdson,, Paul Vine

Deacons/Deaconesses

Karlene Wallace,
Jake Ratsch, Betty Barr,
Jim Vradenburg, Mitchell Erickson
Wayne Voss, Kathy Mathis
Sue Vornholt, Janice Miller
Paul Schmidt

Treasurer Bonnie Weyer

Assistant Treasurer: Don Quicker

Recording Financial Secretary:

Audrey Vradenburg

Recording Secretary: Don Abel

Pastor Parish Committee: Larry Marshall,

Marian Vornholt, Ruth Zwieg,
Lacey Erickson, Jim Sjolín
Tom Wallace

Nominating Committee: Hap Eddy, Russ Karl
Deb Holman

Christian Ed Board: Jenna Ziegler, Jill Williams
Ashley Vine, Linda Stalsberg,
Stephanie Heck,

Lydia Schumacher

Mission/Outreach Committee

Deb Pekl, Sue Gurney, Tim Voigt
Carol Harnisch, Kathy Mathis
Carole Romens, Bonnie Weyer

Music Committee

Corinne Armitage, Jo Ann Voss
Donita Follen. Karen Mohr (ex-officio)
Roni Kaczor Smith (ex-officio)

(Annual Meeting continued)

Memorial Committee

Allan Hoesly, Dave Steiger
Don Quicker, Barb Miller,
Tim Voigt, Darwin Zwieg

Stewardship Committee

Sue Voigt, M.E. Sjolín, Emile Miller
David Harnisch, Marge Goetsch

We want to **thank** all of these members for accepting these various positions in our church. We also want to **thank** all the outgoing members that have served. Installation of Officers took place on Sunday, February 3.

2018 Annual Report can be picked up in the church office. Thank you to all that got their reports in to me and to Arlene Stark, Jim and Scott Vradenburg for assembling them.



New Baby In Our Church

On January 21 Ben and Kelly Mathis welcomed Emilia Kathleen to their family. Congratulations to Ben and Kelly and grandparents, Howie and Kathy Mathis and Craig & Wendy Sigurdson. Little Emilia joins two brothers, Owen and Ben and a sister, Haddie.



With Sympathy

We received word from the family that Milford Tesmer, 89 passed away on Monday, January 7 at the Rainbow Hospice Care Center in Johnson Creek, WI. Milford joined our church in 2010. We especially remember him when

he donated his special birdhouses to our 'silent auctions.' He was a well-known business man here in Neillsville forming the Tesmer Construction Corporation. Milford will be missed by his family and many friends.

A Memorial Service will be held here at the United Church of Christ on Saturday, April 13. Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mildford Tesmer.

With Sympathy We also want to extend our deepest sympathy to Betty and Tom Barr and family on the death of Betty's brother Joel Ylvisaker who died on December 15, 2018.

And also, we want to extend our deepest sympathy to Susie and Russ Karl and family on the death of Susie's father Harvey Neuendorf who died on November 27, 2018.

United Church Camps Outdoor Ministry

Thank-you – Thank you for your support of the Outdoor Ministry happening at Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center in so many ways...prayers encouragement, participation, scholarships and of course your financial pledges toward the **Campital Campaign**. We are grateful to all of the churches and individuals involved! We want you to know that we have been faithful stewards of the funds you have pledged and have fulfilled. From all of our hearts at United Church Camps, Inc. (UCCI) THANK YOU! May God Bless You and Keep You...May You Know that You are Loved...May You find Comfort and Rest at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach for Generations to Come. Gratefully Yours,
Glenn Svetnicka – Executive Director UCCI

Thank-you from Aaron & Brenda Miatke

– Neillsville UCC Thank you for your support of our work with Cru in 2018. We are blessed and encouraged to have your church as a partner in ministry. We anticipate what God has in store for this new semester...praying He will impact many student' lives through our work. Looking forward to being with you on Sunday, February 17th to share a little more.

Aaron & Brenda

Thank you from the ADRC of Clark County

The Aging and Disability Resource Center thank Bob Shaw for \$100 to purchase cans of vegetables at .45 cents a can. This equals 222 cans of veggies.

Thank You to Lorraine Shaw (We thank Lorraine for the \$90.00 donation to the Audio Visual project)

From Lorraine: Dear UCC,

In celebration of my 90th Birthday on February 7th One dollar per year is really not adequate for all the Blessings God has granted me through the years but I am very thankful for it all.

Lorraine Shaw

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT 2018

Neillsville/Grantton/Chili/Humbird

100% volunteer organization

In our fourteenth year, this project served 291 children of 102 families! We were able to provide winter clothing, boots, food, and other needed items because of your gracious contribution.

Volunteers begin shopping in January to find the best bargains allowing us to provide warm winter clothing for children the following Christmas. Volunteers knit, crochet, quilt, and make stuffed bears (often, using items donated by local businesses and individuals) throughout the entire year in anticipation of providing homemade items to needy children.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We contact donors in the fall with requests for contributions. Local merchants are contacted for prices for large quantities of items.

**THANK YOU DONORS AND
LOCAL MERCHANTS**

Families are referred from Social Services, local school, food pantries and churches.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO REFER
FAMILIES IN NEED**

Tags, each representing a child, are placed on Christmas trees in the community. Community

members choose names from the trees and purchase gift items for each child. Employee groups of local businesses also contact us to obtain tags for children for whom they purchase gifts.

Volunteers transport the gifts to the United Church of Christ. These gifts are wrapped by volunteer individuals and community groups and sorted into boxes designated for each family. Each family receives several bags of groceries, including non-perishable items plus milk, ham, cheese, and bread. Delivery of gifts and food to

(Christmas Angel Project continued)

each family is done by volunteers, generally by one adult and often one to three accompanying teenagers. Volunteers, local businesses, and service organizations provide wonderful meals to feed our "volunteer workforce."

THANK YHOU TO THE COMMUNTY AND ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.

This is a wonderful project that benefits needy children and families in our local communities. We often accept late applications (some as late as December 23rd!) and strive to meet the needs of any family in need and making a request. The delivery people are rewarded with big smiles from children who are excited about something as simple as cheese or their favorite cereal! We thank the United Church of Christ for so generously allowing us to utilize their space for nearly an entire month.

**Thank you for your part in making this a
successful project!**

Stacy Schilling, Coordinator



Thank You from Lorraine Shaw
Thank you for your well wishes and honoring me recently. It was a pleasure to serve as recording secretary for many years. There

are so many willing workers in our church who go unnamed and we thank you. We also thank our dear Pastor Jacoba for giving us spiritual support and other ways. May God Bless All of you.

Warmly, Lorraine Shaw



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February Birthdays

1- Toni Carl

Joy Abel

Patricia Acheson

2-Sue Vornholt

Sarah Fields

3-Anita Harder

Lylah Wilson

4-Phyllis Embke

5-Kyson Erickson

6-Krista Hamm

Paul Vine

7-Lorraine Shaw

Janice Opelt

8-Darwin Zweg

Kinsley McDonald

12-Bailey Schumacher

Riley Voigt

13-Jordan Voigt

15-Joe Holman

16-Tom Barr

Ricky Rochester

17-Roni Kaczor Smith

15-DeWayne Seelow

Irma Rizner

Frances Ormond

19-Cary Corey

20-Darrin Loberg

22-Jacoba Koppert

Marilyn Marty

25-Janet Harrington

Jason Raine

28-Olivia Friemoth

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

NO February Wedding Anniversaries

February 2019						
◀ Jan 2019					Mar 2019 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10 am Bible Study	2 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
3 9 am Sunday School 9 am Sr. Choir practice 10 am Worship Communion/ Pews Installation of Church Officers Fellowship/Coffee Hour CD's & Confirmands going to Bruce Mound	4 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	5	6 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	7	8 10 am Bible Study 2 pm Communion served at Riverside Assisted Living	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour Christian Ed Meeting 3 pm Communion serviced at Neillsville Retirement Community	11 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	12 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at UCC 6 pm Pastor/Parish meeting 6:30 pm Audit Committee	13 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	14 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting	15 10 a.m. Bible Study	16
17 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	18 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	19 12 noon 2nd Half Group meeting 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacons and Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	20 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	21 10-11-30 am Sun Catchers Cafe	22 10 a.m. Bible Study	23
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	25 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	26	27 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation	28		

