



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

March 2019

Jacob's jottings... We are hosting *Hiding in Plain Sight* this coming Sunday, March 3. When asked, Council said yes and by all means let U-W Extension know they are welcome to host their exhibit in our building. The exhibit is of a typical teenager's bedroom – only this bedroom has thirty-five items that are hiding drug abuse in plain sight. Please plan to stop by the exhibit – before or after worship and let your friends and family know they are welcome too. Whether we have children in our care or not, this exhibit will be a good education for all.

Speaking of education, I have just completed a six-week on-line class on worship to help me plan ahead, choose a theme, scriptures and songs. The teacher, highly recommended that pastors do a series of services that fit together. As I make those decisions, (some with your input) I have been reminded to be aware that we each have our primary way to connect to what is going on around us. To meet our various preferences, worship needs to be multi-sensory: so visual, auditory, tactile, and even occasionally including taste and smell. The class also addressed worship styles – some of us want to move and enjoy loud and energetic music; others enjoy quiet time and gentle music; some want our worship to follow a usual pattern; some a mix of all styles. Among us are friends who like to be involved while other want to sit back. Some of us like it when we are surprised by something new, and some remind me they want things kept the way it has been.

The title "Hiding in Plain Sight" is a good way to understand the theme I have chosen for our Sunday morning Lenten Services. Our theme for the six weeks of Lent will be "**Seeking God's Presence; Calling on God's Name**" from Isaiah 55. God is always among us, however sometimes we do not notice. You have named for me several places you find God and call on God's name: your bedrooms and out in the woods, as you are driving, at the cemetery, at the beach, in our sanctuary as you gaze upon the cross. A few have confessed to me, God is not as much a part of your life as you wish. My intent is to remind us look for God's presence in life's ups and downs and in our ordinary days so we might call on God's name at any moment. I am still working on the details of the services as I share with you the topics I have planned.

Worship in Lent

March 10 – Luke 4:1-13, Romans 10:8b-13

"Seeking/ Calling on God through Scripture"

March 17 – Psalm 27 "Seeking/ Calling on God for Courage, Strength and Hope"

March 24 – Isaiah 55:1-9 "Seeking/Calling God When God Seems Fickle"

March 31 – Mark 6:30-46 "Seeking/Calling God when Hungry" **The Confirmation Class Leads Worship** this Sunday

April 7 – Philippians 3:4b-14 "Seeking/Calling God as We Persevere in Our Faith"

April 14 – Palm/Passion Sunday "Seeking/Calling God as We Move toward the Cross with Jesus"

April 19 – Maundy Thursday "Seeking/Calling God in the Holy Meal"

April 21 – Easter Sunday John 20:1-18 "Finding the Risen Christ"

Come worship with your friends, to encourage one another on our journeys. We need each other and when you are not with us, you cannot receive from or offer support to your friends who are also trying to be Jesus Followers.

If you cannot come to worship, listen on the radio – 1370 am at 11am on Sundays or listen/watch on our website – neillsvilleucc.org at your convenience.



Pastor Jacoba's 2nd Page...

I might as well join the chorus of voices" I am tired of the snow falling every two or three days!

"Enough already." However, we are truly blessed



by the many who are helping each other. It was fun watching (taking pictures) Erickson

Construction, family and friends remove the snow from the church roof. It

has been a tough winter for the operators and their equipment as they try to keep up. Warren Struensee plows our lot with help from Tim Voigt and Bob Keller; Kevin and sons use the skidsteer to make room for more snow. Please hold all who are keeping us safe in your prayers. and offer them your patience and compassion.

A combination of many events, the snow, my terrible cold, working on Lent among them have caused me to not be as present and visiting as I like to be. Please receive my apology if you have been disappointed. Do not ever hesitate to call and say, hey – I am missing you or I need communion or I need support on my faith journey or a prayer.

You tell me there is a big improvement in our sound system. Folks are saying, while they don't usually have trouble hearing and understanding me, there is a noticeable change. Along with the new screen and projector our microphones were updated. I was pleased to be able to work the new system last Sunday when church was cancelled. I walked to the church, put on my microphone, contacted the radio station (Dale Erickson had stayed at WCCN overnight) and offered a worship service to those homebound during the blizzard. Dale added the choir anthem from the week before -so we had music too!

Don Abel is preparing power points presentations for our services now. Pastor Jim has also offered to help in this way! The announcements and

the words for the hymns were on the screen as well as in the hymnal or in the bulletin. Again, we are hearing positive comments, including that singing is better as people use the screen. Let the Technology

Committee, Deacons/Deaconesses or me, know what supports your worship experience and what does not.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS is going to Milwaukee March 29-30 for Urban Immersion. Let me know if you want to go with us.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

With Calvary and Zion, Pine Valley ELCA churches we worship each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm. Our theme this year is "Moving Toward the Cross." Pastor Chad Anderson and I lead each service. It is always appreciated when we have someone or a group offer special music. Let us know if you are willing to sing or play an instrument. The Scriptures will be dramatized through a video presentation. Our meditations will center on the texts from the Gospel of John:

March 6 – Calvary Ash Wednesday – Jesus predicts Peter's betrayal.

March 13 – UCC – Jesus prepares his disciples

March 20 – Calvary – Jesus prays for his disciples

March 27 – UCC – Jesus arrested, Peter's Denial

April 3 – Calvary – Jesus before Pilate

April 10 – UCC – Jesus is Crucified.

ANNUAL NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION & WISCONSIN CONFERENCE MEETING

The meetings this year are combined and will take place on April 5-6 at Glacier Canyon Conference



Center in the Wisconsin Dells. The theme is "Living the Light" from *John 1:8-9*.

The major decision to be voted on is a Resolution of Witness calling for the

"Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery." (If you want more information on this ask me.) As of this writing members attending the meeting are Dave and Carol Harnisch, Sue and John Vornholt and Pastor Jacoba. (Bonnie Weyer may also attend.) Sue, as a member of the arts committee, will be creating the stage backdrop and any other decorations; I look forward to seeing what her Committee has done. If you also want to attend, speak to me.

GENERAL SYNOD

Takes place June 21-25 in Milwaukee at the Convention Center. Abby Averill will be a Youth Steward; I will be a Chaperone to the Youth

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear,
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer,
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Stewards. Other Volunteers are needed. Talk to me if you are interested. There is information on the bulletin board. There will be buses going from our area to attend the Synod Worship Service on June 23. I highly encourage you to consider attending at least the worship service. More details to follow.

March Newsletter 2019

Hi Everybody,

It has happened again our worship service was canceled because of the weather. In all the years I have worked here I don't remember it ever happening twice in a year. This has really been a winter of winters. The same goes for the schools...they have had to close too. Let's hope we have an early spring. Daylight Saving Time BEGINS on Sunday, March 10...turn your clocks AHEAD! Maybe there is hope yet. March also brings us the beginning of Lent. We begin with the Ash Wednesday March 6. We will again share our Lenten services with Calvary Lutheran. The Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary. Communion will be served as well at the Imposition of Ashes. A soup supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. Look at the March Calendar for the dates of the Wednesday services.

See you in church! Audrey

Volunteers for March Sundays

Acolytes

Sunday, March 3

Iris Vine
Reese Ziegler

Sunday, March 10

Paige Voigt
Sydney Subke

Sunday, March 17

Haylee Erickson
Dottie Holm

Sunday, March 24

Bryce Erickson
Parker Voigt

Sunday, March 31

Colton Williams
Volunteer

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

Nursery We 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 March

Note we will need volunteers to fill in for the month of March. We had some scheduling problems with our scheduled ushers for March.

Sunday, March 3 & 10

Butch Carl, Don Abel
(2 volunteers needed)

Sunday, March 17 & 24

Russ Karl, Neil Armitage
Ray Weyer, 1 volunteer needed

Sunday, March 31 & April 7

Chad Erickson, Mitchell Erickson
Dick Lewis, Darwin Zwieg

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 March

Sunday, March 3

John & Sue Vornholt

Sunday, March 10

Mickey & Carla Marty

Sunday, March 17

Cynthia Craig & Tammy Holm

Sunday, March 24

Pat Acheson & Herman Seebandt

Sunday, March 31

David & Carol Harnisch

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 a couple more coffee hosts for March. The Schedule is on the bulletin board for the whole year. We hope we can get some volunteers signed up. Look at the dates and see if there is a Sunday(s) you can volunteer to serve.

Three Sundays are filled in March. **Sunday, March 3** the Annual UCC Men's Club "Pancake Breakfast" will be served following worship downstairs in Fellowship Hall. On **Sunday, March 10** we have a belated birthday cake to be served. On **Sunday March 17** we have a volunteer signed up. We need some volunteers for March 24 and 31. Find a friend and sign up together.

Our Fellowship/Coffee Hour is a fun time to get together with some of your church family for a light snack and conversation. Come and join us! (Volunteers there is *no* need to put on a full meal one thing is all you need to serve) serve some bars/cookies or cheese/crackers or some fruit. 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, March 3– (Intinction)

Team 1– Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis, Paul Schmidt
Bread: Sue Vornholt

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for March Sunday, March 3

Mitchell Erickson.....715-937-2984
Sunday, March 10
Kathy Mathis.....715-937-0690
Sunday, March 17
Paul Schmidt.....715-743-6656
Sunday, March 24
Janice Miller.....715-743-7070

(Hosting for March continued)

Sunday, March 31
Wayne Voss.....715-937-3072

Facts & Figures

Attendance/February
Sunday, February 3.....82
Sunday, February 10.....68
Sunday, February 17.....63
Sunday, February 24.....No Service

Offerings

Sunday, February 3
General Offering..... \$1443.00
Audio Visual Fund.....90.00
Hearts to Hand Mission.....19.00

Sunday, February 10
General Offering.....\$1568.00
Hearts to Hand Mission.....10.00

Sunday, February 17
General Offering.....\$1651.00
Hearts to Hand Mission.....129.00

Sunday, February 24
No Service (Snow Storm)
February Automatic Giving.....\$2175.00

Automatic Giving – Are you interested in giving to your church by "Automatic Giving?" If you are, stop by the church office and we will 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, February 3* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Dan Patey in loving memory of his wife, Elvira Patey.

On *Sunday, February 10* the radio broadcast was given by the Ambelang/Northup families in loving memory of Harry and Ruby Ambelang and Ruby's brothers, Don and Hap.

(Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)

On *Sunday, February 17* radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Ruth and Bob Schmidt in memory of Mom, Luella Mohr and Sister, Lois Mendenhall.

And on *Sunday, February 24* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim and Jim John Filitz in remembrance of Anne Filitz's birthday.

Thank you to our February 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



Remember our Shut-ins

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

Cru - On Sunday, February 17 Brenda and Aaron Miatke who serve as staff Directors for twelve

different campus's in the Greater Twin Ports Area for Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) spoke to us on their work with Cru. We thank them for their dedication with the college students. Our Mission Committee has decided to partner with Cru for a year with this mission project. If you want to help support them in their work, you will find envelopes in the pew racks for "Hearts and Hands." Be sure to indicate *Hearts to Hands* in the memo line on your checks. In addition, there will be a **Wild Game Feed** luncheon on *Sunday, April 7* after church. The

(Cru News continued)

"free will" offering proceeds will go toward our pledge to help support Brenda and Aaron in their mission work with Cru.

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

"Sun Catchers Café" – The March meeting of the Sun Catcher's Café will be on *Thursday, March 21* from 10-11:30 a.m. here at the United Church of Christ in Fellowship Hall. Cara Hart, Director of the Neillsville Public Library will present a brain healthy activity. The group will make macramé feather wreaths. We will do half the activity at the March café and conclude the project at the April Café. All supplies will be provided

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

Stewardship News

One Great Hour of Sharing – One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities worldwide. This offering will be collected in our church and other UCC Churches on **March 31**.

About 62% of this offering goes overseas in partnership with Church World Service, several Denominations in the US (including the UCC), and local relief agencies who have staff and volunteers organized in areas of need. Most of the expenditures are put into the budget to support long-term sustainable development. All funding is reviewed and monitored by a leadership

(One Great Hour of Sharing continued)

committee that also reviews grant requests for long-term disaster rehabilitation initiatives. The remainder of the OGHS offering, approximately 28% is used domestically for disaster relief, and to aid refugees and immigrants fleeing to the US and territories for a better life.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is extremely efficient, cost-effective way to reach out and help people near and far. On average, for every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents for interpretation materials. Any associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support. Support. Let's reach out on **March 31** to people who need our help including immigrants, people in the US and its territories, and people all over the world. One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes can be found in the pew racks. *Thank you for your support.*

Second Half Group – The Second Half Group met on February 19. A delicious lunch was served by Jenna of M&M Catering. Following lunch our guest, Eileen Miller, Senior Recreation Director from the Community Service of the Jackson County Prison presented a program on the projects that the Inmates work on for different agencies and Mission groups, such as the Christmas Angel Project. These items are donated except for some that are sold at the prison for needed items such as needles/scissors

etc. As you come into the church in the Narthex you will see a sample of items that they will be donating to the Christmas Angel Project. There is also a basket under the table for donations. Material, yarn, batting (anything that can be used in the making of their items.) We thank Eileen Miller for her interesting and informative presentation.

The Second Half Group will meet in March on **Tuesday, March 19** at 12 noon. A catered lunch will be served. \$8.00 plus tip. A sign-up will be on the bulletin board. The program will be presented by Pastor Wanda Veldman and her husband, Paul. They volunteered at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS and have offered to share their experience with us. (This program was canceled in November) We will also hear from

(Back Bay continued)

Carol Merriman the Wisconsin Regional representative for Back Bay. The Back Bay Mission is a ministry connected with the United Church of Christ. Back Bay hosts mission groups who renovate homes – youth groups often paint homes. Back Bay also supports homeless people; helping them to apply for ID's to get their prescribed medicines and much more. Pastor Jacoba was a volunteer at Back Bay Mission for a month in 2004 and then she returned for a week in 2006 after Katrina.



Daylight Saving Time

Looking out the window and seeing Kevin Erickson AGAIN pushing snow into big piles here at the church and now opening up Bob Shaw's driveway; would you believe our calendar says DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10....REALLY! I guess we better turn our clocks ahead or we will be late for church.



Time to Order Easter Lilies

And now its time to order Easter lilies. Easter is much later this year so I am pretty sure the snow

should be gone? (Just remembered we had 17 inches of snow in April last year.) We will order the lilies from Falls Florist. They will be \$13.00 each. Order in memory of, in honor of or for any other reason you may have. The names will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. If you make out a check, make it out to **Falls Florist**. Please take your lily home with you following the Easter worship service. Deadline for ordering April 14.



Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Service at

Calvary Lutheran

Communion; Imposition of
Ashes; Combined Choir

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

- 10-Sherri Holub
- 11-Mark Brunette
- 12-Larry Marshall
Lisa Schermitzler
- 13-Krue Czarnecki
Bob Petkovsek
Ben Wilson
- 15-Jennifer Roenz
- 16-Butch Carl
- 17-Glenna Rhoades Marg
- 20-Russell Karl
- 21-Howard Mathis
- 23-Frances Short
Brody Bergemann
- 25-Wallace Garbisch
- 29-Lane Kranz
- 30-Kellie Murphy
- 31-Joe Anderson

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

Received This Thank-you from the Barth family

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for all your prayers during Kathy's recent illness and recovery. It has truly meant so much to know that we were on your mind in your hearts and in your prayers. We are happy to inform you that Kathy continues to move forward in the recovery and rehabilitation phase of healing.

*In loving gratitude,
Bob & Kathy Barth
and family*



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March Wedding Anniversaries

- 10- Bernard & Delores Walker
- 20-Lydia & Ron Schumacher
- 20- Patricia Acheson & Herman Seebandt
- 23-Michael & Destini Sexauer

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Wendell Kuhn
Dick Lewis
- 4-Mary Lou Meredith

- 7-Dixie Hediger
- 8-Randy Hauge
Betty Barr
- 9-Lois Corey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10 am Bible Study I Thessalonians 4	2 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
3 9 am Sunday School 9 am Senior Choir practice 9-10 am Hiding in Plain Sight 10 am Worship/ Communion 11 am-1 pm Hiding in Plain Sight UCC Men's Club Pancake Breakfast following worship 3 pm Communion served at Neills. Retir. Community	4 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	5	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 7 pm <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Service – at Calvary 6 pm Soup Supper	7	8 10 am Bible Study I Thessalonians 5	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	11 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	12 10 am Ministerial Alliance meeting At Hillside	13 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 7 pm Lenten Service Service at UCC 6 pm Soup Supper	14 1:30 pm Circle of Friends meeting	15	16
17 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour	18 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	19 12 Noon 2 nd Half Group “Back Bay” program 5:30 pm Trustees meet 6:30 pm Deacons/Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	20 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation 7 pm <i>Lenten Service</i> Service at Calvary 6 pm Soup Supper	21 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Café	22	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 7 pm Lentedn Service Service at UCC 6 pm Soup Supper	28	29 Urban Immersion	30 Urban Immersion
31 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship-Confirmands Leading – Communion (pews) Fellowship/Coffee Hour						

