



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

May 2019

*"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails,
and put my hand into his side, I won't believe." John 20:25*

Jacob's jottings... Friends, I wrote this article on Saturday, before the incident on Sunday, April 28. I am leaving the article as I wrote it on Saturday. I will write more about the incident on page 2.

The disciple Thomas is often called "Doubting Thomas," a name that is frequently given to anyone who doubts or questions. I wonder if Thomas could also be experienced as courageous. Don't you think it would have taken courage to question the Resurrection when the other disciples (his friends, his companions) were so sure they had seen the Risen Lord? When others are convinced they know the truth, to admit we want more information lays us open too often to ridicule. It landed Thomas with his nick-name – the doubter.

Earlier, before his crucifixion, Jesus was talking about going to prepare a place for us in his Father's house, and that his followers would know the way. Thomas was the one who admitted, "Lord we do not know where you are going." Others likely wondered what Jesus was saying, however they remained silent. Thomas boldly asked the question. While Jesus was always open to questions, I imagine it took Thomas some courage to admit that he did not understand what Jesus was teaching.

You might remember in John 11, after the death of Lazarus when Jesus announced that he was returning to Judea, the other disciples tried to dissuade him. They knew the religious authorities were planning to stone Jesus. Thomas said to the other disciples, "Let us go too, that we may die with Jesus." It seems to me that Thomas was the brave one.

Courage is needed any time one person stands up and announces an opinion that is different than the understandings of others. It takes courage to say, "I disagree," "I need more evidence," "I have questions," when we are surrounded by folks who are of one mind. Thomas had the courage to speak of his doubt. He had the courage to stand alone. He was also the one in the Gospel of John who when Jesus showed him his wounds, responded "My Lord, and my God!"

We live in a society when it takes courage to acknowledge a different opinion even in our families. It takes courage to hold onto what we believe. It takes courage to stand alone. There are times when Jesus followers must have courage. We need courage to speak the truth, sometimes to question the truth others proclaim, to stand up for our faith in Jesus and to walk in his ways when fewer and fewer people claim him as their Lord and their God. I have been thinking and reading a bit about courage. I wish I were braver at times in claiming my faith and in who I am and whose I am. In the next few weeks, I plan to preach on having courage. We will begin with the book of Acts and then I will share with you some stories of brave, courageous people in the Bible.

May 5 – *The Rite of Confirmation, The Sacrament of Holy Communion Served*

May 12 – *Festival of the Christian Home, Mother's Day*

May 19 – *Baccalaureate (graduates honored) and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

May 25 – *Memorial Day Weekend - Worship at 10 am*

June 2 – *The Sacrament of Holy Communion served and VBS Children Singing, Worship at 9am*

June 9 – *Pentecost!*

AN INTRUDER IN WORSHIP

On Sunday, April 28, an intruder interrupted our worship service. He yelled some comments for between 20-30 seconds and then left. We never saw a weapon. Because the Safety Advisory Committee and Council had had discussions about what to do if there would be an incident our leadership reacted appropriately. The congregation and I remained calm. The police were called, arriving quickly. The individual had already interrupted services at Hillside Church and appeared to be on the way to Calvary when the police had a conversation with him. The incident caused some members to feel more vulnerable and made us all more aware of the need for safety precautions.

I have had several conversations since the event – including a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Council. The Safety Advisory Committee will meet in the coming week. For the time being, all doors will be locked during the week unless there is a planned event. If you want to come into the building, please call the church office. All the doors will be locked and checked shortly after worship begins. The east side doors have been repaired. Those who arrive late for worship will need to use the main entrance. We are asking at least two ushers to remain in the front hallway during the worship services. We will also ask the ushers to walk through the building. We ask that members be diligent in checking to see that the doors are locked when they leave the building.

Of course we do not want to over-react – at the same time, we want all to feel we have done everything we can to keep everyone safe when we are in our building.

We are also a people of faith. There is plenty of fear in our world. Yet, Jesus taught us, “Do not live in fear, little flock” John Dorhauer, President and General Minister of the UCC, shared these thoughts in a Still-Speaking Devotion this week:

“But you are not afraid. What do you know?

Do you accept that nothing in this world can separate you from the love of God; and that the God who fashioned you, called you by name, and abides with you in the shadowed valleys has given you the Kingdom? If you know that, you know enough. Faith instills within you an abiding orientation to faith, hope, and love. In such a soul fear cannot abide.”

Friends, let us not fear, but overcome fear with love.

THANK YOUS

I thank all who prepared soup and bars, served and cleaned up after the Lenten suppers. I also thank the ushers and greeters and sound/video helpers. Don Abel has been preparing our power-point presentations; Don, Pastor Jim, Luke, Jenny and Bonnie have been among those running the computer. We also had a number of folk working to organize, prepare the meat and fish, serve and clean up for the Wild Game Feed. Plus the Silent Auction, Spaghetti Dinner and Quarterly Meeting took place. In addition, in the last month, we had three Memorial-Funeral Services at the church – with meals following each of them. Again, many workers; please accept my appreciation for all your efforts. You have been actively serving your church. Thank you.

We have also been traveling! Dave & Carol Harnisch, Bonnie Weyer, Sue Vornholt and I attended the Annual Meetings of the Northwest Association and the Wisconsin Conference all rolled into one April 5-6 in the Dells. The main agenda item aside from budget and election of leadership was the adoption of the Resolution of Witness calling for the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. We heard an engaging keynote address from Rev. Franz Rigert and a sermon by Rev. Joanne Thompson, Associate Conference Minister who retires after many years of service in July.

CONFIRMATION

Sue Voigt and I chaperoned four confirmands to Milwaukee. We saw the beautiful St Sava's, a Serbian Orthodox Church, ate dinner at St Ben's with the other guests, enjoyed a Brewer Game, made sandwiches at the Guest House after buying groceries for 200 sack lunches, and visited the Islamic Center. It was a good experience mixed with learning and fun.

I was very proud of our Confirmation Class who participated in the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. I washed their feet, they were our communion servers, lit and extinguished candles in the Tenebrae service and stripped the altar. Sunday morning the altar remained bare until the confirmands, acolytes, Deacons/nesses brought into our sanctuary the symbols of the resurrection.

On the 28th, the Confirmands did a very good job of sharing the faith with us. I look forward to supporting them as they confirm their faith on May 5.

May Newsletter 2019

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone had a Happy Easter! We sure could not complain about the beautiful weather that day. It looks like spring is here. May is going to be a busy month for a lot of us. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 5, Mother's Day, May 12 (this will also be the last day of Sunday School until fall), Baccalaureate Service and a Baptism will be on May 19, High School Graduation on May 25, Memorial Day...another busy month. Pastor Jacoba will be attending the Festival of Homiletics from May 13-May 17. The summer worship time change (9:00 a.m.) will take place the first Sunday in June.

See you in church! Audrey

Our Volunteers for May

Acolytes

Sunday, May 5

Iris Vine

Reese Ziegler

Sunday, May 12

Haylee Erickson

Dottie Holm

Sunday, May 19

Parker Voigt

Bryce Erickson

Sunday, May 26

Paige Voigt

Sydney Subke

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 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 May

Sunday, May 5

Mike Perkl, Craig Sigurdson

Mickey Marty, Dale Opelt

Sunday, May 12 & 19

John Vornholt, Dave Steiger

Travis Vine, Ben Wilson

Sunday, May 26 & June 2

Allan Hoesly, David Harnisch

Don Quicker, Phil Follen

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 May

Sunday, May 5

Mitchell & Cassie Erickson

Sunday, May 12

Tom & Betty Barr

Sunday, May 19

Russell & Susie Karl

Sunday, May 26

Lynne Abel & Toni 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.

Communion Assignments for May

Sunday, May 5 – Communion at the Altar

Team 1- Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr,

Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis, Paul Schmidt

Bread: Betty Barr

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for May

Sunday, May 5

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

Sunday, May 12

Mitchell Erickson.....715-937-2984

Sunday, May 19

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

Sunday, May 26

Paul Schmidt.....715-743-36656

Coffee Hour for May

We need coffee host(s) for May 19 and May 26. Sunday, May 5 Confirmation Sunday and Mother's Day May 12 (which is the last session of Sunday School until fall) will be hosted by the Confirmation Coordinators and the Christian Ed Board.

We do have the coffee hour schedule on the bulletin board for the whole year. Look at the dates and see if there is a Sunday(s) you can volunteer to serve. Find a friend and sign up together. 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.)*

Facts & Figures

Sunday, March 31.....	90
Sunday, April 7.....	83
Lenten Service April 10.....	42
Palm Sunday, April 14.....	85
Maundy Thursday, April 18.....	55
Easter Sunday, April 21.....	190
Sunday, April 28.....	100

Offerings

Wednesday, Lenten Service March 27

General Offering\$373.00

Sunday, March 31

General Offering..... \$3064.00
Lenten Offering.....40.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....325.00
Memorial Fund..... 20.00
Donation to church.....100.00

Wednesday, Lenten Service April 3

General Offering\$75.00

(Offerings continued)

Sunday, April 7

General Offering.....\$2383.00
Lenten Offering.....60.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....555.00
Hearts/Hands Fund.....100.00
House of Mercy.....200.00
Donation to church.....8.00

Sunday, April 14

General Offering..... \$2367.00
Lenten Offering..... 442.00
Memorial Fund 50.00
One Great Hour of Sharing..... 200.00

Maundy Thursday April 18

General Offering \$352.00

Easter Sunday, April 21

General Offering.....\$2445.000
Lenten Offering.....119.50

Sunday, April 28

General Offering.....\$1719.00
Radio Fund.....75.00
Memorial Fund.....100.00
Church Donation.....6.65

April 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. With the busy schedules that many of you have and if you are unable to make it to church Automatic Giving would be a way to keep up with your faith promised to your church. Think about it.

Quarterly Meeting – The 1st Quarterly Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, April 28. Extra Quarterly reports are here in the office if you wish to have one.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors



On *Sunday, April 7* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored Bob and Lorraine Shaw in memory of loved ones.

On *Sunday, April 14* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of sister, Joyce Schmidt.

On *Easter Sunday, April 21* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Pastor Jacoba; Happy Easter Wishes to all who listen to us on the radio. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

And on *Sunday, April 28* the radio broadcast is given by Susie and Russell Karl in honor of their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

Thank you to our April 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

Let's not forget our shut-in's at home, those in nursing homes and in assisted living. Send a card, give them a call, or go visit them. We know that many of you do 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.

Updates on Members - Janet Harrington is again in Neillsville at the Neillsville Care & Rehab Rm. 12. Trink Jenkins is at Neillsville Retirement Community Rm N1

Mission & Outreach News

Wild Game Feed – On Sunday, April 7 the “Wild Game Feed” was held here at our church. We want to thank all those that helped support this fund raiser by donating various wild game, preparing the meal, setting-up and cleaning up and those coming and participating in the meal. From all reports we hear it was a success. Who knows maybe another “Wild Game Feed” will take place again next year?

“Sun Catchers Café – The Sun Catcher's Café met on Thursday, April 18 here at the United Church of Christ in Fellowship Hall. Cara Hart, Director of the Neillsville Public Library presented a brain healthy activity in March by making macramé feather wreaths which they got half done; this month they continued this project. The wreaths were completed and taken home.

This month, Thursday, May 16 the Sun Catchers Café will again meet from 10-11:30 a.m. here at our church meeting in Fellowship Hall. The program will feature a program on Lyme Disease and ticks. It's that time of year – many of us have already noticed ticks on our pets and ourselves. And if you or someone you know has had Lyme disease, you understand how painful and serious it can be. Join us when Kelsey Wussow, RN BSN, Public Health Nurse; and Rebecca Rosandick, BS CHES, Health Educator, Clark County Public Health, will present “Lyme Disease.” Kelsey and Rebecca will talk about Lyme Disease and its prevalence in our area; the symptoms, treatment and prevention. Attendees will find out how to prevent Lyme disease and learn how to successfully remove a tick.

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.

Lenten Offerings – Thank you to all that gave to the Lenten Offering this year. These offerings are used for local missions in our community.

Update -Aaron and Brenda Miatke who are working with Cru.(one of our mission projects this year) sent us a copy of their latest newsletter article. Copies can be found on the table in the Narthex. Since the Wild Game Feed the goal has been met for this year for Cru. Thank you for your support.

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 – Thank you to all that supported the One Great Hour of Sharing this year. We are proud to tell you we collected \$1160.00. Thank you again for your generous donations.

Strengthen the Church Offering – Our next UCC special offering will be “Strengthen the Church” offering. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC keep its commitment to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults. Watch your bulletins for more information on this special offering and the pew rack for the special Strengthen the Church offering envelopes. This offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. Thank you for your continued support!



QUILTING GROUP

Word from the Quilter Ladies

We are looking for some more people to help tie quilts. You do not need to be an expert at this job. We will train you (it is not hard.)

Watch for our next quilting date! If you have any questions...see Doris Bakker or Nancy Boon.



In Memory of Wanda Rae Smith

Wanda Smith age 87 died unexpectedly, Wednesday, April 10 at her home. Wanda was a long-time member of our church. She loved to work at the Holiday Fair in the “bake shop” when she was able. She also supported our radio ministry and listened to our broadcast most Sundays. A Celebration of Wanda’s life will be held at 11:00 Saturday, May 11 at the American Legion Hall here in Neillsville. Pastor Jacoba Koppert will officiate. Visitation will be from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the American Legion. Our deepest sympathy to Wanda’s seven children and their families and her many friends.

In Memory of Marian Elizabeth Carl Ray

Mrs. Marian Ray, age 97 passed away on Sunday, April 21 (Easter Day) at the Neillsville Care and Rehab Center. Marian was a member of our church for a long time. She was active in the Circle of Friends and sold many cards at the Retired Teachers Association every year when she attended. Marian was a teacher for many years. (many of our members and or children of our members had her as their teacher.) A teacher she was...always had a good story to tell you and very knowledgeable about the history of Neillsville.

Funeral services were held here at our church on Wednesday, April 24. Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiated. We extend our deepest sympathy to her many cousins and friends of Marian Elizabeth Ray.



Secret Angels – The Secret Angels were up to their special mission again to call on our shut-in’s. Along with their call the shut in’s received a little gift put together by our Secret Angels.

Special thanks come from Irma Rizner and Lois Kren for your thoughtfulness and your visit. It is always very much appreciated.

Thank you “Secret Angels” for your time and thought put into this special mission.

More Thank You's - Thank you to all that purchased a lily for our Easter Celebration. They looked and smelled so good!

Thank you to our **"Money Counters"** for the extra time it took to count money during our Lenten Season.

A Big Thank You to all that organized the "Silent Auction" and the "Spaghetti Luncheon" and to those that supported the auction by contributing, bidding and buying. (I'm sure we will get a report from the committee on how much was raised and what they will be funding.)

Vacation Bible School

Mosey on over to Yee Haw "The Best VBS Around!" Giddyup for two days of frontier fun!

Friday, May 31 4-8 p.m. (will have bus transportation from public school to church.)

Saturday, June 1 – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Parents invited to 1 p.m. Celebration!)

Registration Forms here at the church, on our web site and in this Newsletter. SIGN-UP NOW!



May Birthdays

1- Don Quicker
2-John Subke
3-Emily Voigt
Erin Voigt

4-Bernie Opelt
6-Ashley Vine
Sharon Buddenhagen
7-Jocelyn Vine
Haddie Mathis
9-Rachel Anderson
Haylee Erickson
11-Destini Sexauer
12-Marge Goetsch
Byrl Buddehagen
13-James Sjolín
Lacey Erickson
Carol Harnisch
15-Sue Jodarski
16-Ann Schoengarth

(May Birthdays continued)

17-Delores Walker
Bernard Walker
19-Clayton Sexauer
21-Santana Subke
26-Arlene Stark
Ben Anderson
27-Michelle Bergemann
Victoria Ratsch
Adelyn Sadowska
29-Paul Schmidt
30-Craig Sigurdson

Happy Birthday to all of our May Birthdays! Did we miss your birthday or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.



1- Roberta & Bob Gaier
3-James & Autumn Marshall
4-Ruth & Bob Schmidt
9-Ben & Kelly Mathis
11-Charlotte & David Tetzlaff
18-Don Quicker & Cindy Grotta
11-Bernie & Hanna Opelt

Happy Anniversary to all of you! Did we miss your Anniversary or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.

General Synod 32 June 21-25-20

Volunteers are needed to help out at the General Synod. This would be a great opportunity to learn about the UCC and see our diversity. Check out the bulletin board and the fliers that are in the Narthex. If you plan on going and need help in registering on-line Sue Vornholt has offered to help you. 715-797-4031. Also check out the bulletin board for the opportunity to go to the General Synod by bus for only \$20.00.

Debbie Brey Benefit – Saturday, May 4 at Strike Time Lanes – 9 pin-Tap Bowling, 2 shifts: 3 p.m. 7 p.m. – Knights of Columbus grilling chicken – dinner from 4-8 p.m. – Raffles & Silent Auction – Contact Marcia Gross. Please support Debbie in her battle with multiple myeloma.



**Join The Northwest Association of the
Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ
On a Bus Trip to General Synod!
Sunday, June 23, 2019**



**We will be using Lamers Coach Buses
traveling to
Wisconsin Center - Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Three routes available:
(Merrill-Wausau-St. Point) (Eau Claire-Black River Falls) (LaCrosse-Sparta-Tomah)
Registration found on backside of this flier.
Bus Trip Cost is \$20.00 Per Person.

Sunday is Free Day at General Synod - Admission is Free and Open to All

Worship! Street Festival! Exhibit Hall!

There will be food trucks and entertainment for all ages!

Send registrations to:
First Congregational Church-UCC
311 Second Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Email registrations to:
fccsec@wisrapidsucc.net

Registration Forms Available in the Church Office or on-line at

<http://www.wcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NW-synodbus.pdf>

May 2019						
◀ Apr 2019					Jun 2019 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 pm CD's & Confirmation (last session)	2	3	4 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
5 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir practice 10 am Worship Communion/Confirmation Fellowship/Coffee Hour	6 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	7	8	9 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	10	11 11 am Wanda Smith Memorial Service at American Legion Hall 10 am-11am Visitation
12 9 am Sunday School (last session until fall) 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee Hour With Christian Ed Serving Mother's Day	13 Pastor Jacoba aT Festival of Homiletics 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	14 10 am Ministerial Alliance Living Hope Pastor Jacoba at Festival of Homiletics	15 Pastor Jacoba at Festival of Homiletics	16 10-11:30 pm Sun Catchers Cafe Pastor Jacoba at Festival of Homiletics	17 Pastor Jacoba at Festival of Homiletics	18
19 10 am Worship Baccalaureat Sunday Piper Keller Baptism Fellowship/Coffee Hour	20 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	21 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacons and Deaconesses 7:30 pm Church Council	22	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship Fellowship Coffee Hour	27 Office Closed Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 3:45 pm Vacation Bible School	

