



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Neillsville, Wisconsin
 Church 715-743-2147
 Pastor Jacoba Koppert
 Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
www.neillsvilleucc.org

July 2019

*Those who find their lives will lose them,
 and those who lose their lives because of me (Jesus) will find them.*
 Matthew 10:39

Jacoba's jottings... I got really lost in downtown Milwaukee. When I arrived last Friday I parked my car in the hotel parking structure. Our block was surrounded by construction. On Tuesday morning, I needed to move my car to another parking structure. I am not sure what I did to get off course, but I surely did. And without my GPS or a map, one-way streets and construction blocking streets I had no idea where I was or how to get to where I was going.



Getting lost can land us in interesting places and offer us new opportunities to see and experience what we otherwise would not have seen or done. I still remember our family getting lost driving through Detroit in 1968 in the area where a week later the Detroit riots took place. Seeing the neighborhood helped us understand why the riots were taking place. Getting lost in the Rocky Mountains led to views we would have missed had we not taken the dirt road up the mountain.

Getting lost can be more than geographical. Sometimes we lose our way in life. Jesus suggests that can be a good thing. Getting lost means having to re-focus. Where am I? Where do I want/need to go? Have I been here before? Does my past experience help me find my way now? Am I in new territory? Is there something I need to see or learn? Is there a new route I now need to take? Sometimes we need to get lost in order to find who and where we really are. Getting lost can save our lives. We realize something needs to change. Scared or overwhelmed or confused and even if we are excited, curious, adventurous, we realize we need a guide, a Savior. For Christians that guide is the Holy Spirit and the teachings and love of Jesus.

It seems to me, many of us have lost who we are; we have lost our souls in these days. Who does God want us to be? What does God want us to do? As individuals – as a church- as a nation. Acknowledging we are lost or have lost our way is the first step. Asking God for guidance is how we will find our souls. Our task in these days is to turn to God's word, and open ourselves to the Still-Speaking God in prayer so we find the direction God wants for us, for our church, community and nation. Trusting Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life will save us. Our Savior laid down his life, losing his life so that he and we would have new life.

Let's be adventurous, curious and open to the Spirit's leading.

SUMMER WORSHIP

I learned my first year in Neillsville that UCC seems to be a seasonal congregation. Each season the congregation changes as to who is and who is not among us worshiping God. It is always good to see you when you can attend. Your presence adds to the spirit of worship. Your greeting, your smile, your presence encourages others on their faith journey. I visited my "home church" on my vacation where I reconnected with acquaintances I

had not seen in a time. The coffee/ fellowship time offered a time to catch up with one another. Summer time may be the only time when some of our folks or people who used to live among us attend. I hope you will attend when you can this summer; that you will take the time to greet one another; and that we will have a few people step up to provide and stay for the coffee hours. The world we live in supports isolation. Let's go against the culture and be together whenever we can.

Pastor Jacoba's 2nd Page...

Vacation Bible School at UCC was again a weekend event – May 31 - June 1. We had a fun time with around twenty children 4k-4th grade and ten or so youth and adults who planned, taught, fed, took pictures, watched over our children as they learned about the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. “YeeHaw! Celebrating God’s Greatest Gift” was our theme and “God so loved the world” was our scriptural focus. Several of the children were at worship on June 2nd, sang for us and gave church members a gift to enjoy at home. Thank you – teachers and helpers. Stephanie Heck, Linda Stalsberg, Lacey Erickson, Jenna Ziegler, Ashley Vine, Mackenzie Keller, Kara Oldham, Haylee



Erickson, Reese Ziegler, Bonnie Weyer, Wayne Voss, Barb Petkovsek, and me, Pastor Jacoba (Sorry if I missed anyone). We also thank the parents and grandparents who brought their children.

I was away for about half of the month of June and am just back so – I missed a few things – however: if you missed Vicente singing in Spanish about the presence of the Holy Spirit you missed a treat. I do think we should have church at the Neillsville Dairy Breakfast next year. I saw so many of you there after church. The Mathis family were great hosts. I always love the dairy breakfasts – especially when there is a calf I can entice to suck on my fingers... you can take the girl off the farm – but you can’t take the farm out of this pastor. Please remember our farmers in your prayers. This has been a rough spring throughout the Midwest. Pastor Jim again covered for me while I traveled to visit family. Thank you, Jim! And thank you JoAnn Voss – I heard you faithfully led the worship service on June 23. It was evident that you have led worship services in the past. We are glad you are among us! I also heard people enjoyed Rev. Traci Blackman deliver the sermon she preached last year at the Wisconsin Annual Gathering. Thank you,

Bonnie for preparing the video of her sermon, Don for continuing to prepare our power points and Allan for showing it. And to Audrey and Jim for holding all things together at church & at my home.

GENERAL SYNOD – JUNE 21-25

I am not sure how to summarize our five days at Synod, except to say we were faithful. I was one of two Youth Steward Chaperones, supporting the work of eight youth from Wisconsin for whom we were responsible 24-7. Together we assisted the delegates and Moderators as they did the business of the



Synod. With them, I attended all activities when the Synod was in session and at worship. The kids were great. Our work was seen as so instrumental to the work of the Synod that all of our expenses were covered by our OCWM \$. – It was a particular joy when the youth shared their take on what we saw and experienced. At our last supper together, one of the youth said it had been a blessed week for him. ☺ For what more can we hope?

This was the 7th Synod I attended. The Wisconsin Conference were fantastic hosts. Sue Vornholt and Pastor Jim were also volunteers – Bonnie Weyer and Karen Mohr attended some of the sessions as visitors.

I was touched by the worship services; which were often multi-lingual, included dance, various kinds of music and visuals. Sunday, Rev. Traci Blackmon reminded us to let our light shine and that even if our light is under the bushel basket, it is still burning and providing the needed kindling for our work as followers of Jesus.

Space does not let me write about the resolutions. I expect I will be preaching this summer or fall about what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this day and time – (one of the resolutions). I do want to encourage us to work hard not only at church but at home too, to refrain from using Styrofoam particularly and throw away plastic in general. Each of those little beads of Styrofoam takes 500 years to decompose. There are islands of plastic in the ocean. God forgive us! Ask me about Synod. I want to tell you more!

July Newsletter 2019

Hi Everyone,

How is your summer going? We hope you are enjoying it. Our July Newsletter is coming to you with less news and very few activities scheduled to report on. We have our scheduled list of volunteers for July and a July calendar. Pastor Jacoba has been on vacation during the month of June and attending the General Synod in Milwaukee. Her schedule following her return is going to be really full. She is also going to have cataract surgery on July 2 and if you have had this surgery you know what that means with eye drops. Have a great July! Looks like summer has arrived.

See you in church! Audrey

Our Volunteers for July

Acolytes

Sunday, July 7

Haylee Erickson
Dottie Holm

Sunday, July 14

Parker Voigt
Bryce Erickson

Sunday, July 21

Paige Voigt
Sydney Subke

Sunday, July 28

Outdoor Worship Service at
Neillsville Care and Rehab.

We do know that some of our candle lighters will not be here most of the summer, but we still want to make up a schedule. (Hoping you will be here.) We really appreciate your help. 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 us. We are always looking for more volunteers to light the candles...let Pastor Jacoba know if you would like to help out. Volunteers are needed on some Sundays when we have no children in church, and we thank those that help us out by filling in.

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 July

Sunday, July 7 & 14

Joe Holman, Butch Carl
Dick Lewis, Tom Barr

Sunday, July 21 & 28

Dave Steiger, Bob Petkovsek
Jim Repinski, John Vornholt

Note: Outdoor Worship Service – Sunday, July 28
– Neillsville Care & Rehab- shelter

Ushers Note: *If you are unable to usher when you are scheduled (we know that summer is a bad time for some of you too) – please exchange with someone else if possible and call the church office to let us know (715-743-2147) Thank you for your help.*

Ushers take Note: *There have been some changes in the ushering duties. Please read over the letter you receive in the mail. If you have any questions, please talk to Mike Perkl. **Also**, we are looking for a **Head Usher** that could help us out on Sundays. (Just to make sure we have ushers in place and that they are aware of what they are to do and to answer their questions.) Even Co-Head Ushers would be nice. Can you **HELP** us out and volunteer for this position?*

Take Note: During our 9:00 a.m. summer worship months the front doors will be open at 8:15 a.m. Ushers, please be here by 8:30 a.m. If you have a key, you can get in anytime but make sure the doors are locked behind you. Thank you.

Greeters for July

Sunday, July 7

Paul Vine & Kelley Burch

Sunday, July 14

Paul & Sandy Schmidt

Sunday, July 21

Phil & Donita Follen

Sunday, July 28

Wayne & JoAnn Voss

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 July

Sunday, July 7– Communion at the Altar

Team 1- Sue Vornholt, Betty Barr, Mitchell

Erickson, Kathy Mathis, Paul Schmidt

Bread: Mitchell Erickson

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for June

Sunday, July 7

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

Sunday, July 14

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

Sunday, July 21

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

Sunday, July 28

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

Coffee Hour for July

We did not get any volunteers to sign up to host coffee hour in June (so there was NO coffee hour following worship services for the month of June) and most likely July will be the same. I see no names signed up for July at this time.

Note: For our Outdoor Service on Sunday, July 28 we will need some donation of bars. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board. Please bring your bars to Neillsville Care and Rehab shelter. (Please have them cut – thank you) Deacons and Deaconesses will help serve that day.

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

(coffee hour continued)

volunteer to serve. Find a friend and sign up together (No need to put on a full meal (just one thing is all you need to serve) some bars/cookies or some cheese/crackers or some fruit. If you have any questions give us a call. The coffee, lemonade, plates, napkins are all provided. Some volunteers like to serve more than one thing; we let them decide what they want to serve...we are all satisfied with **one** thing being served. We are just happy to have some volunteers serve. Thank you for your help and support ! Fellowship/Coffee Hour is a fun time to spend some time together with of our church family. Come and join us!

Facts & Figures

Sunday, June 2.....	60
Sunday, June 9.....	31
Sunday, June 16.....	30
Sunday, June 23.....	38

Offerings

Sunday, June 2

General Offering.....	\$1735.00
Strengthen the Church	180.00
Memorial Fund.....	125.00

Sunday, June 9

General Offering.....	\$1215.00
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Sunday, June 16

General Offering.....	\$1011.00
Strengthen the Church.....	10.00

Sunday, June 23

General Offering.....	\$2570.00
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June 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 promise* to your church. Think about it.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors



On *Sunday, June 2* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Glenna

Rhoades Marg and family in memory of husband/father Herb Rhoades.

On *Sunday, June 9* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker for the church family.

On *Sunday, June 16* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was sponsored by Trink Jenkins for family and friends.

On *Sunday, June 23* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of daughter, Tammy Backaus and in memory of parents, Walter and Lucille Schmidt.

And on *Sunday, June 30* the radio broadcast is sponsored by Phyllis Embke in memory of husband, Norb Embke.

Thank you to our June 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.**

2020 Radio Broadcast Sponsors We are looking for Radio Broadcast sponsors for 2020. Now is the time to sign-up. The cost is the same. \$75.00 Full Broadcast - \$37.50 Half Broadcast \$25.00 Third Broadcast. We have lots of Sundays to fill. We feel that our radio ministry is very important to our church and community. Are we going to have the support to keep our radio ministry on WCCN? Sign-up NOW! Do it in memory of someone; in honor of someone or for any other reason you may have. This is not a budgeted item of our church, so we ask you to please have your monies in by the end of 2019.



Remember Our Shut In's

Let's not forget our shut-in's at home, those in nursing homes and in assisted living this summer. 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. We *thank you!* If you know of anyone needing a visit from Pastor Jacoba, please call her or the church office and we will set up a time to visit. If you would like to help Pastor Jacoba serve communion to our shut-in's let her know. We can always use extra hands. Our shut-in's enjoy it when you come

"Sun Catchers Café" – The Sun Catcher's Café met on Thursday, June 20 here at the United Church of Christ. Tara Halopka, Intake and Information Specialist with the Aging and Disability Resource Center was the guest. Tara discussed services, programs and solutions for disability and long-term care issues such as living arrangements, health, adult protective services, disabilities nutrition, and other publicly funded programs.

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.



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.

Stewardship News – by Dave Harnisch



Strengthen the Church **Thank You!"**

The Stewardship Committee members extend their appreciation for the

offerings, time, and talents that members of the congregation contributed to the *Strengthen the Church* mission.

Our *Strengthen the Church* offerings support the expansion of ministry and-growth of local congregations. Our local church's contributions assists the United Church of Christ fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all, and by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As called for by the General Synod, 50 percent of our local offerings stay within our conference of churches. The remaining 50 percent is sent to the national—for its work in strengthening the church universal.

Our church gathered offerings totaling over \$200.00 to contribute to these efforts.

Other Stewardship News

Stewardship Committee members Marge Goetsch, Dave Harnisch, Emile Miller, M.E. Sjolín, and Sue Voigt will continue to work on planning upcoming projects, such as the *Neighbors in Need*, *Christmas Fund* and *Our Wider Mission*.

Next scheduled Stewardship Committee meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Door Bells – As many of you have noticed door bells have been installed by our front door (main entrance) and downstairs by the kitchen (east door.) We still want you to be sure to lock the door behind you if you use your key to get in. This system seems to be working just fine at this time. Interesting, the elevator man who maintains our elevator had to be let in and he said "our church has the same system...we have had it for two years already." Safety for our churches too!

Thank you's

As we reported to you last month that the monies collected from our Lenten and Advent offerings go to local mission work around our area. Here are some of the thank-you's received from them.

From Aging & Disability Resource Center of Clark County ADRC – Dear United Church of Christ Members: Thank you for your generous donation. Your monetary donation greatly helps support our food pantry and annual Christmas Food Box Project for the elderly. The continuous support and thoughtfulness for the elderly citizens of Clark County is very much appreciated. *Sincerely Mary Sladich, Director*

From House of Mercy – Dear Members of Neillsville UCC: We would like to thank you for your generous donation to the House of Mercy. The money was used for gas cards. Judy informed me that 8 families moved from the House of Mercy to permanent housing. She is still there for these families on a consult basis. That is a great track record for a place that will be open there years on November 26th. This would not be possible without your donations. Thanks

*Bonnie Weyer, Volunteer
& Judy Morrow, Director*

From Care & Rehab-Neillsville – Dear Members of United Church of Christ, Thank you for your donation for the residents of Care & Rehab. Your continued support means a lot. Thank you for always thinking of us.

Sincerely, Staff & Residents of Care & Rehab

From Shirley's House of Hope – Dear Members of Neillsville UCC, Thank you for your recent donation. Your gift of compassion is providing a safe and nurturing home for women and children hurting from domestic violence. The generosity of you, our donor, is one of Shirley's House of Hope's greatest blessings. Thank you for giving the gift of hope, that rebuilds, renews, and restores lives. *-Julie Cravillion, Executive Director*

From The Hannah Center – Dear United Church of Christ, Thank you for your recent donation to The Hannah Center. Your support and generosity is deeply appreciated. Thanks to your generosity,

(Hannah Center thank you continued)

we will meet our mission to assist women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurturing environment. Thank you again for our support of the Hannah Center.

Warmest regards, The Hannah Center

Thank you We want to thank Pastor Jim Mohr for leading our service on Sunday, June 16 and thank you JoAnn Voss for leading our service on Sunday, June 23. We are fortunate and blessed to have people like you able to fill in and lead our services so that Pastor Jacoba could go on vacation and visit her mom and to attend the General Synod in Milwaukee.



July Birthdays

1- Jerry Ambelang
Ben Fields
Brennan Wilson

2- Pam Stitt
3- Arianna Rochester
Mathew Roenz
4- Tom Wallace
5- Donna Erickson
Anna Marie Eddy
9- Sandra Schmidt
JoAnn Voss
Sophie Heck
10-Ruth Van Gorden
11-Emile Miller
Berdella Carl
13-James Mohr
16-Kathy Turner
Neil Czarnecki
17-Guy Jodarski
18-Pat Garbisch
19-Gayle Schermitzler
Roger Carl
21-Robert Shaw
Kobe Roenz
24-Karsen Czarnecki
25-Bonnie Shaw
Carol Opelt
Kathy Carl
26-Reese Ziegler
Mitchell Erickson

(July Birthday continued)

27-Hunter Roenz
28-Dan Patey
29-Eileen Zank
Barb Shoemaker
Kelley Burch
30-Erik Sigurdson

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



July Anniversaries

7- Ray & Bonnie Weyer
13-Dick & Carolyn Lewis
14-Joe & Kris Anderson
31-Eugene & Carol Opelt

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

Take Note:

Change of Church Address

DO NOT USE P.O. BOX 6

New Address:

**United Church of Christ
515 West Second Street
Neillsville, WI 54456**

Invitation: *You are INVITED TO THE 90TH Birthday party in honor of Lois Kren – Saturday, July 6 – 1-4 p.m. Apple Valley Bar & Grill – Call Tom at 715-937-0598*

Landscaping- As you can see our landscaping in front of the church needs some HELP. The Trustees have given us the go-ahead to do something. Dave and Carol Harnisch have offered to help with this project along with Tom Wallace. BUT we will NEED some volunteers to help with the rock??? Let them know if you can help out.

July 2019						
◀ Jun 2019						Aug 2019 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	2	3	4 Independence Day (Office Closed)	5	6 11 am Patty Steele Funeral Luncheon at UCC
7 9 am Worship Communion (Altar) Emilia Mathis Baptism 3 pm Communion; Served at Neillsville Retirement Community	8 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	9	10	11 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	12	13
14 9 am Worship	15 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	16	17 6:30 pm Stewrdship Committee meeting	18 10-11:30 am Sun Catchers Café	19	20
21 9 am Worship	22 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 am OUTDOOR SERVICE AT NEILLSVILLE CARE & REHAB SHELTER	29 6:30-7:30 pm Nar-Anon	30	31			