

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

February 2020

A Definition of Generosity

"By 'generosity,' I mean the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. Generosity thus conceived is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action—entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally.

Generosity is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life.

It entails not only a moral good expressed but also certain vices rejected, such as selfishness, greed, fear, and meanness.

Generosity also involves giving not just anything, but rather those things that are good for others.

What exactly generosity gives can vary:

money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, emotional availability, and more.

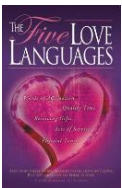
But it always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver"

(Christian Smith, *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*).

Jacoba's jottings.... When the Rev. Andrew Warner of the Wisconsin Conference gave the participants of a recent Webinar this quote, he asked us to choose which sentence or words most touched us. I knew immediately my choice:

"But it (Generosity) always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of the receiver."

My thoughts took me to remembering the Mississippi Flood of 1993 (with as often as I write or speak about it, you ought to realize how life changing it was for me and how it influences my eagerness that churches do hands-on mission). From all over the country people sent clothes. Nice clothes, dirty clothes, worn-out clothes, useless clothes; those clothes took up most of the space in our Fellowship Room and a lot of our church-member volunteer time—someone had to sort through them. Most of those clothes were useless to the flood victims. I saw the same thing when our youth on their Mission Trip to Pittsburgh were asked to box up clothes to be sent to Africa. I could not see how a skimpy blouse would enhance the wellbeing of a teen in Uganda whereas money to buy what they knew they needed likely would.



My thoughts also take me to a book many have highly recommended, *The Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts* by Gary Chapman. He suggests the five languages are: **quality time, physical touch, acts of service, giving and receiving gifts, and words of affirmation**. It is important to know our own primary love language – which one when given to us makes us feel most loved. Mine is quality time. The gift of quality time from family and friends, time to be together gives me more joy than any other gift. However Chapman suggests not only do we need to know our own love language; we need to know our partner's, family members, friends and even strangers we want to help preferred language. We need to know what will truly enhance the wellbeing of the receiver of our generosity.

Which love language do you think God, the church, people in need most desire from us? I suppose it depends on the situation. Yet, I think it is worthy as we consider generously sharing our gifts or love what will enhance the well-being of the receiver of our generosity. How shall we express our love to God, neighbor and to all creation?

Jacoba's second page... Did you receive the gift of a Star yet? I have a few more Star Words for anyone who would like one. We gave them out on Epiphany and then again the following Sunday. Is your star guiding you to the Christ; to growing in your relationship with God; to loving your neighbors and yourself? I hope so.

I want to commend Stephanie Heck for her desire to have Sunday School the Sundays we were without Curriculum. She came up with lesson plans and then taught the children who came. Way to go Stephanie! Thanks too, to Lydia and Linda who offered guidance and assistance!

As Audrey says, the big news this



month is the installation of the hearing aid loop and new carpet. Allan Hosley spent hours measuring everything in the sanctuary and the places



to which they could be moved. And then church members volunteered their time and along with the help of two Amish men moved everything out of the sanctuary, removed the carpet and padding. Let me try to name names – Paul Vine, Hap Eddy and Mike Perkl gave leadership to this part of the project. They were assisted by Byrl Buddenhagen, Dave



Harnisch, Kirk and Nancy Rodman, Kevin Erickson and his work crew, Doris Bakker, Allan Hoesly, JoAnn Wren, Bonnie Weyer, Luke, Logan and Bryce Erickson and Bob Petkovsek. Lunch was also provided by Doris, JoAnn and Dolores Johnson. Please forgive me and let me know if I missed anyone.



The Hearing Aid Loop is now installed and the installation of the new carpet should soon be completed. Allan was again instrumental working with Audio Architects who installed the hearing aid loop. Wendy Sigurdson, Nikki Keller, Betty Barr and Deb Perkl chose the carpet and worked with Russell's of Neillsville. We cannot fully express our appreciation to all who volunteered their time and muscle and to all who donated (including money from the Holiday Fair, Memorial/Endowment Fund and the Shaw Family in memory of Bob) for the refurbishing of



our sanctuary and the addition of the hearing aid loop. Next week the pews, chairs, altar, hymnals, music files and most things removed from the sanctuary, sacristy and cry room will be returned. Call Bob Petkovsek or Hap Eddy if you can help.

CHURCH SCAM

There is a scam affecting more than several UCC churches. Church members receive usually a text, but occasionally an email that pretends to be from their pastor. The "pastor" has an emergency need for money to help someone, but cannot access the money they have available for such needs. The text or email from the "pastor or church staff" says the need is urgent. Church members who trust their real pastors have responded losing hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Friends, I will **NEVER** send you a text or email asking you for money, your credit card number, or asking you to go to your bank because I don't have enough cash or can't get a church check fast enough to help someone. The scammers use the pastor's phone number– so it looks like your pastor is texting you. Law enforcement think the scammers find member (your) phone numbers in newsletters published on-line. If you don't want your contact information published, let us know. Members who need your phone numbers can ask for a revised church directory or call Audrey, me or another member for the phone numbers they need.

2nd Half Tuesday, February 18 at Noon

We have invited the new Chief of Police of Neillsville, Chief Jim Mankowski to be our guest speaker. We have invited him to tell us a bit about himself, get to know us, answer questions and share with us useful information about the department or our community.

February 9 – A Busy Sunday

The Clark County Men's Chorus will sing a few songs for us. The Sunday School Children sing. The Installation of the newly elected Officers and Committee Members is scheduled. And it will be our first Sunday in the refurbished sanctuary. I will do all I can to keep the service to an hour while helping us to worship God and support one another on our faith journeys.

February Newsletter 2020

Hi Everyone, Monday morning and it's the last week of January and time to get the February Newsletter out. It was a busy January for me. We worked on the 2019 Annual Report most of the month. (Thank you to those of you that got your reports to me – it was a short time to get everything done by the last Sunday of January in time for the Annual meeting) but we did it. Thank you to Carol and Dave Harnisch, my son, Scott and his girlfriend Kathie for helping to collate them. I also got all the 2019 contribution statements done. If you want a copy of your statement, they are here in the office. The biggest news of the month is the removal of the pews and old worn out carpet in the Sanctuary to get it ready to install our new carpet. Wow! What workers we had doing that. It is now almost ready for the carpet layers. Tomorrow the loop for the hearing aid will be installed. By the time our March Newsletter comes out we will be sitting in a sanctuary with the carpet installed and the pews back in place. We all look forward to that.

See you in church! Audrey

Our Volunteers for February

Acolytes

Sunday, February 2

Haylee Erickson
Dottie Holm

Sunday, February 9

Colton Williams
Landon Bergemann

Sunday, February 16

Iris Vine
Reese Ziegler

Sunday, February 23

Haylee Erickson
Dottie Holm

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.

Note: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and downstairs for Acolyte Training. Watch for a date and time when this will be taking place.

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

February 2 & 9

Tom Barr, Ray Weyer
Larry Marshall, Don Abel

February 16 & 23

Kirk Rodman, Darwin Zwieg
Dick Lewis, Mark Brunette

Ushers *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.*

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. We are looking for a **Head Usher** that could help us out on Sundays. (The Head usher would 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? Thank you to those of you that fill in on Sundays when we **NEED YOU**. It is very much appreciated.*

Greeters for February

Sunday, February 2

Don & Joy Abel

Sunday, February 9

Darwin & Ruth Zwieg

Sunday, February 16

Ken & Barb Shoemaker

Sunday, February 23

Mickey & Carla Marty

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 February
Sunday, February 2 – (Communion -Serving at the Tables) Service downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Team 2- Janice Miller, Jim Vradenburg, Karlene Wallace, Betty Barr, substitutes

Bread: Janice Miller

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for February

Sunday, February 2

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

Sunday, February 9

Substitute

Sunday, February 16

JoAnn Wren.....715-937-4114

Sunday, February 23

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

Facts & Figures

Attendance for January

Sunday, January 558

Sunday, January 12.....59

Sunday, January 19.....58

Sunday, January 26.....54

Offerings

Sunday, January 5

General Offering..... \$1420.00

Sunday, January 12

General Offering.....\$1693.00

Sunday, January 19

General Offering.....\$1571.00

Sunday, December 15

General Offering.....\$1233.00

Radio Fund.....75.00

January Automatic Giving.....\$2010.00

Automatic Giving – Are you interested in giving to your church by “Automatic Giving” this year? 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

(Automatic Giving continued)

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. Please consider giving this way.



“Soup”er Bowl Challenge

We are working on our “Soup’er Bowl Challenge! Are we going to win the challenge? It looks like a lot of soup came in Sunday. Thank you! I don’t think we have as many cans as last year yet. We collected 526 cans last year! Calvary collected 391 and Living Hope had 364. The challenge is on! St. Mary’s and Hillside are also joining in on the challenge. We will collect through Sunday, February 2 “Super Bowl Sunday.” The soup is divided up between the food pantries and aging office. No matter who wins the challenge the pantries will be the big WINNER! Thank you for supporting this special mission.

Radio Broadcast Sponsors



On *Sunday, January 5* the radio broadcast portion of the worship service was sponsored by Jim and Rosie Repinski in honor of our church family.

On *Sunday, January 12* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Rick Buchsteiner in memory of Maxine Schmidt.

On *Sunday, January 19* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Karen, David, Cody and Alex Northup in memory of parents/grandparents, Harry & Ruby Ambelang and Ruby’s brothers Don and Hap.

And on *Sunday, January 26* our radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a church member.

(Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)

Thank you to our January radio broadcast sponsors

The radio broadcast portion of our Sunday Worship Service can be heard on WCCN AM 1370 and 98.5 FM on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

2020 Radio Broadcasts I want to thank everyone that has signed up to sponsor a radio broadcast in 2020. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a broadcast, we do have some dates that are open. They are listed below:

March – 1, 22

May – 3, 24, 31

July – 5, 12, 19, 26

August – 2

September 13, 20

November 22, 29,

December 20, 27

Thank you for your continued support!



Annual Congregational

Meeting – The Annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 26. If you would like an Annual Report, you can pick one up here in the office. You will find the all the financial, board/committee and pastor's reports as well as Usher and Greeters schedule for 2020.

The *Nominating Committee* presented their report and it was voted on and approved that the following new members will fill the needed positions.

Moderator: Mike Perkl

Vice Moderator: Paul Vine

Recording Secretary: Dave Harnisch

Trustees: Doris Bakker (returning)

Bob Petkovsek (returning)

Deacons: Bryl Buddenhagen

Deaconesses: Ellie Keller & JoAnn Wren

Pastor/Parish: Betty Barr &

Larry Marshall (returning)

Nominating: Hap Eddy (returning)

(Nominating Committee continued)

Christian Ed: Jenna Ziegler (returning) &
Jill Williams (returning)

1 position still needs to be filled

Mission/Outreach: Tim Voigt &

Kathy Mathis (returning)

Music Committee: Corinne Armitage (returning)

Memorial Committee: Allan Hoesly (returning)

& Dave Steiger (returning)

Stewardship : Kelley Burch (returning)

We want to especially thank our outgoing members for their service and time and welcome and thank our new members for filling in the new positions. Installation of new members – Sunday, February 9



Remember Our Shut In's

Let's not forget our shut-in's at home, those in nursing homes and in assisted living facilities. These winter days can be so long. 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 when we serve communion at our Assisted living facilities. Our shut-ins enjoy it when you come.

"Sun Catchers Café" – 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.-11:30 a.m. here at our church. Refreshments are provided.

The January meeting of the Sun Catchers Café met on Thursday, January 16. The program was on "Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and Grief & Loss."

(Sun Catchers Café continued)

The February meeting will be on Thursday, February 20. The topic of discussion will be “*Things My Grandma Told Me.*” We will talk about the wit and wisdom passed down to us from our mothers and grandmothers.

Coffee Hour

On Monday January 6, 2020 an ad hoc group of members, gathered to discuss options for after church fellowship options. Participating were, Jenny Erickson, Susie Karl, Paul Vine and Bonnie Weyer.

The recommendations of the committee were brought to the council meeting on Tuesday, January 21. The council discussed and considered their recommendations. A vote was taken by the council to approve a two-month change in venue, with Fellowship Coffee Hour being held in the *upstairs church lounge* area for the Sundays in February (beginning February 9) and March.

Donut holes and beverages will be served. If you are willing to host, please get in touch with the committee. For more information or questions, please feel free to check with the committee.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Special Offerings Reports Still Available

The Stewardship Committee’s 2019 report on the 5 for 5, “*SPECIAL OFFERINGS: An Overview and Update,*” are available at the church office or by writing to dcharnisch@charter.net.

5 for 5 Offerings

1. Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM)
2. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
3. Strengthen the Church
4. Neighbors in Need (NIN)
5. The Christmas Fund

Change in Stewardship Committee Membership

Kelley Burch has been elected to fill the vacancy created by member Sue Voigt’s departure from the committee.

(Stewardship Committee News continued)

When you see Sue, thank her for the wonderful contributions she has made to the “5 for 5” offerings and other projects undertaken by the committee. Her fellow committee members will truly miss Sue’s contributions of time, talent, and treasures. Also, please welcome Kelly Burch to the Stewardship Committee. Kelly’s installation as the new member will be at the February 9th church service.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)

Committee members have begun planning their activities to promote the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering.

According to UCC sources, “Contributing to OGHS makes us partners funding health, educational and agricultural development, providing emergency relief, sustaining refugee ministries, as well as enabling the response to disasters, both here at home and around the world.”

This offering, following collection, is received on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Look for offering envelopes in the pews and informational fliers in the church bulletins. A testimonial for the OGHS is also being prepared for the March 15 church service.

March Meeting with Reverend Andrew Warner.

Stewardship Committee members are planning a meeting with the Reverend Andy Warner in mid-March.

Reverend Warner has designed and presented webinars created to help strengthen stewardship and fundraising initiatives.

Committee members are looking forward to receiving his insight into how to enhance the current 12-month Stewardship Plan and Timeline, and members will be seeking his counsel on enhancing our congregation’s virtue of giving good things to others---freely and abundantly---through generosity.

The informal lunch meeting with Rev. Warner and committee members is being scheduled for March 17.

Committee Members: Kelley Burch, Marge Goetsch, Dave Harnisch, Emile Miller, M.E. Sjolín,

WELCOME New Members

On Sunday, January 12 two new members joined our church. JoAnn Wren and June Thompson. We welcome them to our church family.



New Members

On Sunday, January 12 two new members

With Sympathy

Our Deepest Sympathy goes to the family and friends of Todd Averill, 36 who passed away on January 6 after a courageous battle with cancer. Funeral services were held here at our church on January 21 with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Again, our deepest sympathy to his daughters, Brittney, Alexis and Abigail and his family and many friends.

United Church of Christ "Wild Game Feed"

Plans are under Way 2020 – Wild Game is Needed – Please save any wild game that you would like to donate. (Various kinds of Fish, Venison, bear, pheasant) See Deb Perkl or Barb Petkovsek to let them know about your donations



February Birthdays

- 1- Toni Carl
Joy Abel
Patricia Acheson
- 2-Sue Vornholt
Sarah Fields
- 3-Lylah Wilson
- 4-Phyllis Embke
- 5-Kyson Erickson
- 6-Krista Hamm
Paul Vine
- 7-Lorraine Shaw
- 8-Darwin Zwieg
Kinsley McDonald
- 12- Bailey Schumacher
Riley Voigt
- 15-Joe Holman

(February Birthdays continued)

- 16-Tom Barr
Ricky Rochester
- 18- De Wayne Seelow
Irma Rizner
Frances Ormond
- 19-Gary Corey
- 20- Darrin Loberg
- 22-Jacob Koppert
Jason Raine
- 28- Olivia Friemoth

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

NO February Wedding Anniversaries



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday

February 26 at UCC
7 p.m. Lenten Service
 (Sharing Services - UCC
 Calvary – Pine Valley)
Communion at the Altar
Imposition of Ashes
6 p.m. Soup Supper – UCC

Wednesday, March 4 – March 18

(Sharing Services)
7 p.m. Lenten Service – Calvary
6 p.m. Soup Supper – Calvary

Wednesday, – March 11 & 25

(Sharing Services)
7 p.m. Lenten Service – UCC
6 p.m. Soup Supper – UCC

Wednesday, April 1

(Sharing Services)
7 p.m. Lenten Service – Calvary
6 p.m. Soup Supper – Calvary

Maundy Thursday, April 9

UCC - 7 p.m. Communion

Good Friday, April 10

Ecumenical Service – at UCC 7 p.m.

