



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

www.neillsvilleucc.org

March 2020

Jacoba's jottings.... As Jesus encountered people, it slowly dawned on them who he was. Experiencing his interest in them, his acceptance of them, his forgiveness, and love for them, their lives were changed. Transformed, they revealed who he was to others they encountered. The season of Lent is intended to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus as we again realize who he is, what he does, and teaches. As he touches our lives, we are to make changes in the ways we relate to God in Jesus Christ and how we relate to one another and the world.

I realize it has been tradition to give up some item or some habit for Lent. I encourage us instead to focus on a closer relationship with Jesus. From all I read in the Gospels, Jesus wants to be in relationship with us, speak with us, forgive us, show us his love for us and give us new life. As we meet him, (sometimes we seek him out or sometimes he approaches us) he lets us know we are God's beloved children. He challenges us to live faithful lives and share who he is and what he has done for us as we receive his genuine love.

This year in the season of Lent we will turn both in Sunday and Midweek services to the Gospel of John. Our Sunday services will focus on how Jesus reveals himself through his relationships with individuals and how they then reveal him. In the midweek services Jesus will be revealed through his "I am" statements.

SUNDAYS IN LENT

March 1 – *"Revealed: The Story of the Temptation"* Matthew 4:1-11; The Choir Sings; The Sacrament of Holy Communion Served at the Altar.

March 8 – *"Revealed: Nicodemus' Story"*
Selected Texts from the Gospel of John;
The Children Sing;
The Clark County Men's Chorus Sing @ 10am
(Time change – Spring Ahead)

March 15 – *"Revealed: The Woman at the Well's Story"* John 4; Choir Sings

March 22 – *"The Lord's Prayer"* Matthew 6;
Confirmation Class leads worship –

March 29 *"Revealed: Martha's Story"* John 11
Choir Sings; Dedication of the refurbishing of the Sanctuary

April 5 Palm Sunday

"Revealed: The Crowd's Story" John 12;
Choir Sings; Sacrament of Holy Communion served in the pew

MIDWEEK SERVICES

**7pm Services at
Calvary or UCC
Soup Supper at 6pm**

February 26 – Ash
Wednesday at UCC
"I Am the Bread of Life"

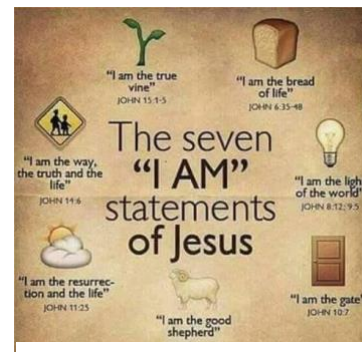
March 4 – at Calvary
"I Am the Light of the World"

March 11 – at UCC
"I Am the Door"

March 18 – at Calvary
"I Am the Good Shepherd"

March 25 – at UCC
"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

April 1 – at Calvary
"I am the Way, The Truth and the Life."



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Jacoba's second page.... Way to go UCC! We gave 582 cans of soup to the Clark County Food Pantry.

Yes, we outdid our neighboring churches. Thank you, for once again generously participating in The Souper Bowl of Caring Event.



After the installation of the new carpet and hearing aid loop several church members spent a day moving everything back into the sanctuary. The Trustees made a few pew configuration changes. Check them out. Corinne

also scrubbed the pews clean. We thank all who worked to

refurbish our sanctuary, cry room and sacristy, painting, replacing the carpet,

moving the pews and furnishings, adding the hearing aid loop and decorating. The carpet in the entrance, lounge and offices have now also been cleaned. Hap and Paul Schmidt helped take the furnishings out of those areas and Jim Vradenburg returned them to their spots after the carpet dried. Thank you guys! It all looks very attractive.

When a snowfall began very early on Sunday, February 9, our smaller than usual congregation worshiped in the shed area of our sanctuary. Singing without accompaniment, I was grateful Corinne and Bonnie were present to help with leading our songs. Those present enjoyed the less formal service. On the ninth we also began holding coffee hour in the lounge. The Fellowship Committee is hoping we will have an increase in the number of people who choose to stay and that our relationships with one another grow.

Thank you – also to Doris and Dolores who hosted a birthday celebration for me and my Mom too during the coffee hour on the 23rd. The cake was delicious. I also thank all who sent cards and celebrated with Mom and me.

Speaking of Fellowship, The 2nd Half Luncheons resumed in February. Karlene Wallace and Susie Karl put together our delicious lasagna lunch. Thank you! The new Neillsville Police Chief Jim Mankowski introduced himself and

named several changes he is implementing. We appreciated getting to know him.

We had our First Lenten Supper.

I want to thank Kathy Mathis and Sharon Buddenhagen who prepared the soups, and all who helped serve, clean up. It was good to see that all the Confirmands stayed to help – and thank you Sue Voigt for supervising them.



Dedication of Sanctuary Refurbishing and

Installation of Hearing Aid Loop

March 29 during Worship

Come to say thank you to all who generously gave their money, time, talent, and abilities.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 7pm - The Rev. Andrew Warner, of the WI Conference UCC, a specialist in Church financial matters, will meet with the Council, Trustees, Memorial Endowment and Stewardship Committees to lead us in a discussion on putting together a process that will guide us as we receive generous gifts. We are hoping he will also help us talk about fund raisers and making priorities.

Second Half – March 17 at noon

Barb Shoemaker participated in a Mission Trip to Uganda in 2018 and is going again this year. She has stories to tell of working with the children and helping with the school- a ministry of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Neillsville. Come and join us for lunch (\$10) and Barb's program.

Confirmation Class

Urban Immersion – the seven members of the class with chaperones are going to Milwaukee on Friday – Saturday, March 20-21. This is an amazing trip long remembered by all who have participated in the Urban Immersion. **A male chaperone would be helpful. Additional adults willing to drive would also benefit the group.** The class is also preparing to lead the worship service on March 22. Our focus for the sermon will be "The Lord's Prayer."



March Newsletter 2020

Hi Everyone, It's time to get another Newsletter out! March Newsletter...already. I can't believe February is almost done. I hope it means that winter is almost done too. I am ready for spring.

What a busy January and February we have had here at the church. I hope you have been here to see our new carpet. Our sanctuary has a new fresh look. Spring cleaning came early here at UCC.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, February 16 Lent begins with *Ash Wednesday*. We will again be sharing our services on Wednesdays with Calvary and Pine Valley Lutheran. We begin with the Ash Wednesday service here at our church. Pastor Chad Anderson and Pastor Jacoba will be alternating preaching in each church. We hope you will be able to attend these 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night services. Soup suppers will be served at 6:00 p.m.

See you in church! Audrey

Our Volunteers for March

Acolytes

Sunday, March 1

Colton Williams

Landon Bergemann

Sunday, March 8

Iris Vine

Reese Ziegler

Sunday, March 15

Haylee Erickson

Dottie Holm

Sunday, March 22

Colton Williams

Landon Bergemann

Sunday, March 29

Iris Vine

Reese Ziegler

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.

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

March 1 & 8

Kevin Erickson, Logan Erickson

Mickey Marty, David Harnisch

March 15 & 22

Jim Repinski, Allan Hoesly

David Steiger, Tim Steinbach

March 29 & April 5

Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker

Cris Hediger, Joe Holman

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 March

Sunday, March 1

Darwin & Ruth Zwieg

Sunday, March 8

Neil & Corinne Armitage

Sunday, March 15

Chad & Lacey Erickson

Sunday, March 22

Pat Acheson & Herman Seebandt

Sunday, March 29

Dave & 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.

Communion Assignments for March

Sunday, March 1 – (Altar Communion)

Team 1 – Byrl Buddenhagen, JoAnn Wren,
Mitchell Erickson, Kathy Mathis, Paul Schmidt
Bread: Byrl Buddenhagen

Deacons/Deaconesses Hosting for March

Sunday, March 1
Janice Miller.....715-743-7070

Sunday, March 8
Paul Schmidt.....715-743-6656

Sunday, March 15
Ellie Keller.....715-937-3581

Sunday, March 22
Byrl Buddenhagen.....715-819-2762

Sunday, March 29
Karlene Wallace.....715-743-6723

Facts & Figures

Attendance for February

Sunday, February 2.....57
Sunday, February 9.....23
Sunday, February 16.....88
Sunday, February 23.....47

Offerings

Sunday, February 2
General Offering..... \$1567.50

Sunday, February 9
General Offering.....\$1880.00

Sunday, February 16
General Offering.....\$2226.00
Radio Fund.....75.00
Circle of Friends.....88.95
Mission Outreach.....75.00
Memorial Fund.....25.00

Sunday, February 23
General Offering.....\$1997.11
Radio Fund.....75.00
Memorial Fund.....150.00
Second Half184.00

February 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 and credited to the church. 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. Please consider giving this way.

“Soup’er Bowl Challenge

Many of you have asked about the Soup’er Bowl Challenge count. Here goes!

Living Hope	161
Calvary Lutheran	395
Hillside	30
UCC	580
	(plus \$75.00 cash)

Giving us a total of 1166 cans of soup plus \$75.00 in cash ... WOW! I do believe the food pantries are the big winners! Thank you to all that donated to the “Soup’er Bowl Challenge!!

Radio Broadcast Sponsors



On *Sunday, February 2* the radio broadcast portion of the worship service was sponsored by Dan Patey in memory of his wife, Elvira Patey.

On *Sunday, February 9* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades Marg and family in memory of Herb Rhoades, husband/father/grandfather.

On *Sunday, February 16* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Ruth and Bob Schmidt in memory of mom, Luella Mohr and sister, Lois Mendenhall.

And on *Sunday, February 23* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim and Jim John Filitz in remembrance of Anne Filitz’s birthday.

(Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)

Thank you to our February 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, 31

July – 5, 12, 19, 26

August – 2

September 13, 20

November 22, 29,

December 27

Thank you for your continued support!



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

(Sun Catchers Café continued)

a.m.-11:30 a.m. here at our church. Refreshments are provided.

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

The next meeting of the Sun Catchers will be on Thursday, March 19. The program has not been decided at the time of this printing but put this date on your calendar. There is always an interested subject.

Coffee Hour

Fellowship Coffee Hour is meeting upstairs in the Church Lounge following our worship service. We hope you will come and join us. Donut holes and beverages will be served. If you are willing to host, please get in touch with Bonnie Weyer.



Our Deepest Sympathy

Catherine “Trink” Jenkins passed away on Saturday, February 8. Trink was a long- time member of our church. This beautiful lady was well known in our church for the many jobs she held in her lifetime here. She was here for the beginning of the Holiday Fair and served as the Treasurer for the Bazaar Ladies. She provided beautiful craft items as well as providing the flowers for the altar for many years. She sang in the choir. She served on many of the Boards and Committees throughout the years. She sang in the choir. Her presence will be missed.

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Merrill and Mark and David and to her grandchildren, Molly, Jacob, Crista and Steven and all the great grandchildren and her many friends. A Celebration of Life will be held here at our church on Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation will be from 1 to 2 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By: Dave Harnisch

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



The month of March begins the committee's implementation of the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering.

This offering, following collection, is received on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Look for offering envelopes in the pews, postings, and informational fliers in the church bulletins. A testimonial by committee member Kelley Burch is being planned for the March 15 church service.

According to the UCC website, "One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response." For more information on the OGHS, visit: <https://www.ucc.org/oghs>

2019 "5 FOR 5" OFFERINGS SUMMARY REPORT STILL AVAILABLE

The Stewardship Committee's summary report on the "5 for 5" offerings is still available by emailing Dave at dcharnisch@charter.net or by inquiring at the office. The report will also provide added insight into the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering currently being presented, as well as a summary for the other offerings collected in 2019.

(Stewardship Committee News continued)

ACTIVITY PHOTOS

At the last Stewardship Committee meeting, members discussed taking and accumulating more photos of church members offering their time, talent, and treasures to the church. So, if you are involved in church activities—be prepared to smile for the camera!

MEETING WITH REVEREND ANDREW WARNER SCHEDULED

Stewardship Committee members are looking forward to the previously announced, informal meeting with Reverend Andy Warner.

With Reverend Warner's work in designing and presented webinars on Stewardship fundraising initiatives, members are looking forward to his visit and inspiring counsel on fundraising over a March 17 meal at 5:30. Following the meal, Reverend Warner will meet at 7:00 p.m. with members of the Council, Memorial Committee and Trustees for a joint advisory committee meeting on processing current and future generous donations.



**Daylight Saving Time
BEGINS –
Sunday, March 8
Don't forget to turn
your clocks AHEAD**

Hearing Loop System

To assist those who have hearing impaired devices, we now have a hearing induction loop system installed in the sanctuary. To use the hearing loop system, please set your hearing impaired device to channel "T". The loop is installed under the new carpet in the "shed" area, the pulpit area, as well as the main pew area. It is not available in the balcony. We want to thank the family Robert Shaw and the Memoria/Endowment Fund for sponsoring this upgrade to our church. We hope this improves your worship experience.



Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Sponsored by UCC Men's Club

Sunday, March 15

Following Worship – Fellowship Hall

Regular/Potato/Blueberry Pancakes

FREE WILL OFFERING!



Easter Lilies

Time to Order Easter Lilies

It seems like it is too early to think about Easter Lilies but by the time the next

Newslettter comes out Easter will be almost here. We will order the lilies from Falls Florist. They will be \$14.00 each. If you wish to dedicate your lilies, please let Audrey know how you want it listed in the 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 5. Thank you for adding to the beauty of our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

United Church of Christ "Wild Game Feed"
Sunday, April 19– 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

2nd Half Group

Put this date on your calendar – **Tuesday, March 17** – 12 Noon 2nd Half Group – Sign-up on the bulletin board. M&M Catered Lunch - \$10.00 includes tip. Program: Barb Shoemaker

"Uganda



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March Birthdays

1-Wendell Kuhn

Dick Lewis

7-Dixie Hediger

8-Randy Hauge

Betty Barr

9-Lois Corey

10-Sherri Holub

11-Mark Brunette

12-Larry Marshall

Lisa Schermitzler

13-Krue Czarnecki

Robert Petkovsek

Ben Wilson

16-Butch Carl

17-Glenna Rhoades Marg

20-Russell Karl

21-Howard Mathis

23-Frances Short

Brody Bergemann

24-Piper Keller

25-Wallace Garbisch

29-Lane Kranz

30-Kellie Murphy

31-Joe Anderson

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



March ANNIVERSARIES

March Wedding Anniversaries

10-Bernard & Delores Walker

20- Lydia & Ron Schumacher

20- Patricia Acheson & Herman Seebandt

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

March 2020						
◀ Feb 2020					Apr 2020 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1 st Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 9 am Choir practice 10 am Worship/Communion Fellowship/Coffee Lounge 3 pm Communion served at Neills. Retirement Community	2 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	3 6 pm Pastor/Parish	4 3:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper/Calvary 7 pm LENTEN Service Calvary	5	6	7 7 am UCC Men's Club Breakfast
8 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Fellowship/Coffee/Lounge 11am Christian Ed meet Meeting DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	9 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	10 10 am Ministerial Alliance Meeting at Hillside	11 3:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper - UCC 7 pm LENTEN Service	12 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	13	14
15 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by UCC Men's Club following worship	16 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	17 12 Noon 2 nd Half Group Barb Shoemaker "Uganda" 5:30 pm Trustees meeting 6:30-7 pm Deacon/Deaconesses 7 pm Church Council Speaker: Andy Warner	18 3:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper – Calvary 7 pm LENTEN Service/Calvary	19 10-11:30 am Suncatchers Café	20 Confirmation Urban Immersion/Milwaukee	21 Confirmation Urban Immersion/Milwaukee
22 4 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Confimands leading service One Great Hour of Sharing Fellowship Coffee/Lounge	23 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	24	25 3:30 pm Confirmation 6 pm Soup Supper – UCC 7 pm LENTEN Service/UCC	26	27	28

March 2020						
◀ Feb 2020						
		Apr 2020 ▶				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 5 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Dedication of Carpet/Loop Fellowship/Coffee/Lounge	30 6:30-7:30 pm Nar Anon	31				

March 2020

Apr 2020 ►

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