



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Jacoba Koppert
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April, 2020

Jacoba's jottings.... The season of Lent will soon draw to a close and the joy of Easter New life will be upon us. However, as I write, it appears we will be in Lent for a time yet. Lent is a time of reflection; an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus, the Messiah, the One God sent into the world to save the world. Lent is a time to experience the joy and promise of eternal life. You have heard me say often, in the Gospel John, eternal life is relationship with Jesus on earth and in heaven. Renew your relationship with Jesus; trust the promise of eternal life.

It seems good to remember at this time, God's love for the entire world. People are dying all around the globe and we are being warned that we too are susceptible to serious illness, even death. You have heard the predictions, you know how to try to keep yourself and our community safe. These are difficult days for so many people. We know grief because of death but also so many other losses; we have fear: we feel the loneliness of isolation; we are facing an unknown future. No matter what you might hear in other circles, God came not into the world to condemn the world, but to save it. I invite you to trust the familiar words of John 3:16.-17. I encourage you to allow the Good Shepherd to restore your soul. Love God, love your neighbors, love yourselves.

Take time in these days of our new normal to enjoy Sabbath. As I have looked out my window, families are taking walks; I have seen on Facebook pictures of Moms and Dads helping their children with homework, on TV last night I enjoyed watching Jimmy Fallon interact with his daughters during his monologue and then interview his wife on a walk asking her to remember a time when he was romantic. I will soon have a conversation and see my Mom via skype or some platform. My sister, who lives around the corner from her, will do the same, as Johanna is no longer going to visit Mom. Johanna is a nurse.

Last Sunday, I so enjoyed worshipping with many of you and visitors, too on Face Book Live. I loved being in the pulpit and letting you see the beauty of our sanctuary; letting you hear the church bells and Karen playing the organ. Due to Gov. Evers order, this week I will lead us in worship from my home. The order says we must vacate our facility and all of us work remotely from home. Audrey and I will be making phone calls particularly to our members who live alone. I hope you will join us in that. I plan to have small group times with some of you on Zoom. Don't worry, I will explain to you how we do that. We had two Zoom Meetings yesterday; there will be more. We had children's time and a coffee hour on Sunday on Zoom. I also had a pastoral visit with Jim Filitz and Michelle Kranz – each in their homes. We prayed together, laughed together, named our challenges. God was with us. Yes, we can be in relationship with Jesus and one another while separated from one another.

Let us pray, Lord make yourself known to us wherever we are. We want to feel Jesus near – remind us of your promise that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. Remind us that we do not need to fear for you are our Shepherd who walks with us through the darkest valleys. Hold us tight when we are afraid for ourselves, our loved ones and the future. Remind us that we are the Church – called to encourage each other, expected to receive the support our sisters and brothers in Christ promised when we joined the church. Help us to show love to our neighbors while following safe practices, In the name of Jesus, praying together in his name, Our Father, Hallowed be thy name...

Here is the schedule as of now:

Lenten Midweek Devotion on Facebook Live –on our Church Member only page. 7pm Wednesday night. We will pray together and I will offer a meditation.

Sunday Morning 10am Worship. –I will be on Facebook Live – it may be on our Neillsville United Church of Christ; please like that page.

11am – we will be on the Radio. Dale Erickson and I have a plan to tape from my home. 1370AM and 98.5FM – I hear the FM station has a better signal.

Children's time at 9am – on Zoom on Sunday morning; I will send the parents a link.

Coffee Hour 11:30 on Zoom. I will send everyone who has email a link.

Please send me your email addresses. It is the best way to be in touch. Contact me. We will call everyone who doesn't have email to see what ways we might be in touch. We will send members who do not have email, a weekly devotion, announcements by mail or someone will call you and read the devotion and announcements to you each week. It will save us postage; plus we do not have access to a copier. We will send the same devotions and announcements by email. Please also send me the email addresses of all our youth in confirmation, confirmed youth, and college age young adults. My email is nuccpastor@gmail.com. The old tds email address is no good. My home phone number is (715) 819 – 1094. My cell phone number is (1- 314) 910-9751 – you can text me on my cell phone. The church phones will not receive your messages.

Call Audrey or me if you have any need. If you are lonely, if you are scared, overwhelmed. I want to know if you are or a loved one are sick or in the hospital. I pray over the phone. I can't visit you at home or in the hospital – but we can be in touch. I can listen.

Please friends, stay in touch with each other. We don't want you to be sick. You don't want to pass on, without ever knowing it, the COVID 19 virus. Follow the best practices. Only be in physical contact with the people you live with and your caregivers.

I am writing this newsletter very quickly – so we can get it out before we vacate our building at 8am. **We are in this together and I want to emphasize our faith in God and how we can be connected.**

We will figure out how to do this – even how to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Things change quickly in these days. Pray for one another. I am aware of three members who are testing sick people for the COVID 19 at the hospitals where they work. I am sure I will soon hear of members who are laid off. Contact your legislators to agree on legislation so that the people and small businesses who need help, get it. Do not get caught up in rumors; please check your sources. Remember to support our local businesses, if you are able... they are offering carry out; some of them are owned by our members who are trying to make a living, and some of our members are their employees. Russells, IGA and Kwik trip are delivering to people who are unable to make occasional trips to the stores.

The Peace of God be with you! The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, the Lord be gracious unto you; the Lord grant you God's peace. Amen.

Hi Everyone,
 Our April Newsletter will be somewhat changed from last month. Because of the Corona pandemic our church has been closed and all services and activities have been canceled until further notice. The April Newsletter will not have the regular/normal duties, calendar or announcements. We do have an article from the Stewardship Committee and a note from the Music Committee. Pastor Jacoba will get you updated on what and when things will be happening. Emails, texting, letters and phone calls will be the way of communicating with our church family. Remember God does love us and he is always there. We will get back to normal when the time is right.

See You In Church Again Someday!

Facts & Figures

Attendance for March

Sunday, March 1.....	58
Lenten Service March 4 (Calvary).....	70
Sunday, March 8.....	80
Lenten Service March 11 (UCC).....	62
Sunday, March 15	55

Offerings

Sunday, March 1

General Offering.....	\$1283.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	10.00
Memorial Fund.....	25.00
Aluminum Cans.....	41.50

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 3

General Offering.....	682.00
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Sunday, March 8

General Offering.....	\$1354.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	35.00
Memorial Fund.....	50.00

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 11

General Offering.....	150.00
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Sunday, March 15

General Offering.....	\$1754.00
Lenten Offering.....	30.00
Kitchen Fund.....	140.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	400.00

(Facts & Figures continued)

Sunday, March 22

General Offering.....	\$2080.00
Radio Fund.....	150.00
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	25.00

March Automatic Giving.....\$2010.00

Thank You to those of you sending in your offering while our church is closed. We appreciate it very much. Thank you for your continued support.



Radio Broadcast Sponsors for March

On *Sunday, March 1* and *March 22* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by our faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, March 8* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of brother, Marvin Mohr.

On *Sunday, March 15* the radio broadcast was sponsored by the Vine family in loving memory of Gorden and Faith Vine.

And on *Sunday, March 29* the radio broadcast is sponsored by Lorraine and the late Bob Shaw in remembering their family.

Thank you to all that sponsored radio broadcast in March.

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:

May – 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

We especially do not want to forget our

shut-ins at this time. We know we are unable to visit the nursing homes and assisted living facilities, but we can send a card, letter, a lot of them have a telephone so give them a call. We know that many of you do send cards, call and visit and even do clinic runs. *We thank you!* If you hear of someone from our church family that is sick or is in need of help. Please text, email or call Pastor Jacoba. Communion will not be served at the nursing homes, assisted living or homes at this time.

“Sun Catchers Café – The Sun Catchers Café is sponsored by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Clark County is postponed at this time until further notice.

2nd Half Group – The same goes for the meeting of the 2nd Half Group. It is postponed until further notice.

Spring Silent Auction

These dates may be changed

We will be hosting a Spring Silent Auction, beginning on Sunday, April 19 and will run until Sunday, May 17, 2020, with final bids at 11:30 AM. We are asking for NEW items to be donated only, please no second-hand items (save those for the Holiday Fair New to You Treasures!)

Other auction items could be:

- Boy Activity Tote
- Girl Activity Tote
- Lunch/Snack Bag
- Car Wash Supplies Pail
- Housecleaning Pail
- Paint Tray/Supplies
- Spaghetti Pot with the Fixings
- Sports Basket
- Soup Basket
- Lotion Basket

- Relaxation Basket
- Book Basket
- Crafts
- Tool Box with Supplies
- Flower Pot with Supplies
- Movie Basket
- Baked Goods
- Services
- Produce
- Gift Certificates

If you plan on donating to our Silent Auction, please bring you item(s) to the church by Sunday, April 19 by 10 AM.

Any questions contact either Carla at 973-0077 or Emile at 937-4626. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Stewardship Update

With April being “Volunteer Month”, we thought it would be fitting to recognize the volunteer of the year for the Neillsville United Church on Sunday, April 19, which is also the first day of the Silent Auction and the Wild Game Feed. With the COVID-19 pandemic, I’m not sure if any of these activities will be taking place.

If the safety restrictions are lifted and church resumes again by Sunday, April 19, we will recognize the Volunteer of the Year. The committee discussed the volunteer multiple times since last November. With our theme for last year being “Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives” a vote was taken with this year’s nominee being not just one person but probably everyone in the church ... anyone that has helped with funerals. If you are on one of these funeral teams, or have ever helped in any of the following areas, we would like you to be in church on Sunday, April 19:

- Calling Tree
- Setting Tables
- Preparing/Serving Food
- Waitress/Waiter
- Clean Up (Still need a leader for this team)

- Anywhere Needed
- Suppling Bars/Cakes and/or Jell-O/Pasta

Besides the teams listed above, we always rely on Jim Vradenburg to set up extra tables and chairs, as needed.

Your Stewardship Committee:

- M.E. Sjolín and Emile Miller – co-chairmen
- Dave Harnisch
- Marge Goetsch
- Kelly Burch

News from the Music Committee

It is with sadness for us to report that we have received notice from Vicente that he has taken a new job and will no longer be able to play for us. His beautiful & uplifting keyboard music will be greatly missed. We were fortunate to have his talent the last year and a half. Please let me know if anyone has someone else that could help with music for our UCC service. I pray our choir will be able to sing our joyful praise for Easter service also. – Corinne Armitage



With Our Deepest Sympathy

We report to you this month that we have lost two more special ladies from our church family.

Anita E. Lulloff age 95 passed away on Saturday, March 7. She was a long-time member of our church as was her husband, Bob. Anita was an active member of the Circle of Friends (Sewing Circle) for many years. She served as their Sunshine lady sending many cards along with her special messages in each of them. She also served as their Devotion leader of the Circle and was active with the Prayer Chain and Care and Share Program for many years. She cut up many rags for the special rag rugs that the circle sold at the Holiday Fair. I (Audrey) could always count on her special sugar cookies for special occasions. Many a Sunday you could be greeted at the door

(Anita Lulloff continued)

by Anita. She loved greeting and meeting people. Funeral Services were held on Friday, March 13 here at our church with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family and the many friends of Anita Lulloff.

Phyllis B. Embke, age 89 also passed away this month on Monday, March 9. Phyllis and her husband, Norb were also long-time members of our church. We will always remember Phyllis for her famous dill pickles and maple syrup that she donated to the Holiday Fair every year. You had to get there early if you wanted either of those items. If you were lucky you could have also been fortunate to get some of her blueberries that were raised out on the Embke farm. She was a caring and loving person and always enjoyed helping people. She also served as Trustee and Assistant Treasurer of our church. A Memorial service was held on Saturday, March 14 here at the United Church of Christ with Pastor Jacoba Koppert officiating. Our deepest sympathy goes to the family and many friends of Phyllis Embke.

We have lost three very special ladies in these two months. We will miss you Trink Jenkins, Anita Lulloff and Phyllis Embke.

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.

Thank You Received:

March 19, 2020

To Everyone at Neillsville UCC, Thank you so much for your generous donations to all the 5 for 5 offerings in 2019. They will be used wisely and will help a lot of people.

We also recognize and are profoundly grateful for each act of support you have given to other organizations in your community and beyond.

With deep Appreciation,

Sue McBride for the

*Northwest Association Division of the
Mission of the Church in the World.*



2-Jenna & Josh Ziegler
6- Neil & Corinne Armitage
14-Chad & Lacey Erickson
21-Tammy & Keith Loberg
21-Nancy & Harold Boon
26-Lynne & Thomas Abel
27-Russell & Susie Karl
28-Joel & Marla Raine

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

United Church of Christ “Wild Game Feed”
Sunday, April 19– (Date may be changed) 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



**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**

April Birthdays

4- Carla Marty
5- Tye Kranz

6-Bonnie Weyer
9-Ray Weyer
10-Marlys Riedel
11-Kevin Erickson
13-Kathy Seelow
Jim Filitz
15-Jake Ratsch
Janice Miller
17-Scott Vradenburg
Alexis Averill
21-Darlene Mueller
23-Stephanie Heck
24-Jennifer Romens Erickson
25-Bryce Erickson
27-Susie Karl
28-Ben Mathis
30-Scott Williams

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

