



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
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www.neillsvilleucc.org

June, 2020

Jacoba's jottings.... Last week, while participating in some continuing education, I heard a sermon, "The Certainty of Uncertainty." About all we can be certain of in these days is that just about everything is uncertain. This is not new. Two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus, going back home after the crucifixion did not know what the next steps would be. They had heard from some women that an angel had told them Christ was alive, however they had not seen him. Everything was so uncertain as they walked home still filled with sadness and some fear. In the midst of their uncertainty about what the future held for them, Jesus joined them. That Jesus is still walking with us is the one thing we can be certain of in the days of uncertainty.

I looked back at the newsletters of March, April and May. Lots of things have changed. We talk about a new normal – yet we are not there yet. So much remains uncertain.

So let me tell you what I know – This coming Sunday is Pentecost. I encourage you to wear red this weekend. The service will be recorded in the sanctuary and then broadcast on our public Facebook page, Neillsville United Church of Christ, at 10am on Sunday and then later reposted on our member only page, Neillsville UCC Closed Member Page and on our website, neillsvilleucc.org. The service will also be broadcast on the radio at 11am.

June 7 we will again worship virtually – the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered during our service on Facebook and during our radio broadcast. If you would like to receive the sacrament, please have bread or cracker or a muffin and wine or juice nearby. What I am uncertain about is when we will and how we will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion when the congregation returns to worship in the sanctuary.

We are uncertain when our congregation will return to worship in the sanctuary. We are certain we will continue to stream our services on Facetime Live and broadcast on the radio. We will continue to send out bulletins by mail to those without email and by email each week. It is highly unlikely that we will sing during worship services in the sanctuary. We will certainly enjoy some music during our services. We are certain we will be seated physically distanced and we will be encouraged to wear masks. We can be certain God will be worshiped – and it will certainly be good to see each other again.

Certainty and uncertainty will continue. We can be sure though, the Risen Christ walks with us. The Holy Spirit has been sent to guide us. And I trust, we are each trying to do our best to serve the Lord and love one another in these uncertain times.

The Church Building Is Closed (for now) *THE MINISTRY CONTINUES!*

- ✝ We have offered a virtual worship service, a children's time, devotions and coffee hour every week on Facebook Live, Zoom and our church website.
- ✝ Bonnie Weyer has given an amazing amount of time to research, figure out how to do what she has read or heard and teach me how to do what we are doing to bring worship to you each Sunday. She has now begun to film Karen and me in the sanctuary, still trying new ways to improve upon the video-taped services. She has also been in contact with members to help us stay connected with each and do outreach – this on top of her work as the treasurer and officer of the church. Thank you, Bonnie!
- ✝ The Mission Committee, Board of Christian Education Committee, The Deacons/ Deaconesses, the Trustees, the Executive Committee, and the Circle of Friends have all met – some in person, however always with a Zoom Connection as a possibility. The work of the church continues!
- ✝ The Executive Committee (Moderator Mike Perkl, Vice Moderator Paul Vine, Treasurer Bonnie Weyer, Secretary Dave Harnisch) along with the Pastor and others are meeting regularly to discuss our ministry and how we are to move forward. Thank you church leadership for taking on the responsibility of being educated so we can make faithful decisions for our congregation.
- ✝ The Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring a great ministry to offer cheese etc. to church members – who can, either enjoy the gift or if they choose pass it on to families in need in our community – while also supporting our dairy farmers. What a win – win!
- ✝ The Confirmation Class has completed our class time with me on Zoom and are now writing their statements of faith. Congratulations Class – and yes there will be a confirmation service sometime!
- ✝ Church Connectors – members are contacting other members, expressing care. In addition to the Church Connectors - I regularly hear about your phone calls and conversations with each other. Yay Church!
- ✝ Audrey, Jim and I are working to support the ministry of our members. Karen is back at the organ. Thank you Church Staff!
- ✝ Today, the overgrown and dying shrubs are being removed from the front of the church. Thank you Woodstock Nursery, Tom and Karen Wallace, and Dave and Carol Harnisch for your leadership.
- ✝ My ministry has also included writing emails, cards, texting and calling members. I have watched more Zoom meetings on how to do virtual ministry and services, about the future of the church, read more articles on recommendations by denominational leadership and local and state orders of what, how, when and where to do ministry than you can imagine. I have shared my learning with those of us who are entrusted to make various decisions. I have also participated in free virtual continuing education event. I am learning more and doing more than I ever expected.

Some personal comments - I care deeply about and for our congregation. As your pastor, you have been committed to my care – all of you. I made promises to God to regard all people with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to the needs of all. These are difficult times and we are each trying to do what we feel is best. There are many opinions about what is and should be happening. I ask us to remain kind to each other and to remain true to our faith and calling as followers of Jesus Christ. In the UCC, we are given great freedom as to what we believe and how we enact our belief. In response to that freedom we are called to respect, honor and love one another. What one of us chooses to do or not do may not be the same choices others make. What neighboring churches do, may not be what our Executive Committee decides is right for us. We need to be true to who we are – asking the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Hi Everyone,
 I hope everyone is doing well and are safe. It is hard to believe that it has been almost three months since we have held a church service in our building. I miss my church family and all the church activities that kept us in contact with each other. We are going to send you a June Newsletter. It will be an abbreviated version somewhat like the May Newsletter. Emails, texting, letters, post cards and phone calls have been our way in keeping in touch with you. We are also using ZOOM and Facebook for our worship services and meetings. It is amazing what we can do with the technology that is out there now. It has been interesting and challenging. We do look forward to coming back to our church even though it will be the *new normal!*

See you in Church Audrey

Again, we want to THANK everyone who have been sending us your church offerings or putting them in our locked mailbox. Thank you for continuing to support your church. Remember, you do have the option of setting up for automatic giving, or you can set the church up on your automatic bill pay through your bank. Whatever works for you we appreciate your financial support to your church.



**Radio
 Broadcast
 Sponsors for
 May**

On *Sunday, May 3* the radio broadcast was given anonymously by a church member.

On *Sunday, May 10* the radio broadcast portion of our worship service was given by Dolores Johnson in memory of her sisters Dorothy, Erma, and Phyllis.

On *Sunday, May 17* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Ruth and Bob Schmidt in memory of Sister Eunice Artac.

(Radio Broadcast sponsors continued)

On *Sunday, May 24* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim and Rosie Repinski in 30 years of eternal life of Mom Kottal

And on *Sunday, May 31* the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful radio listener.

Thank you to all that sponsored the radio broadcast for the month of May

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

2021 Radio Broadcast Sponsors

Note: If you would like to sponsor a 2021 radio broadcast? We are looking for sponsors now. Call the church office and let me know what date you would like to sponsor and for what dedication you would like to do it for. The cost is the same: \$75.00 full broadcast; \$37.50 half broadcast and \$25.00 for a third broadcast. Look for a 2021 Sunday and sign-up now. We believe our radio ministry is very important and want to keep it on. This is not a budgeted item in our church operations, so we would appreciate it if all monies are in by the end of this year 2020 Thank you for supporting our radio ministry.

Calling all members to Feel the Spirit,

Your Mission and Outreach committee has met recently in a video chat to discuss the needs of our congregation and community. We wanted to do an outreach project. We discussed the need for nutritious food and the plight of our dairy farmers in our community. It was decided to help both groups.

In order to accomplish this, we need help from our congregation. We are planning a curbside pick-up for a bag of dairy products. If you are not in need of this give away, we are asking you to carry out the mission of giving the products to a neighbor or friend that has that need. Are you unable to pick up the bag filled with cheese, butter, cheese curds, and beef sticks? Would you ask a member of our congregation to pick yours up?

Audit Committee Completes It Work

The Audit Committee of Barb Petkovsek, Michelle Kranz and Leah Wilson have given their report to the Executive Committee and the Trustees. They found “no material differences resulting is significant errors or omissions” in what they audited. Much of the work of the Committee was to write guidelines and make recommendations – many of those recommendations have already been implemented.

The Executive Committee and the Trustees asked me to thank the committee for their excellent work on our behalf. The work they did to prepare the guidelines and recommendations will be helpful for years to come. Thank you Barb, Michelle and Leah. (submitted by Pastor Jacoba)



News from Christian Education

We regret to inform everyone we will not be having Vacation Bible school this year due to the current

circumstances. We wished we could make it work, but at this time we don't know what the future holds for restrictions and timing for the coronavirus guidelines.

Pick-up will be Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Drive into the lower parking lot from the west and pick up your bag.

We hope you Feel the Spirit,

Deb Perkl
Carol Romens
Carol Harnisch
Kathy Mathis
Bonnie Weyer
Sue Gurney
Tim Voigt

"I will put my Spirit within you,



and you shall live..."

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

(Christian Education News continued)

Unfortunately, all camps at Pilgrim Center this summer are cancelled. No camping this year but next year the scholarships will again be available.

We are open to teachers for our fall teaching schedule for all grade levels. It could be as little as one time or on a regular schedule whatever works for you. If anyone is interested, please let one of the board members Audrey or Pastor Jacoba know. The curriculum/lessons are all assigned/laid out for each week.

The Mission Work of our Church – The Church may be closed but the mission work goes on. A big thank you to the Mission and Outreach Committee for their work – the Landscaping crew who are busy today working on our new landscaping. The Quilting group selling/donating quilts.

Thank you to Pastor Jacoba, Bonnie Weyer, and Jim and Karen Mohr for the wonderful worship service we had last Sunday. I have received many calls saying how much they liked the service from the Sanctuary. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work.

Celebration of Life – Trink Jenkins

The date for the Celebration of Life for Trink Jenkins has not been set for sure. Waiting to hear from some of the family. It will not be on Sunday, May 31 as scheduled.

We Extend Our Sympathy to

Kelly & Ben Mathis – Their son Sig Marvin Mathis was born premature on May 14. A funeral service for Sig took place on May 22nd led by Pastor Jacoba. We ask God to comfort Ben and Kelly, Sig's siblings – Owen, Benjamin, Haddie and Emilia and his grandparents Kathy and Howie Mathis and Wendy and Craig Sigurdson.

We Extend Our Sympathy to

Pam Stitt, children Elliot, Kayla, Jodi and family on the death of husband/father Kevin Stitt. Kevin died on May 19. Private family services for Kevin will be held at a later date.

Thank You from Marian Vornholt –

Marian really appreciates all the calls she has been receiving from many of you. Thank you so very much. She said it is so nice to hear from all of you.

Thank You! - We again thank Merrill for planting the flowers in the boxes out in front of our church. The tradition goes on. The Trink and Merrill thing. For all the years I can remember they have been filling those boxes with beautiful flowers for all of us to enjoy. Trink would be happy to know that Merrill is still planting those flowers.



June Birthdays

3- Karen Northup
Barb Miller

8- Lois Lonning
12-Corinne Armitage
13 Allison Raine
14- Don Abel
Julie Woods
15-June Thompson

(June Birthdays continued)

17-Doris Bakker
Lars Woods
18-David Fields
20-Autumn Marshall
Barb Petkovsek
22-Kaia Moseid
Elli Moseid
25-Ellie Keller
Lois Kren
27-Deb Perkl
29-Colton Williams
Claire Ziegler
Linda Stalsberg
30-Phil Follen

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



June Wedding Anniversaries

3- Jim & M.E. Sjolín
8- Tim & Cheryl Steinbach
11- Larry & Kathy Marshall
13- Joey & Michelle Kranz
15- Mike & Cherrie Holub
17-Wayne & Jo Ann Voss
21- Jason & Hannah Raine
John & Sue Vornholt
29-Ricky & Clarissa Rochester

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

