



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

www.neillsvilleucc.org

August 2020

Jacoba's jottings.... "I don't know if I can hold it together." I hear those words often enough – as folks prepare to attend the funeral of a love one; when someone is going into a contentious meeting; when parents drop kids off for college or put them on the bus for kindergarten on the first day; when someone is furiously angry or filled with pride; when facing overwhelming changes. "I don't know if I can hold it together – or we can hold it together" is a sentiment often expressed in these days as well as we navigate the challenges and changes we are all facing. I am not convinced we have to hold it together as often as we think we do. There are times when falling apart or acknowledging strong emotions helps us move forward, find a new direction and new life. Tears, anger and fear allow others to see that we need some support as we move through hard times and into new life.

I appreciated Cameron Trimble's words yesterday (July 29) in her devotion, "Piloting Faith – a Word for the Day" ¹

Our world feels like it is falling apart. We don't know what to count on. We don't know who we can trust. We don't know what to believe. We don't know where to go or how to be safe getting there. We don't know if our elections are valid. We don't know if we are infected with a virus. We don't know if our companies will survive. We don't know what this trauma is doing to our children.

Trimble also reminds us that when all things are falling apart, there are opportunities to put together new possibilities. When what was is no longer available; it can be a time to call forth new life. Of course we need time to grieve and process what is taking place around us; however there comes a time when we need to move forward.

The truth is much of how things were being held together was no longer working well – in our personal lives and in the world. For at least a time, we were forced to do and imagine things differently. My fear is we are quickly moving back to what was not really working. Again we are over-extended; again we are divided; again we are making choices without looking for new paths that could bring about a fuller life. Are we again leaving God and the new life God wants for us behind?

My faith is God at work in the world and in our lives, ready to help us find a way through to new life when we realize we can't hold it all together. As Jesus' earthly life ended, he showed and taught us that there is new life for the dead and the living. Jesus showed us how God offers and brings about new life. Yet even in the days after the Resurrection, only a few of his followers took the risk to take up the new life Christ offered. It appears that is true again. Jesus encourages us to follow him – through the times when things are no longer holding together into a new life.

Maybe, just maybe, these are days to dream of a new world and find a new path. God has led the people through the wilderness to the promised land many times in the past. I bet God is ready to do that again.

¹ <https://mailchi.mp/e80df66e62ce/piloting-faith-a-daily-meditation-7959094>

Jacoba's 2nd page...

WORSHIP AT UCC (Edited on Friday morning)

The big news since our last newsletter is that we worshiped in the sanctuary as well as on the radio and online for two Sundays. My hope is whether you worshiped in person in the sanctuary, through listening on the radio or watching on-line you are finding a way to worship God. Several of us at UCC are working diligently to help our members and friends worship God. **I want to hear from you as to how we can help you strengthen your relationship with God.**

Twenty-five members worshipped in person; twenty-four members attended on July 19 and fifteen on July 26. I thank our greeters, ushers, technology folk, custodian and Karen for supporting our worshippers in the building and at home.

Bonnie has learned how to add a virtual choir to our worship service. Karen, while being videoed plays an accompaniment at the church or at her home and then others listening to her music, sing along from their homes while videoing themselves. Bonnie then brings all the videos together and we have our virtual choir on the screen in the sanctuary. I am amazed by what Bonnie has learned. I am grateful that these new opportunities and challenges of online worship excite her.

To Worship with UCC:

9am Facebook – “Neillsville United Church of Christ”

10am YouTube (google “YouTube United Church of Christ-Neillsville”) and Neillsville UCC Member Facebook page.

11am On the radio – 98.5 FM and 1370 am

11am neillsvilleucc.org

And on-line at the above sites anytime that fits your schedule.

(if there are glitches, please offer your grace and be patient).

CONFIRMATION DATE SET

Seven Confirmands will profess their faith and become members of UCC in a service on Saturday, September 12. The service will be taped and shared with the congregation – likely on the 13th. Our Moderator will represent the congregation at this service, along with the parents and guests the Confirmands choose. **We will figure out how to**

Confirm and Baptise our confirmands if we are not worshipping inside the sanctuary.

CULTIVATING CONGREGATIONAL GENEROSITY

I want to give a shout out to **Emile Miller, M.E. Sjolín and Dave Harnisch** who have joined me in a Webinar put on by the Wisconsin Conference on Congregational Generosity. We are attending by-weekly webinars, watching additional videos, working our way through a workbook and meeting just the four of us to talk about what we are learning. We are learning good things and getting stretched as we reflect on what we are watching, reading and discussing.

LOOKING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The United Church of Christ of Neillsville is Seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. Position requires good knowledge of Microsoft Office, powerpoint, organizational ability Salary Commensurate with experience and educational level. Submit a letter of application and/or resume, including past experience, and references via email to nuccpastor@gmail.com
UCC is an equal opportunity employer.

Memorial/Endowment Fund Report

As of June 30, 2020, the fund had \$416,689.05. This is the breakdown: \$22,137.34 (5.33%) in cash; \$119,551.71 (28.69%) in mutual funds; \$125,000.00 (29.99%) in Cd's; and \$150,000.00 (35.99%) in bonds. Our 2019 income was \$9136.39 from interest, \$2214.85 from dividends for a total of \$11,751.24 and \$1762.26 in capital gains which is reinvested. We only use interest and dividends to finance donations to the church. This year the fund has contributed \$12,000 to the church: \$5000 for the general operations, and \$7000 for the hearing loop system.

Hi Everyone,

Summer is going by fast; it is already time to get the August Newsletter out to you. We hope that all of our members and friends of the church have received the letter of the church opening on Sunday, July 19. We know there are a lot of guidelines we are to follow as stated in the letter, but we want to be safe as we can be. If you are uncomfortable about coming, please stay home. We hope and pray that this COVID 19 will be taken care of with a vaccine soon and we can live a more normal life or even a *new normal* life. Remember our worship service begins at 9:00 a.m. during the summer.

Pastor Jacoba and the Executive Committee are working hard to keep you in touch with our church and making decisions on what and how to do this. Emails, texting, letters, post cards and phone calls have been our way in keeping in touch with you. We are also using ZOOM, Facebook and You Tube for our worship services and meetings. The new technology is really nice, but it does take a lot of time and talent to get it ready to present it to you. We *thank* all of many people that are so dedicated do this for us.

Maybe we will see you in church, on the street, in the store, out to eat, or talk to you on the phone. Whatever or wherever it is always nice to see or hear from you.

Hope to See you in Church -

Audrey

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.

Facts & Figures

Attendance

Sunday, July 19.....24
Sunday, July 26.....15

Offerings for July

July 13

General Offering.....
.\$11,123.29
Neighbors In
Need.....100.00
Christmas Fund.....
200.00
One Great Hour of Sharing
200.00
Hearts for the
Home.....200.00
Memorial
Fund.....2000.00

July 14

General
Offering.....\$2030.00
Radio
Fund.....75.00
Memorial
(Landscaping).....200.00
Missions.....50.
00

July 27

General
Offering.....\$4126.50
General Offering.....
3490.00
Missions.....50.
00
VBS
Refund.....134.24

July Automatic

Giving.....\$1210.00



Radio Broadcast Sponsor for July

Our radio sponsor for the *Sundays, July 5, 12, 19 & 26* were sponsored by a faithful radio listener. Thank you for sponsoring our radio broadcasts for the month of July.

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

2021 Radio Broadcast Sponsors

Note: Would you like to sponsor a 2021 radio broadcast? We are looking for sponsors now. Call the church office and let us 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 the air. 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.

Celebration of Life – Trink Jenkins

The date for the Celebration of Life for Trink Jenkins has been scheduled for Saturday, September 19. Visitation will be from 1:00-2:00 p.m. before the 2:00 p.m. Celebration of Life Service for Trink Jenkins.



August Birthdays

- 1- Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
- 3- Delaney Rochester

- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
- 8- Sydney Subke
- 12- Alexis Bergemann
Mark Garbisch
- 17- Bill Sisson
- 19- Ben Mathis
Nicole Keller

August birthdays continued

- 21- Pat Wall
Karen Mohr
- 23- Cole Hediger
Craig Heck
- 27- Cody Northup
Kathy Marshall
- 18- Sandra Bieneck
- 29- Nancy Boon
James Repinski
Cassie Erickson

Happy Birthday to all of you with an August Birthday! Did we miss your Birthday or have the wrong date?



August Wedding Anniversaries

- 8- Wendell & Linette Kuhn
- 11- Howard & Kathy Mathis
- 14- Marilyn & Bob Marty
- 14- Mike & Deb Perkl
- 15- Paul & Sandra Schmidt
- 18- Butch & Kathy Carl
- 19- Jim & Karen Mohr
- 20- Barb & Steve Miller
- 22- Neil & Kellie Murphy Czarnecki
- 28- Sandy & Roy Bieneck
- 28- Jerry & Judy Quicker
- 28- Linda & John Stalsberg
- 30- Wally & Pat Garbisch

Happy Anniversary! Did we have the wrong date, or did we miss your Anniversary?

Thank You received from The Hannah Center

Dear United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your recent donation to the Hannah Center. Your donation of \$200 was received; your support and generosity is deeply appreciated. Thanks to your generosity, we will meet our mission to assist women in life crisis through compassion and guidance in a nurturing environment. Thank you again for your support of The Hannah Center. Warmest regards.

The Hannah Center

August 2020						
◀ Jul 2020						Sep 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 am Summer Worship 9:45 am ZOOM Coffee Hour	3	4 6 pm Pastor/Parish Meeting	5 5:30 pm Stewardship Comm. Webinar - Cultivating Congregational Generosity	6 4 pm Trustees meeting 6:30 pm Christian Education meeting	7	8
9 9 am Summer Worship 9:45 pm ZOOM Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	14	15
16 9 am Summer Worship 9:45 pm ZOOM Coffee Hour	17	18 Trustee Meeting (time to be determined) Deacons/deaconesses not meeting 7:30 pm Church Council	19 5:30 pm Stewardship Comm - Cultivating Congregational Generosity	20	21	22
23 9 am Summer Worship 9:45 pm ZOOM Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9 am Summer Worship 9:45 pm ZOOM Coffee Hour	31					