



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

[www.neillsvilleucc.org](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)

September 2020

***Jacoba's jottings...*** It seems to me that we jump to assuming Jesus is talking about heaven (or hell) a lot faster than Jesus does. Jesus talks more often about being in relationship with him and bringing the Kingdom of Heaven down to earth than about whisking us to heaven. Our earthly relationship with him is his priority and needs to be ours. I was thinking about this as I thought about Audrey's retirement. The text – "Well done good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25 NRSV) I like the CEB translation too, "Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me. "



I have used this text several times over the years at funerals, celebrating the end of life – however this day I see it as our continuing relationship with Jesus on earth. Good and faithful servants will know the joy of being in relationship with him; they are invited to celebrate with him.

Audrey has much to celebrate as she looks back over forty-two and a half years. There are many words one could use to describe her ministry among us – Faithful is at the top of my list. She has been faithful to her church and its members; your pastors have found her to be trustworthy; she has continued to take on more tasks, learning new ways of accomplishing her work. But most of all she has been faithful to God; her faith is genuine and leads her each day. She has entered into the joy of her Master many times over the years – she has loved her work. Today, we celebrate with Jesus the faithful servant he called to be our church secretary. What a gift she has been to so many!

We are going to miss Audrey working in the office. And she will miss our day to day contact. Yet we all know – she will remain an active member of UCC and a faithful servant of our Lord. My hope is she knows deep down how we have appreciated her. She doesn't want a party, however, I trust she will accept our attempts to celebrate her presence and her work in the life of this congregation. – Audrey, you are worthy of Jesus' words "You are a good and faithful servant."

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT HIRED!!**

With joy and relief the Trustees and I are glad to announce that **Cheryl Steinbach** has accepted the position to be the UCC Administrative Assistant. Cheryl's hours will be different from Audrey's and they will be flexible so she can support her parents and grandchildren as needed. The plan is she or I will be in the office most days. She will be here on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. I will usually be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (working mostly from home on Thursdays). My schedule is also dependent on hospital calls and meetings. (Call if you want to be sure to catch us.) Cheryl will not be on duty on Sunday mornings. Cheryl will introduce herself to you in the November Newsletter.

## ***Jacoba's Second page.....***

### **In Sanctuary Worship**

In sanctuary worship resumed on September 20 after a vote of the Church Council. All the safety measures are required – including the proper wearing of a mask; use of hand sanitizer, social distancing; no singing or responsive reading.

We had twenty-five people worship in the sanctuary on September 20.

### **World Communion**

**Wednesday, October 7 @ 7pm**

### **Zoom & Facebook Church Member Page**

We will not serve communion in the sanctuary. HOWEVER – let's take communion together on Wednesday, October 7 at 7pm. Since it is World Communion this month, I invite you to see if you have some bread -or... and some wine- juice from another part of the world available. I will do the service on both Zoom and Facebook Live on our Member page – We can have a time to visit before and after the service as we did on Maundy Thursday.

### **Rite of Confirmation**

### **Sacrament of Baptism**



Seven youth confessed their faith and became members of UCC in front of their families and mentors on Saturday, September 12. I thank Don Abel, our teaching assistant; the mentors, the Confirmation Coordinators, Deb Perkl and Bonnie Weyer, and worship assistants, Karen Mohr, Al Hosely, Bonnie Weyer and the virtual choir. Kelly Mathis took our pictures. The service was taped and broadcast on our

virtual sites and the radio. (You can still watch it.)

Thank you Bonnie and Dale Erickson.

We celebrate the Class Members of 2020; they had a unique class with the last sessions on Zoom, and missing some of our usual activities due to the pandemic. They did well with all the challenges. Class members are listed here with their parents, mentors and Confirmation Verse

**Brody Bergemann** - Parents Luke and Michelle;

Mentors Corinne Armitage, Barb Petkovsek

*Jeremiah 29:11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

**Bryce Erickson** - Parents Jenny and Kevin;

Mentor Kelley Burch

*1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength because he considered me faithful.*

**Kole Miller** – Parents Brandon and Liz;

Mentor Pastor Jacoba Koppert

*John 15:9 "As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love."*

**Cali Moseid** – Cindy and Kai;

Mentor Jenny Romens Erickson

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*

**Paige Voigt** – Parents Tim and Sue

Mentor – Karen Mohr

*Jeremiah 29:13 When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me.*

**Parker Voigt** – Sue and Tim Voigt

Mentor Pastor Jim Mohr

*Psalms 86:11 Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Make my heart focus only on honoring your name.*

### **Baptized and Confirmed**

**Sydney Subke** – John Subke and Michelle Grap;

Mentor Sue Voigt

Godparents Ann Zank and Ricky Rochester

*1 Peter 5:7 Throw all your anxiety onto him, because he cares about you.*

## October Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

It is time to get the October Newsletter out to you. It is hard to believe that this will be the last Newsletter I will be working on for you. As you all know I will be retiring from the job as church secretary September 30. As I tell everyone I am not leaving the country, just retiring from the job. I will still see you in church. First, I want to *thank* my church family for the beautiful set of wind chimes and a \$50 Chamber gift certificate that was given to me at the Council meeting last week. Thank you too for all the beautiful birthday cards, calls, gifts, and retirement cards that I have received. How loving and thoughtful you all are.

This church and my church family have been so supportive and generous to me. 42 ½ years is a long time to have worked here. I will miss coming to this office. I have worked for six ministers and four Interim ministers. Each of them with their own unique qualities. They taught me a lot and I enjoyed working for each of them. I have gotten to know many of you and your families. I have seen and lived through the joys, and yes, heartaches of many of you. What an honor and privilege it has been for me to have worked here.

The COVID 19 has changed our lives a lot. Since we had not been worshipping together on Sunday, I have seen more of you downtown at the stores, on the street at the post office more than here at church. Now that we have opened our church for worship services maybe we will see more of you again. Let us be safe. Wear our masks, wash our hands, remain social distancing from each other, and adhere to the guidelines that have been set up for us. Keep the faith it will get better. I am truly blessed to have my church family my wonderful three sons that love and take care of their mother and a beautiful church to worship in. I will be able to spend a little more time with my family and even have time to hear those beautiful wind chimes. Thank you! Thank you! for all your love and support. ***I will 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. When you come to our worship service's we have an offering box out in the Narthex where you may put your offering in. Whatever works for you we appreciate your financial support to your church.**

### Facts & Figures

#### Offering for September (we still have two more weeks in September to deposit)

#### August 31 (was not included in last month's Newsletter)

General  
Offering.....\$1355.00

#### September 14

General  
Offering.....\$2660.00  
Memorial Gift for Landscaping  
(Trink).....100.00  
Card Sale (Circle of  
Friends).....20.00

September Automatic Giving.....\$890.00



#### Radio Broadcast Sponsors for September

Our radio broadcast on *Sunday, September 6* was sponsored by Doris Bakker in remembrance of September 11.

On *Sunday, September 13* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Karen Mohr in honor of Mickey Marty with hopes that we will be ushered to our pews by him as he wears his signature white shirt and tie.

### **(Radio Broadcast Sponsors continued)**

On *Sunday, September 20* the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful radio listener.

On *Sunday, September 27* the radio broadcast sponsor is Dolores Johnson and it is given in loving memory of her daughter, June Feely.

*We thank all our radio broadcast sponsors that sponsored our September broadcasts.*

**Our worship service is broadcasted  
on WCCN 98.5 FM and AM 1370  
each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.**

### **2021 Radio Broadcast Sponsors**

We are still looking for 2021 radio broadcast sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, call the church office (715-743-2147) or email us [Neillsvilleuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Neillsvilleuccoffice@gmail.com) what date you would like to sponsor and for what dedication you would like to do it for. We would greatly appreciate your help in filling up our 2021 Sundays. The cost to sponsor a broadcast is the same as last year: \$75.00 for a full broadcast; \$37.50 for a half broadcast and \$25.00 for a third broadcast. Many of us feel that this radio ministry is very important in getting our services out to many of you that cannot or do not do Facebook, YouTube or have even have a computer. 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 to all that help support our radio ministry.*

**Below are the Sunday's that are still available and need to be sponsored:**

January 24,31  
February 28  
March 14,21  
April 18,25  
May 23,30  
June 13,20  
July 11,  
August 1,8,22

### **(Sponsors Needed continued)**

September 5,12,26

October 24, 31

November 14,21. 28

December 5, 19, 26

***As you can see, we have many Sundays we still need sponsors for. Would you like to sponsor one?***



### **October Birthdays**

1- Kayla Ratsch  
3-Tim Steinbach

4- Mickey Marty

Alex Northup

Jacob Keller

7-Brian Eddy

Hannah Raine

Corliss Fields

10-Luke Erickson

11-Tim Voigt

12-Clarissa Rochester

17-Dante Erickson

21-Dolores Johnson

Marian Vornholt

25- Natalie Hauge

David Harnisch

26-Kim Stetzer

27-Erick Sadowska

30-Derek Zschernitz

***Happy Birthday to all who have an October Birthday! Did we miss your Birthday or have the wrong date? Let us know if we did.***



## **October Wedding Anniversaries**

4- Michelle & Lucas Bergemann  
4- Jim & Rosanne Repinski  
5- Erik & Jenna Erickson  
7- Fritz & Dixie Hediger  
7-Joe & Deb Holman  
8- Darwin & Ruth Zwieg  
9-Clint & Julie Woods  
13-Randy & Natalie Hauge  
14-Karen & David Northup  
16-Tim & Sue Voigt  
17-Kevin & Jenny Romens-Erickson  
18-Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen  
22-David & Carol Harnisch

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

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

*Please consider supporting this special offering. Special Offering Envelopes can be found in the Narthex on the table by the offering box or mark your gift NIN on your checks .*

**Death Notice:** We received news from the Conference Office that Rev. William 'Bill' Brown died on July 2, 2012. Some of you may remember that he was our Interim minister from October 2012 to May 2013. Right after Pastor Bryan Olson left and before Pastor Jacoba came. He came from the Eagle River area. We always felt much better when we had our Interim ministers to fill in for us when we were without our fulltime ministers. He filled our needs very well when he was here. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

## **Five for Five Giving and the Emergencies across the US (and World)**

Our Congregation usually receives for special offerings that support the needs of various people and situations around the world.

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is used to support people facing natural and human caused disasters. The gifts we have given in the past, go quickly to places in need – such as Iowa – where the winds flattened the crops, homes, elevators and now in response to the fires out west and the floods in the south. The moneys are disbursed and entrusted to local churches to share in their communities as they see the needs. (I was one who helped make such decisions in the 1993 Mississippi Flood in Iowa where I was serving). At this time we can direct our gifts to particular emergencies (Western fires for instance), to US Emergencies (covers all the US disasters – allowing OGHS staff to make decisions on where the funds are needed immediately) or to OGHS – which supports needs around the world. The Stewardship Committee encourages your generous gifts.

I might add that the pandemic closed our church camps this year – leaving them without their usual income. They ask for our support. The Wisconsin Conference is also finding itself with diminished income and would appreciate our gifts.

Thank you for your generosity. Many of you have faithfully supported our ministries in these times and we are grateful.

<div> <div>◀ Sep 2020</div> <div>October 2020</div> <div>Nov 2020 ▶</div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9am Worship on our website uccneillsville.org 9am Children' Story Time 10 am Worship Service On Facebook & YouTube 11 am Radio Broadcast Pastor – Zoom Retreat 7-9pm	<b>5</b> Pastor on Zoom NWA Clergy Retreat	<b>6</b> Pastor on Zoom NWA Clergy Retreat 9- noon  6 pm Pastor Parish Committee	<b>7</b> 7pm <b>THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION</b> and Fellowship on Zoom and FB Member page	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm Circle of Friends	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9am Worship on our website uccneillsville.org 10 am Worship Service On Facebook & YouTube 11 am Radio Broadcast	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Neillsville Ministerial Association 10am at UCC	<b>14</b> 7pm Live FB Member page??  Christian Education 6pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9am Worship on our website uccneillsville.org 10 am Worship Service On Facebook & YouTube 11 am Radio Broadcast	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Deacons 7:30 pm Church Council Rev. Warner will be our guest speaker	<b>21</b> 7pm Live FB Member page	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9am Worship on our website uccneillsville.org 10 am Worship Service On Facebook & YouTube 11 am Radio Broadcast	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7pm Live FB Member page	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



