



## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neillsville, Wisconsin

Church 715-743-2147

Pastor Jacoba Koppert

Pastor's Office 715-743-2117

*"Don't be anxious about anything; rather bring up all your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:6-7 CEB

**Jacoba's jottings...** God is faithful and anxiety is rising. I am grateful our God is gracious and while we are told repeatedly, do not be anxious, God understands. God knows what is causing the increased anxiety for each of us. God sees that so much of what is affecting our lives is beyond our control. God is compassionate.

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he must have been aware that there were good reasons for their anxiety. I am sure Jesus also knew what was causing anxiety for his listeners when he encouraged, "do not be anxious." I do not experience Jesus as being judgmental when he says, "fear not." What I hear is he wants the best for us. Both Paul and Jesus knew anxiety could be debilitating. Anxiety can stop us from doing what we can and need to do. When anxiety is overwhelming we lose our ability to think clearly and respond appropriately. In Philippians 4, Paul urged his readers to name their requests in prayer before God rather than be anxious. Jesus reassured his listeners the God who responds to the needs of nature, will surely support those who are anxious.



Prayer, which by definition brings us into a closer relationship with God, is a valuable antidote for anxiety. Paul's recommendation to strengthen our relationship with God is good advice. As God has supported countless people through their challenges, I urge us to ask God to guide us through our current situations. Those who wandered the wilderness with Moses walked a hard road – and at times they railed against God, but in the end God led them into the promised land. I don't know where God is leading us; I do trust that if we listen for God's answers to our prayers, there will be new life for us and the world.

Along with naming our requests, Paul encourages us to give thanks to God. Naming each day something, anything for which we are grateful causes us to look for that which is good, positive, hopeful. As we make it a habit to daily to thank God for at least one good thing in our lives, we will likely uncover more things that are good. Seeing the good rather than the fearful will also help relieve anxiety.

The Common English Bible translation of verse 7 intrigues me. "The peace of God promised to us will keep our hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus." In spite of what Jesus and Paul faced in their lives, their faith in God granted them peace. Their hearts and minds were kept safe even when the world was dangerous, even when they had little control over the circumstances they encountered. The world and many of us yearn for the peace of God that exceeds all our understanding. I find it reassuring that God intends to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. With that reassurance, maybe we can follow Paul's recommendation, that

*"from now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent, and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise."* Philippians 4:8 CEB

## **Pastor's 2<sup>nd</sup> Page**

### **Happenings at the Church**

#### **Leaf Raking**

The seventh graders are taking on the project of raking at least one lawn this Saturday at 10am for the Inter-Faith Care-Givers. We could use more help. Call me if you are willing! Judy Morrow says she has six yards to be adopted.

#### **All Saints Day – November 1**

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints Day. On this Sunday we will remember the Saints of our church as well as those who have had their funeral done since last November. Among those who we are remembering are Todd Averill, Trink Jenkins, Anita Lulloff, Phyllis Embke, Helen Pfeiffer, Sig Mathis, Bernie Opelt, and Joyce Johnson. We invite you to light a candle at home for those you grieve.

#### **Sunday School**

Sunday school classes for three-year-old through 5<sup>th</sup> graders have resumed at 9am on Sunday mornings on zoom. Materials were delivered to the families. Seven families have tuned in. The students are studying the Lord's Prayer. In addition, Sunday evenings at 7pm I read a Bible Story on Zoom and Facebook live. I will teach the 7<sup>th</sup> graders at a time yet to be determined.

#### **Trustees**

The Trustees have hired two church administrations- their stories are told later in the newsletter. The Trustees continue to work on keeping the building safe and in good repair. Thank you to Keven for installing a new door on

The lower entrance. Old keys will no longer work. A Committee is also evaluating different options for how gifts can be given to support the ministries of UCC.

## **Stewardship**

The Stewardship Committee members – are writing thank you notes to all members and friends who have given financial gifts since the beginning of the year. I add my gratitude to you for your generosity. Please let us know if we have inadvertently missed thanking you. We appreciate your gifts.

### **Advent- Christmas**

Advent begins on November 29<sup>th</sup>! The Deacons/Deaconesses are discussing how we might celebrate Advent and Christmas. Plan are being made for both virtual and in person worship. Our virtual choice is already taping Christmas music. Let Bonnie Weyner know if you would like to sing in the choir. She wants a big choir singing familiar carols. Advent Candle lighting will also be on videotaped by families at home and shared with the congregation on the big screen. If we are worshiping in person on Christmas Eve, you can expect to make reservations. Service will continue to be as close to 30 minutes as possible.

### **New Camera On Order**

The Trustees followed by the Church Council unanimously voted to purchase a camera using a portion of the gift given by Sam and Marian Ray. The camera will simplify how our worship services are taped for online worship. We hope the camera will allow us to tape live with the PowerPoint slides incorporated into the taping. At this point we are usually taping the weekly service on Fridays and then doing the service again on Sunday for the assembled congregation and radio broadcast.

### **Holiday Fair**

The Holiday Fair will take place on our website, [neillsvilleucc.org](http://neillsvilleucc.org) this year. Several members have been creating beautiful crafts. There will be pictures of each item on our website; if you would like to purchase an item, there will be directions on how to do so. The sale begins at 9am on Monday November 9 and continues until 6pm Thursday evening. Purchases can be picked up at the church on Saturday, November 14 between 9am and noon.

## November Newsletter

October 31, 2020

Hello Neillsville UCC,

I would like to thank everyone for all the warm welcome wishes and appreciation that has been extended to me as I have begun to help as the church office assistant. I can assure you that Audrey has done an outstanding job preparing the office for a smooth transition. I would like to say a special thank you to her, not only for her 42 ½ years of service, but also for her willingness to come back in on the spur of the moment for items that need her expertise. She has also encountered many phone calls from me this past month and is always so kind and helpful. Our church has truly been blessed to have her for so long.

I prayed many hours the past couple of months, asking for guidance in whether to apply for this position, as I believe that I have the skills and knowledge to fulfill the tasks at hand. I, however, have come to quickly realize, that I do not currently have the time in my schedule to meet all the needs of the position.

Both of my parents, and my mother-in-law, are all in their 80's and the health issues continue to creep up on us. This past month has indeed dealt another hand of time-consuming appointments and added care. I have been blessed by God to have the opportunity to help them through this phase of life, and unfortunately, that does not align with this position.

I sincerely apologize for stepping back so soon, but it is the right thing for my family and I currently. I am excited that they have found a wonderful replacement for me already and Audrey is willing and able to help her transition as well. God Bless You All!

*Cheryl*

## New Office Assistant: Meet Jessi

My name is Jessi Quicker. I will be working at United Church of Christ as your new office assistant. I am grateful to have employment in this chaotic time, but I am also ecstatic to be working in a Christian environment in my own beautiful, hometown.

I recently graduated from Saint Mary University in Winona, MN. I am taking some time off to reflect and pray about what the 'next step' is in my life. And to be frank, academic burnout is a real thing. I characterize myself as a life learner and a bit of an artsy person. My passion in life is in helping other people. Thank you for your prayers.

- Jessi Quicker

## Worship With Us

Saturday evening (usually) on our Website  
[Neillsvilleucc.org](http://Neillsvilleucc.org)

10- am in the sanctuary; on Facebook- Neillsville United Church of Christ and Neillsville UCC Member Page; and Youtube at UCC Neillsville

11 am WCCN Radio 98.5FM and 1370AM



**We want to THANK all those 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 October**

**September 28** (was not reported in last newsletter)  
General Offering.....\$3975.00  
Radio Broadcast.....\$75.00  
Miscellaneous.....\$20.00  
Outside Bell Fund.....\$ 350.00

**October 12**  
General Offering.....\$3655.75  
Radio Broadcast.....\$1875.00

**October 26**  
General Offering.....\$3933.90  
Neighbors In Need..... \$200.00  
Christian Education ..... \$10.00  
Memorial Fund, Trink..... \$10.00  
Christmas Family Help.....\$105.00

**October Automatic Giving**.....\$890.00

Our radio broadcast on *Sunday, October 4* was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski in honor of their 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On *Sunday, October 11* our radio broadcast was sponsored by Ruth & Bob Schmidt in memory of sister-in-law Pat Mohr and Dad Albert Mohr.

On *Sunday, October 18* the radio broadcast was sponsored by the Northup family in honor of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On *Sunday, October 25* the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Jim John Filitz in remembrance of Jim & Anne's wedding anniversary.

*We thank all our radio broadcast sponsors that sponsored our October 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**

Our radio broadcast sponsors are greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone for your contributions to fill the broadcasts sponsored in 2021.

## **CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION**

A discussion led by the Rev. Andrew Warner of the Wisconsin Conference took place on October 21 via a zoom call. We talked about our identity, mission and vision as we considered how we might faithfully use the money generously given by Marian and Sam Ray. More details will be shared later.



**Radio Broadcast**  
**Sponsors for October**

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

Between Stacy Schilling and the Trustees a way was found for us to as safely as possible host Christmas Angel Project. The “Year Round” volunteers will organize the gifts for families in need at UCC. Gifts will not be wrapped nor delivered to homes. We will be invited to purchase gifts – with tags available at our church and at local businesses. You can return the gifts to the church. We will let you know when tags are available.

## THANK YOU, SILENT ANGELS

The Silent Angels again assembled gift bags for members shut-in their homes or residents of long-term care facilities. Lois Kren called the office today to say thank you for all the goodies.

## A BABY BORN IN JUNE

Lennon James Erickson was born on June 26 to Cassie and Mitchell. Pastor Jacoba offered a prayer and a blessing for Lennon and his parents on a zoom call in July. He was and I am sure still is very cute! We continue to ask God to bless him and his parents.

## WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY

Joyce Johnson died on September 26 in Marshfield. Joyce was an active member of the church and the Circle of Friends. She was determined to attend worship whenever possible, driving in from Lynn and walking with two canes from her car to her seat. She appreciated prayers and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Pastor Jacoba officiated at private funeral service held for Joyce on her farm.



### November Birthdays

2	Deb Holman
3	Merrill Brunette
9	Betty Opelt
10	Travis Vine
13	Deon Spangler
14	Roberta Gaier Kelly Mathis
16	Sue Gurney Neil Armitage
18	Chad Erickson
19	Hap Eddy
22	Theamore Vine
24	MacKenzie Keller
25	Joey Kranz

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



### November Wedding Anniversaries

5	Phil & Donita Follen
6	Benjamin & Leah Wilson
12	Mark & Merrill Brunette
13	Brenda & Mark Wilson
14	Dan & Emile Miller
19	Darlene & Herman Mueller
29	Thomas & Betty Barr

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

November 2020						
◀ Oct 2020					Dec 2020 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>DST Ends- Move Clock Back</b>  -All Saint Day - Sunday School 9 am Zoom - Worship 10 am in person, and online. Radio at 11am - Sunday School Story Time 7pm Zoom and Facebook	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Election Day! Have you voted?	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> - Sunday School 9 am Zoom - Worship 10 am in person, and online. Radio at 11am - Sunday School Story Time 7pm Zoom and Facebook	<b>9</b> - Holiday Fair Begins online at our website - Neillsvilleucc.org - At 9:00 am	<b>10</b> -Minister Alliance Home 10 Am Check out the Holiday Fair on our website neillsvilleucc.org	<b>11</b> Veterans Day Check out the Holiday Fair on our website neillsvilleucc.org	<b>12</b> -Holiday Fair ends 6:00pm Circle of Friends 1:30 zoom	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Pick up Holiday Fair purchases at UCC between 9am-noon
<b>15</b> - Sunday School 9 am Zoom - Worship 10 am in person, and online. Radio at 11am - Sunday School Story Time 7pm Zoom and Facebook	<b>16</b> -Christian ed. Zoom 6pm	<b>17</b> -Trustees 5:30 -Deacon and Deaconess 6:30 - Church Council 7:30	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> - Sunday School 9 am Zoom - Worship 10 am in person, and online. Radio at 11am - Sunday School Story Time 7pm Zoom and Facebook	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Happy Thanksgiving! Office is closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> - First Sunday of Advent Sunday School 9 am Zoom - Worship 10 am in person, and online. Radio at 11am - Sunday School Story Time 7pm Zoom and Facebook	<b>30</b>					