

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

February 2021

*"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life
worthy of the calling to which you have been called,²
with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
Ephesians 4:1-3*

jacobas jottings.... In these last weeks I have been preaching about call, the call of the disciples, the call of Samuel and Jonah. There will be two more weeks in the series. In this article, I want to move beyond our initial call to the life and work of the church and its members. In Ephesians Paul writes what he expects of those who are called into the church as followers of Jesus. We are all called to live lives that express love. In I Corinthians 13:4-8, Romans 12:9-18, in Colossians 3:12-15 Paul also reminds the church how Christians are to live together: we are to love each other and live-in harmony with each other.

**Summoned: Come and See
Summoned to Listen
Summoned to Repentance
Summoned to Follow
Summoned to Inclusion**

The three texts from I Corinthians, Colossians and Romans are also frequently used in weddings naming how couples/families are live to together. However, Paul first used them to describe life in the church. They are good words in all circumstances.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends". I Corinthians 13:4-8

Yet in these months, we have hardly had the opportunity to express love in community; even when we get together as families, or as friends, the possibility of getting sick or causing someone to get sick is often on our minds. Separated, unable to express love in our usual ways, many of us (and me too) shy away from conversations about what is truly important to us. It is not easy to be the body of Christ and yet it is our call. We so need community to be our best selves. We want to speak about what is important to us, yet there is apprehension about what we can freely say to each other from the depths of our hearts.

The church is to be a place of community; families are to be safe places where we can talk about what matters – however our conversations today too often are once or twice removed from face to face. Not able to love as we have always loved or live as we usually live causes us to be further alienated from each other. We are so in need of community where again we can talk together about what really matters to us, give hugs and see smiling faces. We are weary. We are yearning for love, community and conversation.

In these months of separation, much has taken place. It will take some work to again create the community we long for. Holding each other close – emotionally, physically, and spiritually will help. We will also need to work together to speak the truth with love. "Truth may be vital, but without love it is unbearable" The Two Popes

Together, let's figure it out – in the church- in our families – in our community. Let's work on living the calling to which we have been called, the call of love and truth telling, – Jesus' teachings will tell us how – the Holy Spirit will guide us – God's love will hold us tight.

Pastor's Second Page

Thank you –

Annual reports We have reports from nearly all Committees and groups of the church in the Annual Report this year. It has taken work on the part of many – I thank all who took the time to prepare their reports. Jessi and I also figured out how to do the other reports usually included in the Annual Report with some phone help from Audrey. It feels good to have the Annual Report ready for print. 2020 was an unusual year, so I believe having as accurate account of what UCC accomplished is important.

I also want to thank those who are helping this week with collating the Bulletin, Newsletter and Annual Report

You can now pick up your Annual Reports. We will attempt to send you a PDF of the report to the members for whom we have email addresses on file.

Souper Bowl – I have taken a rough count of how many cans of soup we have collected this year. It looks like about half of our total last year. Congratulations!

The weather forecast for this final week of the competition between the churches does not look like it will be assist us in increasing our numbers by Sunday. The real losers though will be the food pantries – so please continue to support them with your gifts of non-perishable items or cash. I want to thank all who have made the extra effort to donate soup and cash. The Pandemic has caused us to go out of our way to purchase and bring to the church our soup donations The Food Pantries! So thank you!. And as a side note, it has been a gift to see several of you in person and have a short conversation!



Lent – Ash Wednesday is on February 17. The Deacons/Deaconesses asked me to prepare a

Devotion to send out by email and mail to those without computers.

Calvary's Council recommended that we not try to have our joint services this year. The Deacons and Deaconesses concurred. I haven't had enough time to pray/think about what would work for us. I have considered a Book Study on Zoom. Tell me if you would be interested.

Sundays during Lent the theme for worship will be
"Who Is Jesus?"

Sunday School- Classes continue to meet on Zoom every Sunday at 9am. We are using the "Illustrated Ministry" Ministries Series "Joining God at Work in the World." When Stephanie and I (Pastor Jacoba) looked at the material, I appreciated seeing both familiar and unfamiliar stories shared. The coloring pages the children summarize the stories very well; in addition there are projects to create using simple materials most of us have at home.

Stephanie Heck, who usually teaches the class is also willing to teach in-person at the church for those who prefer to be in the classroom. She asks parents to let her know if they would like to come on a particular Sunday.

CDS – 7th Grade- I am teaching our three 7th graders on Zoom on Wednesday evenings. We are learning about prayer and how to pray in different ways.

Circle of Friends - meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:30pm. I am sure the ladies would welcome anyone who cares to join them. Susie Karl prepares thoughtful, sometimes humorous devotions for us. I also offer a prayer that is more inclusive of particular needs than I can offer during our worship services. If you would like to join us, let me know and I will send you the information. Most of the members join by using their phones. We have learned that we can usually find a way to connect – at times I have used four devices so we can visit.

January Offerings

Thank you for your generosity!

January 12th

General Offering.....1157.00

January 25th

General Offering ... 3272.00

Radio 300.00

House of Mercy30.00

Family Help..... 100.00

Circle of Friends 28.00
(Card Sales)

January 31st

General Offering... 1642.00

January Automatic Giving 890.00

We also received several cash donations for
Souper Bowl Sunday (not yet deposited)

Thank you to our January Radio Sponsors.

On *Sunday January 3*, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Rosie and Jim Repinski for the Glory of winter, a time of reflection.



On *Sunday January 10*, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Pat and Pam Acheson in memory of parents Helen and Don Acheson.

On *Sunday January 17*, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Rosie and Jim Repinski in memory of nephew Cliff.

On *Sunday January 24*, the radio broadcast was anonymously sponsored in praise and thanksgiving of God our Father.

On *Sunday January 31*, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful listener.

Thank you to our radio broadcast sponsors who sponsored the January radio broadcasts. There are still some dates available in 2021 if you would like to sponsor a broadcast.

Another Thank You for the Silent Angels

"Thank you Silent Angels for remembering me at Christmas with a little Christmas tree and treats and cookies & candy. It was very much appreciated. May God bless you for your kindness.

Love- Lorraine Shaw"



Watch for the Announcements on
a New Method for Supporting the
Ministry of UCC.



On January 19th, the church council voted to reopen in person church services starting on Sunday February 7th. As before, we will be practicing safety precautions. We will be social distancing both in the sanctuary and in the narthex. Masks will still be required. Online worship services and the radio broadcast will still be available.

We ask that if you do not feel well, please do not come.
Thank you for your cooperation

10 AM Sunday Our worship service can be found on
YouTube "UCC-Neillsville"
Our website Neillsvilleucc.org
Facebook pages Neillsville United Church of Christ
and Neillsville UCC Members Page
11 AM Sunday Radio Broadcast WCCN 98.5 FM; 1370AM
In Person Services starting February 7th at 10 AM Sunday

Sunday February 14th we are having our **annual meeting** in the Sanctuary after the 10am in person service. Members who attend the in-sanctuary service are encouraged to stay for the meeting.  

You will **also** be able to participate in the meeting on Zoom. A link will be sent out the congregation before the meeting. The annual meeting will start approximately 10:30am.

If you have questions, please call or email the office.

Thank you from the Christmas Angel Project

Stacy Schilling, the Coordinator of the Christmas Angel Project writes (summarized)

This year 257 Children were served in 104 Families.

She thanks: all the volunteers; donors and local businesses; all who refer families in need; to the community and all volunteers. She thanks UCC for hosting the Christmas Angel Project, generously allowing the use of our space for nearly a month. She writes, "Thank you for your continued amazing support." – Stacy

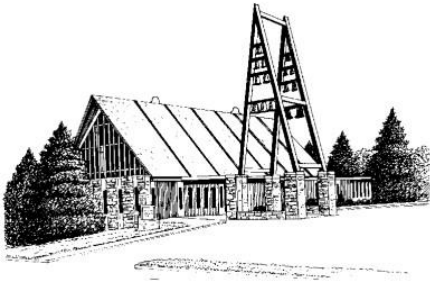
**Soup
Lunch**

*Give Away
February 14, 2021*

*11:30-Noon while it lasts
Curbside Pick-up*

*Neillsville United Church of Christ
515 West 2nd St.*





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January 21, 2021

Grace to you and peace!

The Council met Tuesday, January 19, and made the decision to resume in-person worship on February 7 at 10am. We will continue to offer our services on You-tube, UCC-Neillsville, our website – neillsvilleucc.org , our Facebook pages and on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM.

If you feel safe and feel well, we look forward to seeing you in the pews again. All of the requirements for worshipping or being in our building remain in place.

Please Carefully Review the Guidelines We Have Set Out For Worship Services and the Use Of Our Building

† There is hand sanitizer at the front door.

Please use it as you enter the building.

† All who are in the building will be required to wear a mask. If you cannot wear a mask, you are asked to worship with us on-line or on the radio.

† The names of those present will be recorded to assist the Clark County Health Department if necessary with contact tracing.

† Sit only in the designated pews maintaining a distance of six feet from anyone not in your household. Families living in one household are asked to sit together.

† You can support our ministry through putting your monetary offering in the wooden box in the entryway, through your bank's bill pay,

mailing your gift or placing it in our locked mailbox. We will soon offer an alternative way to support our ministries through the use of credit cards and automatic withdrawal.

† We ask you to remain physically distanced as you enter and leave the building. We ask that you remain physically distanced in your conversations with each other– we encourage outdoor visiting whenever possible.

† We will not share in a fellowship time; food will not be shared in our building.

† The building will be sanitized according to CDC recommendations. Hand sanitizers will be made available.

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting will take place on February 14 immediately following the worship service. You may participate in person in the sanctuary or on ZOOM. Computer links and phone numbers will be sent out prior to the meeting. Annual Reports will be made available after February 5. Call the Church office to pick one up.

God's Blessings,
Mike Perkl, Moderator
Rev. Jacoba Koppert

Happy Birthday! God's Richest Blessings!

1, Toni Carl

Joy Abel

Patricia Acheson

2, SueVornholt

Sarah Fields

3, Lylah Wilson

5, Kyson Erikson

6, Krista Hamm

Paul Vine

7, Lorraine Shaw

Janice Opelt

8, Darwin Zweig

Kinsley McDonald

12, Bailey Schumacher

Riley Voigt



15, Joe Holman

16, Tom Barr

Rickey Rochester

17, Roni Kazor-Smith

18, Dewayne Seelow

Irma Rizner

Frances Ormond

19, Gary Corey

20, Darrin Loberg

22, Jacoba Koppert

Marilyn Marty

25, Janet Harrington

Jason Raine

28, Olivia Friemoth

If we missed your birthday – or named the wrong date, please let us know.

February 2021

Virtual Sermon available at and after 10 am, on Facebook, YouTube, and Neillsvilleucc.org 11 am radio.

In person sermon 10 am at UCC Neillsville.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Pastor Parish 6pm	3 7 th grade CD 7:15pm	4	5	6
7 -Sunday School 9am *UCC reopens for in person church service 10 am -End of Souperbowl contest	8	9 -Board of Christian Education 6pm	10 7 th grade CD 7:15pm	11 -Circle of Friends 1:30 zoom - Deacon and Deaconesses 7pm	12	13
14 -Sunday School 9am -Virtual and in person worship 10am -10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting Soup Lunch giveaway 11:30	15	16 -Trustees 5:30 -Council 7:30	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 First Sunday of Lent -Sunday School 9am -Virtual and in person worship 10am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Second Sunday of Lent -Sunday School 9am -Virtual and in person worship 10am						