

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

June 2021

jacoba's jottings... In the Old Testament book of Judges there is an interesting story of Gideon who God commissioned to deliver Israel from Midian, Israel's enemy. Gideon was not convinced it was the Lord God of Israel who was speaking to him so he devised a few tests to discern whether the voice he heard was indeed the Lord's. In Judges 6, we read:

³⁶Then Gideon said to God, "In order to see whether you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said,³⁷I am going to lay a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will deliver Israel by my hand, as you have said." ³⁸And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. ³⁹Then Gideon said to God, "Do not let your anger burn against me, let me speak one more time; let me, please, make trial with the fleece just once more; let it be dry only on the fleece, and on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.



In these days, there are some who wonder if God has a new word for the world. Is God doing something new? Are we to do something new? We who are wondering have noticed there seems to be new opportunities because much of life was put on hold for a time. We are also aware that what was, was not working. So many people talked about being too busy and exhausted and not getting anywhere. We were beginning to notice the discrimination against people of color. In Wisconsin indigenous people are reminding us of their challenges in American society today. We are hearing about climate change and how big cities were cleared of their haze for a time when their citizens were staying at home. The church as we know it has been declining since the 1950's. Less than 50% of Americans now claim church membership (though a greater percentage of people acknowledge faith in God.)

I wonder if God has something new for our world, for the church, for us as families and individuals. In the UCC, we say, "God is still speaking." Recently, my email has included numerous notices of classes, articles and devotions encouraging us to listen and discern what God wants for the world. Gideon wanted to know if it was really God who was speaking to him. That seems a fair question in our world today.

I invite us to listen for God's Word, to evaluate what we hear in light of our own fears and bias, and in discussion with others. Following Jesus must be a priority for Christians. Listening for the voice of God is essential.

In the month of June, I plan to preach on "Is God Doing Something New?" using scriptures from the lectionary. Join us in person, on the internet and radio. I hope you also will engage with me and our UCC members what you hear God saying in these times.

Pastor Jacoba's 2nd Page

Reception of New Members

We will receive new members on June 5. If you also would like to become an official member, please speak to me, soon so that I might answer your questions about the church, and share with you information about our congregation, your privileges and responsibilities.

IN THE CHURCH OFFICE...

Janice Miller New Office Administrator

I want to welcome Janice Miller to our church office as our new Office Administrator. Janice has most recently worked at Care & Rehab – Neillsville – doing all things financial. Janice is a long-time member of UCC attending Sunday School church already as a child. She is currently serving as a Deacon.

Janice is working part-time – Tuesday – Thursday from 9am to 1:00 pm.

Jessie Quicker - Office Administrator

I also want to thank Jessi Quicker for serving as our temporary Office Administrator since November 1. Jessi has learned much in her time with us. She has been very helpful, giving her insights and sharing what she knows about the computer programs we use. For the last month Jessi has also been teaching Janice. Jessi is also volunteering for UCC – assisting on Sunday mornings with the PowerPoint presentations and now creating the PowerPoint slides while Janice learns the other details of the office. Thank You, Jessi!

Cheryl Steinbach - PowerPoints

We want to thank Cheryl Steinbach who has been preparing the church PowerPoint Slides since October. Her volunteer work has been appreciated.

Also helping weekly in the office is Carole Romens who prepares the bulletins and newsletter for mailing. Carole's help in the office is greatly appreciated.

Jim Vradenburg, Custodian – Resignation

Jim submitted his resignation in April – with his end date, May 31. Jim has faithfully served as UCC's Custodian for over eleven years. Jim made himself very available over the years to do whatever needed to be done – opening and locking doors, cleaning up messes, shoveling snow, setting up and taking down tables, changing light bulbs, vacuuming, cleaning restrooms, sanitizing and... Working more hours now at Kwik Trip, Jim's available hours at the church have decreased and he felt it was time to let go of his church work.

We thank Jim for his faithful service over the years.

**We will express our thanks to
Jim, Jessie and Cheryl
on Sunday June 27 during worship.
After the service there will be a reception
with refreshments served.
Please join us!**

The Virtual Choir is taking a break as we begin to sing in the sanctuary; I thank all who sang from their homes and travels. In addition to UCC members singing, we were often joined by Lori Wirtz and Jodi Rueth, and several of Bonnie's family and friends. We were also blessed by several instrumentalists. Karen and Pastor Jim took the lead for us with the rest of us chiming in with our voices and instruments. Bonnie Weyer took our individual videos bringing us together us into the choir. Bonnie, thank you for your work. We know you have enjoyed it and at times it has been time-consuming!

I also want to thank Al Hosely. Al runs the camera, the sound system and radio broadcast. Thank you Paul and Emile for learning how to run the system when Al wants a Sunday off. There are now directions as to what to do complete with pictures making it easier for others to learn.

Facts and Figures of May 2021

Attendance for In-Person Worship

April 18	Sunday	35
April 25	Sunday	23
May 2	Sunday	28
May 9	Sunday	26
May 16	Sunday	27
May 23	Sunday	29

Offerings for April 25- May 23, 2021

May 5th, 2021

General Offering	\$3,660.00
Back Pack	25.00
OGHS	100.00
Memorial Fund	5,200.00
Mission Outreach	155.00

May 17th, 2021

General Offering	\$3,710.00
Mission Outreach	155.00
Circle of Friends	34.00
Strengthen the Church	120.00

April VANCO

General Offering	\$ 916.24
Memorial Fund	99.47

Thank you for your generosity!

May Radio Sponsors

On Sunday, May 2, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary.

On Sunday, May 9, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Rosie and Jim Repinski in celebration of all mothers including Mother Earth.



Radio Broadcasts Continued...

On Sunday, May 16, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob and Ruth Schmidt in memory of her sister, Eunice Artac.

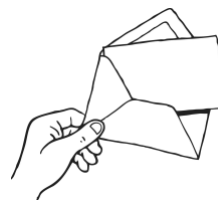
On Sunday, May 23, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously in praise and thanksgiving of God our Father.

On Sunday, May 30, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Frances Short and Family in memory of her husband, Kenneth Short and both parents.

New Office Administrator Hours

Janice Miller will be in the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 AM – 1 PM. Please reach out to her if you need assistance.

Pastor Jacoba will be on vacation the week of June 6; however she will lead worship on June 6 and 13.



UPDATE - Jim Filitz is now in hospice at The House of Dove. He would appreciate cards at 1000 W 11th Street, Marshfield, WI 54449. If you wish to visit

please call 715-389-0100 before driving to Marshfield. Jim can have 2 visitors a day. He appreciates your visits.



ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING Thank you to Rick Buchsteiner for taking the cans in for recycling. Please do not include any trash in with the aluminum cans.



Third Sunday
of the
Month Dairy Give-Away
June 20th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Summer Services
are at 9:00 a.m.

All Are Welcome



THE COUNCIL IS WILLING TO FULLY FUND ANY UCC YOUTH WANTING TO ATTEND A UCC WI CAMP (and to assist other community youth at a UCC Church Camp in WI) using the Ray Fund. A listing of camps is posted on the bulletin board, is on the Camp Website UCCI.org and available in the Church office. Apply for the Scholarships in the church office.



Vacation Bible School is coming this summer!

On Saturday, June 5th, from 9 am-2 or 3pm, the United Church of Christ will be hosting a vacation bible school. It will be held outside at the park on the north side of the church.



We are also looking for teachers for this fall for Sunday school 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 or Pastor Jacoba know. The curriculum/lessons are all assigned/laid out for each week.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By: Dave Harnisch

The Stewardship Committee met via Zoom on May 12, 2021.

Members had the opportunity to review the Stewardship Committee section in the church's Constitution/Bylaws, and all agreed to report to the Constitution/Bylaw Review Sub-committee that the committee has no recommendations for changes to the existing wording.

Members will continue to review upcoming webinars, seminars, and workshops for opportunities to glean more information on ways to encourage generosity. More recently, committee members M.E. Sjolín and Jo Ann Voss, along with Pastor Jacoba, sat in on several meetings sponsored by the Wisconsin Council—United Church of Christ during its Annual Meeting, along with participation by Moderator Paul Vine and Vice-moderator, Barb Petkovsek. The theme by the Wisconsin Council this year was "Powered by Generosity."

The Stewardship Committee, according to our church Constitution/Bylaws, is required to meet quarterly. However, since last year's Stewardship Campaign was cancelled due to the pandemic, members have agreed to meet monthly---meeting more often to plan out a successful come-back campaign going into 2021.

The committee's Neighbors in Need (NIN) mission has been planned out for September. Committee volunteers have stepped forward to search for videos (Jo Ann Voss) and prepare testimonials for church services and write mission-related articles (M.E. Sjolín) for the church newsletter.

Kelley Burch is adjusting to her appointment to the committee---and doing an outstanding job as the newly elected committee chairperson. Appreciation goes out to Kelley for stepping into the leadership role.

The next Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for a Zoom on June 9th. The opportunity to continue to meet via Zoom assists several of the members who will be out of state, or out of country this summer, and as a result would have been unable to attend in person.

Thank yous -Lorraine Shaw sent in a thank you to the Silent Angels for the beautiful flowers that were given to her. They were very much appreciated.

Also a thank you to Lorraine Shaw for donating bud vases to the Silent Angels.

Thank you to Eileen Zank for playing the piano for us again and to the Ecumenical Chimers for sharing their music on Pentecost.



June Birthdays

- 3. Barb Miller
Karen Northup
- 8. Lois Lonning
- 12. Corrine Armitage
- 13. Allison Raine
- 14. Don Abel
Julie Woods
- 15. June Thompson
- 17. Doris Bakker
Lars Woods
- 18. Dave Fields
- 20. Barb Petkovsek
- 22. Ellie Moseid
Kaia Moseid.
- 23. Carolyn Lewis
- 25. Margaret Rakestraw
Ellie Keller
- 26. Lennon Erickson
Lois Kren
- 27. Debbie Perkl
- 27. Claire Ziegler
- 29. Linda Stalsberg
Colton Williams
- 30. Phil Follen



June Wedding Anniversaries

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



Neillsville High School
Arianna Rochester

If there are UCC high school or secondary school graduates, please let us know so we can list them in the July Newsletter.



June 2021

United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 2:00 Neillsville Retirement Community Service Pastor Parish 6:00	3	4	5 9:00- 2:30 VBS at Tock Field
6 <u>Second Sunday After Pentecost</u> New Members Received 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <u>Third Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	14	15 3:30 Constitution 5:30 Trustees	16	17 1:30 Circle of Friends on Zoom	18	19
20 <u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Father's Day 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	21  Happy Father's Day	22	23	24 6:30 Deacons in Person	25	26
27 <u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Communion 9:00 Church Service 9:45 Thanking Jim, Jessi & Cheryl Reception 11:00 Radio	28	29	30 7			