

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

August 2021

"Come Follow Me" and "Lord, Increase Our Faith"

jacoba's jottings... Jesus invites us to follow him. We sometimes wonder what does he mean? Are we also to stop fishing – or leave behind whatever our usual routine, tasks, job is and go out to evangelize? Surely, Jesus does not expect that of everyone. Certainly, making an effort to live our faith, increase our faith, and share our faith where we live, work, play and worship is expected of Jesus' followers. We also know the Commandments Jesus gave priority to were to: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself." Not easy commandments to keep, yet again, we are to do our best and keep working to improve.

Living by faith when we disconnect ourselves from God is challenging. When we are baptized, have our children baptized or renew our baptismal vows, we acknowledge we need God's help to do what we have promised. When recently have we asked God for help? We live as if we are self-reliant. Jesus knew the disciples needed each other as well as God. Paul knew converts to the Christian faith needed the church to help them trust and serve God and behave as followers of Jesus. What makes us think we do not need the community of the faithful to support, guide, encourage and challenge us to live the Christian life?

Increasing our faith means more than letting go of fear and anxiety – it means we are willing to follow Jesus even when we do not know where he will lead us. His leading may take us inward – to become more aware of who and whose we are, and to realize despite our sin we are loved by God. Knowing we are loved, accepted, forgiven, and having a desire to be more faithful, Jesus calls us to love others as he has loved us. Loving others includes kindness and compassion and forgiveness; it also means learning their back stories – or knowing they have a story which causes their joy, faith, anger, hurt, fear, anxiety, and needs. It means being respectful of one another when we have our differences. Loving one another means speaking against and responding to what is hurtful, oppressive, unjust, and unkind. Increasing our faith means trusting God will help us as we look at our own hearts and as we move toward loving each other. As others who want to make a life change, Christians also need God and a supportive community to whom they can turn.

Sharing our faith means more than talking about our beliefs or trying to convince others they too must follow Jesus. It means supporting others on their journey. It means living in a way that expresses our faith in God and letting others experience our desire to follow Jesus. Sometimes sharing our faith takes words – often it takes doing. Jesus used words and fed the hungry, healed the sick, forgave and received the sinner, and then he led his followers on the path to new life. He called his disciples to do the same – not alone but together.

Jesus has called us together to be the Body of Christ, each with our own gifts. Jesus needed and sought out God's guidance and he invited others to walk with him. We also need God's help and the Christian Community to walk with us. We are unable to live our faith, increase our faith, share our faith without God and each other.

Pastor Jacoba's 2nd Page

Meal Give-Away

I have enjoyed delivering some of food give-away goodies. I know others have also enjoyed the opportunity to bring food/meals to other church members, friends, neighbors and family members. Thank you, to the cooks, to all who deliver and to all who support our monthly give-away.

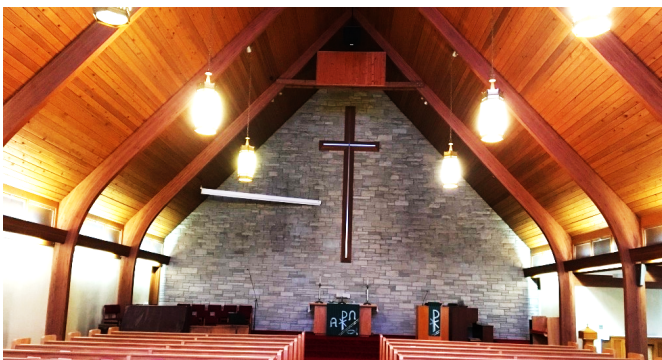
Worship in the Sanctuary

It is a delight to see more of our members at worship. We are worshipping between 35-45 minutes each Sunday. I thank Barb Shoemaker and Wendy Sigurdson for reading scripture for us. We are singing again. Karen has taken some well-deserved vacation recently. Holly Pisors, Ashley Trunkel and Kelly Nielsen have played the piano and organ for us.

We are preparing worship bulletins which are sent by US mail and email each week. We use our screen during worship was the plan when the screen was installed.

***Communion will be served on August 1.
The chalices will be offered in the sanctuary.
If you are worshipping at home, please prepare
your elements.***

I thank Janice for her diligent work as we prepare for worship each week. She continues to learn new skills. We thank all who are operating the PowerPoint presentation and the camera. It is great to have a few more people offering to serve doing these tasks during worship. Thank you!



Fair Service – August 15 at 9am.

We will again worship under the WCCN tent with Calvary Lutheran Church. Pastor Chad and I will



share in leading worship.

There will be treats after the worship service.

As it is the third Sunday of the month, there will be 25 bags of food to give-away at the Fairgrounds.

Church Camp



Several members and friends of the church have attended Church Camp –

this year with the financial help of Marian and Sam Ray. Our campers have included Pastor Jim and Karen's family, Reese Ziegler, Bonnie Weyer and her grandson, Debbie Perkl and her grandchildren and Owen Sigurdson. Members signed up to go to Camp in August and this fall are Wendy Sigurdson and Benjamin Mathis, William Ziegler, Tyler Williams with Reese accompanying them. Little did Marian and Sam Ray know how their gift would encourage our families to attend Church Camp.

Generous Gifts

Glen and Dinna Halle, of Panther Creek Farms have found UCC through our neighbor Marguerite. Marguerite called and asked if we could use a lot of cucumbers. I told her I would check. Yes, we could. The folks who came to worship on Sunday, took cucumbers home; some cucumbers made their way to Countryside Apartments and the Food Pantry and the rest of the cucumbers our church cooks made into refrigerator pickles. – I expect those pickles will be part of our food give away in August. Be sure to thank Glen, Dinna and Marguerite for their generosity to UCC.

Facts and Figures of Jun -July 2021

Attendance for In-Person Worship

June 27	Sunday	35
July 4	Sunday	28
July 11	Sunday	30
July 18	Sunday	44
July 27	Sunday	34

Offerings for July 12-27, 2021

July 12th, 2021

General Offering \$1,860.00

July 27th, 2021

General Offering \$ 4,707.00

Mission Outreach 252.00

OGHS 100.00

Radio Broadcast 75.00

May VANCO

General Offering \$ 1,166.32

July Radio

Sponsors



On Sunday, July 4, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski in celebration of our country's freedom and glorious summer days.

On Sunday, July 11, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful listener.

On Sunday, July 18, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades in honor of her daughters and their families.

On Sunday, July 25, the radio broadcast was sponsored Neil & Corrine Armitage.

POWERED BY GENEROSITY

Note from Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all who have supported the church this summer. With all the summer activities and vacations it is easy to forget your obligations to your church. Without financial support your church could not continue its mission..

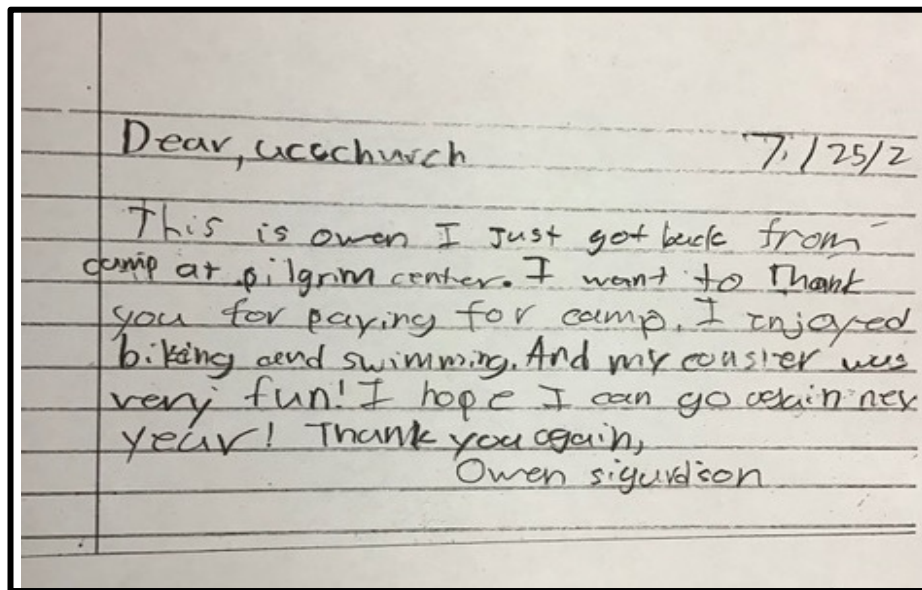
At annual conference this year "Powered by Generosity" was selected as a theme. Our stewardship committee voted to continue with the same theme. I virtually attended a seminar the "Impact of gift" it stressed " UCC did not do this", "We did not do This" YOU DID THIS. Each and everyone of us makes a difference. We all share a responsibility as we are POWERED BY GENEROSITY with our time, talent, and financial support.

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving to UCC can be by bringing a check to church, mail a check, bill pay through your bank, or through VANCO (an on line option).

Thank you, you are POWERED BY GENEROSITY.

THANK YOU



REMINDER - Please remember to lock doors. If you are using a key to unlock any one of the church doors, please be sure to check that the doors are locked and completely closed upon your leaving. We no longer have someone checking the doors.



Watch for upcoming start dates and information on Sunday school. 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.



August Birthdays

1-Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
3-Delaney Rochester
6-Layne Woods
7-Sydney Subke
Morgan Erickson
12-Alexis Bergemann
17- Bill Sisson
19-Nicole Keller
Ben Mathis
21-Pat Wall
Karen Mohr
23-Craig Heck
Cole Hediger
27-Kathy Marshall
28-Sandy Bieneck
29-Nancy Boon
James Repinski
Cassie Erickson

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



Welcome Baby!

Haakon Bruce Sigurdson
was born on July 21
to Jenna and Erik.

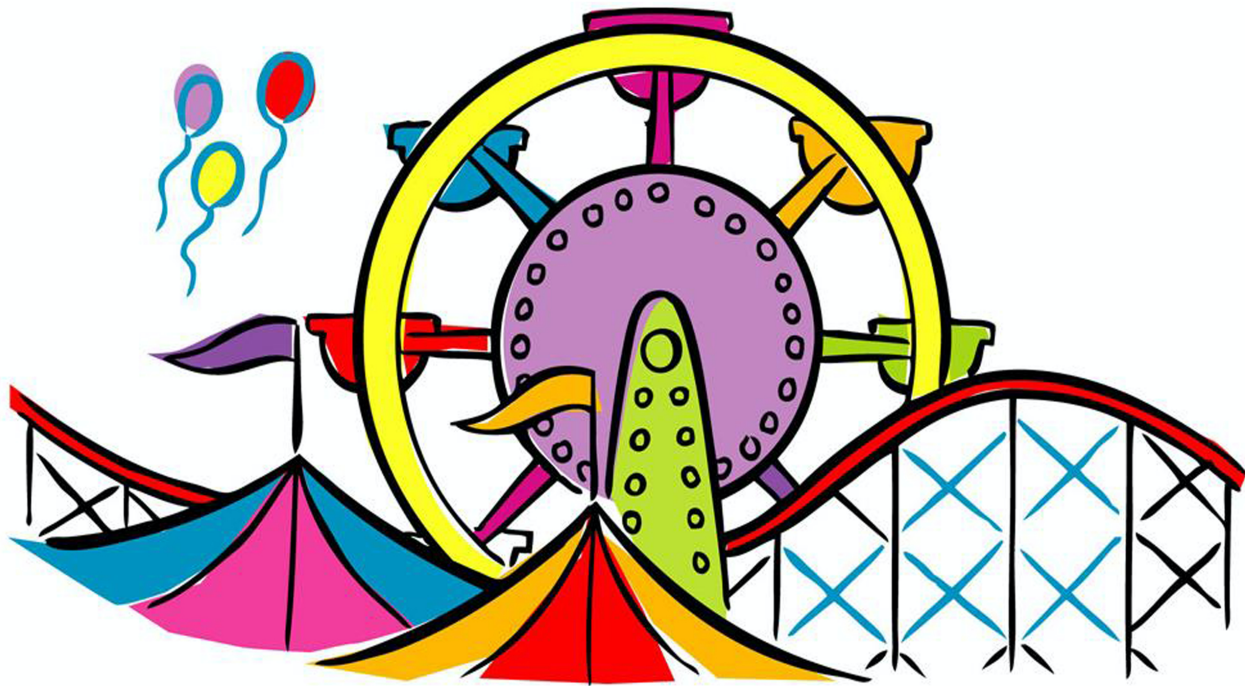
He is the grandson of Wendy and Craig.
Congratulations! May Haakon always know
the love of God and family as they raise him
to be a follower of Jesus!



August Wedding Anniversaries

9-Wendell & Linette Kuhn
11-Howard & Kathy Mathis
13-Marilyn & Bob Marty
14-Mike & Deb Perkl
15-Paul & Sandy Schmidt
18-James & Karen Mohr
Butch & Kathy Carl
20-Barb & Steve Miller
22-Neil & Kelly Murphy Czarnecki
Craig & Stephanie Heck
28-Sandy & Roy Bieneck
Linda & John Stalsberg
Jerry & Judy Quicker
30-Wally & Pat Garbisch

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



Fair Sunday

August 15, 2021

Join Calvary Lutheran & United Church of Christ
for church service at the
Clark County Fair, 9:00 am

UCC Lunch Give-Away

Curb Side Pick-up

515 West 2nd Street

9:30-10:00 a.m.



2021

United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Tenth Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	2	3 10:30am Neillsville Retirement Comm. Communion Served	4 5:00pm Stewardship Comm. 6:30 pm Board of Christian Ed.	5	6	7
8 <u>Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	9 9:00 Card Making Group will meet	10	11	12	13	14
15 <u>Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 FAIR Church Service 11:00 Radio	16	17 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Deacons 7:30pm Council Meeting at church	18	19	20	21
22 <u>Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	23 9:00 Card Making Group will meet	24	25	26	27	28
29 <u>Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	30	31				