

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

October 2021

Jacoba's jottings... Karlene and one of her employees checked out my flower gardens a week or two ago. Her employee marveled at the hibiscus and the other flowers growing in my yard. The flowers are especially pretty this fall. I have so enjoyed them. Some of the plants are now browning and beginning to die – the hibiscus is all flowered out. The season is changing and will soon come to an end.



Truly, for everything there is a season. I have learned that as the seasons change, I too will need to make different choices. Instead of plucking off the Japanese beetles and watering my plants, I will need to dig up the bulbs and rake or mulch leaves. While I like raking, I know mulching is good for the soil and next year's growth. I also trust some of the bulbs I dig up this fall will sprout next spring; others will shrivel up and need to be tossed away. Come spring, I may buy some new bulbs and plants to replace the ones that I discarded. The hibiscus is always a surprise. It doesn't show any signs of having survived the winter, sometimes until mid-June. I have started to dig it up to discard it only to discover below the soil it is beginning to sprout new life. I am learning to be patient.

As seasons come and go, how long are we willing to wait for new life? When and how will we know it is time to discard the old and change out or toss what no longer works? Discernment (prayer) and seeking the knowledge and wisdom of others is often required to know what to hold onto and what to let go. Maybe we can try for one more season what has given us joy in the past, yet in the garden there comes a time to let go of what is no longer offering new beauty. I may try to buy plants that look like the ones I had before, but often they are no longer available. I need to move on and find something new if I am to again fill my garden with beauty.



Ruth Z. gave me a chrysalis this year. I watched the cocoon transform and then the butterfly emerged. I was amazed – and then Ruth said that butterfly might only survive two weeks. How disappointing! I thought I saw it one day, but when I sent Ruth a picture of it, she said, it wasn't the one she and I had protected until it emerged. However, it was still beautiful – and I have found myself enjoying the butterflies even more this year than usual.



Prayer:

Thank you, God for what was, what is and what will be. We pray in the name of Jesus who lived on the earth, died, was raised from the dead by you to new life, and promised to lead us also to new life. Amen.

Jacoba's 2nd Page

HOLY COMMUNION SERVED

OCTOBER 3 AND OCTOBER 31

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 3, remembering Christians around the world who also join us in sitting down at table with our Lord.

On October 31, we will celebrate All Saints Day, remembering those who have sat at Christ's table with us in times past. We will again light candles of remembrance, - naming our members and friends who have died in the past year and then all who we continue to grieve.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes continue to meet both in person and on zoom each week for children 3k-6th grade. I applaud the teachers for their efforts in making classes available to all our children.

On September 12 in worship we blessed and honored our school children, school staff and school board members. The Children each received a colorful backpack tag saying "Be Loved; Be Kind; Be You."

It is a joy to again have the children in worship with us. When they are present, we will have a children's time. Parents have requested that our children be socially distanced when they come forward to talk with me.

CONFIRMATION

We have three students in Confirmation this year. Haylee Erickson, Colton Williams and Reese Ziegler. We meet once a month on Sundays after worship and twice a month on Wednesday evenings. We will participate in the Fall Clean-up on October 30. The class and I will also go to the Faith Formation Retreat at Camp Daycholah (Pilgrim Center is renamed, "Daycholah" - meaning Green Lake in HoChunk) on November 5-7.

FALL CLEAN-UP

The annual Fall Clean-up sponsored by Interfaith Hospitality will take place on October 30. Breakfast will be served at St. Mary's at 8:00 am. Volunteers are asked to register by October 23. Both volunteers and those requesting assistance can call Judy Morrow or the Office on Aging. Adults and kids old enough to help are welcome. Please consider donating some time to this important project.



NATALIE HAUGE

We express our deepest sympathy to Randy and their family upon the death of Natalie on September 15.

Natalie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2012. We have missed her smile and caring personality. She sang in the choir, was a Deacon and much-loved Confirmation Mentor. There will be a private family service of remembrance.

BIBLE STUDY ON EPHESIANS

If there is an interest, a Bible Study will be held evenings on the 2nd and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Let Pastor Jacoba know if this interests you.

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT

The Wisconsin Conference of the UCC offered \$500-\$1000 grants for clergy to renew, rest and refresh. UCC received \$500 which will be used to cover pulpit supply and give me some spending money as I take some time away. I plan to spend some time traveling in Wisconsin and catching up on things I have let go during these months. **I will be off October 4 (after Worship) - October 18.**

The Wisconsin Conference has also offered technology grants, Creation Care Grants, and Mission grants. They have offered additional webinars for pastors and churches.

Our OCWM donations and Strengthen the Church offerings pay for these grants. The Conference also recently sold some land; they have set aside the proceeds to continue support clergy and churches. – Friends, we are blessed by the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC.

Stewardship News



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

By: Dave Harnisch

The Stewardship Committee met in-person on September 8th.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: At the recent Stewardship Committee meeting, members discussed switching to a different theme for this year's *Stewardship Campaign* (the fund-raising effort that the local church puts forth to add monies to the general fund). The theme now being considered is, "Power in Generosity." Look for testimonials coming up in October and November during church services.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED: Members are continuing their promotion of the special mission, *Neighbors in Need*. A video was discovered for September 26th and a 'mission moment' was provided to the congregation at the beginning of the outside service held on September 19th.

Additionally, within the committee's work on the *Neighbors in Need (NIN)* special mission---and in highlighting where past offerings have been used---the Stewardship Committee has emphasized youth involvement in its video search and preparations for mission moments. Looking ahead, however, the focus and theme going into 2021 for the NIN special mission offerings will be "...supporting organizations and projects that are serving the homeless and immigrant neighbors in our communities."

<https://www.ucc.org/neighbors-in-need-special-mission-offering/>

Look for the NIN envelopes in the pews, and look as well for the "On-line Offering" link on our local church's website <https://www.neillsvilleucc.org/>. The link within our local site will lead you to *Neighbors in Need* and other selections where you

can give an offering on-line. The NIN special mission offering will be received during the October 2 church service.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: The committee continues its plan to distinguish two outstanding volunteers for the Volunteer of the Year Award for both 2020 and 2021. Please note that the planning for the combination awards/donor appreciation luncheon that had been scheduled for October 24th --has been side aside for now, awaiting the numbers related to COVID.

SHOWING APPRECIATION: Committee members are seeking suggestions and continuing their discussions on discovering alternate methods, or occasion---to express their deep appreciation to all church members who have given time, talent, and treasures. COVID has certainly provided limitations in the committee's planning.

MEMBERSHIP: Current Stewardship Committee members are: Acting chairperson M.E. Sjolín, Marge Goetsch, Jo Ann Voss, and Dave Harnisch. The next Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021.

Join us for worship on October 24 for the awarding of Volunteer of the Years 2020-21 and the expression of appreciation of to all volunteers.

**Quarterly Congregational Meeting
October 31
Immediately following worship
Meeting in the Sanctuary**



*57th Holiday Fair
United Church of Christ
2nd & Park Street, Neillsville
Saturday, November 13, 2021
9 AM - 1 PM*

*Gift Boutique, Greeting Cards,
Kitchen Cupboard, &
New to You Treasures*

*Lunch from 11 AM - 1 PM
CARRY OUTS ONLY - Call 715-743-2147
Chicken Salad on a Croissant
Baked Potato Soup & Dessert
Adults - \$7; Kids Under 10 - \$5*





August VANCO
General Offering
\$906.24

Just a reminder that one way of donating to the church is by using our new online program called VANCO. You can support your church with your weekly/monthly offering by writing a check, using your offering envelope, or giving online with VANCO (once you have this set up you are set to go).

Visit the Neillsville UCC website <https://www.neillsvilleucc.org/> and click on the appropriate link or download the VANCO app for your smartphone.

If you have any questions or suggestions or need assistance with VANCO, please contact Emile at 715-937-4626.

The new online giving program is not only for your weekly/monthly offering ... you can also donate to any church activity through VANCO. The two (2) newest activities on the website are:

- Neighbors in Need
 - Stewardship mission
- Holiday Fair

As a committee of our church, if there are any programs that you need added to the VANCO website for online donations, please get a short write up for the webpage to Emile two (2) weeks prior to the date you need it posted.

Your generosity and continued support to the Neillsville UCC is greatly appreciated, whether it is by using your church envelope, a check, cash and/or using VANCO.

Thank you!

- Emile Miller

Facts and Figures of September 2021

Attendance for In-Person Worship

September 5	*online 4	Sunday	34
September 12	*online 5	Sunday	43
September 19	(outdoor)	Sunday	45
September 26	*online 9	Sunday	25

**online watching at time of service*

Offerings for September 2021

September 7, 2021

General Offering	\$4,460.00
Mission/Outreach	150.00

September 20, 2021

General Offering	\$4,017.60
Radio	75.00
Music (Memorial)	150.00
Memorial Fund	2,667.50
Mission/Outreach	172.00
Neighbors in Need	20.00

September 27, 2021

General Offering	\$3,917.13
Mission/Outreach	1,000.00



On Sunday, September 5, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful listener.

On Sunday, September 12, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Karlene Wallace in memory of husband, Tom Wallace.

On Sunday, September 19, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Phil & Donita Follen in appreciation of the church family.

On Sunday, September 26, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a faithful listener.

2022 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

Would you like to sponsor a 2022 radio broadcast? Please call the church office to see what dates are available. You may choose to dedicate or honor someone for a particular service date. We believe our radio broadcast is a valued service and want to keep it on the air. 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 2021.

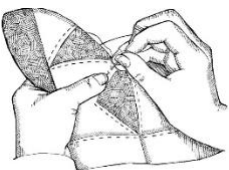
The cost remains the same: \$75.00 full broadcast; \$37.50 half broadcast; and \$25.00 for a third broadcast.



Pastor Jacoba & all you wonderful people who help sustain those while dealing with their grief,
Thank you for your final acts of kindness to my mother in

her final days and after. The church was always the rock that uplifted and sustained her through her life. I so appreciate that sustenance. My love and gratitude will always be there. Please use these memorial donations as needed to aid in the music & continued endurance of Neillsville UCC.

In gratitude, Marcia Van Gorden & the family of Ruth Van Gorden.



Need Help for Tying Quilts

Anyone who would like to help with tying quilts please contact Doris Bakker. No experience necessary.

Remembering Hubert Harvey Snicker
"Snick" January 2, 1938 – April 23, 2021

A Service of Remembrance was held in the Sanctuary on Sept 29 with a lunch prepared by Funeral Committee following the service.
We express our sympathy to his family.



- 4- Michelle & Lucas Bergemann
Jim & Rosie Repinski
- 5- Erik & Jenna & Sigurdson
- 7- Fritz & Dixie Hediger
Joe & Deb Holman
- 8- Darwin & Ruth Zwieg
- 9- Julie & Clinton Woods
- 14- Karen & Dave Northup
- 16- Tim & Sue Voigt
- 17- Kevin & Jenny Erickson
- 18- Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
- 20- David & Carol Harnisch

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



- 1- Kayla Ratsch
- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Jacob Keller
Mickey Marty
- 7- Brian Eddy
Corliss Fields
- 10- Luke Erickson
- 11- Tim Voigt
- 12- Clarissa Rochester
- 17- Dante Erickson
- 21- Dolores Johnson
Marian Vornholt
- 25- David Harnisch

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.

Help Needed

With funerals being held again in person at the church with luncheons following in the basement, think about a talent you could give to your church that doesn't cost anything but your time.

We are still in need of someone to take the lead on the Clean Up Committee. This person doesn't need to be at every funeral, they just need to call and get workers to run the dishwasher, put dishes away, etc. If you would like to try this leadership role, please give me a call.

Also, if you would like to help at any funerals, whether it be with making salads or bars, setting tables for the funerals, waiting on tables, or being on the clean-up crew, please contact me also.

Thank you for considering your time and talent helping others in our church during a difficult time for themselves and their families.

- Emile Miller
715-937-4626

COPYRIGHT WEBINAR

Jo Ann V, Karen, Janice and Pastor Jacoba watched a video on copyright infringement offered by the Insurance Board and taught by the UCC General Counsel. We were shocked to learn fines for copyright infringement of any kind have cost some churches \$750-\$30,000 – plus damages for earnings lost.

We were told we must have licenses to print the words of hymns and to stream the music. **We do.** However, every piece of music – and the arrangement we use must be checked to see if it is in the public domain or covered by our licenses. We must then note our license on the screen and all written documents.

If another's person's work is copied, used or read, the creator or company must be contacted to ask permission, unless permission is already given.

You may say, this is crazy – however remember, the creators of the music, pictures, art, writings,

videos, deserve to be paid. It is unethical to use what another creates to earn their living without paying them for it. And it could cost us if we do – both a fine and damages for the loss of their income.

Hymnals with the tune will be available for those who want the notes. We can only print or stream words. We have also purchased the right to use contemporary music from Convergence – Bryan Sirchio is one of their composers.

Some may wonder how would we be caught? Anything we put on the website – newsletter, calendar, worship services can be searched or someone could tell an owner of the works we use. A computer search is how the name of the Christmas Angel Project we were using was discovered in our newsletter. We received a letter saying we had to change the name of our Christmas Project or be taken to court.

Please understand we will do our best to follow the laws. Your help to also honor copyrights will be appreciated.

Mission and Outreach will be doing a collection to help support Afghan families at Fort McCoy and to help them in their resettlement efforts. Following is a list of items we will be collecting :

- Diapers
- Diaper cream
- Baby Wipes
- Pacifiers
- Bottles (no glass)
- Bars of soap
- Shampoo
- Combs/brushes
- Deodorant
- Towels and Washcloths
- Toothpaste/tooth brushes
- Masks
- Hand sanitizer
- Feminine hygiene products (pads only no tampons)
- Reusable water bottles (no glass)

All items can be dropped off at church.

Thank you for your support.
Mission and Outreach



2021

United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	4 9:00 Card Making Group meeting Pastor on Renewal Leave through Oct. 18	5	6 5:00 pm Stewardship 6:30 pm Craft workshop at Carla's	7	8 9:00 am Constitution	9
10 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	11	12 5:00 pm Deacons	13 6:30 pm Craft workshop at Carla's	14 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting at the church	15	16
17 Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio	18 9:00 Card Making Group meeting	19 Pastor Returns to the office 5:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Council Meeting at church	20 6:30 pm Craft workshop at Carla's Confirmation 6:00 pm -7:30pm	21	22	23
24 Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio 31 Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 Church Service/ Communion/All Saints Day Quarterly Meeting 10:45 11:00 Radio	25	26	27 6:30 pm Craft workshop at Carla's	28	29	30 Change of Seasons 8am at St. Mary's Confirmation 10:00am

