

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

April, 2022



Dear Members and Friends of UCC Congregation, Neillsville WI,

I am honored to have been called to serve God's will at your church in a part of the world that I truly love. Thank you all for making that possible.

Paul and Janice have done a marvelous job of introducing me to you. Of course, we will learn much more about each other as our time together moves on. In the meantime, let me highlight a couple of important areas that I come, as intentional interim, to help facilitate during your transition from Pastor Jacoba to a new settled pastor.

1. With any new pastor/leader you will experience change. As interim, it is my responsibility to introduce you to change, (Yup, I said change!) including different styles of worship, liturgy formats, etc. and perhaps a better understanding of our faith partners that brings us closer to our neighbors, whoever they may be. At the end of our time together you will have the option of maintaining your current way of doing things or integrate what you, with the guidance of your new spiritual leader, find meaningful from our transitional experience. For some of us, the word "change" is frightening. I encourage you to relax and enjoy something a little different during this time of transition.
2. Assist you in developing your **vision for "What God is Calling UCC Neillsville To Be"** and an overall plan on **"How we intend to get there."** This process was used in the majority of the nine churches I served before coming here. I believe that in the majority of cases it was very helpful.

How the Visioning Process works:

It involves three meetings with the entire congregation invited to attend and participate. Sessions last approximately 2 to 2.5 hours (not necessary but usually after worship on Sundays because folks are already there, food often is offered to keep stomachs from grumbling and to get **maximum participation which is important.**)

1. The three meetings are one month apart. One month before our meetings, you will be emailed a copy of one chapter from the book **Transitional Ministry Today** by Norman B. Bendroth (most readings are about 10 pages long.) We will also email a preparation sheet containing several questions to consider before the meetings.
2. During each meeting, I will provide a PowerPoint Presentation designed to convey data and to help us think "out-of-the-box."

3. During the first session, Demographic information is provided to help us understand the characteristics of our community today with projections of where they will probably be 5 and 10 years down the road. In addition to the population information will be a so called “Quad” report that identifies religious characteristics of our area. Note that a variety of detailed demographic reports are available to us free from a UCC Wisconsin Conference subscription made to serve churches like us. You may be familiar with some of these reports since they have been previously used by your church in an earlier planning program.
4. Sessions two and three are an assessment of our core values historically and today and determination of what they should be going forward. In other words, answering the question, ***who is God calling us to be in our church, community and world?*** Generate a list of the resources we have available today (skills, facilities, financial, etc.) Then develop a list of programs and projects to help us reach the goal(s).

The result is:

- A list of actionable items and a planned timeline to reach the envisioned goal(s).
- A profile of preferred settled pastor characteristics, experience and skills needed as input for consideration by the Search and Call Committee.

Again, I am thrilled that God has called me, and has moved you to call me, to serve UCC Neillsville. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you and getting to know our brothers and sisters in the Neillsville community. As we lean on the wisdom and guidance of God, let us move in partnership through what can be an exciting and joy-filled time of transition.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Gary

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

GENEROSITY

For where your treasure is;

Here your heart will also be.

MATTHEW 6: 21



One Great Hour of Sharing is “love is action”. In the name of Love OGHS feeds the hungry, digs wells for those who need water, builds shelters for those who need shelter, cares for the sick and responds to disasters. Love is in action around the world as well as right here at home.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of our “Five for Five” offerings. This ecumenical project has been putting love in action for over 70 years. Please donate to this special love in action project. Offering can be in

person, mailed, using bill pay through your bank or online through VANCO.

We are sharing the following video links as they pertain to OGHS.

<https://vimeo.com/685310408>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0qhAeZwVg4&ab_channel=WilliamBrandes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXk1EbiTWes&ab_channel=PhyllisRichards



We wish to thank Pastor James Mohr for substituting in March at our worship services and for being on call for pastoral care. We were fortunate to have him fill in.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER EASTER



LILIES

Place your orders for Easter Lilies no later than April 4th.

If you wish to dedicate your

lilies, please let Janice know how you would like it listed in the bulletin. The cost of the lilies this year is \$17.00, please make your check out to ***Falls Florist***. Please take your lily home with you following Easter worship service. Thank you for adding to the beauty of our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.



to the family of Thomas Woods who passed away March 21, 2022. He is the father of Clinton & Julie Woods who are members of our church. He was a long serving member of law enforcement and served the last 17 years of his career as Neillsville's Chief of Police.



Sunday School News

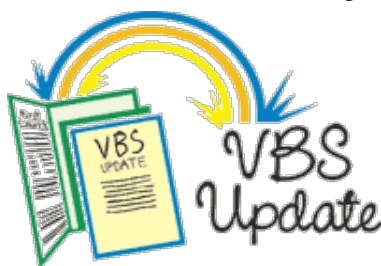
from Stephanie Heck

We will continue to meet on Sundays at 9:15 am for all kids ages 3K thru 6th

grade in person and via Zoom for both groups. Please let us know if joining on Zoom, so we make sure to watch and let you into the meeting.

NO Sunday School on EASTER Sunday, April 17th. Enjoy the day with your families!

Plans are being made for this Summer's Vacation Bible School. **It is currently scheduled for Saturday, June 4th.**



More information to come as it gets closer.

If interested in attending a church camp the website is www.UCCI.org . You

can apply for a scholarship (due by May 15th to the office)

to have the camp either fully or partially covered thru our church website (on the main page under church camp scholarships). Remember to not put any down-payment when registering for a church camp, but to put paying by check (the church will make a check out),



Facts and Figures of March 2022

Attendance for In-Person Worship

March 6	*online 17	Sunday	29
March 13	*online 10	Sunday	42
March 20	*online 7	Sunday	47
March 27	*online 9	Sunday	40

Offerings for March 2022

March 7, 2022

General Offering	\$3,650.02
Radio Fund	1,000.00
Lenten Offering	100.00
Memorial Fund	280.00

March 23, 2022

General Offering	\$3,096.05
Meal Give-Away	131.00
OGHS	490.00
Circle of Friends	28.50
Refugee Outreach	8.95

VANCO – General Offering – February

\$1,113.19



Sunday, March 6, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Ruth and Bob Schmidt in memory of brother, Marvin Mohr.

Sunday, March 13, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sue and Jim Popple in loving memory of Sue's parents, Norbert and Phyllis Embke.

Sunday, March 20, the radio broadcast was in honor of Gordon and Faith Vine sponsored by their children: Jane Nelson, Virginia Fennema, Paul Vine, Jeff Vine and Kris Kirschoffer.

Sunday, March 27, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a "faithful listener".



COFFEE HOUR **HOSTS WANTED**

We again want to offer an opportunity for Fellowship. We are serving doughnuts, coffee, and water. We are asking the hosts to stop at the IGA on their way to the worship service, pick up the already ordered doughnuts (cost covered by the church), make the coffee in the church lounge (clear directions are available to make coffee) and roll the cart out to the narthex near the end of worship.

We ask that the host straighten up the area, return the cart to the lounge and rinse out the coffee pot.



- 2- Jenna & Josh Ziegler
- 6- Neil & Corrine Armitage
- 14- Chad & Lacey Erickson
- 21- Nancy & Harold Boon
Keith & Tammy Loberg
- 26- Lynne & Thomas Abel
- 27- Russ & Susie Karl
- 28- Joel & Marla Raine

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



- 4- Carla Marty
- 5- Tye Kranz
- 6- Bonnie Weyer
- 9- Ray Weyer
- 10- Marlys Riedel
- 11- Kevin Erickson
- 13- Kathy Seelow

- 15- Janice Miller
Jacob Ratsch
- 17- Alexis Averill
Scott Vradenburg
- 21- Darlene Mueller
- 23- Stephanie Heck
- 24- Jennifer Romens Erickson
- 25- Bryce Erickson
Leslie Hemp Buchholz
- 27- Susie Karl
- 28- Ben Mathis
- 30- Scott Williams

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

MAY 1 -9



We are adding first days of May's birthdays and anniversaries so as not to miss any if the Newsletter is late.

May 1-9 Anniversaries

- 1- Roberta & Robert Gaier
- 4- Ruth & Robert Schmidt
- 9- Ben & Kelly Mathis

May 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Donald Quicker
- 3- Emily Voigt
Erin Voigt
- 5- Rachel Anderson
- 6- Sharon Buddenhagen
Ashley Vine
- 7- Joselyn Vine
- 9- Haylee Erickson



Special thanks to Bob Petkovsek for the work in attaching our mailbox to the bell tower post.

Also thanks to Carla Marty for decorating our flower boxes in blue and yellow in honor of the Ukraine.



Please let the church office know of any students (high school and/or college) that will be graduating this Spring. call Janice at 715-743-2147



Sunday, April 10th – Palm Sunday 10 am UCC

Thursday, April 14th –
Tenebrae Maundy Thursday
7 pm UCC here

Friday, April 15th – Good Friday Service
7 pm at Calvary Lutheran




Sunday, April 17th – Easter Service 10 am UCC



Please note that the **APRIL Meal Give-Away** will be on the fourth Sunday, April 24th due to Easter.



2022 United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Each Sunday 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio					1	2
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent Service with Communion Pastor Gary Wilner FIRST service here	4 9 am Card Making Group meeting	5 5 pm Deacons Mtg	6	7	8 8:30 am Constitution Mtg	9
10 Sixth Sunday in Lent PALM Sunday 	11	12	13	14 1:30 Circle of Friends Mtg 7 pm Maundy Thursday here	15 7 pm Good Friday Service at Calvary Luth.	16 Holy Saturday
17 EASTER  24 Second Sunday in Lent FREE MEAL GIVE AWAY	18 9 am Card Making Group meeting 25	19 5:30 Trustees Mtg 6:30 Leadership Council Mtg 26	20 27	21 28	22  Earth Day 29	23 30