



**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](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)

June, 2022

Greetings Friends and Members  
of the United Church of Christ Neillsville,

At long last, the sun has shown through the grey overcast and rainy skies. The temperatures have risen to a reasonable level and the fish are bite'n! The flowers are blooming just about everywhere you look. I was gifted flowers from a member's garden that decorated my office for several days. The "No Mow May" folks have beautiful blankets of yellow across their yards (to help sustain the important bee population.) Flowering trees and lilacs bushes are offering us their spring's finest display of color all over Neillsville. Post (or so we hope) pandemic babies are arriving in increased numbers, bringing incredible joy to so many families. The birds are back in large numbers blessing us with nature's wonderful music. ((And my Boston Celtics are in the NBA finals.))

There is so much beauty to be seen, heard and felt **IF** we are looking for it. It is important that we take time to appreciate all the good, or blessings, that we have all around us. You and I need to take time away from the burdens of tragic violence, political fighting and personal challenges that tend to consume us and weigh us down. I am not advocating turning a deaf ear to those needs. Just the opposite! But we need to be healthy and refreshed to address the issues of life.

What did Jesus do when things got too heavy for him? He went to the garden, alone where he took in the beauty of God's creation and prayed. If he were physically here today, I could envision him sitting by the Black River and listening to the water gurgling over the rocks and settling into pools. He would throw his blanket down in the middle of a grassy field and lay there face up to appreciate the clouds, the flying insects, listening to the buzzing of mosquitos (yes, they are part of God's creation too.) You see, He knew he had to take a break from the busyness and burdens of his life, to rest, to reflect and to pray.

Jesus gave us an example we would be wise to follow. So, sit by the river, throw your blanket down in the field....relax, meditate and pray.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gary

## Pastoral Search Committee Update - Paul Vine

In late April and early May the UCC Leadership Council began the process of gathering a committee of UCC members to be part of the Pastoral Search committee (PSC). Qualifications considered are that committee members should be active members, trusted and respected, and willing and able to make participation a priority. Committee members will have a passion for UCC, a positive attitude, a sense of integrity, a capacity to listen and be open, and keep confidence. In addition, the council hoped to have a cross section of members including “younger” members.

On May 17 the council, using the above criteria and qualities, reviewed the seventeen (17) nominated members. The Council selected those who they believe possess these qualities. Of these individuals four committed to serving on this committee. Thank you to Neil Armitage, Jenny Erickson, Mike Perkl and JoAnne Voss for agreeing to serve on this committee. A number of individuals, including several younger members, were asked to join and declined the invitation to serve.

To complete this committee, moderator Paul Vine, in consultation with Pastor Gary Wliner and Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougal, requested Barb Petkovesk join the committee. As current council members cannot be voting members of the PSC, Barb has agreed to take a leave of absence from her Vice Moderator position.

On Wednesday, June 15 the committee will meet with Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougal, for an orientation meeting. As the committee gets organized they will provide the congregation regular updates and status reports in the newsletter and bulletin. Thanks again to Neil Armitage, Jenny Erickson, Barb Petkovesk, Mike Perkl and JoAnne Voss for your dedication to UCC.

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

Luke 6:38 **“Give, and it shall be given to you.”**

By Dave Harnisch

The Stewardship Committee last met on May 4<sup>th</sup>. With the return of the snowbird committee members, it was great to have a face-to-face meeting after corresponding and progressing with projects via email throughout the winter.

At the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, members planned out the activities and member responsibilities for the Strengthen the Church (STC), Neighbors in Need (NIN), and Christmas Fund offerings, including “Mission Moment” readings for Sunday services, newsletter articles, and videos for each offering. A peak into the 2023 offering responsibilities was also touched upon.

In addition, members reviewed and approved monthly

bible scriptures related to “Generosity and Giving” that will be provided to the church newsletter starting in June and running through November.

The conference theme for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign is “From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving.” Members will continue to discuss the approval of a local theme. Planning may include bulletin inserts, Sunday service testimonials, and “Thank You” cards.

Current members are Marge Goetsch, Dave Harnisch, M.E. Sjolín, and Jo Ann Voss.

The next meeting of the Stewardship Committee is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Thank you from  
Pastor Jacoba!**

I want to thank you for the many cards, prayers and memorial

gifts you sent after my Mother's death. I really appreciated hearing from you. I lived near Mom for nine weeks when we saw each other two -three times a week. She came to my church on Easter Sunday assisted by my brother-in-law Dan. She then came over and made Dutch pancakes in my new kitchen. Her death came quickly and unexpected. She broke her hip on Monday, May 2; Mom was elated when she saw my brother, sister and me standing together around her bed; she died twenty-four hours later on May 5. Her funeral was on Saturday, May 7. She was 94 years old.

Her funeral service is pinned to the top of my Facebook page – and even though we are not friends, I think you should be able to see it if you want to.

One other piece of news is I became a great aunt on April 6. Joshua was born to my nephew, Todd and his wife, Ashley at 25 weeks gestation. Now at 33 weeks he is doing very well at nearly four pounds. He is very cute. Thank you also for your prayers for him and his parents.

We have been asked to let people know that Dolores Johnson has moved to Neillsville Retirement Community 1211 Lloyd Street, room M2. Neillsville, WI 54456 Her family shares that she would welcome visits.

"I would like to shout out a BIG Thank You to my church family and friends for the get-well cards and all the good wishes. With God's help may I once more be active in church activities".  
God's Blessings to All,

Betty Opelt



Thanks to the children for handing out roses to all of the ladies at church in honor of Mother's Day!

Thank you Stephanie Heck, Linda Stalsberg and Christian Ed Committee for their time, talent and dedication to our Sunday School Program and providing the roses and treats on Mother's Day.



**Sunday School News  
from Stephanie Heck**

We are looking for teachers for all age groups for Sunday and possibly Wednesday nights from September thru early May. If interested, please contact Stephanie Heck at 920-948-7783.



**Vacation Bible School is scheduled for this Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Call Stephanie Heck at 920-948-7783

## Offerings for May 2022

### May 3, 2022

General Offering	\$4,911.95
OGHS	100.00
Lenten Offering	50.00
Meal Give-Away	275.00
Radio sponsors	225.00
Strengthen the Church	110.00
Mission Outreach	50.00
	<u>\$5,721.95</u>

### May 16, 2022

General Offering	\$3,193.00
Lenten Offering	10.00
Strengthen the Church	65.00
Mission Outreach	100.00
Kitchen Fund	100.00
Circle of Friends	47.25
Memorial Fund	20.00
	<u>\$3,535.25</u>

### May 31, 2022

General Offering	\$3,623.00
Strengthen the Church	185.00
Meal Give Away	195.00
Memorial Fund	20.00
	<u>\$4,023.00</u>

(Online Automatic Giving)

**VANCO – General Offering – April**

**\$683.82**

## **Facts and Figures of May 2022**

### Attendance for In-Person Worship

May 1	*online 12	Sunday	47
May 8	*online 8	Sunday	78
May 15	*online 9	Sunday	41
May 22	*online 8	Sunday	35
May 29	*online 4	Sunday	35



Sunday, May 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in honor of all family members' May birthdays.

Sunday, May 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in honor of all mothers.

Sunday, May 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob & Ruth Schmidt in loving memory of sister, Eunice Artac.

Sunday, May 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Frances Short in loving memory of Kenneth Short and our parents.

Sunday May 29, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob & Ruth Schmidt in memory of daughter, Tammy Backaus and parents, Walter & Lucille Schmidt.



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

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



- 3- Jim & M.E. Sjolín
- 8- Tim & Cheryl Steinbach
- 11- Larry & Kathy Marshall
- 13- Joe & Michelle Kranz
- 15- Mike & Sherrie Holub
- 17- Wayne & JoAnn Voss
- 21- John & Sue Vornholt

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

## JULY 1 -9



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

July 1-9 Anniversaries  
None

July 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Ben Fields  
Tyler Williams  
Brennan Wilson
- 2- Pam Stitt
- 3- Arianna Rochester
- 9- Sophie Heck  
Sandy Schmidt  
JoAnn Voss



**RECOGNITION OF OUR 2022  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:**

**Karsen Czarnecki**

daughter of Neil Czarnecki & Kellie Murphy

**Mackenzie Keller**

daughter of Ellie Keller and Bob Keller

“Mackenzie will be attending UW Madison in the fall to pursue a degree in Psychology”

**Tye Kranz**

son of Joe & Michelle Kranz

**Dayne Loberg**

son of Keith & Tammy Loberg

“After graduation Dayne will continue to take care of two boys as he has done the past three summers. In the fall he will be attending UW River Falls to double major in actuary science and accounting. He will also continue with his music by joining the UW River Falls band”

**Santana Subke**

son of John & Michelle Subke

“Santana will be attending Milwaukee School of Engineering in the field of Biomedical Engineering”

**PRAYER FOR OUR GRADUATES**

Dear God, we thank you that you have indeed given our children great hope and a future. We pray for the days you have purposed for them to walk in, every single one, and ask you to fill them with your spirit and power as they live out their destiny. We ask that you inspire them to never be afraid to dream big, run strong, and soar high.

We pray that nothing be allowed to hold them back in this life. May they fulfill every calling you have on their lives. Would you strengthen them to live a life of so much love, passion, influence, hope, and determination that this world is changed for the better. May they always know that anything is possible for those who believe. May they have a deep desire to serve faithfully and a heart to work hard. Shine over them. Fill them with your spirit. Bless them with your favor and peace.

In Jesus' name, amen.



2022

# United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer schedule Church Service 9 am Radio broadcast 11 am			1	2	3	4
5 <u>Pentecost</u>	6 9:00 am Card Making	7	8	9 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	10	11 Memorial for Kathy Turner Visitation 9- 11 Service 11
12 <u>First Sunday after Pentecost</u>	13	14  <b>Flag Day</b>	15 2:00 Stewardship Meeting	16	17	18
19 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u>  <b>Father's Day</b>	20 9:00 am Card Making	21 6:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting	22	23	24	25
26 <u>Third Sunday After Pentecost</u>	27	28	29	30		





Third Sunday  
of the



Month Dairy Give-Away  
June 19th, 10:00-10:15 a.m.

Neillsville United Church of Christ

**All Are Welcome**

