



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

August, 2022

Dear members and friends of United Church of Christ Neillsville,

My wife, Dorry, was a long-time Master Gardener in Wisconsin and in just the past week deemed a Master Gardener in Colorado. Plants, growing environments and techniques are so very different between the two areas. She has not returned to Wisconsin for over 3 years until this past week. In her short stay we went to the Neillsville Farmer's Market, toured the area running into one of her friends from Oshkosh at "Schmitty's On Main St." who moved here about 20 years ago, attended church (of course) where she met a warm, welcoming congregation. We then visited friends and relatives in the Fox Cities, Green Bay, and Door County.

Here are just a few comments she made to me about the area during her visit and as she was leaving:

- How wonderful it was to see the lush green growth all around us. The earth is just so rich and vegetation so healthy and green.
- Look, Gary, at how large your(potted) tomato plants are and all the tomatoes you already have. Mine (in CO) are a quarter of the size, look anemic and have no tomatoes yet.
- I had forgotten how majestic the trees look here. They are so very tall by comparison to Colorado and they have leaves rather than almost all with needles.
- It is so different to see all this water. I really enjoyed sitting by the Black River and taking pictures of grasses, flowers, butterflies, dragonflies, the river and the fish you caught.

Now those are just a few of the many very positive comments she made about her visit. To help put this in perspective let me share that she, being a very busy person in our home community, infrequently visited churches I served as interim. I would be the one to periodically visit at our home base. Upon departure from this visit, she told me she was already excited about her return to Neillsville. That said a great deal to me about this area you call home and the people you call neighbor. I don't mean to imply that there isn't much to be thankful for in Colorado. There is. I tend to take note of God's blessings anywhere I find myself, but it was so wonderful to see, once again, that appreciation of God's creation so clearly experienced and expressed by someone else. That someone else, now coming from what is claimed by many as one of most picturesque places on earth, cannot wait to return.

How easy it is for me, and I suspect some of you, to take the beauty of this particular tiny spot on the globe and those who share it with us, for granted. I need to continue to be aware of and to be thankful for the blessings all around me. Thanks, Dorry, for the visit and for a clearer, deeper appreciation for the many blessings we have right here.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

**THE LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE
AND VISIONING WORKSHOPS
from Barb Petkovsek**

The Search Committee is in the process of completing the Local Church Profile which is a document that, when completed, is the foundation of the Search Committee's work. The basic question that the Local Church Profile is defined to answer is *"How do we understand ourselves as a church?"*. The information gathered when developing the Church Profile helps determine the congregation's "personality" and style of carrying out God's mission.

In an effort to be intentional about *"who we are as a congregation"* individual committee members are going to meet with Christian Education, Circle of Friends, Trustees, Deacons and Music Committee. If you are not connected to one of these groups and would like to be included in a conversation regarding the Profile please contact Barb Petkovsek at 715 429-0486 and you will have opportunity to join in one of the groups.

The Congregation will have opportunity to review the Profile when the Committee has their draft completed. After the congregation comments on the Profile the Committee will have the final Local Church Profile completed and can then begin the call process.

At the same time that the Search Committee is gathering information and completing the Local Church Profile, Pastor Gary is holding Visioning Workshops. Some of the information that Pastor has gathered for and during the visioning sessions will be beneficial in completing the Church Profile. The visioning process will help the church to think through and determine who God is calling us to be. Then assist the church to pull together goals and a timeline to reach that point in our ministry. The visioning meetings can also assist in providing

a clearer picture of characteristics and skills that we may want the new settled pastor to possess to assist us in moving toward our vision.

When this work is done, our congregation as a whole, and with the Search Committee, will have a better sense of how we understand our gifts, vocation and identify as God's people. This will give us a clearer vision of the kind of pastoral leader we are seeking as we search for a settled Pastor.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

Proverbs 12:25

***"Anxiety weights down the heart,
but a kind word sheers it up."***



† Condolences go out to Sandy and Paul Schmidt on the death of Sandy's mom, Lillie Sischo.

**A special Thank You to
Barb Shoemaker**

for leading us in worship while Pastor Gary was away in early June. Her message of "Answering God's Call" along with her pictures of her Mission Trip to Uganda were thought provoking. We appreciate her sharing this with us.





Since we no longer have ushers and want to maintain reasonable security procedures we are looking to develop a list of people who would act as a monitor for Sunday worship. This monitor position would assist in locking doors prior to worship, sitting in the narthex to watch for late entries, keep a watchful eye on what is happening in the church and to call for assistance if needed. Please let Janice in the office if you are willing to assist in this job.

Church School News from

Stephanie Heck



We are still looking for teacher volunteers for our fall thru spring sessions on either Sunday morning or Wednesday nights.

Please let me know if interested. Call Stephanie Heck at 920-948-7783

Offerings for July 2022

General Offering	\$6,140.00
Meal Give-Away	1,031.00
Memorial Fund	40.00
Circle of Friends	<u>38.50</u>
	\$7,249.50

(Online Automatic Giving)
VANCO – General Offering – June
 \$684.82



Fair Service – August 14th at 9 a.m.

We will again worship under the WCCN tent with Calvary Lutheran Church, Pastor Chad & UCC, Pastor Gary sharing in leading the worship. Entry is free if you tell those at the gate you are coming for church service.

Facts and Figures of July 2022

Attendance for In-Person Worship

July 3	*online	8	Sunday	39
July 10	*online	3	Sunday	36
July 17	*online	5	Sunday	44
July 24	*online	8	Sunday	32
July 31		not available		



Sunday, July 3, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously.

Sunday, July 10, the radio broadcast was sponsored by “a faithful listener”.

Sunday, July 17, the radio broadcast was sponsored by “a faithful listener”.

Sunday, July 24, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades in honor of her three daughters and their families.

Sunday, July 31, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously “In Praise of God”



- 1- Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
- 2- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke
- 12- Alexis Bergemann
- 17- William Sisson
- 19- Nicole Keller
Benjamin Mathis
- 21- Karen Mohr
Patricia Wall

- 23- Craig Heck
Cole Hediger
- 27- Kathy Marshall
- 28- Sandy Bieneck
- 29- Nancy Boon
Casidhe Erickson
James Repinski

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



- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn
- 11- Howard & Kathy Mathis
- 13- Marilyn & Bob Marty

- 14- Mike & Debbie Perkl
- 15- Paul & Sandy Schmidt
- 18- Butch & Kathy Carl
- 19- James & Karen Mohr
- 20- Barb & Steve Miller
- 22- Neil Czarnecki & Kellie Murphy
Craig & Stephanie Heck
- 28- Sandy & Roy Bieneck
Jerry & Judy Quicker
Linda & John Stalsberg
- 30- Wallace & Patricia Garbisch

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

SEPTEMBER 1 -9



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

September 1-9 Anniversaries

- 6- Bruce & Margie Rakestraw
- 8- Carla & Mickey Marty

September 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Logan Erickson
Rosemary Opelt
Jerry Quicker
- 2- Fritz Hediger
- 3- Mary Ellen Sjolín
- 5- Hannah Erickson
Donita Follen
Joel Raine
Cheryl Steinbach
- 6- Crispin Hediger
Audrey Vradenburg



Family Camp

Dear Chuch Family,

We recently attended Family Camp at Moon Beach. We absolutely had the best time. We want to thank the Marion and Sam Ray Scholarship Fund for their generous donation in assisting with the cost. Camp songs, arts & crafts, kayaking, swimming were just a few of our favorite activities.

The balanced daily schedule allowed for plenty of time of personal faith development and meaningful time spent with family and friends. We strongly encourage families to take advantage of this AWESOME opportunity.

Blessings,

Deb Perkl, Max, Brooklynn and Jordan
Bonnie Weyer, Jack and Josie
Jenna, Reese, William and Claire Ziegler
Gloria Hamm & Kinsley



August 21, 2022



Third Sunday Lunch Give-Away

Curb Side Pick-up
515 West 2nd Street
10:00-10:15 a.m.

August Newsletter

Food for Thought

Our 3rd Sunday of the month meal give-away is entering its 19th month. We have been blessed with many from the community who help prepare the meal. We have had Living Hope, Calvary Lutheran, friends from Greenwood, St. Mary's Catholic Church-Neillsville, Pine Valley Lutheran, and Holy Family Parish-Willard help us prepare the meals so far this year. The Optimist Club is making plans to help us soon. We also have many members of the UCC join us monthly or when called to help.

We have also been fortunate to have received grants to help fund this mission.

- Clark County Community Foundation, INC - \$1300
- Catalyst Grants-Funded by Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ-\$1500
- Marshfield Clinic Health System-Community Engagement - \$900

Many people also give donations when picking up the meals. Our June Dairy Give-Away saw donations from Nasonville Dairy, Lynn Dairy and Grassland Dairy Products. We are very thankful for all this generosity to promote our mission.

August 21st will be our 19th meal give-away. This equates to 1445 quarts of food, 1615 pounds of cheese, 1,530 loaves of bread. Our mission is to bring our community together through the giving of food.

The following pictures are of Living Hope making July's meal.





United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer schedule Church Service 9 am Radio broadcast 11 am	1 9:00 am Card Making	2 5:00 pm Deacons Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 <u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u> Communion served After Worship- 2 nd Visioning Workshop	8	9	10	11 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting & Summer Picnic	12	13
14 <u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u>	15 9:00 am Card Making	16 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting	17 2:00 pm Stewardship Meeting	18	19	20
21 <u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> After Worship- 3 rd Visioning Workshop	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <u>Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost</u>	29	30	31			