



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)

July, 2022



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

As we move into a time of Visioning, I want to share with you a true story about change. While living in Oshkosh, I asked why there were two very large Lutheran Churches on opposite corners of the same intersection. The response was that at one time there was only one church. In that church all the worship services, and much of the interaction between congregants, was in their native German Language. Eventually the church took a vote to transition to English. Well, the traditionalists just could not adapt, could not accept change from what they felt comfortable with (their traditions) even though times were changing and the "old language" was not relevant to many any longer.

So, the folks who wanted to worship in German built a new church on the opposite corner. Over time, the German speaking church dwindled to only needing a part time minister, then shared a minister with the English-speaking church and later the German Speaking Church dissolved and the remaining congregants were warmly welcomed into membership with their neighbors across the street. This was an obvious outcome. The German speaking church was just **no longer relevant**.

I would like to make a second observation that is occurring as we speak. I sit in amazement as we, along with individuals and churches all over the country are offended to the core about what Russia is doing to the Ukraine. We are praying endlessly for peace. Understanding the implications of a Russian victory, we shout from the rooftops, that more support is needed to help the Ukrainians survive. And our country responds...not a political issue...Republicans, Democrats, Independents and others almost all agree as a unified group. BUT when the impact of our support requires that we **change**, that WE **adapt**, then that is a different story. If making those good things happen means we must have to **personally sacrifice**, we often run around like Chicken Little hollering that the sky is falling. Point is, that change is tough to accept even when we know it is the right thing to do.

To stay relevant, we as a church and each of us individually must be willing to change, to adapt and yes, even to sacrifice. Jesus said "Behold, I make all things new". We need to listen for what the still speaking God is calling us to do, then respond to that call even if requires personal sacrifice.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

## Visioning Workshop Session 1.

As we all know by now, our first Visioning Workshop will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service and we are targeting a mid-day completion. Your attendance is important to shaping the future of the church, so special arrangements are being made to make it easy for most everyone to attend:

1. **Childcare will be provided.** If you need childcare, please notify the church office by Wednesday July 13 to register your child/children.
2. **Transportation**, to and from church, **will be available** for those needing it. Again, please contact the church office 715-743-2147 by Wednesday, July 13 so arrangements can be made.

We all look forward to gathering for this important step in the life of our church. See you there!!

### Pastoral Search Committee Update – Barb Petkovsek

The Search Committee has met with Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougall from the UCC Association to understand the call process. The Committee met again this week and will meet regularly until the church profile is complete and we can start the process to seek a settled pastor. The congregation will have opportunity to have input on the church profile. We will let you know of further updates as they occur.

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

Stewardship Scripture Quotes  
Proverbs 19:17

**“Whoever is generous to the poor  
lends to the Lord,  
and he will repay him for his deed.”**



- † Tom Kren of Neillsville was killed in an accident in early June. Members of our church include his mother, Lois Kren who resides at Riverside Assisted Living and son, Ben & Leah Wilson. He is also survived by his wife, Diane and ex-wife Sherry Hickey, four sons, Michael, Adam, Matt, and Alex.
- † Condolences go out to Steve and Bekke Barrette on the death of Steve's mom, Alice Barrette.
- † A Memorial Service was held here on May 14<sup>th</sup> for Lorraine Shaw, a neighbor and longtime member of our church. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her children, Lori Shaw Kvasnicka and John Shaw.
- † A Memorial Service was held here on June 11<sup>th</sup> for Kathleen Turner, a longtime member of our church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barb & Steve Miller on the loss of Barb's mother, Kathy.
- † A private Memorial Service will be held at Gesche's Funeral Home on July 2<sup>nd</sup> for Annette Felser. She was a member of UCC for many years and had recently moved to Eau Claire. She is survived by her children, Joe Felser, Kathleen Sherman and Linda Burns.





## THANKS

to Carla Marty and Emile Miller for choosing the plants and containers that are now located underneath the bell tower. The planters are filled with red geraniums, dark red & purple petunias

along with ferns and ivy. They are a beautiful addition to our outside decor and can be changed out seasonally.

### WANT AD

UCC, Neillsville is looking for volunteers to scrape and paint the red portion of the south side of church (some touch up painting on north side also). Contact Hap Eddy by calling 715-743-4574



ALSO, the UCC church has a number of metal folding chairs to give away, as many or as few as you may want.

Contact soon either

Bob Petkovsek home# 715-743-3581

cell# 715-937-0768

Hap Eddy home# 715-743-4574



## Vacation Bible School News

from Stephanie Heck

Thank you, parents and kids who helped make our "Growing with God" VBS a success on June 4th. We had 17 kids for the day. We learned about 5 of the fruit of the spirits, love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. The kids did crafts/activities/games on each of these and then planted some sunflower seeds to take home. Thank you to Lacey Erickson, Linda Stalsberg, Lisa Schermitzler, Julie Woods, and Janice Miller for your help. Check out the closed Facebook group for more pictures.

We are still looking for teacher volunteers for our fall/spring sessions on either Sunday morning or Wednesday nights. Please let me know if interested. Call Stephanie Heck at 920-948-7783



### Offerings for June 2022

General Offering	\$3,215.00
Meal Give-Away (\$1500 grant money)	1,617.00
Memorial Fund	310.00
Strengthen the Church	130.00
Circle of Friends	<u>104.00</u>
	\$5,376.00



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

### **Facts and Figures of June 2022**

#### Attendance for In-Person Worship

June 5	*online	9	Sunday	34
June 12	*online	6	Sunday	25
June 19	*online	5	Sunday	35
June 26	*online	8	Sunday	38



Sunday, June 5, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in honor of all family members' June birthdays.

Sunday, June 12, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Glenna Rhoades in loving memory of husband, Herb Rhoades.

Sunday, June 19, the radio broadcast was in loving memory of parents, Clarence and Anita Miller sponsored by their children, Linette Kuhn, Gary, Glen, Wendell, Steve, Janice, Dan and Jeff Miller.

Sunday, June 26, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sue and Jim Popple in loving memory of parents, Norm and Phyllis Embke.



- 1- Ben Fields  
Tyler Williams  
Brennan Wilson
- 2- Pam Stitt
- 3- Arianna Rochester
- 9- Sophie Heck  
Sandy Schmidt  
JoAnn Voss
- 11- Berdella Carl  
Emile Miller
- 13- James Mohr
- 16- Neil Czarnecki
- 17- Guy Jodarski
- 18- Patricia Garbisch
- 19- Roger Carl  
Gayle Schermitzler
- 21- Haakon Sigurdson
- 24- Karsen Czarnecki
- 25- Kathy Carl  
Bonnie Shaw
- 26- Mitchell Erickson  
Reese Ziegler
- 28- Dan Patey
- 29- Kelley Burch  
Barb Shoemaker  
Eileen Zank
- 30- Eril Sigurdson
- 31- Kole Miller

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



- 13- Dick & Carolyn Lewis
- 14- Joe & Kristine Anderson
- 17- Ray & Bonnie Weyer

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

## JULY 1 -9



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

## August 1-9 Anniversaries

- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn

## August 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Ruth Schmidt  
Sue Voigt
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson  
Sydney Subke








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.



**Third Sunday of the  
Month  
Lunch Give-Away**

**Neillsville United Church of Christ**  
**515 West 2nd Street**

**July 17, 2022**  
**Curbside Pick-up**  
**10:00-10:15 a.m.**  
**Summoned  
to  
Serve**

<div>   </div> <div> <b>2022</b> <b>United Church Of Christ</b> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer schedule Church Service 9 am Radio broadcast 11 am					1	2
3 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Communion served	4 	5 9:00 am Card Making	6	7	8	9
10 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	11	12	13	14 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	15	16
17 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	18 9:00 am Card Making	19	20	21	22	23
24 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost						