



**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)  
**October, 2022**

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

Well, the pre-election videos and other media hype is picking up to a feverish pace. I saw over 5 ads in about two hours and the frequency seems to be on the increase. What bothers me about them is that very few are about policy issues and laws "like the good old days" but about character assassination much of which exaggerates, distorts and takes the truth out of context and in some cases offers up flat out lies. I wish I could say it is a characteristic of only one party but it is not.

Several things concern me about this. The first is that many folks blindly follow those ads based on loyalty to a party rather than rational assessment and consideration of the source of the information. It is really easy to believe the worst of someone you consider to be the opponent. Second, is the unfortunate negative impact these ads have on the persons attacked, their families and friends. It seems that the political arena has subscribed to working toward "party success" without consideration of morals taught not only by Jesus but most every other religion in the world.

At least two things are important as we enter the stormy season between now and the elections. Use your head. Understand the real substantive issues and pay little attention to unsubstantiated or exaggerated attack ads by sponsorship groups.

Jesus became upset at the money changers, chasing them out of the temple and turning over tables. How do you think Jesus would react today to what we are witnessing in our politics? I envision him reacting much the same but in the end, I believe he would be encouraging folks in and out of government to express their own and their constituent's beliefs and desires, to listen to and understand other's positions without attacking them, and to focus on bringing peace, prosperity and fullness of life to peoples in our country and everywhere.

You and I are not in Washington making decisions on how we reinject civility and compassion back into our politics but we all have a vote. Please consider when you go to the polls who best represents your values and morals. (And please do go to the polls.)

Grace and peace,

Pastor Gary

## SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

### WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Ministry goals that we envision our next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve:

- How do we bring members back to church that drifted during COVID and reach out to potential new members
- Assist with “looking for different ways in different times”
- Ensure dynamic and engaging sermons and passionate music
- Plan to track the progress of ministry, projects and programs identified during the visioning process.

The above paragraph is a small piece of the Local Church Profile – Neillsville for our Search and Call process.

There will be an update for the congregation immediately following worship on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Committee is looking at having the Profile document ready for the conference to put out to the National Listing by end of October.

Search and Call Committee

### Stewardship Scripture Quotes

Proverbs 11:25

**“A generous person will prosper; Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”**



**Hanna Opelt**, a long-time member of our church passed away on September 12, 2022 in DePere, WI. Her funeral service took place here at our church on

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her daughter, Lori & Ken Wirtz and family.

- † Our condolences to **Fritz & Dixie Hediger** on the loss of his sister, **Hanna Opelt**. They have also most recently lost a niece, Linda Gault.
- † Our deepest sympathy to **Pastor James & Karen Mohr** on the loss of Jim's mother, Dorothy Mohr who died at the age of 102.

Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember those you have lost.



**Darlene Celar- Mueller** is currently an inpatient at Marshfield Medical Center undergoing rehab after a recent stroke. Her husband, Herman is now living at Clark County Rehabilitation & Living Center in Owen. They are looking to rehome their two cats, if interested please let Ruth Zwieg know.

To send cards Darlene's address is: Marshfield Medical Center, 1000 N Oak Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449



## **Church School News**

from Stephanie Heck

Welcome back families! We have a great group this year and are always welcoming more kids, for anyone looking at joining a church or just bringing your kids to learn the Bible stories. We will meet each Sunday at 9 AM. Please reach out to Stephanie at 920-948-7783 with any questions.

### **OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

#### **September 12, 2022**

General Offering	\$2,760.00
Circle of Friends	46.00
Neighbors in Need	50.00
Meal Give-Away	<u>80.00</u>
	\$2,936.00

#### **September 27, 2022**

General Offering	\$3,645.00
Memorial Fund	240.00
Neighbors in Need	126.00
House of Mercy	<u>50.00</u>
	\$4,061.00

### **Facts and Figures of September 2022**

#### **Attendance for In-Person Worship**

September 4	*online 3	Sunday	40
September 11	*online 5	Sunday	41
September 18	*online 5	Sunday	83
September 25	*online 10	Sunday	37



Sunday, September 4, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Karen Northup in loving memory of her parent's Harry & Ruby Ambelang's 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Sunday, September 11, the radio broadcast was sponsored by "a faithful radio listener".

Sunday, September 18, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Kirk & Nancy Rodman in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Sunday, September 25, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Bob & Ruth Schmidt in memory of Pat Mohr, sister-in-law and Albert Mohr, dad.

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



Thanks from Lois Kren for the bouquet of flowers given by the Silent Angels.



**Marge Goetsch will be hosting  
a Bible Study Class at her home, every  
Tuesday at 1 PM  
510 W Fourteenth Street, Neillsville**



- 1- Kayla Ratsch
- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Mickey Marty  
Alex Northup  
Jacob Keller
- 7- Joseph Felser  
Corliss Fields
- 10- Luke Erickson
- 11- Tim Voigt
- 17- Dante Erickson
- 21- Marian Vornholt  
Dolores Johnson
- 25- David Harnisch
- 30- Derek Zschernitz

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



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

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

## **NOVEMBER 1 -9**



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

### **November 1-9 Birthdays**

- 2- Debra Holman
- 4- Alexander Vine
- 9- Betty Opelt

### **November 1-9 Anniversaries**

- 5- Phil & Donita Follen
- 6- Ben & Leah Wilson



Neighbors in Need is one of the “five for five” missions of the UCC church. Neighbors in Need the “unfailing love” offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities.

One third of the NIN funds support the council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds of this offering is used by UCC’s Justice and Witness ministries to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct projects to their communities. Recently such a relief program was set up for the covid pandemic.

This offering is typically taken along with World Wide Communion Sunday, October 2MD. However, you may donate at any time by dropping your donation at the church, through our website or VANCO on line.

Jesus said: “ You shall love your Neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:39



NEWS FROM MISSION & OUTREACH

From Carole Romens

On August 24<sup>th</sup> a trip to Guest House in Milwaukee was made to deliver several large storage bags of good quality men’s clothes, shoes, jackets. We have a connection with a church in Thorp that gives us a chance to share with the men’s shelter.

Guest House not only gives the men a place to sleep but also educates and trains them to develop skills to interview for jobs and eventually find a place to live. We have worked with Guest House and made these deliveries, toured, and volunteered there many times. Our confirmands have had the opportunity to help there also. The reception when they see the donations is heart-warming. Anyone having quality donations can check with us as we plan to go again. More info on Guest House will be posted on the church bulletin board.



### **Job Description**

Meet twice a month, Wednesdays after school 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Plan faith based activities for youth  
Contact the Janice - (715) 743-2147

## Youth Group Leader Proposal

Our church was blessed with a gift from the Marian and Sam Ray Estate with a designation for youth activities. Some of the monies have been used for camp scholarships. The Leadership Council, based on the visioning sessions and small group conversations regarding youth programming has allocated \$5000 from the Ray fund to hire a leader for a Wednesday after school program. The trial program will run two Wednesdays per month, from December 2022 through March 2023

The program will be designed for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. The leader, along with a small church team, will plan and execute the afterschool program. We are looking first for a leader from our church, and will look to the community if there is not internal interest.

This program of doing “different things in different times” will be designed in an effort to bring positive change to the youth identified. Once the program design is developed, we will need volunteers that could prepare meals, help facilitate the meetings and plan for other activities that the group may do on weekends throughout the year.

Anyone interested in the leader position can either contact Janice at the church office at 715 743-2147 or Bonnie Weyer at 715-965-9623. If you are not interested but know someone that may be looking for this opportunity, please encourage them to give a call.



**Lunch Give-Away**  
**October 16, 2022**  
Curbside Pick-up  
11:00-11:15 a.m.

United Church of Christ-Neillsville  
515 West 2nd Street



**THANK YOU &  
POLKA SUNDAY**

**October 23, 2022**  
**Service at 10:00 A.M.**

Be sure to join the rest of the church and community for a fun Polka worship service combined with honoring church volunteers.

The service will be followed by a time of food and fellowship.  
**Don't miss this special event! Mark your calendars now.**

# Holiday Fair News

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 12, 2022** for our 58<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Fair!

Remember this church event while you are cleaning out your home for the fall.  
We are looking for the following items to create new craft items for sale:



- Old pails
- Pallets
- Old and/or new pine or barn boards
- Shutters
- Old wooden framed screen doors
- Old wooden kitchen chairs
- Old milk cans
- Old wooden sleds
- Old license plates
- Any metal containers

If you have or know where we can obtain any of the above items to be donated, please contact Carla Marty at 715-937-0077 or Emile Miller at 715-937-4626.

We will begin our work nights at the church again starting on **Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 PM**; come for an hour or two, whatever works for you! If you are interested in a night out and helping the church, please contact Carla, she can find a job for you to do no matter what your talent is! This year we will also be working every Tuesday night starting **Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm**, so if Wednesdays do not work for you, come on Tuesday (or both, we will put you to work!)

If you have ideas that you would like us to try to incorporate with the Holiday Fair, please let us know.

Thank you for your support, both in the past and for the future of our church.

Em and Carla

**ALSO,**

If you are interested in donating food items for the Holiday Fair Luncheon please check the church's back bulletin board for a signup sheet.





# 2022

# United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Each Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Church Service 11:00 Radio						1
<b>2 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Communion served	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Card Making 12 Noon Interfaith Caregivers Mtg	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Card Making 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00 Hospital Auxiliary Meeting	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible 5:00 pm Deacons Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Card Making	<b>18 Meetings</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible 5:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Leadership	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost</b> 30 Polka Sunday Recognition <b>Twenty</b> First Sunday After Pentecost	<b>24</b>          <b>31</b> <b>HALLOWEEN</b>	<b>25</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>