



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
September, 2022

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

The following is part of a message sent out recently by Rev. Franz Rigert, our UCC WI Conference Minister. I found his message to be meaningful and thought I should share it with you. I hope you gain a sense of peace from wise words.

From Rev. Franz Rigert In his "Spiritual Reflection and Conference Up-Date" 8/30/22:

"Nearly 50 years ago, my childhood buddy Frazier and I spent hot August days catching crayfish in the creek that runs through Delavan. Our favorite spot was under the Washington Avenue bridge, where the little crawdaddies would hide from the bright sunlight. I vividly remember how dark it got as we ventured under the bridge. In the middle we could barely see each other, but as we pushed ahead to the other side it gradually became light until the sun's rays fell on us once again.

Throughout the pandemic, I have often returned to this image of passing from light into darkness. It's a wonderful metaphor for the "liminal space" through which we continue to journey daily.

Limin is the Latin word for threshold, or passageway, such as an "under the bridge" journey between an experience we have known and loved and a new reality not yet fully clear to us. Abraham and Sarah set out on such a journey from the familiar surroundings of their homeland. So did Ruth the Moabite in accompanying Naomi to Judea. The Hebrew people meandered uncertainly after the exodus from Egypt and again after the Babylonian captivity. All who followed Jesus experienced liminal unknowns.

COVID's full effect on the Church remains unclear. We are no longer in deep darkness, but we certainly have not emerged yet from under the bridge. We hold in tension notions of returning *and* adapting, preserving what once was *and* imagining what will be. Living in a liminal space can be exhausting yet energizing. To be sure, the uncertainty produces anxiety. Fortunately, some of the changes in life and work, forced by the pandemic, have resulted in new efficiencies and better self-care.

My spiritual mantra lately is three simple words: *patience, prayer, possibilities*. Patience because we trust God is doing a new thing that will unfold in due time. Prayer because this centers us in God's love and grace rather than in endless worries and weariness. Possibilities because in Christ all things work together for good when we discern through the Spirit and stay rooted in the Word."

I think his message is most appropriate as we emerge from difficult times. We may not be out from under the bridge but this church, in my opinion, is moving rapidly into the sunlight. Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gary

WHAT'S UP WITH THE SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE from Barb Petkovsek

The Search Committee met on August 31 to start the first review of the draft "Local Church Profile". Rob MacDougal from the Northwest Association met with us to give us some guidance and suggestions as begin developing the Local Church Profile that will be submitted to the conference to assist in getting interest of possible candidates for the Settled Pastor position. The process is moving along and our goal is to have the Local Church Profile to the conference by the end of October. This will then allow the conference to post our open pastoral position and will hopefully put us in position to garner some candidate interest.

There are three sections to the Local Church Profile – WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME.

The Committee will meet on again on September 8th and continue working on the Local Church Profile. At that meeting we will assess if we are ready to take the draft document to the committees to review.

At this time we are planning to present to the congregation an overview of WHO ARE WE NOW, WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR, and, WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME on October 2nd.

Thank you for your patience as the Committee works through this Search and Call Process.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

Mathew 10:8

"Freely you have received, freely give."



† Our deepest sympathy goes out to Fritz and Dixie Hediger on the death of their son, Rick Hediger. Prayers and fond memories are what we have to remember our dearly departed. May the love of family and friends comfort you during these difficult days, our most heartfelt condolences.



Church School News

from Stephanie Heck
Hello,

Hope all the kids had
a great summer and

have a great school year! We will be starting
Sunday School again on Sunday, September 18th
at 9 AM. Please watch the Facebook group and
Messenger for registration and important
information.

We are still looking for a teacher/helper for the 7th
grade kids. We have had a few interested, but
could always use more help with our busy
schedules. Please reach out to Stephanie
at 920-948-7783 if interested.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQGfudsMp-uipIXaDK9M0nImnVekV6HY5ZojYvFPXXMb-I9Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

OFFERINGS FOR AUGUST 2022

Aug 1, 2022

General Offering	\$3,017.00
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Aug 15, 2022

General Offering	\$2,202.00
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Radio	75.00
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Meal Give-Away	20.00
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	<u>\$2,297.00</u>
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Aug 29, 2022

General Offering	\$3,650.00
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Radio	150.00
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Meal Give-Away	25.00
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House of Mercy	50.00
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	<u>\$3,875.00</u>
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(Online Automatic Giving)
VANCO – General Offering – July
\$684.82

Facts and Figures of July 31 - August 2022

Attendance for In-Person Worship

July 31	*online	6	Sunday	39
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August 7	*online	7	Sunday	36
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August 14	Fair Service			
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August 21	*online	3	Sunday	35
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August 28	*online	4	Sunday	36
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Sunday, August 7, the radio broadcast was
sponsored by Howie & Kathy Mathis in honor
of their 43 years of marriage.

Sunday, August 14, the radio broadcast for our
joint fair service was sponsored by “a faithful
listener” of Calvary Lutheran Church.

Sunday, August 21, the radio broadcast was
sponsored in celebration of husband, Jim
Repinski’s 85th birthday.

Sunday, August 28, the radio broadcast was
sponsored by Wallace & Pat Garbisch in honor
of their 64th wedding anniversary.



- 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
- 10- Karlene Wallace
- 11- Mike Perkl
- 12- John Vornholt
- 14- JoAnn Wren
- 16- Iris Vine
- 17- Mary Finney
- 19- Wendy Sigurdson
- 22- Linette Kuhn
Leah Wilson
- 23- Carole Romens
William Ziegler
- 24- Michelle Kranz
- 26- MacKenzie Hediger
- 28- Ruth Zwieg

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



- 6- Bruce & Margie Rakestraw
- 8- Carla & Mickey Marty
- 12- Travis & Ashley Vine
- 13- Guy & Susan Jodarski
- 16- Craig & Wendy Sigurdson
Barb & Ken Shoemaker
- 20- Scott & Jill Williams
- 22- Dale & Betty Opelt
- 23- Crispin & Lisa Hediger
Mitchell & Casidhe Erickson

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

OCTOBER 1 -9



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

October 1-9 Anniversaries

- 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

October 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Kayla Ratsch
- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Mickey Marty
Alex Northup
Jacob Keller
- 7- Joseph Felser
Corliss Fields



A GREAT BIG THANKS” to the folks who took on the big job of scraping and painting the front of the church. Soooo, please express thanks to:

Bob Petkovsek Hap Eddy
Dave Harnisch Byrl Buddenhagen
Bonnie Weyer

They worked through heat and four wasp stings to maintain and beautify the front of the church. Thank you again!



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 in October. 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

Our Church's Wider Mission

By: The Stewardship Committee



Since the Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) may be the least understood of the missions that our church is involved with, it is the intent of this article to assist the members of the congregation in better understanding where the OCWM fits into our church's mission work, as well as where our contributions to this mission are being used.

To best remind the reader where the Our Church's Wider Mission fits into our church's mission work, the OCWM is one of the missions included in the often used phrase, "Five for Five."

The Five for Five includes the:

- **Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**
- One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)
- Strengthen the Church (STC)
- Neighbors in Need (NIN)
- Christmas Fund

Although all of the above offerings are part of the Five for Five, or UCC's Wider Mission, we single out the OCWM as a "broader mission," being a budgeted amount that is provided to the UCC for basic and wider church support. While in contrast, the remaining four are considered "special missions," in that contributions by individual members of the congregation to these distinct missions go for more specific needs and causes.

OCWM Basic Operating Support

According to Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, (Past General Minister and President of UCC), the OCWM "Serves an array of ministries across the life of the denomination."

It has already been emphasized here that the OCWM contributes to the wider, basic support of the UCC's mission. .

Our local church sends its budgeted OCWM gift to the Conference each year. In turn our Conference decides what percentage of our gift goes to conference work and what percentage is sent to the national setting of the UCC.

That national setting includes UCC's commitments to the United Church Camps, Inc., the Wisconsin Council of Health and Human Services agencies, our educational ministries connected to the UCC, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. It goes to support students who answer the call to the ministry, ministries around the globe, and for social justice.

The Rev. Dr. James Moos best describes the use of this basic support in a short YouTube video found on the UCC website. He has stated that "When the rest of the world has forgotten, the wider ministry remembers" YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3H86ybfq9JU>

Church members interested in seeking more information on the Church's Wider Mission are encouraged to click on the link below:

<https://www.wcucc.org/conference-giving/generosity-resources/our-churches-wider-mission-ocwm/>

Free Community



Lunch

September 18, 2022

11:15 am-12:30 pm

United Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall

**Takeouts
will be available**



*Marge Goetsch will be hosting
a Bible Study Class at her home,
510 W Fourteenth Street, Neillsville
on Tuesday, September 6th at 1:00 pm.
Bring your bible.*

SAVE THE DATE



October 23rd

10:00 a.m

**Richie Yurkovich
& Polkarioty**



**United Church of Christ
Neillsville**

**Join together after the service for a
volunteer recognition soup luncheon**

Holiday Fair News

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 12, 2022** for our 58th 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



2022

United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Service returns to 10 am on 9/11/22 Sunday Radio broadcast 11 am				1	2	3
4 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Church Service 9 am Communion served	5 	6 9:00 am Card Making 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	7 2:00 pm Stewardship Meeting	8 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	9	10
11 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Church Service 10 am	12	13 5:00 pm Deacons Mtg	14	15	16	17
18 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost +Start of Sunday School 9 am Church Service 10 am	19 9:00 am Card Making	20 Meetings 5:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Leadership	21	22	23	24
25 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost Church Service 10 am	26	27	28	29	30	