

**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)  
**November, 2022**

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

What a wonderful time of year we are in right now! We witness the breathtaking beauty of fall foliage with leaves making their annual transition from green to brilliant yellows, reds and oranges. And shortly after turning brown, falling to earth making the soil rich in support of life that is to follow in the spring.

And at the same time the life of the church surges to life once again for the beginning of the church year. Persons from young children to older folks coming in with their walkers fill the halls, the sanctuary and rooms of the church. Committees re-engage, fellowship times are better attended (most staying until it is time for the Packers to play.)

This year our start of the church season is even more special. People who drifted away during COVID, who got used to attending via radio or YouTube, are starting to return. What a joy it is to welcome these folks back into renewed relationship with their church family. Radio and YouTube are wonderful for us to continue to reach those who cannot be here in person, but nothing beats the personal love and support of a church family.

And the church is getting closer to starting the interview process for a new settled pastor. What a wonderful time of new beginnings, of energy and enthusiasm for the ministries of Christ here in Neillsville.

This church is energized! Every time we are here, we are celebrating the fact that we are able to bring some of the old traditions back to life after COVID and looking forward to growing new ministries to meet the needs of a changing world.

What a blessing it is for me to witness this resurgence of church life, a loving community committed to being there for one another and becoming more relevant in ministry inside and outside this church.

In Thanksgiving,

Pastor Gary

## SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE – LOCAL PROFILE POSTED ON NATIONAL LISTING

The Search and Call Committee completed the UCC Neillsville Local profile and submitted it to the conference. The profile had been posted on the National Office's employment opportunities website.

A scoring sheet has been developed that will be used by the committee members to screen potential candidates profiles. This tool will allow us to have a standard to determine when a potential candidate should be interviewed. Once a candidate had been identified for an interview they will be contacted to schedule such interview. There will be a set of questions that will be consistently used when conducting interviews. If and when the committee deems a candidate a "good fit" for us, the candidate and Trustees council will discuss terms of the agreement. If the parties reach an agreement the candidate will be invited to give a sermon to the congregation. Following the sermon the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the candidate.

Please keep the committee and church in your prayers that we may be able to recruit and hire our next settled Pastor to serve UCC Neillsville and the community.

Search and Call Committee

## 2023 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

Would you like to sponsor a 2023 radio broadcast? Please reserve your date with the church office. You may choose to honor or dedicate a particular service to someone. We believe our radio broadcast is a valued service and want to keep it on the air. This is not a budgeted item in our church operations, so we would appreciate it if all monies are in by the end of the year. The cost remains the same: \$75 for a full broadcast; \$37.50 for half broadcast.



† Lorraine Follen, mother of **Phil & Donita Follen** passed away on October 15, 2022. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Follen family.

- † **Bernard Walker**, husband of **Delores Walker** passed away on October 20, 2022. Bernard was an active member of the American Legion for many years and was very proud of his service. Condolences to Delores and family.
- † Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of **Marilyn Marty**, wife of Bob Marty and mother of **Mickey & Carla Marty**. Marilyn went to her heavenly home on October 21, 2022. A Celebration of Life service was held here at our church on October 29, 2022.

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



**SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> –**  
Looking for volunteers to help decorate the church for Christmas.

We need 6 dedicated people to commit a couple hours to putting up the large sanctuary Christmas tree. Decorating will start immediately after Sunday's worship.

**MISSING** – the kitchen is missing 3 large wood cutting boards. Items should not be taken from the kitchen and please return them as soon as you are able.



## **Church School News**

from Stephanie Heck

-Christian Education Committee will be meeting on **November 6th** following church

The children will be singing during church on Sunday, November 13th. Karen is working with the kids on the song they will be singing.

There will be no Sunday School on November 27th. Enjoy the day with family!

The Christmas Program will be during the worship service on December 18th. We will be providing more information to parents in the upcoming weeks.

Please reach out to Stephanie at 920-948-7783 with any questions.

### **OFFERINGS FOR OCTOBER 2022**

#### **October 11, 2022**

General Offering	\$2,580.00
Neighbors in Need	<u>170.00</u>
	\$2,750.00

#### **October 24, 2022**

General Offering	\$2,381.80
Holiday Fair	20.00
Circle of Friends	109.00
Meal Give Away	90.00
Neighbors in Need	150.00
MISC	<u>800.00</u>
	\$3,550.80

(Online Automatic Giving)

**VANCO – General Offering – August**  
\$633.44

### **Facts and Figures of October 2022**

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

October 2	*online 7	Sunday	52
October 9	*online 2	Sunday	34
October 16	*online 5	Sunday	58
October 23	*online 4	Sunday	83
October 30	*online 8	Sunday	66



Sunday, October 2, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Phil & Donita Follen in celebration of 52 years of marriage.

Sunday, October 9, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in honor of their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and their son, Kevin & Jody Buddenhagen's 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Sunday, October 16, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim John Filitz in remembrance of Jim & Anne Filitz's wedding anniversary.

Sunday, October 23, the radio broadcast was sponsored by an anonymous donor "In Praise of God".

Sunday, October 30, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Phil & Donita Follen in honor of the Church Family.

### **Stewardship Scripture Quotes**

Proverbs 3: 9

**"Honor the Lord with your wealth  
and with the first fruits  
of all you produce."**



Elena Mariana was born to Zachary & Gisela Vornholt on October 12, 2022. Proud first-time grandparents are John & Sue Vornholt. Elena is also Marian Vornholt's first great granddaughter.



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



- 2- Debbie Holman
- 3- Merrill Brunette
- 4- Alexander Vine
- 9- Betty Opelt
- 10- Travis Vine
- 14- Roberta Gaier  
Kelly Mathis
- 16- Neil Armitage  
Sue Gurney  
Deon Spangler
- 18- Chad Erickson
- 19- Hap Eddy
- 22- Theamore Vine
- 24- MacKenzie Keller
- 25- Joey Kranz

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



- 5- Phil & Donita Follen
- 6- Ben & Leah Wilson
- 10- Steve & Bekke Barrette
- 12- Mark & Merrill Brunette
- 14- Emile & Dan Miller
- 19- Darlene & Herman Mueller

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

**DECEMBER 1 -9**



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

**December 1-9 Birthdays**

- 1- Lydia Schumacher

**December 1-9 Anniversaries**

- 8- Bob & Barb Petkovsek



## **THANK YOU Volunteer Recognition / Polka Worship Held**

The Richie Yurkovich & Polkarioty band provided music recently for the “Volunteer Thank You Sunday” service held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The event, sponsored by the UCC’s Stewardship Committee, was presented by the church to honor and recognize the vast number of volunteers--both UCC members and contributing volunteers from other area churches and the community---as well as to provide a certificate of recognition for the many contributions made to the church and community by our local UCC’s *Circle of Friends*.

Susie Karl, current president of the Circle of Friends, came forward to receive a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of past and current Circle members. She was also provided a basket containing “Thank You” cards, name tags, and mints to be issued to each Circle member.

The church recognizes the Circle recipients as “God’s hands and feet on earth, preserving the environment and extending joy to one another.”

The service began with the band’s performance of the tune “Polka Celebration,” followed by a Power Point shown on the screen highlighting song lyrics for the attendees to sing along with the band, scripture and prayer readings by committee members, and special quotes read that honored volunteerism.

The Children’s Time, directed by Stephanie Heck, provided an opportunity for attending youth to sing with the band the first verse of “You are My Sunshine, “ a song celebrating the good light that is shown by those who contribute their time, talents, and treasures to the church and community.

Pastor Gary Wilner, in his message titled, “We Appreciate being Appreciated,” emphasized the favorable responses that volunteers received when receiving gratitude and appreciation for their contributions. Both those offering ‘thanks,’ and receiving “gratitude,” benefit mutually.

Following the service, Stewardship Committee and Circle of Friends members handed to all service attendees a thankyou note and envelope for each to pass on their own “road to gratitude” ---by sending that card out to thank other deeply deserving volunteers in the church and community Readers joining with Pastor Gary Wilner, were Stewardship Committee co-chairs, M.E. Sjolín and Jo Ann Voss, along with the committee’s secretary, Dave Harnisch. .

Special appreciation also went out to band members Richie and Gabe Yurkovich for spending the Sunday morning with our congregation and visitors, providing several customized, exciting and memorable polka songs to a very special celebration.

Following the service, attendees and band members gathered for snacks and fellowship after the service.



## UCC Circle of Friends Honored

During a volunteer recognition polka service held on

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Circle of Friends President Susie Karl, on behalf of her Circle of Friends membership, accepted the church's 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award for the Circle's many activities and contributions.

Although currently better known for its creative preparation and sale of greeting cards, other activities of the Circle of Friends have included the sale of rugs, the holding of silent auctions and bake sales, and over the years Circle members have regularly mailed and delivered cards to church and community members recognizing special events in their lives through its Sunshine Project.

Through the use of its funds raised, some of the many monetary contributions the volunteer group has made over time include the purchase of yearly gift certificates provided to our pastors and church employees, paying towards radio broadcast expenses, and offering funding and assistance to projects such as the Capital Fund campaigns, backpack projects, our church's Five for Five Missions, local family benefits, UCC equipment and

maintenance fund raising efforts, youth activities, funeral luncheon costs, musical entertainment, and contributions made to past and current local foundations and community action organizations that support the UCC's ministries.

During the awards ceremony, Stewardship Committee co-chairperson, M.E. Sjolín, read from a card presented to attending and other Circle members, "You are indeed the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for offering your time and talent. We praise God for giving you the gifts you possess and the heart to share them.

More recent active members of the Circle of Friends have been church members Doris Bakker, Sharon Buddenhagen, Berdella Carl, Carol Harnisch, Susie Karl, Darlene Mueller, Fran Ormond, Carol Romens, Frances Short, and Dorothy Steiger.

The Circle of Friends meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the church. Card-making activities are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 9:00 a.m. Meetings and card-making are both held in the church basement.

New members welcome!





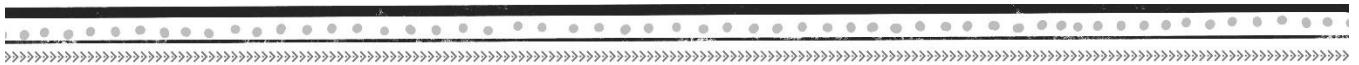
## Youth Group Leader Proposal

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 programing 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.



**Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran’s Day,**  
we thank and pray for all who have  
served our nation.



## 58<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY FAIR

United Church of Christ  
2<sup>nd</sup> & Park Street, Neillsville

Saturday, November 12, 2022

9 AM to 1 PM

\*\*\* LUNCH \*\*\* 11 AM to 1 PM

Chicken Salad on a Croissant

Baked Potato Soup

Dessert

\$8 – Adults

\$5 – Children Under 10

Visit our “Gift Boutique”, “Greeting Cards”, “Kitchen Cupboard”, and “New to You Treasures”.  
Hope to see you there!



# November 20, 2022

Curbside Pick-Up

11:00-11:15 a.m.

## Lunch


## Give-Away

United Church  
of  
Christ-Neillsville  
515 West 2nd Street





# 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	2	3	4	5
<b>6 <u>Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> Communion served All Saints Day observed	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Card Making	<b>8</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible <b>4:30 Deacons Mtg</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> 
<b>13 <u>Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</u></b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible <b>5:00 pm Trustees Mtg</b> <b>7:00 pm Leadership Meeting UPstairs</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 <u>Reign of Christ</u></b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Card Making	<b>22</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 <u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	<b>30</b>			