



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor James Mohr
Pastor Sue Vornholt
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
www.neillsvilleucc.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY

It's a pleasure to be "back in the saddle again" (sort of) working with Sue Vornholt in our tag-team interim ministry for the United Church of Christ in Neillsville. The two of us have worked out a schedule and keep in touch with one another to coordinate ministry in the interim time between Gary Wilner's helpful leadership as full-time interim and the new "settled" minister you will hopefully find before too long. In the meantime, we'll do our best as quarter time interim ministers for NUCC.

As you know both of us are retired folks who enjoy our retirement as well as time with our families. You may see the Vornholts on one of their daily walks along Neillsville's streets or in the arboretum and me either making my way to fetch a turnover at Love + Flour Bakery or heading to a ski trail, either "up the creek" or out at my therapist's office, also known as the ski and bike trails of Levis Mound. Even in our retirement we enjoy our continuing connection with a great congregation known as "UCC" and we want to be helpful to you.

Sue and I have worked out a preaching schedule so that each of us preaches about the same number of Sundays. Sue has kindly agreed to attend meetings and keep me abreast of what the church is planning. Both of us are available for consultation and conversation and are certainly glad to make hospital calls and help in grief situations. We hope to organize a "Called to Care" ministry in conjunction with lay folks to keep in touch with homebound members. And we are now also working with our friends at Calvary Lutheran Church to plan a stimulating midweek Lenten series.

You may also be interested to know that there are some changes taking place in the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. Both Sue and I are serving on committees in the Northwest Association (for which Sue is moderator!) and the Conference. For many years I have chaired the historical committee of the Conference, and we are now involved in the move of the Conference offices from the Trost Center in DeForest to the Daycholah Center on Green Lake, which will take place in the spring. One of our challenges is deciding what to keep and what to dispose of.

Of course, a significant change for the Northwest Association has been the retirement of the Rev. Rob MacDougall as associate conference minister for our Association in December and the calling of the Rev. Michael Jones to succeed him. Rev. Jones will be the one primarily responsible for working with our search committee to find a new "settled pastor".

Rev. Jones comes to us from Arlington Heights, Illinois where he served as pastor of St. John's UCC. He and his husband Blake, together with their two young daughters have just moved to Eau Claire. An Ohio native, Michael received a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Indiana University and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. In his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with his family, swimming, playing the piano, singing, and studying history. Maybe we can get him to share his musical talents with us when he makes his first formal visit to Neillsville!

During February we will continue our celebration God's manifestation or "Epiphany" in Jesus Christ as we also get ready to observe the sacred season of Lenten, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Sue and I look forward to ministering with you.

In God's grace,
Pastor Jim

LENTEN SERIES TO FEATURE “SILENT WITNESSES”

This month our church will resume its practice of cooperatively sponsoring Wednesday mid-week Lenten services with Calvary Lutheran Church just down the street. The theme will be “Silent Witnesses to the Crucifixion” with services and soup suppers alternating at each church. Pastors Sue Vornholt and James Mohr will share responsibilities with Pastor Chad Anderson of Calvary Church. Soup suppers will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

Throughout this Lenten Season we will have the imaginative, challenging, and faith-strengthening opportunity to hear several “Silent Witnesses” to the crucifixion speak to us. On Ash Wednesday our witness is the thorn. In succeeding weeks, we will hear from the robe, the nail, the spear, the shroud, and the stone.

Here is the schedule:

- February 22 (Ash Wednesday): “The Thorn” at Calvary with Susan Vornholt preaching.
- March 1: “The Robe” at UCC with Chad Anderson preaching.
- March 8: “The Nail” at Calvary with James Mohr preaching.
- March 15: “The Spear” at UCC with Chad Anderson preaching.
- March 22: “The Shroud” at Calvary with Susan Vornholt preaching.
- March 29: “The Stone” at UCC with James Mohr preaching.
- April 6 (Maundy Thursday): “The Cup and Loaf” at Calvary with preacher to be determined.
- April 7 (Good Friday): To be determined.

UCC and Calvary will be combining choirs for singing on Ash Wednesday. If you are interested in joining in -practices will be Wednesday, Feb. 1 and Feb 15 at 6:30 and Feb. 22 prior to service at Calvary.

SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rev. Rob MacDougall, our associate conference minister, has retired at the end of 2022.

Susan Taylor, with the Wisconsin UCC Conference has informed us that Rev. Michael Jones, is our new associate conference minister who will assist the search committee by recommending that potential candidate profiles be forwarded to the search committee. Candidates may also submit their profile directly to the committee.

This week we received a candidate profile and the committee is doing initial reviews of the profile to gauge the candidate’s and search committee’s interest in further conversation.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress. If you have more questions please contact Barb Petkovsek.



+ Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Allan Hoesly	Glenna Rhoades
Darlene & Herman Mueller	Betty Opelt
Dolores Johnson	Graeme Williams
Dorothy Steiger	Janet Harrington
Gayle Schermitzler	

Please let us know if others not listed (with their permission of course) would like prayer requests.

2023 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

Many dates are open - 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. The cost remains the same: \$75 for a full broadcast; \$37.50 for half broadcast.



Sunday, February 19th, immediately following the regular service, UCC will host its annual congregational meeting. This is one of the two planned congregational meetings.

The intent is to provide members information from each committee on past year activities as well as their plans and goals for the upcoming year. In addition, we will review committee membership and request approval.

We will provide light sacks and coffee in the narthex area. We look forward to seeing you all Sunday, FEB 19th 2023.

Mission & Outreach Committee



UCC will once again be participating in a Soup-er Bowl Challenge along with these other local churches, Calvary Lutheran and St. Mary's. You may bring your soup cans in to the church narthex prior to SuperBowl, February 12th.



Helpers from Holy Family Parish of Willard cutting vegetables for the January meal giveaway.

We would also like to thank all our members of our church that help to make this possible.



Church School News

from Stephanie Heck

We welcome children to join Sunday School classes at 9 AM each Sunday.



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

OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY 2023

January 10, 2023

General Offering	\$3,461.00
Radio	450.00
Mission & Outreach	50.00
Circle of Friends	<u>55.50</u>
	\$5,420.00

January 24, 2023

General Offering	\$1,612.00
Meal Give Away	177.00
Mission & Outreach	100.00
Ukraine Family Fund	<u>50.00</u>
	\$1,939.00

(Online Automatic Giving)
VANCO – General Offering
 \$914.26

Facts and Figures of January 2023

Attendance for In-Person Worship

January 1	*online 14	Sunday	34
January 8	*onlineTech diff.	Sunday	33
January 15	*online 14	Sunday	51
January 22	*online 6	Sunday	57
January 29	*online 6	Sunday	49



Sunday, January 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored by the Circle of Friends in honor of our church family, blessings in the New Year.

Sunday, January 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored by “a faithful listener”.

Sunday, January 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sue & Jim Popple in remembrance of parents, Norbert & Phyllis Embke.

Sunday, January 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored by “a faithful listener”.

Sunday, January 29, the radio broadcast was sponsored by “a faithful listener”.

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

Deuteronomy 8:18
**Give because God has given
 generously to you.**

-UCC Stewardship Committee Members



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



- 1- Patricia Acheson
Toni Carl
- 2- Sarah Fields
- 3- Lylah Wilson
- 5- Kyson Erickson
- 6- Krista Hamm
Paul Vine
- 8- Darwin Zwieg
- 12- Bailey Schumacher
Riley Voigt
- 13- Jessica Raine
- 15- Joseph Holman
- 16- Luke Wilson
- 18- Frances Ormond
DeWayne Seelow
- 20- Darrin Loberg
- 25- Janet Harrington
Jason Raine
- 28- Olivia Friemoth

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



NONE

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



MARCH 1 -9

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

March 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Rick Buchsteiner
Wendell Kuhn
Richard Lewis
- 4- Millie Mathis
- 5- James Mankowski
- 7- Dixie Hediger
- 8- Randy Hauge

March 1-9 Anniversaries

None



Thank you to my friends of the church.
Your prayers, thoughtful concerns and
help was much appreciated.

Dorothy Steiger

“BIRKIE BLAIR” IS ONE OF OURS!

Recently I was up in Cable along with my son and grandson getting ready to participate in the Birkie Tour, a relaxed cross country skiing event sponsored by the American Birkebeiner Foundation, which sponsors the annual American Birkebeiner Ski Marathon in late February each year. While standing in line before the event I looked behind me and there was Blair Flickinger, known to us as Blair Weyer! We gave one another hugs and had fun checking in with one another. What a nice surprise!

Blair was one of my early confirmands at Neillsville UCC and since then we have bumped into one another, first when she passed me during races on the Birkie trail along with other members of the Weyer family and now since she is serving as director of marketing for the American Birkebeiner. Just this week when a copy of Silent Sports, a popular outdoor sports magazine, arrived in our mailbox it featured an article by Blair and a tagline on the cover thanked her for playing a significant role in creating a special Birkebeiner edition. How neat to have one of our own going on to success in the world and contributing to the greater good. And to think Blair got her start among us! It would be fun to learn about other young people raised in our church who are now young adults making a mark in our world.

For me, of course, as one whose “second religion” is cross country skiing, it is a special pleasure to see Blair working as a valued member of the Birkie staff. Last year Blair even helped me out by claiming a special drawing prize for me at the Birkie Tour. My ticket had won a pair of elite skis, but when the results were announced I was still out on the course, one of the last people to finish. Fortunately, Blair was there and claimed my prize. Those Salomon skis are now my favorites!



When we volunteer as Sunday school teachers or confirmation instructors, we never know the effect we will have on the young ones with whom we are working. My experiences with Blair have affirmed the importance of our continuing efforts in Christian education and our appreciation for the young Christians in our midst. God bless each one of our young people.

In this picture Blair is standing with Olympic gold medal winner Kikkan Randall at a recent Birkie event for encouraging women skiers.



2023

United Church Of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <u>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</u> Communion served	6 9:00 am Card Making	7 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible	8	9 1:30 Circle of Friends Meeting	10	11
12 <u>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</u>	13	14 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible 4:00 pm Deacons Mtg	15 5:00 pm Council Mtg	16	17	18
19 <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> ANNUAL MEETING after worship	20 9:00 am Card Making	21 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible 5:00 pm Trustees Mtg	22 Ash Wednesday 6 PM Soup Supper 7 PM Service at Calvary Lutheran	23	24	25
26 <u>First Sunday in Lent</u>	27	28 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible				