

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

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Mother Teresa: "Do It Anyway"

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. **Forgive them anyway.**
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. **Create anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. **Do good anyway.**

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. **Give your best anyway.**

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.



HOW MANY BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CAN YOU FIND IN THE PARAGRAPH BELOW?
HIDDEN IN THE FOLLOWING WORDS ARE 15 BOOKS FROM THE OLD AND NEW
TESTAMENTS.

I once made some remarks about hidden books of the bible. The idea was lulu—kept some people looking so hard for the fact and studying for the revelation that they were in a jam. Especially since the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck the numbers of our readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy to spot. Others require judges to determine. We must admit it usually takes a minute to find one, and there will be loud lamentations when you see how simple it is. One little lady says she brews a tea while she puzzles her brain. Well, get to work if you want to complete it.

TRY NOT TO PEAK AT THE ANSWERS ARE ON ANOTHER PAGE

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee met and reviewed and discussed several Ministerial Profiles that had been forwarded to us from the UCC conference as requested by our association minister, Michael Jones. We have made contact with a couple of those candidates assessing if our church profile and the candidate's ministerial profile align. As we go forward if there is interest between the candidate and the search committee we will continue communicating informally and providing them with information. If a candidate is interested the next step could be a formal interview.

We continue to pray and wait for the ministerial profile whose gifts match those identified in the UCC-Neillsville Profile. Another aspect we are looking for in this journey is to call a pastor that can foster and grow a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation.



† to Charlotte Hediger-Tetzlaff and family on the death of her husband, David Tetzlaff, who passed away on April 11th.

† Condolences also go out to Rosemary Opelt and Hap Eddy on the loss of Rosemary's brother, David Opelt on April 21st.



† Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Darlene Mueller | Janet Harrington |
| Dolores Johnson | Dave Beck |
| Lisa Schermitzler | Carol Struensee |
| Gayle Schermitzler | |

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

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 7, 2023

You are encouraged to take part in a special congregational meeting that will immediately follow our May 7th worship service.

The meeting is taking place to allow all members to show their views on parking lot repair/improvement proposed by our Trustees Committee. Church bylaws stipulate that expenditures exceeding a certain amount need congregational support.

All are aware that both the upper and lower parking areas are in need of extensive repair. Trustees have approved a bid that will correct problems and resurface both lots.

There is also a need for cleaning blacktop surface and excavating to improve drainage on the lots. These are our responsibilities, a short time back a fund was established by Trustees to begin to address this issue.

Additional details (i.e. cost, timeline, etc.) will be shared at the meeting along with questions you may have.

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.



Marge Goetsch will be hosting a Bible Study Class at her home, every Tuesday at 1 PM

510 W Fourteenth Street, Neillsville



Church School News

from Stephanie Heck

We will meet on Sunday,
May 7 & May 14 at 9 AM

- The kids will be singing in church on Sunday, May 14th, Mother's Day
- Our last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 14th.
- "Jesus Lights the Way through the Cave" Vacation Bible School will be held on Saturday, June 3rd from 9 AM - 2 PM. Registration will open up in the beginning of May, please register by May 15th if possible. (3K – 6th grade)

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

OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 2023

April 3, 2023

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| General Offering | \$3,665.00 |
| Circle of Friends | 28.00 |
| Lenten Offering | 80.50 |
| Meal Give Away | 35.00 |
| Kitchen Fund | 130.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | <u>185.00</u> |
| | \$4,123.50 |

April 23, 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Chili Feed after Church | \$ 565.00 |
|-------------------------|-----------|

April 23, 2023

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| General Offering | \$4,504.00 |
| Circle of Friends | 30.00 |
| Lenten Offering | 30.00 |
| Meal Give Away | 35.00 |
| Kitchen Fund | 100.00 |
| Ukraine Family Fund | 50.00 |
| Radio Broadcast Fund | 150.00 |
| Memorial Fund | 35.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | <u>5.00</u> |
| | \$4,939.00 |

(Online Automatic Giving)

VANCO – General Offering \$739.82

Facts and Figures of April 2023

Attendance for In-Person Worship

| | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------|
| April 2 | *online 8 | Sunday 73 |
| April 9 EASTER | *online 14 | Sunday 88 |
| April 16 | *online 11 | Sunday 55 |
| April 23 | *online 11 | Sunday 46 |
| April 30 | *online 7 | Sunday 54 |



Sunday, April 2, the radio broadcast was sponsored by "a faithful listener".

Sunday, April 9, the radio broadcast was in honor of Gordon & Faith Vine sponsored by their children – Jane Nelson, Virginia Fennema, Paul Vine, Jeff Vine, Kris Kirschoffer.

Sunday, April 16, the radio broadcast was sponsored by "a faithful listener".

Sunday, April 23, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously "in Praise of Jesus Christ".

Sunday, April 30, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously "in Praise of Jesus Christ".

Stewardship Scripture Quotes

2 Corinthians 8:7

Set a goal to excel at giving.



- 1- Don Quicker
- 3- Emily Voigt
Erin Voigt
- 6- Sharon Buddenhagen
Ashley Vine
- 7- Jocelyn Vine
- 9- Haylee Erickson
- 12- Byrl Buddenhagen
Marge Goetsch
- 13- Lacey Erickson
Carol Harnisch
Jim Sjolín
- 15- Sue Jodarski
- 17- Delores Walker
- 21- Santana Subke
- 26- Arlene Stark
- 27- Michelle Bergemann
- 27- Cali Moseid
Victoria Ratsch
Adelyn Sadowska
- 29- Paul Schmidt
- 30- Craig Sigurdson

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



- 2- Roberta & Bob Gaier
- 4- Ruth & Bob Schmidt
- 9- Ben & Kelly Mathis
- 18- Don & Cindy Grotta Quicker

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



JUNE 1 -9

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

June 1-9 Birthdays

- 3- Barb Miller
Karen Northup
- 8- Lois Lonning

June 1-9 Anniversaries

- 3- Jim & M.E. Sjolín
- 8- Tim & Cheryl Steinbach



*REMINDER – starting on
Memorial Sunday, May 28th
we will begin our summer
worship hours at 9 AM.
This time change is in effect
through Labor Day Sunday,
September 3rd.*



1st QUART UCC FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – Don Quicker

It is hard to compare operating expenses for this year to those of last year for the first quarter. We are down by about \$7,000 for the quarter. We paid almost \$2,000 more for snow removal this year (compared to none paid in 2022). Without the snow removal costs, we would have been down about \$9,000. In 2022 we had a full-time minister for two months, with pastoral costs of \$13,300 for the quarter. This first quarter this year, we had Pastors Jim and Sue on a part time fill in basis, with total pastoral costs of \$5,000. Their savings account to about \$8,300 of the decrease in operating expenses. Total other salaries combined were actually down a small amount. Mission expenses were up by \$3,500 because we paid our first quarter of our annual pledge for Our Church Wider Missions in the quarter, while none was paid last year in the first quarter. Just be aware that once we have a full-time minister our operating expenses will climb substantially.

| <u>Comparatives</u> | 1 st Quarter 2023 | 1 st Quarter 2022 | 1 st Quarter 2021 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Regular Non Rest. Donations | \$20,775 | \$19,429 | \$21,436 |
| Non Traditional Donors | 6,075 | 9,700 | 13,859 |
| Memorial Committee Funds | 8,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 |
| Payroll Protection Program-net | 0 | 0 | \$10,172 |
| Total Receipts | 34,850 | 36,129 | 51,467 |
| Operating Expenses | 24,669 | 31,689 | 31,690 |
| Mission Expenses | 3,599 | 29 | 28 |
| Total Expenses | 28,268 | 31,718 | 31,718 |
| Net Operations & Missions | 6,582 | 4,411 | 19,749 |



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Strengthen The Church offering supports congregations across UCC Church. God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways. Your generosity will plant new churches and awaken new ideas in existing churches developing the spiritual life in our youth and adults.

Strengthen The Church supported investments in technology to enhance online worship during the COVID 19 pandemic. COVID 19 grants empowered churches congregations and neighbors to gathering virtually during the pandemic.

A quote from Rev. Tony Sanders "A Life saved" *"The COVID grant literally saved the life of one of our members. During the pandemic it afforded us the opportunity to provide an online weekly therapy*

support group with licensed professionals to help our members cope with isolation, fear and other issues triggered by the pandemic and other social/economic detriments of health"

Because of those virtual check-ins the team discovered that someone was suicidal and needed medical attention. The church support group connected that individual with the help that was needed to save a life. In 2020 STC funds provided \$150,000 for COVID 19 relief. This is only a small example of what the STC funds provide those in need.

Strengthen the church offering is received **Pentecost Sunday, May 28**. Donations can be made using envelopes in the pews online or using VANCO. Thank you for your donations.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN FILLING THESE DATES FOR HOSTING AFTER SERVICE FELLOWSHIP - Signup

When Covid 19 arrived in 2020, UCC like most churches, eliminated in person services as well as other in person activities. Traditionally Neillsville UCC members volunteer to assist in hosting after service fellowship. We are seeking your help to continue hosting fellowship.

Hosts need to pick up donut holes at IGA, ensure the coffee is on, have some cheese slices, water and/or lemonade, cups, plates and napkins as well as cleaning up. If you would be willing to help please review the possible dates listed below and either sign up on the bulletin board or call Janice at the church office.

For details, please contact Karlene Wallace or Doris Bakker. If you cannot serve the day you signed up to serve, please find someone to trade with or replace you for that week.

2023

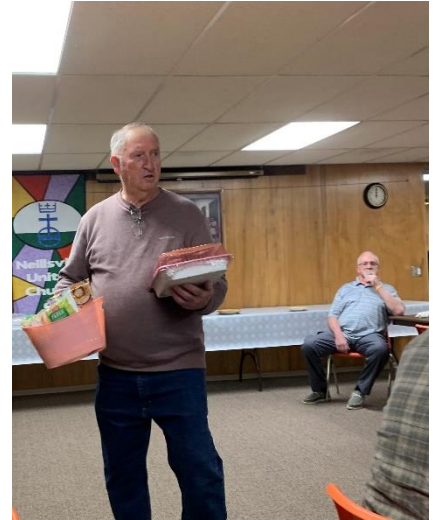
| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| May 7 Nancy & Kirk Rodman | July 30 |
| May 14 Christian Ed | Aug 6 |
| May 21 Graduate Sunday / Cookout | Aug 13 |
| May 28 | Aug 20 |
| June 4 | Aug 27 |
| June 11 | Sept 3 |
| June 18 | Sept 24 |
| June 25 | Oct 1 |
| July 2 Susie Karl | Oct 8 |
| July 9 Barb Petkovsek | Oct 15 |
| July 16 | Oct 22 |
| July 23 | Oct 29 |

2023 Baked Goods Fundraiser Summary

Well as usual, the church members did not let this fundraising event down; we had 15 bakers making 56 baked goods, which consisted of pies, bars, cheesy hashbrowns and ham, chicken pot pie, and chicken noodle soup (homemade noodles), just to name a few. The items raised \$4,011, along with donations of \$125 for A GRAND TOTAL of \$4,136.00! This year's money will go towards the church parking lot project. Thanks again for another successful year for the baked goods fundraiser!

The breakdown over the years is as follows:

- ➔ 2007, 49 pies = \$2,043
- ➔ 2008, 50 pies = \$2,408
- ➔ 2009, 49 pies = \$3,960
- ➔ 2010, 50 pies = \$5,200
- ➔ 2011, 52 pies = \$5,385
- ➔ 2012, 54 pies = \$5,065
- ➔ 2013, 41 pies = \$4,325
- ➔ 2014, 53 pies = \$4,775
- ➔ 2015, 40 pies = \$3,445
- ➔ 2016, 36 baked goods = \$3,425
- ➔ 2018, 59 baked goods = \$5,595
- ➔ 2019, 61 baked goods = \$3,440 (plus \$37 from the coffee hour)
- ➔ 2023, 56 baked goods = \$4,136 (includes \$125 donations)



The "Surprise Baked Good" this year was made by Cheryl Steinbach ... Chocolate Lasagna Torte. The winning bid of \$55 and was awarded to Barb Shoemaker.

This event could not have been possible without the help of many people, whom I would like to thank:

our two (2) baked goods displayers

- Hap Eddy
- DeWayne Seelow

those who donated the **56 wonderful baked goods**

- Kathy Mathis (6 items)
- Deb Perkl (3 items)
- Barb Shoemaker (4 items)
- Susie Karl (5 items)
- Byrl Buddenhagen (4 items)
- Cheryl Steinbach (4 items)
- Doris Bakker (4 items)
- Barb Petkovsek (5 items)
- JoAnn Voss (3 items)
- Carla Marty (6 items)
- Deb Holman (2 items)
- Karen/Pastor Jim Mohr (2 items)
- Kelley Burch (1 item)
- Bonnie Weyer (2 items)
- Em Miller (5 items)

all perspective bidders (whether you were successful or not)

my wonderful co-workers

- Carla Marty
- Barb Miller
- Susie Karl



Again, thanks for helping with this fundraiser and your continued support with the church.

- Emile Miller

On **Sunday, May 21, 2023**, we are having a special day of recognition for our UCC graduates during morning worship at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to join other graduates walking in procession



with your cap and gown (if you have them.) We will meet in the Church Lounge at 9:45 a.m. to prepare for the processional.

Congratulations to our high school graduates – Alex Northup, Dante Erickson, Logan Erickson, Mackenzie Hediger, Delaney Rochester, Derek Zschernitz. If there are any college graduates they are also invited to attend and please let the office know so we can add their names to our bulletin.

You can apply for a scholarship (due by May 15th) to have the camp either fully or partially covered thru our church website (on the main page under church camp scholarships). Remember to not put any down-payment when registering for a church camp, but to put paying by check (the church will make a check out.)



KEY TO PUZZLE from front page

I once made some **remarks** about hidden books of the bible. The idea was **lulu--kept** some people **looking** so hard for the **facts** and studying for the **revelation** that they were in a **jam**. Especially since the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck the **numbers** of our readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating few moments you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy to spot. Others require **judges** to determine. We must admit it usually takes a minute to find one, and there will be loud **lamentations** when you see how simple it is. One little lady says **she brews** a tea while she puzzles her brain. Well, get to work if you want to complete it.

Mission & Outreach Committee

9:30 AM April 23, 2023 Meeting

Deb Perkl, Carole Romens, Carol Harnisch, Bonnie Weyer present. Kathy Mathis absent.

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Weyer.

Old Business:

Concerns about meal giveaway: The group felt that the amount of food that is prepared is fine.

Ukraine Family-We will continue to support the family with what is donated through designated funds. As explained in the latest article their biggest need is a car. If anybody has an idea how we could make this happen we are looking for some ideas.

New Business:

May Meal Giveaway was discussed. We are planning a picnic meal in the Fellowship Hall on May 21st. The menu will be hamburgers and brat burgers. Karlene Wallace has agreed to make potato salad. We will make German potato salad, cole slaw, chips and dessert. Suzie Karl will be organizing the desserts. Anyone that wants to bring a dessert please contact Suzie Karl. We are looking for some people to grill the burgers. Talk to Ray Weyer if you can help grill. Mission and Outreach committee will be on clean-up.



Uniting for Ukraine-Update from Max & Bryce Luchterhand

Last month Downtown Community Television Center (DCTV), a production company in New York, contacted us after hearing the story from Uniting For Ukraine of the Hnatiuk family arriving on our farm. After a Zoom meeting with the four of us, they decided to do a documentary to tell the story of their arrival, their reception to the farm and how the four of us bonded in a very short time. Ten people arrived on March 10th for 4 days of filming. We had cameras following us everywhere from doing farm chores, shopping, taking Roman to school, Olesia and Mykola's English class, tapping maple trees, playing outside, Olesia and I making borscht, etc. They also did a 90 minute interview with me and Bryce and a 90 minute interview with Mykola and Olesia. They were professional people who have traveled all over the world flying here from Seattle, Nashville, and New York. Two traveled here from Minnesota. We all had a fun time getting to know them and working with them for 4 days. When they edit their massive amount of tape and whittle it down to 12-15 minutes the documentary will be entered in the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in June.



Roman still has not fully adjusted to going to school each day. He would prefer to stay home, but his English is improving all the time. Olesia started a job at Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center in Colby on April 11. She takes Dmytro with her so that solves the childcare issue. Roman will also attend the center during his summer vacation. Mykola is continuing his job at Abbyland Pork in Curtiss in the preventive maintenance department. So they are all very busy. They have not found a car so we continue to juggle our cars so everyone can get where they need to go.

The family was enjoying the warm summer like weather, but now know how unpredictable Wisconsin can be with 20+ inches of new snow on the farm on April 17th. Roman was happy with a snow day and the boys enjoyed climbing on the drifts.

Dmytro had his third birthday in April. The family traveled to Eau Claire to the Children's Museum, did some shopping, and celebrated at Pizza Hut in the evening with us. Roman said, "This is the best birthday party ever".

As the weather warms up they will need spring and summer clothes since they only had room in their bags for winter clothes when they left Ukraine. Olesia has purchased some kitchen appliances she needed like a food chopper for preparing vegetables for borscht. She makes borscht once per week for the family. She said in Ukraine they feel it is important for your health to eat borscht. I told her she will have plenty of beets in our garden this summer. Olesia is using my bread recipes to bake bread for her family. They are learning from us and we are learning from them.

They talk to their family members in Ukraine almost every day very early in the morning due to the time difference. There is no telling when they will feel safe enough to go back. They appreciate your support as they try to make a life for their family here in central Wisconsin.



**COME JOIN THE FUN AT
NEILLSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

WHEN: SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd, 2023 from 9 AM until 2 PM

LOCATION: LOWER PARKING LOT AT UCC/TOCK FIELD SHELTER

Registration available on the Neillsville UCC Facebook page post via Google forms or by contacting Stephanie at 920-948-7783.

For more information, call 715-743-2147.

Change of Seasons

Date: May 20, 2023

Time: 8:30 Breakfast at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Neillsville

What is Change of Seasons? It is a time for community volunteers to help our deserving Senior Citizens with those "Change of Seasons" odd jobs. This happens each spring and fall with the collaboration of St. Mary's Justice and Peace Committee, Office of Aging and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Clark County and many community volunteers.

Guidelines for Change of Seasons.

- Windows in the spring and lawns in the fall.
This year with the many sticks from the storms we have had, we will be picking up sticks in the spring.
- No lawn mowing.
- Only exterior windows will be washed.
- Gutters will be cleaned if adult volunteers are available and weather is permitting. There must be two volunteers when cleaning gutters.
- In the fall, only the primary lawn area will be raked.
- If the weather is bad please come and eat breakfast with your community volunteers as the food has already been prepared.

Receivers and volunteers may sign up by calling Interfaith at 715-743-2885. If you receive the answering machine, please leave a number where you can be called back on.


The Clark County Aging Department, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Clark County and St. Mary's Justice and Peace committee are co-sponsoring a "Spring Change of Seasons". Neillsville folks age 60 and older who need assistance with washing windows or picking up sticks in their lawn should call Interfaith at 715-743-2885 to get on the list. If you leave a message please be sure and leave your phone number so you can receive a return phone call.

Volunteers are welcome to provide this needed service to the elderly. The day starts with breakfast at St. Mary's at 8:30 a.m. Work teams will be assigned and folks will out in groups.



2023

United Church Of Christ

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|---|--------|---|
| Each Sunday 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship | 1 9:00 am Card Making | 2 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible | 3 | 4 4:00 pm Caregivers Meeting | 5 | 6 |
| 7 <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> Communion | 8 | 9 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible | 10 5:00 pm Deacons Mtg | 11 1:30 pm Circle of Friends Meeting | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> Last Day of Sunday School | 15 9:00 am Card Making | 16 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible 5:00 pm Trustees Mtg 6:30 pm Council Mtg | 17 | 18 MEAL PREP in kitchen for Meal Give-away | 19 | 20 Change of Seasons- StMarys Basement 8:30am *Fellowship Hall - RESERVED H Eddy Noon -5 pm |
| 21 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> Graduate Recognition Cookout/ Meal Give Away | 22 | 23 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 <u>Pentecost Sunday</u> Worship service time change to 9 AM -Strengthen the Church Offering | 29  | 30 1:00 pm Bible Study at Marge Goetsch's home/bring bible | 31 | | | |