

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

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



November: Thanksgiving Day, harvest times, awareness of blessings, gratitude for gifts. It is significant and necessary for us to ponder deeply all that we have been given. If we reflect quietly and honestly, we can be almost overwhelmed by all that is ours. God has been very generous. None of the gifts have been earned. God gives all gifts freely. Even Jesus is an abundant, free gift to us. God is lavish in love, generous in the outpouring of goodness. Take time each day to pray the prayers of "open hands." Just be in prayer with your hands open, palms up. Let the attitudes of your heart be one in which you freely place in your open hands all the gifts you've been given by God, knowing that you can give away any of these gifts and trusting that God will provide what you need.

**2024 Budget and Committee Election
Congregational meeting, Sunday, Dec 10**

On Sunday, December 10, 2023, Neillsville UCC will hold a Congregational meeting immediately following the service. At this meeting we will review the proposed 2024 budget, as well as vote on committee members. All members and friends are welcome to attend.



*****Christian
Education
Update*****
J. A.M. Club
and
confirmation at
5 PM

**November 8 - JAM Club and confirmation will be
at our church**

**November 29 - JAM Club and confirmation at
Calvary**

**We will have the Christmas Programs on
December 13th at Calvary during the 6pm worship
service and on December 17th at UCC for the
10am worship service.**

**Interfaith Caregivers -
Change of Seasons
Raking of Leaves**

Saturday, November 4th - 8 AM meet at
St. Mary's Catholic Church for Breakfast

Please call the church office at 715-743-2147
or the ADRC at 715-743-5166
if you need help raking leaves.
Volunteers needed.



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Janet Harrington Dave Beck
Lisa Schermitzler Gayle Schermitzler
Robin (Schermitzler) Mullally

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

† A memorial
service will be
held at our church
on Saturday,
November 4th at 11 AM for **Berdella Carl.**



to **Duane Marty** and
family on the passing of
his wife, **Tammy Marty**. A
memorial service was held
here at our church on October 7th.



Sunday, October 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a UCC member in remembrance of World Communion Day.

Sunday, October 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Phil & Donita Follen in honor of the church family.

Sunday, October 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary and Kevin & Jody Buddenhagen's 19th Wedding Anniversary.

Sunday, October 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored by a "faithful listener"

Sunday, October 29, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Duane Marty & family in loving memory of wife, Tammy Marty.

OFFERINGS FOR – OCTOBER 2023

October 17, 2023

General Offering	\$2,523.00
Memorial Fund	715.00
Meal Give-Away	10.00
Kitchen Fund	<u>175.00</u>
	\$3,423.00

October 30, 2023

General Offering	\$6,708.00
Radio Broadcast Fund	75.00
Neighbors in Need	25.00
Ukraine Family Fund	172.00
Holiday Fair Fund	50.00
Circle of Friends	<u>20.00</u>
	\$7,050.00

VANCO for October \$ 746.46

Facts and Figures of October 2023 Attendance for In-Person Worship

October 1	online 5	Sunday 48
October 8	online 6	Sunday 74
October 15	online 3	Sunday 46
October 22	online 6	Sunday 85
October 29	online 6	Sunday 54

Baptism



Left to right parents, Jenna & Erik Sigurdson, sponsors, Kelly (holding baby Crue) & Ben Mathis.

We welcome newly baptized,
Crue Steven Sigurdson on October 8, 2023
to our church family.



A side note with that vote that we had from our special meeting after church on Sunday, October 22, 2023 ... Carla wanted to speak but due to the limited time so everyone could attend the Ukrainian meal, we just had a very short meeting.

The money in our Holiday Fair account was not raised just by the Holiday Fair ladies; it belongs to EVERYONE in our church. We have so many people who have very generously donated items to make our crafts with from wood, windows, buckets, sleds, pine boughs; not to mention all that have donated money to buy supplies. Not to mention the individuals that donated baked goods, greeting cards, and all the items to our New to Your Treasures. We could NOT make the money we do each year at our Holiday Fair, without all these people, both men and women, so we need to give back to our church in whatever way needed.

The total invoice for the blacktop was \$23,910 with funds raised through donations, chili feed and baked goods auction raising \$7,373.57. Wendy Sigurdson made a motion to pay the remaining amount of \$16,536.43 to the parking lot, seconded by Kathy Mathis with all "aye". Motion carried unanimous.

Now for this year's Holiday Fair ...

Saturday, November 11, 2023 is fast approaching for our 59th Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 1 PM; with lunch serving from 11 AM to 1 PM. The lunch will consist of chicken salad on a croissant, baked potato soup, and dessert. Carry-outs will be available.

Our sales departments are as follows:

- GIFT BOUTIQUE
 - Indoor & Outdoor Decorations
 - Quilts, Knitted, and Crocheted Items
- GREETING CARDS
 - All Occasions
- KITCHEN CUPBOARD
 - Sweets & Bakery
- NEW TO YOU TREASURES
 - Collectibles from Grandma's Attic

If you have any questions regarding the Holiday Fair or would like to help with donations or with sales the day of the fair, please contact the appropriate chairman of each department:

- Gift Boutique – Carla Marty at 715-937-0077
- Greeting Cards – Susie Karl at 715-937-3506 or Carole Romens at 651-359-5196
- Kitchen Cupboard – Susie Karl at 715-937-3506 or Carole Romens at 651-359-5196
- New to You Treasures – Debbie Perkl at 715-797-6290
- Luncheon – Emile Miller at 715-937-4626

Thank you!

- Em Miller

Thank you for Welcoming the Ukrainian Family!!

The stewardship committee would like to thank the bakers and chefs, who prepared the wonderful soups and cookies for "Thank You Sunday"

JoAnn Voss	Borscht (Beet Soup)
Barb Petkovsek.....	Sauerkraut Soup
Byrl Buddenhagen.....	Bread
Kathy Mathis.....	Angel Wing Cookies
Nancy Rodman.....	Sweet Cheese Cookie
Kelley Burch.....	Cream Filled Wafers
M.E. Sjolín.....	Honey Pecan/Lemon Crepes
Susie Karl.....	Ukraine Sugar Cookies
Carol Harnisch.....	Honey Cookies
David Harnisch.....	Sour Cream & Butter
Wayne Voss.....	Bread Butterer
Slavko Hanuszczak.....	Stuffed Cabbage



We very much appreciated the work and donation of time by the "clean-up crew and servers."

Rod & Nancy Rodman
Kelley Burch & Paul Vine
Carol Harnish
Wayne Voss
Doris Bakker

Our dining hall looked more festive because Dave Harnish brought and displayed the Ukraine and U.S. flags.

We were grateful for the talents of our UCC staff --

Karen Mohr selected and played some beautiful hymns that related so well to the message of the day.

Jim Mohr did a great introduction for the Ukraine family, sponsors, and video.

Janice Miller assisted the stewardship committee in printing postcards and invitations.

The service was complete with the help of Bonnie Weyer, who enhanced the children's singing by adding the Arky, Arky song, music and lyrics to the power point. With Bonnie's technology skills she was able to download the video, "One Good Reason" for our viewing. Lastly, Alan Hoesly coordinated the power point presentation during the service.

It took many volunteers to create a welcoming environment for our guests and organize a meaningful service for our congregation!!!

We had a lot of help by great volunteers!!!! We thank you all!!

The Stewardship Committee

- Jo Ann Voss
- David Harnish
- M.E. Sjolín



Pictured - Mikola, Roman, Olesia, Dmytro Hnatiuk
 We thank you very much for the invitation to your Church,
 for your attention to our family and to Ukraine,
 for the financial support and such a warm meeting!
 Thank you very much for the delicious lunch!!!
 You are incredible people! We are so glad to meet you all!

Watch "One Good Reason"

On our "Thank You" Sunday, October 22, the stewardship committee recognized the donors to the Ukrainian Fund for their generosity, invited the Ukrainian family who received the donations, and showed the video "One Good Reason" as the sermon.

We invite you to watch this moving story of empathy, hope, and human ingenuity—made possible by the Welcome Connect platform. "One Good Reason" is a powerful documentary produced by Tribeca Studios. The film captures the story of one family's journey to escape the violence of war, a U.S. family's efforts to help them rebuild their lives, and a community stepping up to support them both.

To watch the video, go to the following website:

<https://welcome.us/videos/one-good-reason>

The 25-minute film follows the Hnatiuks, a Ukrainian family with two young children, as they flee the war in their home country, the generosity of an American couple from Unity, Wisconsin – complete strangers – who offer to be their sponsors and the bond they create together.

The film features the online platform created by Welcome.US, which allows Americans to connect with people seeking refuge in the U.S. through the government's humanitarian programs, which require the support of a sponsor.

**Approved Minutes of September 18, 2023
Neillsville United Church of Christ Council**

The meeting was held on Monday, September 18, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

• **Attendance**

Council Members Present: Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck, Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek, Moderator Paul Vine, Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer.

Council Members Absent: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker.

Others in Attendance: No one.

Prayer

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Secretary Miller noted an error in the date in the minute footer. Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Stephanie Heck to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting, with the correction of the date in the footer. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

• **Financial Report**

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve the financial report as presented by Bonnie Weyer reading Assistant Treasurer Don Quicker's written report. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

• **New Business**

Pastor Search Committee

Paul Vine and Barb Petkovsek shared that the committee is in conversation with a potential fulltime pastor, using the conference guidelines, and should have an update hopefully by the end of week.

Old Business

Nothing currently.

Pastor Report

Nothing currently.

Committee Reports

Trustees

Paul stated that Doris was unable to attend and that the Trustees would be meeting tomorrow. Barb Petkovsek shared that Bob Petkovsek shared the following:

- The parking lot will be sealed tomorrow, and lines will be completed on Wednesday.
- Bathrooms issues are being worked on by Excel Plumbing.

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- No committee meeting this month.
- The first night of our joint Confirmation and Sunday School with Calvary had an attendance of 70 children, with a few missing. Attendance from our church was 31 kids from 3K to Confirmation, along with some new non-members.
- Pastor Chad and Cheryl met with the confirmation children.
- Everyone, including confirmation students, will be meeting at our church on Wednesday, September 27.
- The children will be singing during the church service on Sunday, October 22.
- Confirmation is a two (2) year program, with only 8th graders being confirmed. We have seven (7) 8th graders and three (3) 7th graders from our congregation.
- Looking into having our 8th graders attend a weekend Youth Fall Camp but currently it is full; we are on a waiting list.

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- What requirements do the confirmation students need to complete before being confirmed, such as attending our church services on Sunday mornings, etc. Maybe they could serve by lighting candles, greeting, ushering, etc.
- Communion will be served up front again next month.
- The committee only received eight (8) responses for volunteers ushering and serving coffee in response to letter/e-mail.
 - Working on developing a new letter to send out and assign ushers, etc. The Council recommends calling and asking members which area they would like to serve.
- The passing of the offering plate has been discussed again with no definite decision.
- Our Baptismal fountain needs repair, and the committee has decided to accept the baptismal fountain that was offered as a donation from another UCC church, if still available.
- Pastor Jim and Pastor Sue will continue to fill the pulpit.

Other

Nothing to add currently.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18 at 5 PM.

• **Adjournment**

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Karlene Wallace to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Submitted by:


Emile J Miller

Neillsville UCC Council Secretary



2023

United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Each Tuesday 1 PM Bible Study at 1209 Bruley St. /bring bible	1	2 12 PM - T&C Quilters	3	4 Change of Seasons raking Day Light Savings Time Ends
5 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 10 AM Worship <i>* All Saints Day</i>	6 9 AM Card Making	7 1 PM Bible Study setup for Holiday Fair	8 5 PM Deacons Mtg 5 PM J.A.M. Club @ UCC (practice for Christmas program) setup for Holiday Fair	9 1:30 PM – Circle of Friends Mtg setup for Holiday Fair	10 setup for Holiday Fair	11 Holiday Fair Veteran's Day
12 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10 AM Worship	13 6 PM - PEO	14 1 PM Bible Study 5 PM Trustees Mtg	15 5 PM Council Mt 5 PM Optimist Youth Leader Recognition *Meal Prep	16 *Meal Prep	17 *Meal Prep	18
19 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 10 AM Worship <i>Meal Give-Away</i>	20 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	21 1 PM Bible	22	23 	24	25
26 Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 10 AM Worship	27	28 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM - HCE	29 5 PM J.A.M. Club @ Calvary (practice for Christmas program)	30		