



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor James Mohr
Pastor Sue Vornholt
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

"Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch;"
I Corinthians 5:7 "In Christ everything has become new!" II Corinthians 5:16

Dear Friends in Christ,

The new year we have awaited has begun. Many of us are wondering what this year will bring. Each new year extends an invitation to re-enter the process of transformation, for self and for our world. We stand at the threshold, looking back and looking ahead. This a valuable process involves a deliberate letting go of the past and an intentional welcoming of future possibilities. We will make choices and decisions in the coming year that will create our reality. We live on a wounded planet and share life in a world of suffering humanity. But we do not despair. The Holy One continues to awaken us. We have what we need to bring peace within ourselves and our world. This is my prayer for each and all of us. Look toward the new year by asking "What is it I want to welcome?" (A change in approach to self or others, some particular virtue or quality.) To let go of the idea that I am separate from the rest of creation. To welcome the vast opportunities to unite with my surroundings. To let go of inattentiveness to beauty dwelling around me. To welcome the joys and surprising wonders each day contains. To let go of past grievances and tightly held hurts that I carry. To welcome and act on my ability to forgive and be healed. To let go of worry about things over which I have no control. To welcome a stronger trust in the Holy One that all shall be well. to let go of the desire to have a perfect, undisturbed life. To welcome the taken - for- granted peacefulness I already have. To let go of the old year's troubles and unresolved burdens. To welcome the new year with hope and a sense of adventure.

Holy One, from long ago people have sought your light to guide their way. As the new year opens, enable me to be more fully yours. Guide me in letting go of what keeps me from growing. Lead me to know and welcome what will enlarge my love for you. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sue



Sunday,
February 25th,

immediately following the regular service,
UCC will host its
annual congregational meeting.

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 25th 2023.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders
of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

- Author Unknown

*****Christian Education Update*****



**J. A.M. Club and
confirmation at 5 PM**

**January 10 – at Calvary
January 24 – at UCC**

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Will meet both of those nights at
Calvary Lutheran Church



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Janet Harrington

Dave Beck

Lisa Schermitzler

Gayle Schermitzler

Wallace Garbisch

Jim Repinski

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



- † Many thanks for your support of the
Community Thanksgiving Dinner. It is a
wonderful event and your help made it a
success. Thank you to our wonderful
neighbors for helping with the dinner!
Calvary Lutheran
- † Thank you so much for such a wonderful
gift! Your present brings happiness and joy
and a good mood every day!
Mykola, Olesia, Roman & Dmytro



Sunday, December 3, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, December 10, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Berdella Carl & Roger Carl in loving memory of husband & father Herman Carl and all of the Carl and Seelow families.

Sunday, December 17, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, December 24, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinsk in celebration of Christ’s birth.

Sunday, December 17, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

2024 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

Would you like to sponsor a 2024 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

OFFERINGS FOR – DECEMBER 2023

December 12, 2023

General Offering	\$4,799.00
Memorial Fund	30.00
Meal Give-Away	50.00
Christmas Fund	285.00
Circle of Friends	15.00
Back-Pack Fund	<u>3,000.00</u>
	\$8,179.00

December 27, 2023

General Offering	\$5,507.00
Advent	10.00
Holiday Fair	70.00
Meal Give Away	767.00
Radio Broadcast Fund	150.00
Christmas Fund	170.00
Back-Pack Fund	<u>3,000.00</u>
	\$9,974.00

VANCO for December \$ 633.44

Facts and Figures of December 2023

Attendance for In-Person Worship

December 3	online 15	Sunday 69
December 8	online 8	Sunday 71
December 17	online 5	Sunday 117
December 24	no morning service	
5PM Christmas Eve	*technical issues	129
December 31	online 8	Sunday 47

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.



- 3- Kathy Mathis
- 5- Michael Holub, Jr.
- 6- Allan Hoesly
- 9- Wayne Voss
- 10- Tammy Lorberg
- 11- Lexi Woods
- 16- Michael Holub, Sr.
- 16- Dale Opelt
- 18- Landon Bergemann
- Robert Keller
- 19- Keith Loberg
- 21- Emilia Mathis
- 22- Sidney Sadowska
- 23- Dorothy Steiger
- Paige Voigt
- Parker Voigt
- 25- Haddie Mathis
- James Vradenburg
- 28- David Steiger
- 29- Jill Williams
- Clinton Woods
- 31- Lisa Hediger

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



- 26- Joseph & Marjorie Felser

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



FEBRUARY 1 -9

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

February 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Patricia Acheson
- Toni Carl
- 2- Sue Vornholt
- 5- Kyson Erickson
- 6- Krista Hamm
- Paul Vine
- 8- Kinsley McDonald

February 1-9 Anniversaries

None



January 21, 2024

Curbside Pick-up

10:45-11:00 am

**Meal
Giveaway**



United Church of Christ-Neillsville
515 West 2nd Street

**Approved Minutes
Neillsville United Church of Christ Council**

The meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in the Lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.

Attendance

Council Members Present: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker, Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck (left at 5:55 PM) Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek, Moderator Paul Vine, Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer.

Others in Attendance: Brynn Heck, Confirmation student (left at 5:55 PM).

Prayer

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, October 18, 2023 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Barb Petkovsek 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

2024 Proposed Church Budget

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Stephanie Heck to approve the 2024 proposed church budget as presented by Doris Bakker reviewing Assistant Treasurer Don Quicker's written report. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Motion by Bonnie Weyer, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve a \$250 bonus for each of the four (4) part-time employees for 2023.

New Business Continued

2024 Committee Membership

Moderator Vine stated that the following committees are still in need of members and is hoping volunteers will come forward before the Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 10, 2023:

- Audit (one member)
- Nominating (one member)
- Stewardship (two members)

Old Business

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, December 10, 2023

The Congregational Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall following our worship service due to the children using the sanctuary for the Christmas Program practice.

Pastoral Search Committee

Barb Petkovsek shared that the committee met with one (1) candidate and will be meeting with another candidate in December. Their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

Committee Reports

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- The committee met on Monday, November 13, 2023 with Linda, Lacey & Stephanie attending.
 - All costumes for the Christmas program were laid out and organized.
- JAM Club
 - They will complete the 2023 year of JAM and confirmation with Calvary, which is going well with a lot of students attending, but some do not like it.
 - If they decide not to continue with Calvary in 2024, they will continue with Wednesday nights, since the attendance is greater than on Sunday mornings.
 - Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5 PM at Calvary
- Christmas Program – Sunday, December 17, 2023
 - A full practice will be held at UCC on Sunday, December 10, 2023 after church.
 - The last practice will be on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at Calvary.
 - The Christian Education Committee will oversee fellowship time that Sunday.
 - The children will be handing out the M & M Story that Sunday.

Committee Reports Continued

Christian Education Continued

- Confirmation
 - Bonnie Weyer shared that the confirmation class is going very well with Pastor Chad and Cheryl Steinbach instructing the students.
 - A meeting was held with confirmation students and their parents to share expectations of the students during the confirmation year, along with exploring what areas in the church the students see themselves volunteering for after confirmation.
 - Each student was asked to think about their “faith” statement, which needs to be completed by Friday, March 1, 2024. Bonnie received a good number of the congregation’s faith statement comments, which will be used with the confirmation students.

Stephanie Heck and Brynn Heck left the meeting at this time.

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- Parking Lot

- The committee thanked the Holiday Fair funds for their contribution to paying off the remainder of the parking lot invoice.
- Insurance Policy
 - Our insurance does covers sewer backup; hopefully we never need to use this.
- Roof Leak
 - The roof has been fixed at a cost of \$845.
- Kitchen Grease Trap
 - The kitchen grease trap will be worked on within the next few weeks.
- Refrigerator Vent
 - The refrigerator vent has been cleaned and will be maintained regularly.
- Trustee Members
 - All current committee members will continue for 2024.
- Christmas Angel Project
 - The committee approved the Christmas Angel Project to use the church basement for 2023 but would like them to request permission yearly.
- 2024 Proposed Church Budget
 - The committee approved the 2024 proposed church budget as presented by Assistant Treasurer Don Quicker.

Committee Reports Continued

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- Volunteer Letters
 - Janice Miller and Sally Sadowska are working on a tentative schedule of greeters, ushers, etc. to be sent out before the first of the 2024 year from the results of the returned volunteer letters.
- Christmas Service – Sunday, December 24, 2023
 - Pastor Jim is our only clergy available for services that day and would like to only hold one (1) service. The time of the service will be confirmed once Pastor Jim returns from vacation.
 - It was suggested that maybe we share Christmas Eve services with Calvary ... one hosting a morning service and the other hosting a night service.

Other

Nothing currently.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Bonnie Weyer, seconded by Barb Petkovsek to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Submitted by:

Emile J Miller

Neillsville UCC Council Secretary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan. 2024 – Feb. 2024

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)
Sunday, January 7, 2024	Barb Shoemaker	Tim & Cheryl Steinbach	Ken Shoemaker
	Janice Miller		Bob Petkovsek
			Jerry Quicker
Sunday, January 14, 2024	Byrl Buddenhagen	Larry & Kathy Marshall	Ray Weyer
			Mike Perkl
Sunday, January 21, 2024	Sally Sadowska	Audrey Vradenburg	Ben Mathis
		Carole Romens	Jim Vradenburg
Sunday, January 28, 2024	Karlene Wallace	Doris Bakker	Kevin Erickson
			Ellie Keller
Sunday, February 4, 2024	Janice Miller	Russ & Susie Karl	Cris Hediger
			Byrl Buddenhagen
Sunday, February 11, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Jenna Ziegler	Kirk Rodman
		Krista Hamm	Nancy Rodman
Sunday, February 18, 2024	Wayne Voss	Nancy Boon	John Vornholt
		Dorothy Steiger	Dave Steiger
Sunday, February 23, 2024	Barb Shoemaker	Pat Acheson	Ken Shoemaker
		Herman Seebandt	Travis Vine
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another Church member.			



The Year Ahead

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

- Author Unknown; Adapted by Debra Mooney



2024

United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible	1	2 9 AM Card Making 1 PM Bible Study	3	4 12 PM - T&C Quilters	5	6
7 First Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship	8 6 PM - PEO	9 1 PM Bible Study	10 5 PM Deacons Mtg 5 PM J.A.M. Club & Confirmation @ Calvary	11 1 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	12	13
14 Second Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship	15 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	16 1 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM – Trustees Mtg	17 *Meal Prep	18 *Meal Prep	19 *Meal Prep	20
21 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship *Meal Give Away	22	23 1 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM - HCE	24 5 PM J.A.M. Club at UCC 5 PM Confirmation @ Calvary	25 5 PM – Council Mtg	26	27
28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship	29	30 1 PM Bible Study	31			