



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

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



Welcome Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

It is with great pleasure that Neillsville United Church of Christ welcomes Pastor Julie Ruegsegger as our settled Pastor. Pastor Julie will begin her service on or about April 21.

Pastor Julie has recently completed the UCC Lay Academy. She is an active member of the Washington Reformation United Church of Christ, in Monticello WI. She and her husband Earnie, have two adult sons Ryan and David. Ryan and his wife Krysta have a two and half year old son Parker and reside near Monticello. David and his partner, Allison live near Madison. For the past eighteen years Julie has been working for Tri- Insure company, an independent insurance agency in Monticello.

In December 2023 the search committee had several conversations with Julie, including two in person meetings/interviews at our church. The committee checked references and they were exceptional. It is clear she holds a deep faith, an understanding of the Bible, a love of music, listening skills, compassion, consensus building, etc. The Search Committee unanimously agreed to present Julianna Ruegsegger to the congregation.

On Sunday January 28, 2024, the UCC congregation unanimously approved Pastor Julie Ruegsegger as our settled pastor. We are excited about Pastor Julie joining our church family. She and her husband Earnie have recently purchased a house in Neillsville and plan to close on it in early April.

Thank you to Search Committee members Barb Petkovsek, Chairperson, Neil Armitage, Jenny Erickson, Mike Perkl, Paul Vine, Jo Ann Voss.



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 snacks and coffee in the
Narthex area. We look forward to seeing you all
Sunday, FEB 25th 2024.

From the Trustees-

We have several long heavy wood tables
available for purchase. Minimum purchase
price - \$10 Please contact the church office if
you are interested 715-743-2147 or check with
Bob Petkovsek or Mike Perkl.

**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, this
Sunday,
February 11th.**



Christian Education Update



**J. A.M. Club and
confirmation at 5 PM**
-February 7 – at Calvary
*kids will sing at the 6 pm
worship service that night
-February 21 – at UCC

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Will meet **both** of those nights at
Calvary Lutheran Church

March 1-3 Confirmation youth trip to Daycholah
Center for the
Youth Faith Formation Camp –
contact Stephanie Heck for more information
at 920-948-7783



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.



- † Our sincere sympathy goes out to **Kathy & Howie Mathis** on the death of her brother, John Pflieger of Rothschild, WI who passed away on January 10th. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
- † To **JoAnn Wren**, please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your daughter, Amy Wren on February 1st. Wishing you comfort and peace during this difficult time.



Sunday, January 7, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, January 14, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, January 21, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by Joy & Frank Zeman, Cindy & Cedric Thayer, Judy & Mark Tiede in memory of our dear aunt, Berdella Carl.

Sunday, January 28, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski in “Praise of Jesus Christ”.

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

These dates are open -

Feb 18, 25
Mar 3, 24, 31
Apr 14, 21, 28
May 5, 12, 26
Jun 9, 16, 23, 30
Jul 7, 14, 28
Aug 4, 11, 18, 25
Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
Nov 3, 17, 24
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

OFFERINGS FOR – JANUARY 2024

January 8, 2024

General Offering	\$1,326.00
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January 22, 2024

General Offering	\$2,696.00
Meal Give Away	<u>185.00</u>
	\$2,881.00

VANCO for January	\$ 633.44
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Facts and Figures of January 2024

Attendance for In-Person Worship

January 7	online 5	Sunday 48
January 14	online 13	Sunday 53
January 21	online 6	Sunday 79
January 28	online 15	Sunday 101

To all the members of our congregation,



We would like to thank all who give their time, talent and money to the monthly meal giveaway program. The February meal will be our 37th meal that we have prepared.

This equates to 2960 pounds of cheese, quarts of food and loaves of bread. It would not be possible without your help.

Thanks again,
Mission & Outreach Committee



- 1- Patricia Acheson
Toni Carl
- 2- Sue Vornholt
- 5- Kyson Erickson
- 6- Krista Hamm
Paul Vine
- 8- Kinsley McDonald
- 12- Christy Anding
Bailey Schumacher
Riley Voigt
- 15- Joe Holman
- 16- Ricky Rochester
- 18- Frances Ormond
DeWayne Seelow
- 24- Bekke Barrette
- 25- 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.*



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

NONE



MARCH 1 -9

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

March 1-9 Birthdays

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

Chili Soup Giveaway February 18, 2024



**UCC-Neillsville 515 West 2nd Street
10:45-11:00 AM**

Thank you to those who bring in their aluminum cans and for **Rick Buchsteiner** for taking them into the recycling center a total of \$105.30 was received.



AMAZING GRACE FOR LENT

In 2024 we will once again share Wednesday Lenten services with Calvary Lutheran Church, including soup suppers at 6 and worship at 7. Worship will include dialogue sermons reflecting on the well-known hymn “Amazing Grace,” which was composed 250 years ago.

This worship series for Lent by theologian Michael Hoy ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ’s disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God help us each week to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God’s mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior’s death and resurrection.

- Ash Wednesday • David (Psalm 51:1): We find comfort that King David confessed his sins to God and received amazing grace in God’s forgiveness and a connection to Jesus, the Savior.
- Week 1 • Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7): We see God’s amazing grace at work in the life of the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed to God’s people the salvation that was to come through the Suffering Servant.
- Week 2 • The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32): We hear of the great love of a father who lavished amazing grace upon the Prodigal Son, a picture of our Heavenly Father’s lavish compassion toward us.
- Week 3 • The Blind Man (John 9:24): We witness Jesus bringing sight to a man born blind, giving the man the added spiritual vision to see the amazing grace of God found in Jesus, who heals us all.
- Week 4 • The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14): We listen to Jesus teach a woman at the well of his amazing grace poured out for us abundantly, which satisfies our thirsting souls for all eternity.
- Week 5 • Paul (1 Timothy 1:15): We marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Here is the schedule:

February 14 @ UCC (Ash Wednesday) “David” (Psalm 51:1) – “Grace for the Humble”

Preacher: Chad Anderson

Liturgist: James Mohr

February 21 @ Calvary

“Isaiah of Babylon” (Isaiah 6:7) - “Grace for the Despairing”

Preacher: Susan Vornholt

Liturgist: Chad Anderson

February 28 @ UCC

“The Prodigal Son” (Luke 15:32) – “Grace for the Lost”

Preacher: Chad Anderson

Liturgist: Susan Vornholt

March 6 @ Calvary "The Blind Man" (John 9:24) – "Grace for the Blind"
Preacher: James Mohr
Liturgist: Chad Anderson

March 13 @ UCC "The Woman at the Well" (John 4:13-14) – "Grace for Those Ashamed"
Preacher: Chad Anderson
Liturgist: Susan Vornholt

March 20 @ Calvary "Paul" (1 Timothy 1:15) – "Grace for the Wretched"
Preacher: Susan Vornholt
Liturgist: Chad Anderson

March 28 @ UCC (Maundy Thursday) "John" – "Grace for the Loveless"
Preacher: Chad Anderson
Liturgist: James Mohr

March 29 @ Calvary (Good Friday) "The Penitent Thief" – "Grace for the Guilty"
Preacher: Steve Wentz?
Liturgist: Chad Anderson



UCC will be hosting the Wednesday night 6 PM soup suppers on -

**February 14 - Deacon's will bring soup
February 28 – Emile M. & Friends will bring soup
March 13 - Barb P. & Friends will bring soup**

**We are looking for help in set up/clean up, and bringing bars for these suppers.
Please sign up on the back bulletin board of the narthex if you can assist.**

Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on Thursday, December 21, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Attendance

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

Prayer

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion by Doris Bakker, 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

Set 2024 Annual Meeting Date

The 2024 Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, February 25, 2024 and will be held in the sanctuary right after services.

Old Business

2024 Committee Update

Moderator Vine shared an updated 2024 Committee Membership list, stating that after our Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 10, three (3) people came forward and volunteered for the open positions:

- Stewardship Committee: Kathy Mathis and Kirk Rodman
- Audit Committee: Nancy Rodman

Barb Petkovsek shared that there is a potential candidate that the committee is in contact with and hopefully by the first part of January they will have an update. The committee is praying they will have a candidate to bring before the congregation soon.

Committee Reports

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- Grease Trap
 - The grease trap has been installed in the kitchen and the invoice paid.
 - They are looking into installing another grease trap under the elevator, where there have been issues before.
- Downstairs Metal Entry Door
 - Due to rust, there was a hole starting at the bottom of the door, so thanks to Bob Petkovsek's assistance, it has been repaired.
- Sanctuary Overhead Screen
 - The sanctuary's overhead screen is not working properly, therefore they are researching to see if it is still under warranty before having it repaired.
- Salting of Parking Lot and Sidewalk
 - The committee is looking into who is responsible for maintaining the supply of salt for the parking lot and sidewalks. There was an incident where it was very icy and there was no salt at the church.
 - If the parking lot needs to be salted, G & S Trucking will be contacted.
- Electrical Room
 - The lock will be changed on the door to the electrical room, since it has been accidentally locked, and it always needs to be unlocked.
- Old Heavy Wooden Tables
 - Only the old heavy wooden tables will be available for sale at the price of \$10 each.
- Furnace Room Sink
 - The hot water faucet was found running in the sink of the furnace room. To prevent this from happening in the future, the hot water valve has been turned off.

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- Christmas Program
 - Held at Calvary on Wednesday, December 13.
 - Held at UCC on Sunday, December 17.
 - Christian Education Committee hosted fellowship after church.
 - Great comments from those in attendance at one or both services, plus those viewing via You Tube.

Committee Reports Continued

Christian Education Continued

- J.A.M. and Confirmation
 - The last session of the year was held on Wednesday, December 20 at UCC with treats and games.
 - Wednesday, January 10, 2024 will be the first session for the new year, with both churches continuing with this joint effort.
 - 8th graders will be the only students being confirmed in 2024.
 - Both the 7th and 8th graders will need to complete a Statement of Faith.

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- Christmas Service – Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 5 PM

- Pastor Jim will lead the service.
- There will be a message for both children and adults.
- There will be battery operated candles, along with candles that you will light, like other Christmas Eve services.
- Communion will be in the pews with an individual chalice, like those used during COVID.
- Schedule of Volunteers
 - The schedule is set with hostess, greeters, and ushers.
- Communion
 - Sunday, January 7, 2024 will be our next regular communion.

Other

Nothing currently.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Doris Bakker to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Submitted by:
Emile J Miller
Neillsville UCC Council Secretary



CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT 2023
Neillsville/Granton/Chili/Humbird
100% volunteer organization

In our twentieth year, this project served 235 children of 95 families!
We were able to provide winter clothing, boots, food, and other needed items because of your gracious contribution.

Volunteers begin shopping in January to find the best bargains allowing us to provide warm winter clothing for children the following Christmas. Volunteers knit, crochet, quilt, and make stuffed bears (often, using items donated by local businesses and individuals) throughout the entire year in anticipation of providing homemade items to needy children.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS.

We contact donors in the fall with requests for contributions. Local merchants are contacted for prices for large quantities of items.

THANK YOU DONORS AND LOCAL MERCHANTS.

Families are referred from Social Services, local schools, food pantries and churches.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHOM REFER FAMILIES IN NEED.

Tags, each representing a child, are placed on Christmas trees in the community. Community members choose names from the trees and purchase gift items for each child. Employee groups of local businesses also contact us to obtain tags for children and they purchase gifts. Volunteers transport the gifts to the United Church of Christ. The gifts are sorted into boxes designated for each family. Granton FFA students sort the huge amount of groceries into uniform bags. Each family receives several bags of groceries, including non-perishable items plus milk, ham, cheese, and bread. Volunteers, often in Santa hats, deliver the gifts and groceries to each family.

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY AND ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.

This is a wonderful project that benefits needy children and families in our local communities. We often accept late applications (some as late as December 23!) and strive to meet the needs of any family in need. The delivery people are rewarded with big smiles from children who are excited about something as simple as cheese or peanut butter!

We thank the United Church of Christ
for generously allowing us to utilize their space for nearly a month.
Thank you for your part in making this a successful project!

Stacy Schilling
Coordinator

*Thanks for everything!
I appreciate your continued
support of our project. 😊*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Feb. 11, 2024 – Mar. 31, 2024

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)
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
			Jim Vradenburg
Sunday, February 25, 2024	Barb Shoemaker	Pat Acheson	Ken Shoemaker
		Herman Seebandt	Travis Vine
Sunday, March 3, 2024	Byrl Buddenhagen	Bonnie Shaw	Emile Miller
		Frances Short	Janet Meredith
Sunday, March 10, 2024	Sally Sadowska	Karen Northup	Mike Perkl
		Lydia Schumacher	Deb Perkl
Sunday, March 17, 2024	Karlene Wallace	Sandy Bieneck	Barb Petkovsek
		Michelle Bergemann	Bob Petkovsek
Sunday, March 24, 2024	Janice Miller	Steve & Leslie Buchholz	Bonnie Weyer
Palm Sunday			Ray Weyer
Sunday, March 31, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Wayne & JoAnn Voss	Larry Marshall
EASTER			Cris Hediger
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another Church member.			
715-743-2147			



2024

United Church of Christ

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