

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
www.neillsvilleucc.org

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with great joy that I write this first monthly letter to you as your new pastor. Earnie and I have been warmly welcomed by so many. It is a privilege and a blessing to join the Neillsville UCC family, and I am looking forward to many opportunities to get to know each of you better and share our lives as the family of God.

As we begin this journey together, I am rejoicing at the beauty of spring. Daffodils and hyacinths and tulips and crocuses are dotting the flowerbeds with color. Green leaves are returning to the trees, and the lawns are plush with bright green grass and occasional yellow dandelions. May has always been my favorite month: winter is finally gone and new life is springing up everywhere we look. Warm weather arrives, and winter coats are finally put away. The spring air smells fresh and clean, newly mown grass and first-cut alfalfa. Spring is a time of promise and renewal, new life and new hope. This promise is seen clearly in the faces of our new confirmands and graduates as they begin a new chapter in their lives, with all the excitement and hope that brings. It is a fitting time for us to begin a new chapter together as well.

Hope is vital. As long as we have hope, we continue to do amazing things. Hope improves our outlook and our own sense of self-worth. It improves our mental and physical wellbeing. Hope gives us comfort and strength in times of difficulty and may be a source of inspiration and motivation. We worship a God of hope, a God of promise. No matter what challenges we face or how long the winter may drag on, spring always returns and with it, the promise of new life and new hope. Let us rejoice together in this season of new hope and new beginnings!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Julie

If interested in going to church camp this spring/summer or fall check them out at ucci.org website



Go to Church Website for Applications

Scholarships Available

- for Spring/Summer camps due by May 15th
- for Fall camps due by September 15th

Christian Education Update



final J. A.M. Club
May 1st -5 PM –
at Calvary

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

May 1st & May 8th Confirmation class –
5 PM – at UCC

CONFIRMATION SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, May 12th



GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 19th

We will be honoring our 2024 graduates

High School

Bryce Erickson
Paige Voigt
Parker Voigt

Kole Miller
Cali Moseid

College

Ellie Moseid



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Janet Harrington	Dave Beck
Lisa Schermitzler	Gayle Schermitzler
Wallace Garbisch	Jim Repinski
Duane Marty	Fran Ormond

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



† to Rick & Martha Opelt, John & Linda Stalsberg, Duane & Brenda Boon, Mickey & Carla Marty, Robert & Roberta Gaier, and Lisa Opelt on the death of their father, a long-time member, **Dale Opelt**, 88, who died on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the Wells Nature View Assisted Living in Marshfield, WI. His memorial service was held here at our church on April 13, 2024 with Pastor Sue Vornholt officiating.

† to Rosemary Opelt and Hap Eddy on the death of brother/brother-in-law **Richard Opelt**, 75, of Neillsville, WI who died on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at the Clark County Health and Rehab Center in Owen, WI.



Meal Giveaway

UCC NEILLSVILLE
515 WEST SECOND STREET

May 19, 2024
10:45 -11:00 AM



Sunday, April 7, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Nancy Rodman in celebration of husband, Kirk Rodman's 90th birthday.

Sunday, April 14, the radio broadcast was sponsored by the Mitte sisters, Joy, Cindy & Judy in loving memory of their Aunt Berdella Carl.

Sunday, April 21, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously in appreciation of our pastors- Jim Mohr and Sue Vornholt.

Sunday, April 28, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Russ & Susie Karl in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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

The following dates remain open -

- Jun 9, 30
- Jul 28
- Aug 4, 18
- Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
- Nov 17
- Dec 1, 8, 15, 29

OFFERINGS FOR – APRIL 2024

April 1, 2024

General Offering	\$4,700.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	480.00
Meal Give-Away	5.00
Radio Broadcast	150.00
Lent	<u>78.50</u>
	\$5,433.50

April 15, 2024

General Offering	\$2,841.00
Radio Fund	225.00
Memorial Fund	<u>10.00</u>
	\$3,076.00

April 29, 2024

General Offering	\$4,346.00
Meal Give-Away	263.00
Kitchen Fund	150.00
Circle of Friends	30.00
Holiday Fair	30.00
Memorial Fund	<u>10.00</u>
	\$4,829.00

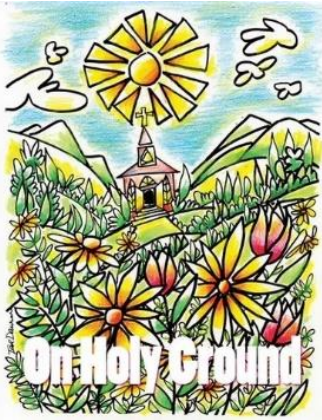
VANCO for April \$ 582.97

Facts and Figures of April 2024

Attendance for In-Person Worship

April 7	online 3	Sunday 44
April 14	online 5	Sunday 45
April 21	online 7	Sunday 87
April 28	online 18	Sunday 84





STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The "Strengthen the Church" (SRC) offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up UCC. Conferences and the national setting

equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministries and innovations in existing congregations. By our generosity to this offering, we are building up the body of Christ.

As God calls our congregation to be the church in new ways, "Strengthen the Church" offerings will start new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Scholarships are available for existing programs as well as new innovative ideas.

This special "Strengthen the Church" offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Contributions can be made with the envelopes in the pew, online, or using VANCO.

Thank you for your generosity supporting our local church and our Five for Five mission projects.



- 1- Roberta & Bob Gaiert
- 4- Ruth & Bob Schmidt
- 9- Kelly & Ben Mathis
- 18- Donald & Cindy Quicker
- 23- Rick & Kay Buchsteiner

Happy Anniversary!

Did we have the wrong date or miss your Anniversary?

- 1- Don Quicker
- 3- Duane Marty
- 6- Sharon Buddenhagen
Ashley Vine
- 7- Jocelyn Vine
- 9- Haylee Erickson
- 12- Byrl Buddenhagen
- 13- Lacey Erickson
Carol Harnisch
James Sjolin
- 14- Caleb Slemec
- 15- Susan Jodarski
- 17- Delores Walker
- 21- Santana Subke
- 26- Arlene Stark
- 27- Michelle Bergemann
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.



JUNE 1 -9

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

June 1-9 Birthdays

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

June 1-9 Anniversaries

- 3- James & Mary Ellen Sjolin
- 8- Tim & Cheryl Steinbach

60th Holiday Fair in 2024!

Yes, I made an error, it is our 60th Holiday Fair not our 50th on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Yes, the Neillsville United Church of Christ has been working very hard for 60 years making money for our church and it is greatly appreciated by all. From your donations of supplies, money, and/or items to sell, we have helped our church budget by donating money to the parking lot, new round tables in the fellowship hall, new carpet in the sanctuary and much more.

Now we would like your input on how to celebrate our 60th year. Since a meeting date just doesn't seem to work for one reason or another please contact either Carla Marty (carla.j.marty@gmail.com or 715-937-0077) Emile Miller (emilejmiller@yahoo.com or 715-937-4626) with your ideas for crafts, sales, luncheon ideas, etc. before July 1. Everyone's opinion is welcomed and needed to make this a success.

Thank you for your continued support and ideas on this great annual fundraising event.



We will begin our summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 26th Time will change from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. thru Labor Day weekend.

REMEMBER



Where God Is Still Speaking: Listening in New Ways



Revelation 3:22 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Join us at the **2024 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference**, to be held **June 7th – June 9th, 2024** at the **Green Lake Conference Center**.

Four years after the pandemic lockdown began, we proclaim with joy: God is still speaking! But are we listening with eager ears? Seeing with fresh eyes? Prayerfully contemplating the future of the Church with curious minds and open hearts? The 2024 Annual Meeting will focus on our collective listening – to one another, to those beyond the Church, and especially to the Holy Spirit, as we discern together new ways of living out the Gospel in changing times.

We are looking for two delegates to attend, please contact Pastor Julie 715-743-2117

**Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Clark County
are sponsoring a Spring Clean-up
on Saturday, May 18th.**

Please meet at St. Mary's Catholic Church for breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Volunteers will help rake lawns, wash windows and other outdoor yard work.

For more information please
contact Judy Morrow at 715-743-2885



Vacation Bible School

**COME JOIN THE FUN AT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN
NEILLSVILLE**

**WHEN: Friday, May 31st, 2024,
from 3:30 PM until 8 PM**

**LOCATION: LOWER-LEVEL
AT UCC/TOCK FIELD**

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

Light snack and supper provided.

**For more information, call the church office
at 715-743-2147**

or contact Stephanie at 920-948-7783.

Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 in the Lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM.

Attendance

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

Others in Attendance: Sophie Heck.

Prayer

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Stephanie Heck 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

Update on Pastor Julie's Plans

Barb Petkovsek shared the following:

- Monday, April 22 will be Pastor Julie's official start date with Neillsville UCC
- Pastor Julie would like permission from the council to attend the Northwest Association meeting on Saturday, April 20. Committee members thought it was an excellent idea for Pastor Julie to attend.
 - Possible other delegates from our church attending are Pastor Sue and Doris Bakker.
 - Bonnie Weyer suggested that the congregation be notified of this meeting to see if anyone else is interested in attending.

Camp Scholarships – Deadline is Wednesday, May 15

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Karlene Wallace to accept the camp scholarships that have been received as of this date using the guidelines of the Ray funds. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

MORE →

Church Inventory

Bonnie Weyer shared the following:

- the church inventory has been completed
 - there is a hard copy binder consisting of an EXCEL spreadsheet and pictures
 - storage of this binder will be in the fireproof file cabinet in the Administrative Assistant's Office
- two (2) flash drives will be in the possession of:
 - Don Quicker, Assistant Treasurer
 - Janice Miller, Administrative Assistant

Doris Bakker thanked Bonnie Weyer and Emile Miller for their assistance with this project.

Audit Committee

Barb Petkovsek shared the following:

- the Audit Committee has met
- Stacey from the Angel Project and Bonnie Weyer will be attending the next Audit Committee meeting
- a final report will be presented to the Trustee's at their April meeting

Old Business

Update on Sunday, April 21 Celebration Honoring Pastor Jim and Sue

Bonnie Weyer shared the following:

- the gift certificates have been purchased
- Bonnie Weyer and Kathy Mathis will oversee the meal
 - a ham dinner will be served
 - planning for 70 people

Moderator Vine will contact our Association Minister Michael Jones to see if there is any proper wording or procedure for this type of celebration, since he did not find any guidance in the Red Book. If there is not, Moderator Vine will prepare an appreciation message.

Committee Reports

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- the sanctuary projector screen has been repaired
- only four (4) old tables are left to be sold
- the security rail by the alter should be in place by the Sunday, March 31
- both bell tower lights will be replaced
- the redecorating of the Pastor and Administrative Assistant Offices are completed
 - thank you to Bonnie Weyer, Bob Petkovsek, Mike Perkl, and Bryl Buddenhagen for their assistance with this project
- the old computer tower has been fixed
- the purchase of a new laptop was approved for the Pastor Office

- the protective covering for over the east kitchen door is still in the works
- Christian Education

MORE →

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- the committee is talking about having a meeting in April
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be the first week in June
- confirmation and J.A.M. met on:
 - Wednesday, March 6
 - Wednesday, March 20
- Next meeting for confirmation and J.A.M.
 - Wednesday, April 3 at Calvary
 - children will sing
 - Wednesday, April 17 at UCC
- the children will sing during the Children's Time on Sunday, April 21
- the children will make a thank you poster for Pastor Jim and Pastor Sue
- the children will do a processional into the sanctuary waving the palm branches on Palm Sunday

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- there will be no fellowship time or communion on Easter Sunday
- communion will be served at the Maundy service
- the committee discussed the arrival of our new Pastor
- as a reminder to everyone, the duties of greeter, usher, and fellowship host will be listed in the newsletter and the bulletin
- communion will be served on Sunday, April 7

Other

Emile Miller shared the following regarding the Neillsville UCC Funeral Policy:

- met with the Deacons and the current members were not familiar with this policy and felt that it should be approved by the Trustees, along with the fees
- met with the Trustees and they approved the policy
- next step is to meet with Gesche's to update them on our new funeral fees, policy, and luncheon options

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Stephanie Heck to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Submitted by:

Emile J Miller

Neillsville UCC Council Secretary



Thank You Pastor James Mohr and Susan Vornholt

As most of you know Pastor James Mohr and Susan Vornholt have served as interim pastors since January 2023. In this time, they served as not only our pastors but also as a stabilizing influence for our members, committees, and council.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Jim and Sue for their time and service to Neillsville UCC.

During their time as co-pastors they worked collaboratively to ensure consistent Sunday services. As a result of their leadership Sunday membership steadily increased. They worked collaboratively with Calvary Lutheran pastor to co-host Wednesday Lenten services in 2023 and again in 2024. They also supported UCC and Calvary partnering to provide joint Wednesday night church school and confirmation. In addition, they participated in UCC initiating a Caregivers group.

Thank you, Pastors Jim and Sue,
for your leadership and service to the Neillsville UCC.

Paul Vine, Moderator

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
May 5, 2024 – June 23, 2024

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)
Sunday, May 5, 2024	Karlene Wallace	Lydia Schumacher	Craig Heck
		Karen Northup	Scott Williams
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Janice Miller	Cris & Lisa Hediger	Paul Vine
			Kelley Burch
Sunday, May 19, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Phil & Donita Follen	Roger Carl
			Hap Eddy
Sunday, May 26, 2024	Wayne Voss	Jim & Rosie Repinski	Mike Perkl
Start of 9 AM worship			Deb Perkl
	Sally Sadowska	Linda Stalsberg	Ken Shoemaker
		Carla Marty	Bob Petkovsek
Sunday, June 9, 2024	Byrl Buddenhagen	Jenny Erickson	Kevin Erickson
		Carole Romens	Cris Hediger
Sunday, June 16, 2024	Sally Sadowska	Doris Bakker	Emile Miller
		Ellie Keller	Marla Raine
Sunday, June 23, 2024	Karlene Wallace	Travis & Ashley Vine	Paul Vine
			Kelley Burch
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 Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible	1 5 PM J.A.M. Club at Calvary & Confirmation @UCC 6 PM Deacons Mtg	2 12 PM - T&C Quilters	3	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10 AM Worship Communion	6 9 AM Card Making 6 PM - PEO	7 1 PM Bible Study	8 1 PM Stewardship Mtg 5 PM Confirmation @ UCC	9 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	10	11 10-11 AM visitation 11 AM – Memorial Service for Marian Vornholt
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10 AM Worship <i>*Mother's Day</i> <i>*Confirmation</i>	13 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	14 1 PM Bible Study	15 <i>*Meal Prep</i>	16 <i>*Meal Prep</i>	17 <i>*Meal Prep</i>	18
19 Pentecost 10 AM Worship <i>*Graduation Sunday</i> <i>Meal Give Away</i>	20 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	21 1 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM – Trustees Mtg	22	23 6:30 PM – Council Mtg	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday Start -9 AM Worship	27  MEMORIAL DAY	28 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM - HCE	29	30	31 3:30 – 8 PM Vacation Bible School	