

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
Cell Phone 608-558-2397
www.neillsvilleucc.org

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that July is here already! It seems like we just barely turned off our furnaces and now we are sweltering in heat and humidity. It used to be that the hot summer months meant a slower pace, more relaxation and family time, more time for reflection and meditation. But as our world gets busier and our activities increase, we find ourselves struggling to keep up with all our commitments. We see lower attendance on Sunday mornings, and I fear that also brings a diminished prayer life throughout the week.

I am certainly not pointing any fingers; I am as guilty as anyone else. My schedule has opened up a bit for the summer months, as we take a break from all the committee meetings and conference meetings, but those hours are quickly filled with planning for the upcoming church year and family obligations. In the midst of all this busy-ness, I am saddened to realize that my prayer time has most certainly decreased.

Paul advises us to pray continually, all the time, without ceasing. I have always taken that to heart, having short chats with God throughout the day as I go about my duties. I often think of it like texting - just quick messages, rather one-sided. But I need that prayer time that is more like a lengthy phone conversation, time devoted to God alone, time to talk through all that is on my heart, and time to listen for God's response.

Prayer is truly a mystery. It may not change God, but it certainly changes us. No one really knows how or why it works, only that without it we are incomplete. There is an incomprehensible beauty in the idea that not only are we allowed to converse directly with the God of the universe, but our Creator desperately desires that connection. Imagine - the same God who created every star in the sky, every ocean and mountain and desert, every flower and blade of grass, every sea creature, every animal on land, every bird and insect - this same God wants to have a conversation with you. This time of prayer, praising and lamenting and hoping and confessing and rejoicing, all of this is a gift that we too often take for granted.

As we go through the next six weeks, we will be talking a lot about prayer in worship. We will be digging deep into the Lord's Prayer, hopefully better understanding how this prayer is a model for our communal and individual prayer life. We will look at alternate versions of the prayer we know so well, and we will look at alternate ways to pray with our bodies and our souls. May this be a time to slow our pace and reconnect with God and with each other.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Julie



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Janet Harrington	Gayle Schermitzler
Lisa Schermitzler	Fran Ormond
Duane Marty	Mike & Sherrie Holub

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Hebrews 13:1&2
*Keep on loving one another as Christians.
 Remember to welcome strangers into your homes.
 There are some that did this and
 welcomed angels without knowing it.*

JULY 20, 2025

10:15 - 10:30 AM

**MEAL
 GIVEAWAY**

UCC - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST SECOND STREET



Sundays, June 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sue & Jim Popple in loving memory of Sue's parents, Norbert & Phyllis Embke.

Sunday, June 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with the message, "May HIS word be heard by ALL".

Sunday, June 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker in loving memory of her father, Arnold Bakker and to honor all fathers and men on this Father's Day.

Sunday, June 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Susan Smigelski & family in memory of Eileen Zank.

Sunday, June 29, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by "a faithful listener".

**2025 Radio Broadcast
 Sponsors Needed**

Would you like to sponsor a radio broadcast?

You may choose to dedicate or honor someone for a particular service date.

The cost remains the same - \$75

Please contact Janice in the office or phone 715-743-2147 to reserve a date.

**Facts and Figures of June 2025
Attendance for In-Person Worship**

June 1	online 1	Sunday 45
June 8	online 2	Sunday 53
June 15	online 5	Sunday 46
June 22	online 5	Sunday 39
June 29	online 4	Sunday 55



- 1- Tyler Williams
- 2- Pam Stitt
- 9- Sophie Heck
Sandy Schmidt
JoAnn Voss
- 11- Emile Miller
- 13- James Mohr
- 16- Neil Czarnecki
- 17- Guy Jodarski
- 18- Patricia Garbisch
- 19- Roger Carl
Gayle Schermitzler
- 21- Haakon Sigurdson
- 24- Karsen Czarnecki
- 25- Kathy Carl
Bonnie Shaw
- 26- Reese Ziegler
- 28- Dan Patey
- 29- Kelley Burch
Barb Shoemaker
- 30- Erik Sigurdson
- 31- Kole Miller
Crue Sigurdson

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



- 13- Richard & Carolyn Lewis
- 14- Joe & Kristine Anderson
- 17- Ray & Bonnie Weyer



AUGUST 1-9

We are adding the first days of AUGUST birthdays and anniversaries so as not to miss any if the newsletter comes out late.

August 1-9

Birthdays

- 1- Earnie Ruegsegger
Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke

Anniversaries

- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn

The Circle of Friends is looking for more "friends". No special talents are required, we can do on the job training. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 9 AM in the fellowship hall to work on making cards. On the second Thursday at 1:30 PM we gather for our monthly meeting.



- † To **Tom & Lynne Abel** on the death of Tom's brother, Jack Abel who passed away on June 11, 2025

Our Mission and Outreach

committee was given two donations in memory of Cheryl Steinbach. On Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24 several ladies joined forces to make chicken pot pies as a tribute to Cheryl and all her dedication to the farming community. The pies are frozen and will be distributed to area farmers. A huge thank you to all the wonderful ladies who helped.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



from Stephanie Heck-

Watch for updates in August for our JAM Fall schedule.

If there is any interest in joining our confirmation classes (7th grade and up) please contact Pastor Julie for more information at 715-743-2117 church office or 608-558-2397 Julie's cell number

thank you

Pastor Julie & Church Family,

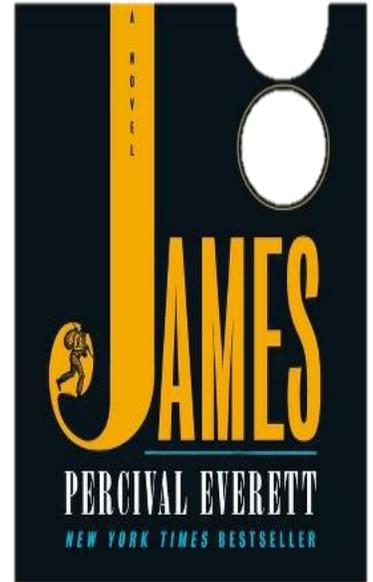
Thank you for recognizing me and my classmates on Senior Sunday. I appreciated all the well wishes & treats from you and the church family. Thank you all for guiding me to this phase of my life. I'm looking forward to this next chapter – Go Blugolds!

God Bless,
Sydney Subke

NUCC Book Club - Tuesday, July 8th – 9 AM

We are starting a book club! There is something special about discovering a good book and sharing it with friends. And it is extra-special to gather together to talk about it, especially when treats are involved.

We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8 at Just Love Coffee Cafe (216 Sunset Place) to discuss our first book: NY Times Bestseller *James* by Percival Everett, 2025 Pulitzer Prize winner. It is a brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. If you have read the whole book or just some, or even if you haven't had a chance to even crack the cover yet, you are welcome to join us at the coffee shop for discussion. The "club" is open to all - members and non-members alike. If you or someone you know may be interested, please join us for a time of fellowship and enlightenment. If you can't attend but are interested in being a part of the group, please call Pastor Julie at 608-558-2397 or email NUCCpastor@gmail.com.



We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday worship. Our audio-visual system is an extremely important component of our worship service and our ministry to those in the community who are unable to join us in the sanctuary. Alan Hoesly has done an incredible job of operating and maintaining our system over the years, but he has decided it is time to step down from this responsibility. Al is retiring from this important position at the end of this year, and we are hoping to have volunteers trained by then. If you are interested at all, please contact Al or the church office 715-743-2147.

Huge thanks to Al for his dedication and service to our church. His skill and knowledge has been indispensable, and we will forever be grateful. We are looking forward to having Al join us again in the pews rather than the balcony. Thank you, Alan, for your generosity and ministry.

Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on Monday, April 21, 2025 in the lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Attendance

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

Council Members Absent: Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace.

Others in Attendance: Pastor Julie (left at 7:01 PM).

Prayer

Pastor Julie guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Stephanie Heck to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2025 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye;" motion carried.

Financial Report

Bonnie Weyer stated that Holiday Fair funds will buy a new vacuum cleaner for the church.

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

Scholarship Allocation Action

Bonnie Weyer contacted the United Church of Christ Incorporated (UCCI), formally known as Northwest Association, regarding scholarships. Each family needed to apply separately for a scholarship, which Bonnie helped families complete. At the time of this meeting, scholarships approved from UCCI are \$2,600, which will help offset the final camp expense.

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Emile Miller to approve Option B as documented in the minutes from March 27, 2025. Additionally, the UCCI camp scholarships will be allocated appropriately by the Assistant Treasurer, who will provide a report on the total costs of these scholarships at the next Council meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye;" motion carried.

2024 Audit

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to accept and file the Audit Report as presented in written format, along with the Audit Committee recommendations. Voice vote taken with all "aye;" motion carried.

Barb Petkovsek thanked the Audit Committee, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer for their dedication in managing the church finances.

Old Business

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

Barb Petkovsek said volunteers have offered to help and/or donate food for the chicken BBQ. The Mission and Outreach Committee is purchasing the chicken for this event, and it will also be a part of the meal give away for the month of April.

Baked Goods Auction Fundraiser

Moderator Vine thanked everyone that was involved with the Baked Good Auction, from those that worked at the event, donated baked goods, and/or purchased items. It was a successful fundraiser, raising \$5,000 for the general fund.

Pastor Report

Pastor Julie shared the following:

- Lenten Services
 - Wednesday services went well, with UCC only hosting one (1) Wednesday Lenten service, due to weather-related cancellations
 - Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services
 - many compliments on the two (2) services held at UCC
 - the volunteers that helped with the services did an excellent job
 - some confusion on the start time of the services
 - April 2 – “Children in Worship” Webinar
 - exploring new ways to involve children in worship, such as serving communion, greeting, ushering, etc.
- Confirmation
 - April 27 – Glazing their Communion cups
 - April 30 – Confirmation dinner at 6:30 PM
 - Confirmation parents and Council members invited
 - Mentors providing the meal
 - Confirmation students will be reading their Statement of Faith to those in attendance
 - Practice for Confirmation Sunday, May 4
- End of May – work on Diversity

Committee Reports

Deacons

Pastor Julie shared the following on behalf of Karlene Wallace:

- Lenten Services went well
- October 26 – Polka Service
 - held in the Fellowship Hall
 - suggested providing a German Brat meal instead of the Chili Feed that day
 - possible joint service with Calvary

Pastor left the meeting at this time.

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- Landscaping and Spring Cleanup
 - Dave and Carole Harnisch will continue to maintain the church landscaping and cleanup
 - Harnisch's will consult the Trustees, if needed
- Insurance
 - currently, no assessment on the bells
- Lawn Mowing
 - Kevin Erickson will continue to provide mowing services
- Fellowship Carpet Cleaning
 - completed soon
- Polka Band
 - approved \$500 for payment of the band

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- March 31 – the Committee met
- Jesus and Me (JAM)
 - April 30 and May 14 – both sessions at UCC
- May 4 – Confirmation, with Christian Education Committee hosting fellowship
- May 11 – Mother's Day, with students handing out flowers
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 - theme - Guided by Jesus
 - June 1 from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
 - children, parents, and grandparents invited to attend
 - participants preparing their own lunch; learning to work together

Other/Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Audit Report Update
- Camp Scholarship Update
- Financial Policy

Next Meeting Date and Time

There will NOT be a May meeting, so the next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, June 23 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Barb Petkovsek to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye;" motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Submitted by:

Emile J Miller

Neillsville UCC Council Secretary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
July 6, 2025 – August 31, 2025

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point
Sunday, July 6, 2025	Barb Shoemaker	Corinne Armitage	Russ Karl	Emile Miller
		Neil Armitage	Paul Schmidt	
Sunday, July 13, 2025	Sally Sadowska	Paul Vine	Hap Eddy	Janice Miller
Heritage Days		Kelley Burch	Roger Carl	
Sunday, July 20, 2025	Karlene Wallace	Howie & Kathy Mathis	Ben Mathis	Reese Ziegler
			Travis Vine	
Sunday, July 27, 2025	Janice Miller	Wendy & Craig Sigurdson	Nancy Rodman	Janice Miller
		& grandkids	Kirk Rodman	
Sunday, August 3, 2025	JoAnn Wren	Stephanie Heck	Craig Heck	Emile Miller
		Sophie Heck	Kalvin Heck	
		Brynn Heck	Max Heck	
Sunday, August 10, 2025	none			
Clark County Fair				
Sunday, August 17, 2025	Wayne Voss	Jim & M.E. Sjolin	Don Quicker	Bonnie Weyer
			Jerry Quicker	
Sunday, August 24, 2025	Byrl Buddenhagen	Phil & Donita Follen	Mickey Marty	Janice Miller
			Joel Raine	
Sunday, August 31, 2025	Barb Shoemaker	Jenna Ziegler & family	Wendy Sigurdson	
			Craig Sigurdson	
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member. 715-743-2147				



2025 United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1 PM Bible Study Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible	2 7 PM NA	3 Noon- T& C Quilters	4 	5
6 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Communion 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	7 9 AM Card Making	8 1 PM Bible Study 9 AM Book Club mts at “Just Love” cafe	9 7 PM NA	10 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	11	12
13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	14 6 PM PEO	15 1 PM Bible Study	16 1 PM Stewardship Mtg 7 PM NA	17	18	19
20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	21 9 AM Card Making 9 AM- T& C Quilters	22 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM – HCE Homemakers	23 7 PM NA	24	25	26
27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	28 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM – HCE meeting	29 1 PM Bible Study	30 7 PM NA	31		