

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
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AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (KJV)

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that you have been rejuvenated this summer, that you found time to reconnect with family and friends, that you have been able to rest and relax. And if your summer has been busy and rushed, then may these next few weeks offer you an opportunity to take your sabbath, to find peace and refreshment, to restore your soul.

We spent a week in the Great Smoky Mountains several years ago, and it was one of the most fulfilling vacations I've ever experienced. I love the symbolism of the mountains, the analogy of winding mountain roads compared to my spiritual journey, the highs and lows of life, the exhilaration of the climb, the fear of hairpin curves and questionable guardrails, the awe of the view from the mountain peak, even the slight anxiety of the descent as gravity threatens to take control.

The highlight of our trip was a day spent in Cades Cove. The old churches felt completely immersed in history, the cloud of witnesses nearly tangible. The air fairly vibrated with the spirit of worship and prayer that permeated the very walls, inspiring reverence and deep emotion. Eventually we reached the visitor center at the apex of the loop. Nearby was a grassy area with log benches in a circle. A man sat down and pulled out an instrument I had never before seen: a bowed psaltery, something similar to what King David likely played. He played a few tunes, as I sat near him, enjoying the music and the beautiful spring sunshine.

As he continued to play, more and more people gathered around, until the benches were full, and he began to play "How Great Thou Art." As the music swelled, people couldn't help but sing along, and my heart literally ached with the beauty of the moment. There we were in a green meadow, surrounded by lofty mountain grandeur, nearby bubbling brook, glorious sunshine, gentle breeze, singing, "O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands have made ... then sings my soul: how great thou art!"

This was exactly the setting that would inspire a hymn like "How Great Thou Art", a setting that inspires reverence and praise and awesome wonder at the power and glory and majesty of our God. The lump in my throat, though, was more than just the physical beauty around me; it was the beauty of the people gathered with me. Twenty or so strangers of all ages and backgrounds, unified together in a song of awe, voices blending, raised in praise of God and creation itself, people who may have nothing else in common but were completely united for one moment through the love and majesty of God. This is the glory of community, a moment I will forever cherish. This is the greatness of the God we serve. O Lord, my God, how great thou art!

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 |
| Brian Eddy | |

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Acts 20:35

I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than receiving."



Sundays, July 6, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jerry Quicker in loving memory of his sons, Paul & Mike Quicker.

Sunday, July 13, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously in "Praise of Jesus Christ".

Sunday, July 20, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by "a faithful listener".

Sunday, July 27, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker in loving memory of her mother, Elva Bakker.

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 July 2025 Attendance for In-Person Worship

July 6	online 6	Sunday 53
July 13	online 6	Sunday 71
July 20	online 6	Sunday 59
July 27	online 1	Sunday 39



SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER 1 -9

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

September 1-9

Birthdays

- 1- Logan Erickson
Rosemary Opelt
Jerry Quicker
- 2- Fritz Hediger
- 3- M.E. Sjolin
- 5- Donita Follen
Joel Raine
- 6- Crispin Hediger
Audrey Vradenburg

Anniversaries

- 6- Margaret & Bruce Rakestraw
- 8- Carla & Mickey Marty

- 1- Earnie Ruegsegger
Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke
- 11- Ava Kruschke
- 12- Alexis Bergemann
- 19- Benjamin Mathis
- 21- Karen Mohr
Patricia Wall
- 23- Craig Heck
Cole Hediger
Axel Kruschke
- 27- Kathy Marshall
- 28- Sandy Bieneck
- 29- James Repinski
Nancy Boon

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



- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn
- 11- Kathy & Howie Mathis
- 14- Debbie & Mike Perkl
- 15- Sandy & Paul Schmidt
- 18- Kathy & Butch Carl
- 19- Karen & Jim Mohr
- 20- Barb & Steve Miller
- 22- Kellie Murphy & Neil Czarnecki
Stephanie & Craig Heck
- 28- Sandy & Roy Bieneck
Judy & Jerry Quicker
Linda & John Stalsberg

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 **Craig & Stephanie, Calvin, Sophie Heck, Max Heck, Brynn Heck and Kay Heck** on the death of Tracy Heck who passed away on July 16, 2025.

† to **Pat Wall** on the death of her daughter-in-law, Grace Wall. Grace was the wife of Pat’s son, Eugene of Madison, WI.

Thinking of you and wishing you moments of peace and comfort.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On **Sunday, August 24**, we will be offering a special blessing for the youth heading back to school. Congregation members have been dedicating personal prayer time to coloring backpack tags and praying for the students who will receive them. (Reminder: tags need to be returned to the church office by Sunday August 17 to be laminated for presentation!)

We intend to have enough tags for all of our NUCC students and also for the weekend backpacks that are distributed to students in need. We would love to see all of our returning students of any age in worship on August 24 - even if you don't have a backpack to bless, we want to bless you!



BACKPACK Blessing

† May God bless this backpack and all it carries. May it hold more than just books and supplies; May it carry kindness, courage and love. Watch over the child who carries it as they learn, grow and make friends. Fill each day with wisdom and joy, and keep them safe wherever they go.
Amen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

from Stephanie Heck-



JAM (Pre-K thru 6th) will start on Wednesday, September 10th at 5 pm at Calvary. We will meet again every other week from 5-5:45pm at Calvary.

Please watch for registration to come out in August.

Confirmation Update

Hard to believe that the summer is nearly over and it's already time to start thinking about restarting our Christian Education programs!

Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons, **starting September 10, 2025.**

We will meet every other Wednesday, consistent with JAM schedule. Confirmation Class will be 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. One parent has already volunteered to chauffeur the students from school to church, and then parents can pick up when they pick up kids from JAM. Anyone who is in 7th grade or older is welcome to join us, and we are happy to make accommodations if the proposed schedule is a concern. Please call the church office at 715-743-2147 or Pastor Julie at 608-558-2397 if you have questions or are interested in participating.



Holiday Fair Yard Sign

I know it's only August but ... it's time to think about our Holiday Fair event. I have contacted JBC Screenprinting & Embroidery LLC and they have designed these yard signs for us to help promote this very worthwhile event.

If you would be willing to post one in your yard starting in October, please let me know by September 1st so I can order the appropriate number of signs. Thank you very much for your continued support to your church.

Emile Miller 715-937-4626

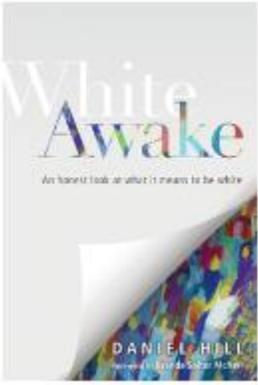
COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE PANCAKE BUFFET

Bring your family and friends to the PANCAKE BUFFET EXTRAVGANZA ON August 24th from 10:30 – 12:30. Lots of pancakes, French toast bakes, muffins and all the "fixins".

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church or you may call Barb Petkovsek at 715 429-0486 to donate items for the brunch and to help with the event. This is the 3rd fundraiser planned for this year.

The last fundraiser is being planned by the Deacons for October 26th.

NUCC Book Club - Tuesday, August 19th – 10 AM



NUCC Book Club will be gathering on Tuesday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m. at Just Love Cafe. There is always room for more to join us! Even if you don't have time to read the entire book before we gather, feel free to come and join the discussion.

We have had some very powerful discussions over our first book, James, by Percival Everett, and we are looking forward to our next book: White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White, by Daniel Hill.

Book Overview from the Publisher:

Daniel Hill will never forget the day he heard these words: “Daniel, you may be white, but don't let that lull you into thinking you have no culture. White culture is very real. In fact, when white culture comes in contact with other cultures, it almost always wins. So, it would be a really good idea for you to learn about your culture” Confused and unsettled by this encounter, Hill began a journey of understanding his own white identity. Today he is an active participant in addressing and confronting racial and systemic injustices. And in this compelling and timely book, he shows you the seven stages to expect on your own path to cultural awakening. It's crucial to understand both personal and social realities in the areas of race, culture, and identity. This book will give you a new perspective on being white and also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.



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.



To Pastor Julie and the Congregation,

On behalf of our Narcotics Anonymous group, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the trust and kindness you've shown in allowing us to hold our meetings in your church.

We know it's no small thing — opening your doors to a recovery community takes courage, compassion, and faith. By welcoming us into this beautiful, sacred space, you've created a place of healing — not just for individuals, but for entire families and this community as a whole.

Our Wednesday and Sunday night meetings now average 10 to 12 people each week. For a town our size, that number says something powerful: the need is real. And the healing is happening. We've heard it directly from our members — again and again — that these meetings have changed, and even saved, their lives. By giving us a place to gather, you have helped to save lives, restore dignity, and rekindle hope. And that ripple effect extends far beyond those four walls. It reaches children, parents, partners, and whole family systems. You've helped rebuild what addiction tried to tear down.

We're especially grateful for the small, thoughtful gestures — the warm welcome, the treats left behind, and the care you show in even the quietest ways. These acts do not go unnoticed. They are felt deeply.

Thank you, Pastor Julie, and thank you to this incredible congregation, for seeing the value in what we do and for believing in redemption, recovery, and renewal. Your kindness has made a real and lasting difference.

With respect and gratitude,

We Recover Together Narcotics Anonymous Group

Neillsville United Church of Christ
is hosting a **SUNDAY FUNDAY** with a
PANCAKE BRUNCH EXTRAVAGANZA
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
514 W 2nd Street

Our delicious menu consists of:

- pancakes
- blueberry pancakes
- potato pancakes
- French toast bakes
- muffins
- sausage

along with all the fixings of pure maple
syrup, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate
chips, applesauce, and more.

Free will donation!

We hope to see you there!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
August 3, 2025 – September 21, 2025

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point
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	
Sunday, Sept 7, 2025	Sally Sadowska	Lydia Schumacher	Cris Hediger	
		Karen Northup	Larry Marshall	
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025	Karlene Wallace	Sandy Bieneck	Barb Petkovsek	
		Michelle Bergemann	Bob Petkovsek	
Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025	Janice Miller	Carole Romens	Debbie Perkl	
		Jenny Erickson	Mike Perkl	
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 PM Bible Study Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible			1	2
3 <u>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u> <u>Communion</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	4 9 AM Card Making Noon- Interfaith Caregivers meet	5 1 PM Bible Study	6 6 PM Deacon’s Mtg 7 PM NA	7 Noon- T& C Quilters	8	9
10 <u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00 Worship at the Clark County Fair 7 PM NA	11 6 PM PEO	12 1 PM Bible Study	13 1 PM Stewardship Mtg 7 PM NA	14 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	15	16
17 <u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	18 9 AM Card Making 9 AM- T& C Quilters	19 1 PM Bible Study 10 AM Book Study at “Just Love” Cafe	20 7 PM NA	21	22	23
24 <u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	25 1 PM Bible Study	26 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM – HCE Homemakers	27 7 PM NA	28 5:30 PM Leadership Council Mtg	29	30