

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 17, 2025
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Berceuse" Felix Mendelssohn
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us to grow in faithfulness.
Take away our greed and selfishness!
God challenges us to serve others in loving ways.
**Help us grow in our service and witness to your
mercy and peace.**
Come, let us worship God who delights in our
witness.
Let us praise God who is always with us. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the
conviction of things not seen. We come convinced
of many things but trusting very few. Holy God of
limitless surprises, meet us here in this place, as we
touch that which we cannot see, that which we
have not dared to hope. Amen.**

HYMN "For All the Saints" William W. How
#299 NCH (vs. 1-3)

**1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;
You, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;
'Mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true
Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**3 Still may your people, faithful, true and bold,
Live as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And share with them a glorious crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**Most Holy God, we come to confess our lack of
trust. While we sing of your authority over all
creation, your never-ending compassion for every
creature on earth, we have too often acted as
though you are powerless in the face of today's
events. Help us to live with confidence in your
presence today, with faith and endurance for the
future, and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As forgiven and blessed children of God, let us share
with one another signs of peace and love.

One: The Peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another with words such
as "*The peace of Christ be with you,*"
and the response: "*And also with you*".

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 82 (NLT)

- ¹ God presides over heaven's court;
he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings:
- ² "How long will you hand down unjust decisions
by favoring the wicked?"
- ³ "Give justice to the poor and the orphan;
uphold the rights of the oppressed and the
destitute.
- ⁴ Rescue the poor and helpless;
deliver them from the grasp of evil people.
- ⁵ But these oppressors know nothing;
they are so ignorant!
They wander about in darkness,
while the whole world is shaken to the core.
- ⁶ I say, 'You are gods;
you are all children of the Most High.
- ⁷ But you will die like mere mortals
and fall like every other ruler.'"
- ⁸ Rise up, O God, and judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you.

NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 11:1-3, 24-27, 29-12:2 (CEB)

¹ Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. ² The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

³ By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

²⁴ By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he was grown up. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated with God's people instead of having the temporary pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He thought that the abuses he suffered for Christ were more valuable than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking forward to the reward.

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt without being afraid of the king's anger. He kept on going as if he could see what is invisible.

²⁹ By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

³⁰ By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

³² What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. ³³ Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

³⁶ But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated.

³⁸ The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

³⁹ All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. ⁴⁰ God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

^{12:1} So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, ² and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

SERMON "By Faith and Endurance" Pastor Julie

HYMN *"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"*

#295 NCH Lesbia Scott

**1 I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through,
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
For the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and another a shepherd in pastures green;
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one, too.**

**2 They loved their God and they lived that love.
It was loving that made them strong.
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast;
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,
why I shouldn't be one, too.**

**3 They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints
who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
For the saints are folk like you and me,
and I mean to be one, too.**

MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory "Adagio" Mendelssohn

Doxology

"We Give You But Your Own" #785 NCH

We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully.

Prayer of Dedication

As we offer our gifts and lives in this moment, may we become imitators of you, Gracious God, who holds nothing back from us, but is generous and gracious with all that is yours. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

HYMN "God, We Thank You for Our People"

#376 NCH (vs 1-2) Ruth Duck

1 God, we thank you for our people,
Roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in loving,
Strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful Rock of generations,
You whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember
May our song to you be raised.

2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure:
Lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and mem'ries saved as treasure,
Passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories,
Food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence
In our tears and laughter shared.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "God, We Thank You for Our People"

#376 NCH (vs 4)

4 By your Spirit of creation,
Keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation,
Ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another,
Sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother,
All your children on the earth.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast
on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Lori and John Shaw
in memory of parents, Bob & Lorraine Shaw.

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us on site,
through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call,
seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

YouTube link for Sunday, August 17, 2025

<https://youtube.com/live/iQnfHfMqujc>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 17th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen

Greeter(s) Jim & M.E. Sjolin

Usher(s) – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker

PowerPoint – Bonnie Weyer

Monday, August 18th

- 9:00 AM Card Making

Tuesday, August 19th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

- 10:00 AM NUCC Book Club at “Just Love” Café

- 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 17 - Bonnie Shaw

Aug 24 – PANCAKE BRUNCH

Aug 31 –

Sept 7 –

Sept 14 -

We need people to sign up



Hebrews 11:1, KJV

TODAY



UCC-Neillsville

515 West Second Street

10:15-10:30 am