

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Barb Shoemaker - Layperson

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PRELUDE *"King of Love"* Gordon Young
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

In the beginning God created all things,
and God saw that they were good.

At our beginning, God created us
**unique and irreplaceable, loved and wanted by
God,
known and treasured by God even before He
created us.**

In all our new beginnings, God creates something
new
**so we will seek God in the freshness of this
morning,
in the laughter of friends,
in the colors of creation,
and in this beautiful place.**

Creator God,
**open our eyes to see your presence,
our souls to sense your presence,
and our hearts to love your presence,
ever here in your creation,
and ever beyond it in eternity.
Amen.**

HYMN *"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"*
#24 W&R

**1 God, you spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace, and mercy,
And the truth that makes us free.**

**2 You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship,
Joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole,
Healed and strengthened as your people,
We move onward toward your goal**

**3 God, your will is still creating,
Calling us to life made new,
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion,
Fashion us with loving care,
Thus, new creatures in your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**We are workers, God, just like you. But we confess
that our actions do not always affirm and honor
each other. Our work is not always done in a spirit
that is pleasing to you. We confess that, on some
occasions, we have blindly bought goods made by
people who are paid too little or work in unsafe
conditions. We admit that we have failed to end an
unjust system in which some workers have jobs that
provide good wages and benefits while others may
have no job, or one that pays little and provides few
benefits.**

**Creator God, help us to be your people, working for
a world where all workers are valued. A world
where those who clean houses are also able to buy
houses to live in. A world where those who grow
food can also afford to eat their fill. And one where
those who serve and care for others – in stores,
schools, hotels, restaurants, nursing homes, and
many other places – are, themselves, also served
and cared for. A world where all workers
everywhere share in the abundance that you have
given us.**

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*".

RESPONSE: "*Gloria Patri*" #759 NCH

**Glorify to the Creator, the Christ,
the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The Glory of the New Covenant

⁷The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. ⁸Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? ⁹If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! ¹⁰In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. ¹¹So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

¹²Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. ¹³We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. ¹⁴But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. ¹⁵Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

¹⁶But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—

who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

John 15:1-17

¹"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

⁹"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹²This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

SERMON "Reflecting God's Love" Barb Shoemaker

HYMN "*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*"

#292 NCH (vs. 1-3)

**1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love
and do what you would do.**

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will,
to do and to endure.

3 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me
may glow with holy fire.

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 "In Heaven Above" Alice Jordan

Doxology

"We Give You But Your Own" Wm. W. How

#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

In the offering of our gifts, as well as the living of our days, may we not grow weary of doing what is right, but commit to speaking up for the voiceless, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, and all those mercies which are such a part of your heart and hopes for all your children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

#76 NCH vs 1 Omer Westendorf

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith
confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
The fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts
reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
To work for God's realm and to answer the call.

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

#76 NCH vs 2

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead
us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Christ sends us forth:

Keep my commandments, abide in my love.

We will go forth in peace and justice!

Love one another, go forth to serve:

We will go forth in love!

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Rosie Repinski
in celebration
of Jim Repinski's 88th birthday.

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 31, 2025
https://youtube.com/live/pmP6BFz_DVU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, August 31st

- 9:30 AM Worship

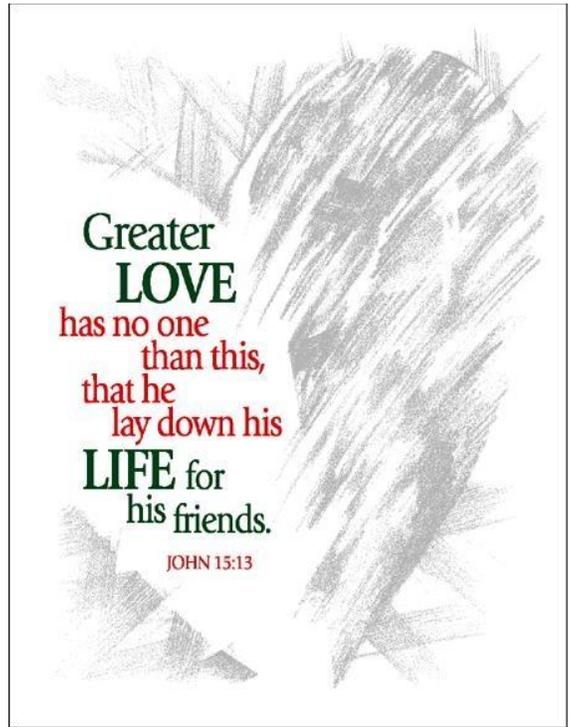
Deacon Host – Barb Shoemaker
Greeter(s) Jenna Ziegler & family
Usher(s) – Hap Eddy & Roger Carl
PowerPoint – Barb Petkovsek

Monday, September 1st

NO Circle of Friends card making due to Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2nd

- 1:00 PM Bible Study



Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 31 – Mathis' 😊
Sept 7 –
Sept 14 –
Sept 21 -
We need people to sign up



for the SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER. All articles are due by **Sunday, August 31st** in the office.

