

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Just As I Am"* Dale Wood
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 146)

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of
heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;

**seeking justice for the oppressed and for the
hungry;**

setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the
blind;

**lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the
righteous.**

The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan
and widow;

but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

The Lord our God will reign forever, for all
generations.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

God our Comforter and our Confronter, speak to
our souls. Engage our spirits with truth and
compassion. Stir our hearts with your vision of a
world full of your love and hope. Inspire us through
your word, meet us in the moment, and infuse us
with joy and courage to pursue your way. Guide us
on the journey even as you dwell in our worship so
that we may honor you and be restored in you.
Amen.

HYMN *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

#436 NCH (vs. 1-3) Henry Emerson Fosdick

**1 God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your power.
Crown your ancient church's story,**

**Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
And assail the Savior's ways,
From the fears that long have bound us –
Free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Make our broken spirits whole,
Make our broken spirits whole.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Compassionate God, we confess that too often we
only care about our own suffering and discomfort
and ignore the pain and troubles of our neighbor.
We turn away or even contribute to the plight of
others. We feast on systems that create deprivation
and inequity. We accept distortions of the gospel
that claim that your creation is insufficient to meet
the needs of your beloved. Meet us as we turn back
to your way and your reign. Liberate us so that we
may be instruments of restoration, repair, and
renewal in your name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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: *“Open Our Eyes, Lord” #491 W&R*
**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love
him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

CHILDREN’S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 146

¹ Praise the Lord! Let all that I am praise the Lord.

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praises to my God with my dying breath.

³ Don’t put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there. ⁴ When they breathe their last, they return to the earth, and all their plans die with them.

⁵ But joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

⁶ He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. ⁷ He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

The Lord frees the prisoners. ⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down. The Lord loves the godly. ⁹ The Lord protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever. He will be your God, O Jerusalem, throughout the generations. Praise the Lord!

NEW TESTAMENT 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

¹¹ But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. ¹³ And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ¹⁵ For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. ¹⁶ He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

²² “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

²⁴ “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

²⁵ "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.'

²⁷ "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. ²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.'

²⁹ "But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.'

³⁰ "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.'

³¹ "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

SERMON "Economy of Grace" Pastor Julie

HYMN "If Only I Had Known" (verses 1,4,5)

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4 ("The God of Abraham Praise")

1 "If only I had known the cost of human greed,
Perhaps I would have reached out more to those in
need.

But now I see the truth across the great divide!
If only I had known and changed," the rich man
cried.

4 If only we could learn what keeps us wanting
more:

We build our bigger barns so we'll feel more secure.
But you alone, O God, give true security;
Possessed by our possessions, we cannot be free.

5 O Christ, if we could know God's will for all the
earth!

And yet, by your own Spirit, you have shown God's
truth:

"Do justice, help the poor, share life and love and
land,
And when you see the hungry, open wide your
hand."

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

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

Holy One, receive these gifts as expressions of trust and love of you and care and love of your beloved. Magnify them for your glory and bless those who give in faithfulness and hope. Amen.

HYMN "Be Now My Vision"

#451 NCH (vs.1,3) Eleanor H. Hull

1 Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
Nothing surpasses the love you impart -
You my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

3 Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
You, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
Great God, my treasure, may we never part.

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN "Be Now My Vision"

#451 NCH (vs.4)

4 Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

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

This week's radio broadcast is given
anonymously by "a faithful listener".

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, September 28, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/fNTUW3p4zCc>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, September 28th **- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon Host – JoAnn Wren
Greeters – Barb Miller, Janice Miller
Ushers – Bonnie & Ray Weyer
PowerPoint – Janice Miller

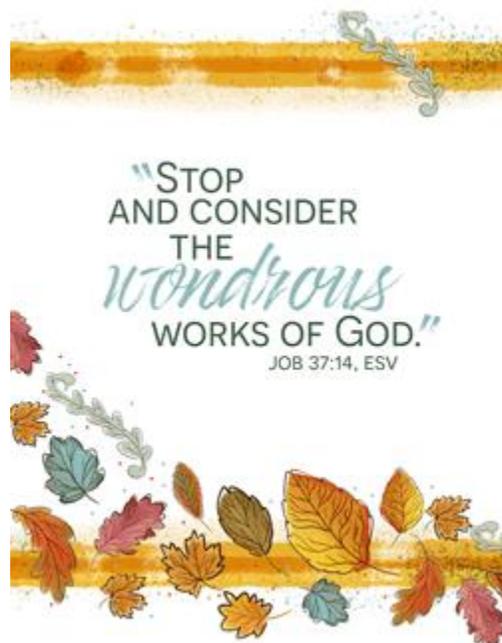
Following Sunday, October 5th

Deacon – Wayne Voss
Greeters – Audrey Vradenburg, Jim Vradenburg
Ushers – Mickey Marty & Joel Raine
Power Point – Emile Miller

Tuesday, September 30th **- 1:00 PM Bible Study**

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Sept 28 – Stewardship Committee
Oct 5 – Carole Romens
Oct 12 –
Oct 19 – Stewardship Committee
We need people to sign up



REMINDER – Please have all articles for the
October Newsletter into the office no later
than Tuesday, September 30th.