

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"*
Dykes Deon Spangler

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are
your clay.

**We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.
Mold us again!**

We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and
dreams, our doubts and our delights.

**We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.
Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!**

We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our
path.

**We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.
Rebuild and replant us!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Knowing and Loving God, from the very beginning
of your creation, you breathed your love in to all
that you made. You gave us the breath of life and
asked us to be good stewards of all creation. You
placed your trust and love in us. Help us to turn
again with joyful hearts to you, placing our trust in
all that you have done for us. Let us be a blessing
for you. Amen.**

HYMN *"Be Now My Vision"* Eleanor H. Hull
#451 NCH (vs. 1-3) Traditional Irish melody

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

**2 Be now my wisdom, and be my true Word;
Ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
Now and forever your child I will be.**

**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.**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

**Forgiving God, we have messed up in so many ways.
You gave us a wonderful world, filled with beauty,
power, and majesty, and we have ravaged it -
tearing away at its gifts with our own greed and
cowardice. We have not treated this world or one
another with compassionate love. We have
neglected service to others and have focused our
lives on accumulating things and status. We have
chased after false gods - greed, power, fame. You
are the potter, God. Refashion us to be your people,
celebrating your love in service to others. 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"*.

RESPONSE: *"Gloria Patri"* Henry W. Greatorex
#759 NCH

**Glory 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

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 18:1-11

¹The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He
said, ²"Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak
to you there."

³ So I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. ⁴ But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.

⁵ Then the Lord gave me this message: ⁶ “O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand. ⁷ If I announce that a certain nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, ⁸ but then that nation renounces its evil ways, I will not destroy it as I had planned. ⁹ And if I announce that I will plant and build up a certain nation or kingdom, ¹⁰ but then that nation turns to evil and refuses to obey me, I will not bless it as I said I would.

¹¹ “Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.’”

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. ³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. ⁵ You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

¹³ You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸ I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

NEW TESTAMENT Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone

else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

SERMON “Counting the Cost” Pastor Julie

HYMN “Have Thine Own Way, Lord”
#486 W&R (vs 1,3,4) Adelaide Pollard

**1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
You are the potter, I am the clay.**

**Mold me and make me after your will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.**

**3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!**

**4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!**

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore with your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
our God!**

Hosanna in the highest!

... Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**Be present with us as we share this meal and
throughout all our lives, that we may know
you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the
Holy Spirit lives forever. Amen.**

Sharing The Elements

All are welcome to partake in the Feast of our Lord. The table is open to all.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have
refreshed us at your table by granting us the
presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another, and send us
forth into the world in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *Meditation on "Beach Spring" Traditional*

Doxology *"We Give You But Your Own" W How*

#785 NCH

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

Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify
them to propel the ministry of this church. May
the community and the world benefit from our
generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our
contributions. Amen.**

HYMN *"Take My Gifts"*

#562 NCH (vs. 1-2) Shirley Erena Murray

**1 Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!**

**2 Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter—
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.**

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"Take My Gifts"*

#562 NCH (vs. 3)

**3 Take whatever I can offer—
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deon Spangler

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by Karen & Dave Northup in honor of her parents, Harry & Ruby Ambelang's wedding anniversary.

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Sept 7 - Follen's
Sept 14 -
Sept 21 -
Sept 28 - Stewardship Committee
We need people to sign up

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 7, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/IDq4YuhJ4EY>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 7th

- **9:30 AM** Worship with communion
Deacon Host – Sally Sadowska
Greeter(s) Lydia Schumacher, Karen Northup
Usher(s) –Cris Hediger, Larry Marshall
PowerPoint – Paul Vine

Tuesday, September 9th

- **1:00 PM** Bible Study

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

- **1:00 PM** Caregivers Meeting
- **2:00 PM** Stewardship Meeting
- **3:30 – 5:30 PM** Confirmation class here
- **5:00 – 5:45 PM** JAM meets at Calvary
- **6:00 PM** Immersion Bible Study

Thursday, September 11th

- **10:00 AM** Book Club meets at Just Love Café
- **1:30 PM** Circle of Friends Meeting



**Meal
Giveaway**
UCC NEILLSVILLE
515 West Second Street
September 21, 2025
10:15 -10:30 AM