

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2025

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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PRELUDE *"Bye and Bye"* Spiritual Earl Roland Larson
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered in the presence of God our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God's wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship God.

HYMN *"God of Grace and God of Glory"*
#436 NCH vs. 1-3 Harry 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 AND NEW LIFE

Spirit of Encouragement, you thrive in our times of doubt. Your work takes root even if the drought of fear destroys our fertile soil. Yet we allow our mistrust of you and our neighbors to disturb our growth. We ask you to increase our faith when we are refusing to cultivate it. Motivate us to seek new ways of exploring our faith. Embolden us to trust even when fear creeps into our minds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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: *"Rejoice You Pure in Heart"*

#55 NCH v. 1 Edward H. Plumptre

**Rejoice, you pure in heart;
lift praises to the sky:
Your festal banner wave with joy,
the cross of Christ raise high!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,
give thanks and sing.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SPECIAL MUSIC *'Babylon Blues'*

Bill Carter and the Presbybop Quartet

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT PSALM 137

Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

¹ By the rivers of Babylon— there we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion. ² On the willows there we hung up our harps. ³ For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” ⁴ How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land? ⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! ⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

⁷ Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem’s fall, how they said, “Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!” ⁸ O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! ⁹ Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!

OLD TESTAMENT Lamentations 1:1-6

The Deserted City

1 How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become subject to forced labor.

² She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers, she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

³ Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations; she finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

⁵ Her foes have become the masters; her enemies prosper because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

⁶ From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

NEW TESTAMENT 2 Timothy 2:8-15

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.* ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—he cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

¹⁴ Remind them of this and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

SERMON “Forlorn Yet Faithful” Pastor Jim

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

#439 NCH Martin Luther adapt. Ruth Duck

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our present help amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe
with craft and power great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth without an equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
But the is one who takes our side,
The One of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, set us free!
With mighty power to save,
Victorious o'er the grave,
Christ will prevail triumphant.

3 And though this world with devils filled
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The powers of evil grim,
we tremble not for them;
their rage we can endure,
for lo, their doom is sure;
one little word shall fell them.

4 That Word beyond all earthly powers
forever is abiding;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
for Christ is with us siding.

Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth shall triumph still;
God's reign endures forever.

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 "Nobody Know De Trouble I've Seen"

Doxology "We Give You But Your Own" Wm. 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.

HYMN "We Are Often Tossed and Driven"

#444 NCH (vs.1-3) Charles Albert Tindley

1 We are often tossed and driven
on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day,
when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
for we'll understand it better by and by.

2 We are often destitute
of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
thirsty hills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured,
and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by.
(Refrain]

3 Trials dark on every hand,
and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us
to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye,
and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by.
[Refrain]

BLESSING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN *"We Are Often Tossed and Driven"*

#444 NCH (verse 4)

Temptations, hidden snares
often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
for many a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder why the test,
when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by.
[Refrain]

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

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

This week's radio broadcast is given
by Karen & Dave Northup
in celebration of their
25th wedding anniversary.

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, October 12, 2025
<https://youtube.com/live/gcSrTG1hHs>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, October 12th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon Host – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeters – Pat Acheson, Herman Seebandt
Ushers – Emile Miller, Janet Meredith
Power Point – Bonnie Weyer

Following Sunday, October 19th

Deacon – Barb Shoemaker
Greeters – Doris Bakker, Ellie Golembiewski
Ushers – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek

Tuesday, October 14th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 12 – Carole Romens
Oct 19 – Stewardship Committee
Oct 26 – Meal available after Polka Worship
Nov 2 -

We need people to sign up



Thank you VOLUNTEERS!

Sunday, October 19th

- Attend "Thank You" Sunday Worship Service

You're invited to a small brunch following our Sunday service celebrating our "Volunteer of the Year". The brunch is a way to say "Thank You" for sharing your time, talents, and treasures. We'll be serving French toast bake, lemon crepes, breakfast casseroles, homemade breads, fruit.

Please plan to attend.

UCC Stewardship Committee

Change of Seasons



October 25, 2025

8:30 AM – Breakfast at UCC- Neillsville

What is Change of Seasons? It is a time for community volunteers to help our deserving Senior Citizens with those "Change of Seasons" leaf jobs. This happens each Spring and Fall with the collaboration of St. Mary's Justice and Peace Committee, and Interfaith Caregivers of Clark County and many community volunteers.

Guidelines for Change of Seasons –

- No lawn mowing
- Gutters will be cleaned if adult volunteers are available and weather permits. There must be two volunteers when cleaning gutters and only first story gutters will be cleaned.
- Only the primary lawn area will be raked.
- If the weather is bad – please come and eat breakfast with your community volunteers as the food has already been prepared.

Receivers and volunteers may sign up by calling Interfaith at 715-743-2885. If you receive the answering machine, please leave your name and number where you can be called back.