

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 1, 2026**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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**PRELUDE** "Deep River" Negro Spiritual  
Karen Mohr

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, who do you come to worship?

**We come to worship the one true God.**

How will you worship?

**Not with words alone, but by living lives  
of justice and love.**

Come, you who belong to God.

Come, you who are foolish in the eyes of the world.

**Come and abide in God's tent and in God's heart,  
now and forever.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide  
in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of  
wisdom, that we may know how to live as your  
people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that  
we may love all your people with a love that speaks  
of justice, kindness, and radical grace. May this  
time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you.  
Amen

**HYMN** "We Are Called"

*Words and Music: David Haas*

**1 Come! Live in the light!**

**Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!**

**We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

***Refrain:***

**We are called to act with justice,**

**We are called to love tenderly;**

**We are called to serve one another,**

**To walk humbly with God.**

**2 Come! Open your heart!**

**Show your mercy to all those in fear!**

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so hatred and blindness will be no more.**

***Refrain***

**3 Sing! Sing a new song!**

**Sing of that great day when all will be one!**

**God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love.**

***Refrain***

**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:** "*We Are Called*" Refrain

**We are called to act with justice,**

**We are called to love tenderly;**

**We are called to serve one another,**

**To walk humbly with God.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT** Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Listen to what the Lord is saying:

"Stand up and state your case against me.

Let the mountains and hills be called to witness your  
complaints. <sup>2</sup> And now, O mountains, listen to the  
Lord's complaint! He has a case against his people.  
He will bring charges against Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? What have  
I done to make you tired of me? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to help you.

<sup>5</sup> Don't you remember, my people, how King Balak of Moab tried to have you cursed and how Balaam son of Beor blessed you instead? And remember your journey from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, when I, the Lord, did everything I could to teach you about my faithfulness."

<sup>6</sup> What can we bring to the Lord? Should we bring him burnt offerings? Should we bow before God Most High with offerings of yearling calves?

<sup>7</sup> Should we offer him thousands of rams and ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for our sins?

<sup>8</sup> No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

**NEW TESTAMENT Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**  
*The Wisdom of God*

<sup>18</sup> The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. <sup>19</sup> As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

<sup>20</sup> So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. <sup>21</sup> Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. <sup>23</sup> So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

<sup>24</sup> But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God chose

things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. <sup>28</sup> God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. <sup>29</sup> As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

<sup>30</sup> God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord."

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)**

**HYMN** "Blest are They" David Haas #666 W&R

**1 Blest are they, the poor in Spirit  
Theirs is the kingdom of God  
Blest are they, full of sorrow  
They shall be consoled**

*Refrain:*

**Rejoice and be glad  
Blessed are you, holy are you  
Rejoice and be glad  
Yours is the kingdom of God**

**2 Blest are they, the lowly ones  
They shall inherit the Earth  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst  
They shall have their fill  
[Refrain]**

**3 Blest are they, who show mercy  
Mercy shall be theirs  
Blest are they, the pure of heart  
They shall see God  
[Refrain]**

**4 Blest are they, who seek peace  
They are the children of God  
Blest are they who suffer in faith  
The glory of God is theirs  
[Refrain]**

**5 Blest are you, who suffer hate  
All because of me  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom  
Shine for all to see  
[Refrain]**

**SERMON** "What Does God Require?" Pastor Julie

**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**

**Communion Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer for the Holy Spirit**

**Sharing The Elements**

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

**Prayer Of Thanksgiving**

Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding. Amen.

**THE OFFERING SERVICE**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory** "Arioso" Handel

**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 your alone,  
We give it gratefully. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

**HYMN** "O For a World" Miriam Therese Winter  
#575 NCH (verses 1-2)

1 O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

2 O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.

**BLESSING**

**SHARING OUR BLESSINGS AND BURDENS**

*As we are gathered together as children of God, we are called to share our blessings and joys and our concerns, our deepest fears, sadnesses, griefs and needs so that we may bear one another up and support each other in prayer and Christian love.*

**HYMN** "O For a World" Miriam Therese Winter  
#575 NCH (verses 4-5)

4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.

5 O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

**COMMISSIONING AND 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 Dan Patey & family  
in loving memory of Elvira Patey.

## 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, February 1, 2026  
<https://youtube.com/live/mXKKWX1mWMg>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Sunday, February 1st

#### **- 9:30 AM Worship**

Deacon – Karlene Wallace  
Greeters – Kathy & Larry Marshall  
Ushers – Larry Marshall, Paul Schmidt  
Power Point – Janice Miller  
AV – Emile Miller

***FYI - (for those who are scheduled for PowerPoint it is suggested that you arrive 30 minutes prior to the church service to get the laptop turned on, allow for any updates, get screen down and start running the announcements).***

### Following Sunday, February 8th

Deacon – Janice Miller  
Greeters – Jenna Ziegler & family  
Ushers – Ken Shoemaker, Travis Vine  
Power Point – Bonnie Weyer  
AV – Crispin Hediger

### Monday, February 2nd

**- 9:00 AM Card Making**

### Tuesday, February 3rd

**- 1:00 PM Bible Study**  
**4:00 PM Future Connections & Outreach Meeting**

### Wednesday, February 4th

**- 3:30 PM Confirmation meets at Julie's home**  
**5:00 PM JAM meets at Calvary**

## **Coffee fellowship after worship - Sign up on back bulletin board**

Feb 1 – Buddenhagen's  
Feb 8 – Doris Bakker  
Feb 15 – Mathis'  
Feb 22 –  
Mar 1 -  
We need people to sign up

February - March 2026

We are looking for volunteers to assist with Sunday worship by **reading the scriptures and/or leading the children's message**. Pastor Julie will choose the scripture readings, and volunteers will prepare and lead the children's message. Pastor Julie has online resources available and is happy to discuss ideas or offer guidance.

If you feel called to help, please add your name to the schedule below. For more specifics of questions please contact Sally Sadowska or Janice Miller.

Thank you for serving!

Sunday	Scripture	Children's message
Feb 1	JoAnn Voss	Barb Shoemaker
Feb 8	Kirk Rodman	
Feb 15	Barb Petkovsek	Barb Petkovsek
Feb. 22	Susie Karl	Barb Shoemaker
Mar. 1	Wayne Voss	
Mar. 8	Barb Shoemaker	
Mar. 15	Byrl Buddenhagen	Barb Shoemaker
Mar. 22		
Mar 29 (Palm)		
April 5 (Easter)		

