



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
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www.neillsvilleucc.org

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear Friends,

It is a beautiful sunny winter day, and I am reflecting on the end of the Winter Olympics. I am not a big sports fan, but there is something about the Olympics that always grabs my interest and imagination. I am fascinated by how the world temporarily puts conflicts on hold and comes together for a couple weeks to celebrate the most elite athletes, cheering for the victors, uplifting the stragglers, encouraging and supporting and celebrating athletes of all nationalities and abilities.

While I love the excitement of gold medal winners, the stories that captivate me the most are the athletes who overcome significant challenges to compete in the games, how they handle the biggest disappointments and mistakes on the world's biggest athletic stage. I eagerly watched Lindsey Vonn prepare for her comeback after knee replacement, only to see her dreams dashed bitterly by a horrific accident that nearly amputated her leg. Figure skating has always been my favorite event, and the excitement surrounding Ilia Malinin was hard to miss. Watching him skate was a marvel as he seemed to nearly defy gravity itself. His disastrous performance completely shocked the world after everyone was convinced he would take home the gold. Alongside his story was the story of Maxim Naumov, whose parents tragically died a year ago in an awful plane crash. He worked hard to honor their memory through his skating and offered gracious words of unconditional support for Ilia.

Each of these athletes, and many more, took their challenges in stride with grace and dignity and perseverance. The unwavering support of teammates and even the words of encouragement offered by competitors showed a spirit of humility, kindness and compassion that the world desperately needs. It is refreshing to see countries competing against one another in a good-natured spirit of athletic rivalry rather than with weapons and vicious rhetoric.

Watching people from all over the world gather together to celebrate the Olympic games definitely felt like the epitome of community to me. The Parade of Nations is the vision I hold when we celebrate communion together, knowing that the bread and cup unite us all together as one family of God, regardless of nationality, color, gender, politics, age, ability, social status or any other category we may arbitrarily assign.

My prayer for each of you is that you were warmed by this short winter reprieve and remember that we are all one in the Spirit, forever connected by the love of God who created and blesses each and every person on this earth.

Grace and Peace,

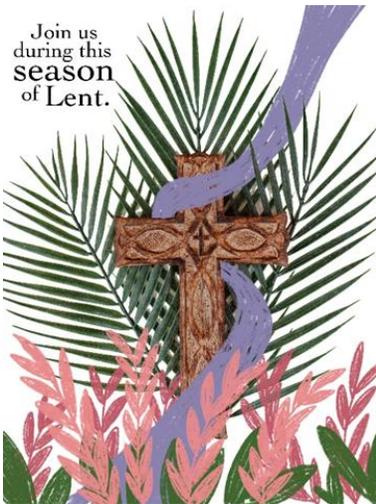
Pastor Julie



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Gayle Schermitzler	Fritz Hediger
Lisa Schermitzler	Fran Ormond
Duane Marty	Mike & Sherrie Holub
Brian Eddy	Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

Please let us know if others not listed (with their permission) would like prayer requests.



Mar. 4 – at Calvary
6 PM viewing “The Chosen”

Mar. 11 – at UCC
Chili Feast from 11–1 and 4-6 PM
\$10 (\$5 – 12 and under,
FREE – 3 and under)
6:30 PM viewing “The Chosen”

Mar. 18 & Mar. 25 – at Calvary
6 PM viewing "The Chosen"

Apr. 2 – Maundy Thursday at UCC
6:30 PM - Worship & communion served

Apr. 3 - Good Friday,
Noon until 3 PM - UCC Sanctuary
will be open with self-guided prayer stations
for meditation and reflection

6:30 PM - Ministerial Alliance Joint Worship
at Living Hope Evangelical Free Church



Sunday, February 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Dan Patey and family in loving memory of Elvira Patey.

Sunday, February 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, February 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously “In Praise of Jesus Christ”.

Sunday, February 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

2026 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed

We have **many open** Sundays to fill for 2026. Would you like to sponsor a radio broadcast?

You may choose to dedicate or honor someone for a particular service date.

The cost remains the same - \$75

Please contact Janice in the office or phone 715-743-2147 to reserve a date.

February 2026 Attendance for In-Person Worship

February 1	online 7	Sunday 54
February 11	online 10	Sunday 71
February 15	online 16	Sunday 62
Ash Wed Feb18	online 12	Sunday 57
February 22	online 9	Sunday 51



- 1- Rick Buchsteiner
Wendell Kuhn
Richard Lewis
- 4- Millie Mathis
- 5- James Mankowski
- 7- Dixie Hediger
- 8- Randy Hauge
- 10- Sherrie Holub
- 12- Larry Marshall
Lisa Schermitzler
- 13- Krue Czarnecki
Bob Petkovsek
- 16- Francis (Butch) Carl
- 17- Glenna Rhoades
- 20- Max Heck
Russ Karl
- 21- Howie Mathis
- 23- Brody Bergemann
Frances Short
- 29- Lane Kranz
- 30- Kellie Murphy
- 31- Joe Anderson

*Happy Birthday to all who have a March birthday!
Did we miss your birthday or have the wrong date?
Let us know if we did.*



- 20- Patricia Acheson & Herman Seebandt
- 27- Lydia & Ron Schumacher



APRIL 1 -9

We are adding the first days of APRIL birthdays and anniversaries so as not to miss any if the newsletter comes out late.

April 1-9 Birthdays

- 4- Carla Marty
- 5- Tye Kranz
- 6- Kirk Rodman
Bonnie Weyer
- 9- Ray Weyer

Anniversaries

- 2- Jenna & Josh Ziegler
- 6- Neil & Corinne Armitage

The Circle of Friends

is looking for more "friends".
No special talents are required,
we can do on the job training.

We meet on the first and third Mondays
of the month at 9 AM in the fellowship hall
to work on making cards.
On the second Thursday at 1:30 PM
we gather for our monthly meeting.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

from Stephanie Heck-



JAM will meet on **Wednesday, March 4th and March 18th** from 5 -5:45 pm at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will be held **3:30- 4:30 p.m. Wednesday March 4th and March 18th at UCC.** On March 18th - we will also include practice for leading Sunday worship on March 22nd.



The **Future Connections Committee** is sponsoring a program for high school students on March 29th at 3 p.m. Neillsville and surrounding area students will be invited to attend a presentation by speaker from Athletes in Action from UW La Crosse for athletes and non-athletes.

The program is intended to ensure, with God's presence, to prepare youth to have Christian faith based foundation when they move into the world after high school. We will be providing pizza, water and cookies. This program is also being supported by Living Hope, Calvary, St. Mary's, CROSS and FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). This memorial committee has approved funding from the Ray Fund.



SCOREBOARD

UCC -	707
St. Mary's -	406
Calvary -	316
Living Hope -	30
	1459 total cans

All cans going to our local food pantry. Thanks to all who participated. GREAT JOB!!!



Meal Giveaway

March 15, 2026

UCC - Neillsville

515 West Second Street

9:45-10:00 AM

Prepared by Hilltop Homemakers



Centershot Archery Ministry is open to adults and meets on Wednesdays opposite JAM nights. The dates for March are the 11th and the 25th, running from 5:30 - 7:00.

All are welcome and equipment is provided. The group meets upstairs in the old Sanctuary. For more information, contact Dan Schroeder at winasp@live.com



Please place your order for Easter flowers by March 23rd. There are a few options other than the Easter Lily. All are \$20.00 - all are in 6" pots. You should make your check out to UCC.

**Easter Lily
Daffodil**

**Tulip
Hyacinth**

We are looking for volunteers to assist with scripture reading and leading the children's message during Sunday worship. If you feel called to help, please add your name to the schedule found on the back bulletin board in the narthex. Pastor Julie is For more information contact Sally Sadowska or Janice Miller.



John Richard Dickey, brother of **Carole Romens**, passed away at his home in Indiana on Monday, February 23. Carole was able to be with him and her other siblings since last Friday. Services will be held Friday, February 27th. Carole and Jenny both appreciate your kindness and prayers during this time.

New Member Meeting

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member of Neillsville United Church of Christ? Are you simply interested in knowing more about the history of this congregation or the overall denomination? The United Church of Christ has a fascinating history and promising future. We will be holding an introductory "class" on Sunday, April 19 following worship for anyone who is interested in becoming a new member or just wants to know more. For those who choose to take the next step, we would like to offer a formal welcoming ceremony during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026. If you want more information or want to be included but have conflict with these dates, please contact Pastor Julie at 608-558-2397 or email NUCCpastor@gmail.com. As always, whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

March 1 – April 5, 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
Mar. 1	Wayne Voss	Bonnie Weyer
Mar. 8	Barb Shoemaker	
Mar. 15	Byrl Buddenhagen	Barb Shoemaker
Mar. 22	Nancy Rodman	Debbie Perkl
Mar 29 (Palm)	Marla Raine	
April 5 (Easter)	Susie Karl	

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

I Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good works and ready to share with others.

Volunteer Opportunities at NUCC

Did you know that there are volunteer opportunities for all ages, all abilities, all skill levels? God may just be calling you to offer your talents to the church in a new way. Some possibilities:

- **Scripture Readers:** All ages welcome! Usually includes 2-3 passages from the Revised Common Lectionary. If you have special interest in dramatic readings, please let Pastor Julie know.
- **Children's Sermon:** Pastor Julie has multiple resources to give ideas to tie into the scripture for each Sunday. This is a valuable part of our worship, reminding our children that they are important and included.
- **Greeters:** This is an important part of our outreach, reminding each person who steps through our doors that they are welcome and valued. Greeters welcome each person as they arrive and watch for any assistance that might be needed, especially if someone is identified as a guest and unfamiliar with our order of worship. If you are serving as a greeter and know that someone is new to our church, it might be helpful to pair them with a "regular member" who can guide them through the service if needed.
- **Ushers:** The primary responsibility of ushers is to collect offerings. After collection is complete, two ushers should bring the plates forward to place on the altar. Ushers should remain at the front, facing the altar until after the Prayer of Thanksgiving. They can return to their seats during the closing hymn. Secondary responsibility of ushers is to watch for people in the congregation who may need assistance.
- **PowerPoint Projection:** Having our order of worship projected on screen is an important part of our service, both for those in the sanctuary and those watching online. All ages are welcome! Volunteers should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to worship to make sure that everything is working and announcements are running for early arrivals.
- **Audio/Visual Team:** We are always looking to expand our A/V team, monitoring sound system, radio broadcast and YouTube streaming. This is an important outreach for our church family. There are many who depend on these pieces when they are not able to be physically present in the sanctuary and solid sound system is highly important for those on site as well. Volunteers should plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to worship to make sure that everything is working okay.
- **Radio Broadcast Sponsors:** Our radio broadcast is a wonderful outreach for many members who cannot attend worship on site. As a sponsor, you can dedicate a broadcast to someone special, in memory of someone special or for any reason you choose.
- **Coffee Fellowship:** Gathering together after worship for fellowship is a wonderful way to be community, to show our care and concern for one another, to break bread together. This doesn't have to be extravagant; it should be simple snacks for people to munch while they visit. Feel free to talk to church office to get a "partner" if you want to provide snacks but lack the ability to serve or vice versa.
- **Miscellaneous:** Check the bulletin board in the back for additional volunteer opportunities. There are always sign-up sheets of some kind or another!

One Great Hour of Sharing - M.E. Sjolín

On March 15th UCC members will have an opportunity to make a “Love Offering to the World” by giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). It’s a vital special mission offering that connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds programs in healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Here’s a prayer that encourages generosity-----

You provide for all of our needs, O God, even when we do not realize or recognize it. You are the source and we are the resource. You modeled generous giving when you freely offered us your Son, Jesus Christ. Nothing is too wonderful for you. Stir up in us the desire to give cheerfully from the great wellspring of gifts you have gifted to us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Thank you for your gifts!

Mission & Outreach Community Challenge

What a great response to our Soup-er Bowl Sunday Challenge! We were able to put lots of soup on the shelves of the Clark County Food Pantry and Resource Center, which will help feed many in our community for some time. The challenge between the churches also spurred some good-natured competition. More than that, it shows the community that the mission of Jesus is more important to all of these churches than denominational distinctions that sometimes divide. It is a true movement of the Spirit that the scripture passage for the final day of our challenge was as clear as could be: Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. (Isaiah 58:10) The excitement of this challenge definitely got people thinking about what should be our next community challenge. Several ideas have been suggested already.

Several representatives of the Ministerial Alliance met recently to make plans for restructuring this group to be more sustainable as church leaders transition. In that meeting, the group chose our next challenge: collecting supplies for hygiene kits. Each church will collect supplies from Memorial Day through Independence Day and then volunteers will gather to put the kits together and present to the community at Heritage Days. Keep watching for more details in the future! As always, if you have ideas for community outreach, feel free to contact Pastor Julie or the church office or anyone on the Mission & Outreach Committee (Bonnie Weyer, Deb Perkl, Carol Harnisch, Kathy Mathis, Carol Romens, Deb Holman)

Silent Auction/Chili Feed Scheduled

Silent Auction

We will be hosting a Silent Auction from **Sunday, March 1 and until Sunday, March 29, 2026**, coordinated by Carla Marty and Emile Miller. Final bids for the Silent Auction will be **on Sunday, March 29 at 11:30 AM**. We are asking for NEW items to be donated only, please no second-hand items (save those for the Holiday Fair New to You Treasures). If you are interested in donating to the Silent Auction, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Suggested auction items could be:

Boy Activity Tote	Girl Activity Tote	Lunch/Snack Bag
Car Wash Supplies Pail	Housecleaning Pail	Paint Tray/Supplies
Spaghetti Pot with the Fixings	Sports Basket	Soup Basket
Lotion Basket	Relaxation Basket	Book Basket
Crafts	Toolbox with Supplies	Flowerpot with Supplies
Movie Basket	Baked Goods	Services
Produce	Gift Certificates	

If you plan on donating to our Silent Auction, please bring your item(s) to the church by Sunday, March 1 by 9 AM.

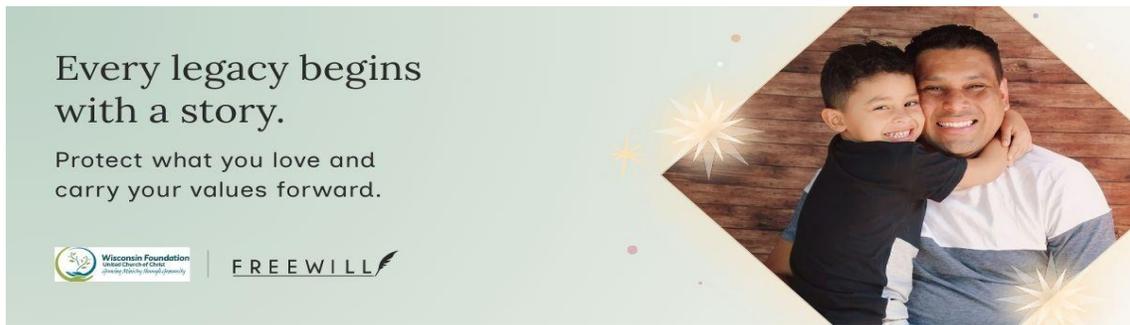
Chili Feed

In conjunction with the Silent Auction, we will host a Chili Feed, coordinated by Barb Petkovsek and Mike Perkl, which will be held on **Wednesday, March 11 from 11 AM to 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM**. Cost will be \$10 for anyone over 12, \$5 for 12 and under and FREE for 3 and under. Regular Chili & White Chicken Chili served. Carry outs available, along with delivery within the city limits of Neillsville.



There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for ingredients needed. If you can volunteer your time and talents for the Chili Feed, please contact Mike Perkl at 715-937-4451 or Barb Petkovsek at 715-429-0486.

Thank you for supporting these two fundraising efforts.



A Lasting Legacy of Kindness

As people of faith, we know that no act of kindness is random. Every loving gesture reflects our desire to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Caring for your loved ones, loving your neighbor, and uplifting our community are all powerful ways to make this time of year meaningful.

One thoughtful way to express that love is by creating your estate plan. An estate plan helps ensure your wishes are honored, provides clarity for those you love, and reflects your values of compassion and stewardship.

Through UCC's partnership with FreeWill (<https://partner.freewill.com/pbucc>), you can create or update your will in about 20 minutes, completely free and fully secure. You'll also have the option to include a legacy gift to your congregation, Wisconsin Conference UCC, United Church Camps, Inc. or another charity close to your heart. A gift in a will is a lasting act of love that ensures your faith continues to shape lives long after your lifetime.

Your gift costs nothing today, but creates a legacy of compassion, justice, and hope for future generations. The website is easy to access; prompts are simple and user-friendly. Put your love into action with a plan that reflects your values and your faith.

Lenten Schedule 2026

Wednesday evening gatherings: “The Chosen”. We will view one episode of the series each week with brief discussion to follow. No refreshments will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring snacks. Please check the schedule below for times and locations, as this is not our typical routine. Most of these will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church at 6:00 p.m.; *only one Wednesday gathering will be at UCC - March 11 at 6:30 p.m.*



“The Chosen” is a historical drama based on the life of Jesus and those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the series shares an authentic look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. Created by Dallas Jenkins, it has quickly become a worldwide phenomenon. Every script is reviewed and approved for historical and Biblical authenticity by three respected clergy scholars: a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest and an evangelical minister. Anyone who has read all four gospels is well aware that they don't match up perfectly, so this TV show is actually a harmonization of the various accounts

of Jesus's life. It is not intended to replace your reading or study of Bible texts, but rather to supplement your understanding of what life was like in first century Palestine. This is an excellent series for seeing the humanity of Jesus and his followers - laughing, arguing, dancing, playing with children, working, and living regular lives with family and friends while they also minister to others and struggle with the real-world problems of Roman oppression and Temple politics. All five seasons are currently available to watch on Amazon Prime or through the free Chosen app <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>, which includes behind the scenes clips and after-episode roundtable discussions.

Wednesday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary

Wednesday, March 11 at **6:30 p.m. at United Church of Christ** (Chili Feed from 4 - 6 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary

HOLY WEEK:

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6:30 p.m. - Joint Worship with Calvary Lutheran at United Church of Christ

Good Friday, April 3

Noon until 3:00 p.m. - UCC Sanctuary will be open with self-guided prayer stations for meditation and reflection

6:30 p.m. - Ministerial Alliance Joint Worship at Living Hope Evangelical Free

Scripture Readings for Lent (Revised Common Lectionary)

March 1, 2026 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8, 2026 Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 15, 2026 Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 22, 2026 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

March 29, 2026 Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

March 30, 2026 Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

March 31, 2026 Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

April 1, 2026 Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3, 2026 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

April 4, 2026 Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

April 5, 2026 Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 in the lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Attendance

Council Members Present: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker, Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck, Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek, Moderator Paul Vine, Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer (via telephone).

Prayer

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Stephanie Heck to approve the financial report as presented by Bonnie Weyer reading Assistant Treasurer Don Quicker’s written report. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried.

New Business

Pulpit Supply Update

Moderator Vine shared that he is working on a pulpit schedule with Pastor Sue, Pastor Jim, Pastor Julie and Barb Shoemaker with a February and March schedule. Pastor Julie will be here this Sunday, and at this time, it will be a week-to-week schedule.

Doris Bakker asked if anyone has checked with our association to see if they have a list of retired Pastors that could help fill our pulpit; Moderator Vine will check into this.

Karlene Wallace shared that the Deacons are looking into if someone would be willing to read the sermon that Pastor Julie has wrote, if we have any last-minute situation where Pastor Julie could not do the sermon on Sunday.

Everyone agrees that our top priority is Pastor Julie’s health and we will deal with every situation that may occur.

MORE →

Sunday Volunteers for Reading Scriptures and Children's Time

Moderator Vine stated that to help with the pulpit duties on Sundays, we are asking for volunteers to either read scriptures and/or do the children's time. Many people have already signed up to read scriptures, but we are still in need of volunteers for the children's time. If anyone is interested, they should complete the signup sheet.

Barb Petkovsek asked, with Ash Wednesday approaching soon, have the Deacons discussed the schedule for Lenten services. Karlene Wallace stated this is on the agenda for their next meeting.

Old Business

Future Connections Update

Moderator Vine shared fundraising events that are scheduled for 2026 as of this date:

- Silent Auction, in conjunction with a Chili Feed
 - Silent Auction will run from March 1-29, coordinated by Carla Marty and Emile Miller
 - Chili Feed will be on Wednesday, March 11 from 11 AM – 1 PM and 4 PM to 6 PM coordinated by Mike Perkl and Barb Petkovsek
- Baked Goods Auction scheduled for Sunday, May 3, coordinated by Carla Marty and Emile Miller
- Chili Contest, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 20, coordinated by Kirk and Nancy Rodman

In review of Council recommendations with use of available funds, we will focus on the following four (4) areas:

- Develop a long-term plan
- Enhancing outreach to visitors
 - Emile Miller is securing prices for a visitor's tote bag that will contain a coffee mug, bible, pen, notepad and an informational rack card regarding our church
- Hosting guest speakers, with an emphasis on engaging youth and younger members of the community
 - Barb Petkovsek looking into Athletes in Action
 - Mike Perkl looking into Wisconsin athletes who do religious speaking
 - Byrl Buddenhagen checking with his son who has connections
 - JoAnn Voss is sending out birthday/anniversary cards to members and friends of the church
 - JoAnn Voss researching special Christian music with a group from the Chili area
- Reaching out to area church leaders to identify successful practices that may be adapted at Neillsville UCC
 - Paul Vine will reach out to other churches on this

MORE →

Pastor Report/Update

Moderator Vine shared a message from Pastor Julie with an update of her health situation and her future work schedule, which includes Pastor's plans for filling the pulpit duties for this Sunday and Ash Wednesday.

Committee Reports and Requests for Action

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- Storage room directly to the south off the elevator
 - NOTHING can be stored in front of the main water system, which is located directly behind the door to the west
- Repairs to the siding on the lower level is on hold until the weather conditions are reasonable
- Storage rack for tables
 - Bob Petkovsek is looking into a sturdy rack with good wheels for storing tables
 - Bonnie Weyer mentioned that there is an empty table rack in the classroom to the west of the card room
- All other issues that were mentioned last month are on hold at this time
- Next meeting is Tuesday, February 17

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- Christmas Program, December 21
 - the committee was very pleased with the children's participation
 - received many good comments from those in attendance
 - due to technical difficulties, the service was not on YouTube or taped
 - Karlene Wallace thanked Stephanie Heck for all the hard work that went into the program; everyone agreed that the program was a huge success
- Jesus and Me (JAM)
 - meeting at Calvary on:
 - January 21
 - February 4
 - February 18
- Youth Formation Camp, March 6-8
 - working on registering children

MORE →

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- Moderator Vine is working very hard with the Future Connections Committee and is implementing the Deacons to work with the committee on different ideas
- Discussed volunteers for scripture reading and children's time
- Lenten services
 - Pastor Julie plans on filling the pulpit for Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 PM
 - Other Lenten services are tentative for the remainder of Lent
 - After discussion on hopefully having less stress for Pastor Julie and on finding someone to fill the pulpit duties for Lenten services, the Council's recommendation to the Deacons for Lenten services is as follows:
 - February 18 – Ash Wednesday
 - March 11 – along with the Chili Feed
 - April 2 – Maundy Thursday
 - April 5 – Easter Sunday.

Karlene Wallace will discuss the Lenten Service schedule with the Deacons at a special meeting and Moderator Vine will contact Pastor Julie

Other/Next Agenda Items

Other

Nothing currently.

Next Agenda Items

- Pulpit Supply Update
- Sunday Volunteers for Reading Scriptures and Children's Time
- Future Connections Update

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:45 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Karlene Wallace to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Submitted by:
Emile J Miller
Neillsville UCC Council Secretary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
March 1, 2026 – April 12, 2026

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point / AV
Sunday, Mar. 1, 2026	Byrl Buddenhagen	Kirk Rodman	Debbie Holman	Barb Petkovsek/
		Nancy Rodman	Janice Miller	Emile Miller
Sunday, Mar. 8, 2026	Barb Shoemaker	Scott & Jill, Tyler Williams	Jerry Hamm	Barb Petkovsek/
			Ray Weyer	Cris Hediger
Sunday, Mar.15, 2026	Sally Sadowska	Sandy Bieneck	Russ Karl	Brynn Heck/ Steph Heck
		Michelle Bergemann	Hap Eddy	
Sunday, Mar.22, 2026				
	Karlene Wallace	Carole Romens	Don Quicker	Barb Petkovsek/
		Jenny Erickson	Jerry Quicker	Lydia Schumacher
Sunday, Mar.29, 2026	Janice Miller	JoAnn & Wayne Voss	Larry Marshall	Janice Miller/
			Ken Shoemaker	Crispin Hediger
Sunday, Apr. 5, 2026	JoAnn Wren	Nancy Boon	Ben Mathis	Bonnie Weyer/
EASTER		Audrey Vradenburg	Paul Schmidt	Emile Miller
Sunday, Apr. 12, 2026	Wayne Voss	Debbie Holman	Hap Eddy	Barb Petkovsek/
		Sue Gurney	Roger Carl	Crispin Hediger
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member. 715-743-2147				



2026 United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 AM Worship Communion 7 PM NA	2 9 AM Card Making	3 1 PM Bible Study 4 PM Future Connections & Outreach Meeting	4 3:30–4:30 PM Confirmation at UCC 5–5:45 PM JAM at Calvary 6 PM “The Chosen” at Calvary 7 PM NA	5 Noon- T& C Quilters	6	7
8 <u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	9 6 PM PEO	10 1 PM Bible Study 3:30 PM Deacons Mtg	11 Chili Feed 11-14-6 6:30 PM “The Chosen” at UCC 7 PM NA	12 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	13	14
15 <u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	16 9 AM Card Making 9 AM- T& C Quilters	17 1 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Trustees Mtg 	18 3:30–4:30 PM Confirmation at UCC 5–5:45 PM JAM at Calvary 6 PM “The Chosen” at Calvary 7 PM NA	19	20	21
22 <u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	23	24 1 PM Bible Study 5 PM Council Mtg 6 PM – HCE Homemakers	25 6 PM “The Chosen” at Calvary 7 PM NA	26	27	28
29 <u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	30	31 1 PM Bible Study				