

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

All music in this service copied and streamed under
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

PRELUDE *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”* J.S. Bach
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Easter is more than just one day. Easter is a season! For this reason, we can say again, “Christ is risen!” Say it with me:

ALL: Christ is risen!

One: He is risen, indeed! The news is so good we can say it again and again! Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, Amen!

HYMN *“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”*

#233 NCH (vs. 1-3) Charles Wesley

**1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!**

**2 Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**3 Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: What are the signs of resurrection you see in the world?

ALL: We see sunlight, rainbows, and flowers on trees!

One: What else do you see?

ALL: We see people helping, caring, and doing good deeds!

One: We are God’s people! We believe in resurrection.

ALL: Thank you, God; thank you, Jesus; thank you, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE/PASSING THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you!

HYMN RESPONSE: *“Halle, Halle, Halle”*

#236 NCH Caribbean melody

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

CHILDREN’S TIME *Butterfly Prayer*

LESSONS AND SONGS

Lesson One: *We See the Empty Tomb*

Reading: Matthew 28:1-2, 5-6 (CEB)

¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. ² Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

⁶ He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him.

HYMN *“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

#238 NCH John M.C. Crum

**1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

3 Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

Lesson Two: *We See Jesus in the Garden*

Reading: John 20:11-16 (CEB)

¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher).

HYMN *"In the Garden"* C. Austin Miles

#237 NCH

1 I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. *[Refrain]*

3 I'd stay in the garden with him
Though the night around me be falling;
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. *[Refrain]*

Lesson Three: *We See Evidence of New Life and Resurrection in the World*

Reading: Isaiah 55:12-13 (NIV)

¹² You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.

HYMN *"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"*

#289 W&R Christopher Wordsworth

1 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2 Alleluia! Christ is risen! Death at last has met
defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil in confusion and
retreat;

Once he died, and once was buried:
Now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen!
Set your hearts on things above;
There in all the Father's glory
Lives and reigns our King of love;
Hear the word of peace he brings us,
See his wounded hands and side!
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

4 Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high!
Alleluia! to the Savior who has gained the victory!
Alleluia! to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the Triune Majesty!

Lesson Four: *We Bring the Good News Into the World*
Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 (CEB)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

HYMN "He Lives!" Alfred H. Ackley
#302 W&R

1 I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever some may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer;
And just the time I need him he's always near.

Refrain:

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.

2 In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will
despair;
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
The day of his appearing will come at last. **[Refrain]**

3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and
sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who
find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind. **[Refrain]**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Three Alleluias for the World

...With hearts full of wonder, we say
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia

...Knowing you hear all our prayers, we say
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia

...With grateful hearts, we say
ALL: Alleluia, alleluia

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 BAPTISM

Amelia Rein Fox

Daughter of Logan & Talyn Fox
Sponsors: Crispin & Lisa Hediger

Invitation and Welcome

Questions to Parents

Questions to Sponsors

Questions to Congregation

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

ALL: We promise our love, support and care.

Affirmation Of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Source: United Church of Canada — united-church.ca

Prayer of Blessing

Act of Baptism

HYMN *"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"*

#325 NCH (vs 1-2,4) Ronald S. Cole-Turner

**1 Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**2 Child of love, our love's expression,
Love's creation, loved indeed!
Fresh from God, refresh our spirits,
Into joy and laughter lead.**

**4 Child of God, your loving Parent,
learn to know whose child you are;
grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Offertory *"Awake, Thou Wintry Earth"* J.S. Bach

Doxology *Tune: Old 100th ("Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow")*

Let trumpets sound and voices sing!

Let all on earth their praises bring!

For Christ has conquered sin and death

And given life eternal breath. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you have given us so many gifts. Use them, we pray, along with these gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that the resurrection may be known throughout the whole world. Amen.

REFLECTION *"Because He Lives"*

HYMN *"Because He Lives"*

#447 W&R Gloria & William J. Gaither

1 God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;

He came to love, Heal and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Refrain:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!

Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living, just because He lives!

2 How sweet to hold a newborn baby,

And feel the pride and joy she brings;

But greater still the calm assurance:

This child can face uncertain days because he lives!

[Refrain]

3 And then one day, I'll cross the river,

I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then, as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

[Refrain]

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.

BENEDICTION

HYMN RESPONSE: "Halle, Halle, Halle"

#236 NCH Caribbean melody

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

POSTLUDE Karen Mohr

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored
by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
with thoughts and prayers
to their grandson, Matthew
& the Army's 82nd Airborne Division
on their deployment

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, April 12, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/IFyClcz8fBE>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, April 12th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Wayne Voss

Greeters – Debbie Holman, Sue Gurney

Ushers – Hap Eddy, Roger Carl

Power Point – Barb Petkovsek

AV –Crispin Hediger

FYI - (for those who are scheduled for PowerPoint/AV 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, April 19th

Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen

Greeters – Kathy & Larry Marshall

Ushers – Mickey Marty, Joel Raine

Power Point – Janice Miller

AV –

Tuesday, April 14th

-1:00 PM – Bible Study

3:30 PM – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, April 15th

-1:00 PM – Caregivers Meeting

3:30 PM – Confirmation class at UCC

5:00 PM – JAM at Calvary

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Apr 12 – Rodman's

Apr 19 – Marla & Joel Raine

Apr 26 –

May 3 –

Mat 10-

We need people to sign up

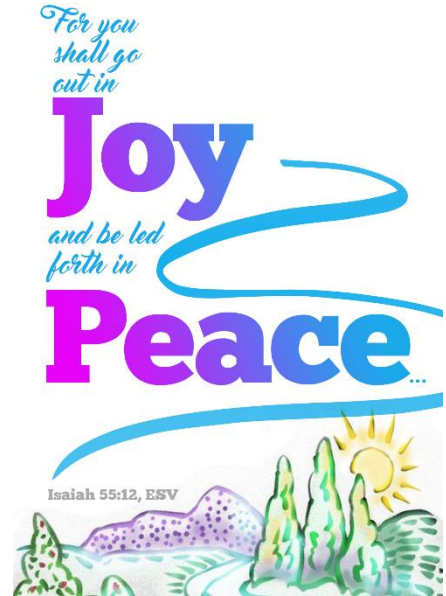
April – May 2026

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
April 12	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
April 19	Marla Raine	
April 26		
May 3	Nancy Rodman	
May 10	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
May 17		
May 24		
May 31		



New Member Meeting

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. 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.

Special UCC Congregational Meeting Sunday April 19th

On Sunday, April 19, 2026, immediately following the regular church service, Neillsville UCC will hold a special congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss—and possibly vote on—a proposal to replace the kitchen countertops.

Additional details, including cost estimates and funding options, will be presented at that time.

Medicare & You Information Sessions Turning 65 in 2026 and want to learn more about Medicare?

Register to attend Medicare & You for free and unbiased information presented by our Elder Benefit Specialist, Terri Esselman.

Sessions at the Courthouse on the following dates at 8:30 a.m. -

May 27, July 29, Sept. 30, Nov. 25

Community Sessions at 5:30 p.m.

April 22 – at IGGY’s in Owen

June 24 – Colby City Hall

Preregister by calling the ADRC at 715-743-5166