



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
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JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. Isaiah 43:4a (CEB)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon a few years ago my husband, Earnie, surprised me with a trip to Culver's, to meet our son and his girlfriend for a leisurely visit. It was a lovely surprise, and we were truly enjoying our time together while we waited for our sandwiches. A nearby table of two older couples finished their meal and got up to leave. Earnie got up and went over to greet the gentleman wearing a veteran's hat. As a veteran himself, he always makes a point of recognizing fellow veterans when possible.

My dear husband approached this gentleman and reached out to shake his hand, saying, "Thank you for your service." This man, who had never met us before, had no idea who my husband was or even that he was also a veteran, looked him straight in the eye and replied, "You're worth it." With a slight nod, he turned back to his party and exited the restaurant.

We all sat in shock and awe. This kind man gave an entire sermon in three little words. He didn't know us. He had no way of knowing if my husband is a good person or a "deadbeat". He didn't ask about his personal beliefs, his religion, his political leanings, his history, his family, or anything else that society says makes a person worth knowing. He simply saw a fellow human, a child of God and said, "you are worth it." All his sacrifices, all his struggles, all that he experienced in the military - it was worth it for no other reason than that this person standing before him is valued, deserving of mercy and freedom.

These words ring in my memory often since that chance encounter. I think of what that gentleman has been through and his sincerity and kindness in that moment. He didn't say it was an honor to serve or a privilege to do his duty. He made it clear that he believed each person was worth his sacrifice and service, no matter who they are. And I know that Earnie, with his troubled youth and multiple missteps in early adulthood, has always felt "less than". Like so many, he struggles to believe that God can truly forgive his mistakes. This moment of grace showed him that he is worthy just because he is here, regardless of what he has done in the past or will do in the future. This moment reminded me that we need to take every chance we can to show others, ALL others, that they too are worth it. Every child of God is worthy of love and sacrifice, now and always, not because of who we are, but because of who God is.

No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you are worth it, you are precious, you are beloved.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Julie*



Join us for “Jesus is the Light”

Vacation Bible School **on Sunday, June 7th**
from 10:30 – 1:30 p.m for youth 3K – 8th grade.

Registration links on
 Facebook church page and JAM page.
 For more information contact Stephanie Heck.



Haylee Erickson – Neillsville High School
 Colton Williams - Osseo-Fairchild High School
 Reese Ziegler - Osseo-Fairchild High School
 MacKenzie Keller – UW- Madison

“Lord, make their way clear, keep their footsteps firm,
 and remind them that you are with them always.”



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Gayle Schermitzler	Fritz Hediger
Lisa Schermitzler	Fran Ormond
Duane Marty	Mike & Sherrie Holub
Brian Eddy	Nancy Boon
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger	Brooks Sigurdson
Russ Karl	Barb Petkovsek
Lisa Hardesty (niece of Barb Shoemaker)	

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



Sunday, May 3, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen to celebrate both of their birthdays in May.

Sunday, May 10, the radio broadcast was sponsored by the “Circle of Friends” in honor and memory of all mothers on this Mother’s Day.

Sunday, May 17, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with a special graduate message & prayer.

Sunday, May 24, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, May 31, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a church member.

**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.

The following dates are still open for this year –

June 7, 21, 28	September 6, 13, 20
July 12, 19, 26	October 25
August 2, 9, 23	November 1, 8, 15, 22
	December 6, 13, 20, 27

**May 2026
 Attendance for In-Person Worship**

May 3	online	2	Sunday	58
May 10	online	8	Sunday	74
May 17	online	6	Sunday	59
May 24	online	7	Sunday	81
May 31				



- 3- Barb Miller
Karen Northup
- 12- Corinne Armitage
- 13- Daniel Miller
- 14- Julie Woods
- 17- Doris Bakker
Lars Woods
- 18- David Fields
- 20- Barb Petkovsek
- 25- Ellie Golembiewski
Margaret Rakestraw
- 27- Debbie Perkl
Claire Ziegler
- 29- Marjorie Felser
Linda Stalsberg
Colton Williams
- 30- Phil Follen

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



June *Anniversaries*

- 3- Jim & M.E. Sjolin
- 11- Larry & Kathy Marshall
- 13- Joey & Michelle Kranz
- 15- Michael & Sherrie Holub
- 17- Wayne & JoAnn Voss
- 21- John & Susan Vornholt
- 25- David & Emily Steinbach



JULY 1 -9

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

Birthdays

- 1- Tyler Williams
- 2- Pam Stitt
- 9- Sophie Heck
Sandy Schmidt
JoAnn Voss

Anniversaries

None



Sunday - June 21st Happy Father's Day!

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.



Looking for help with tying quilts,
 no experience needed. Contact
 Doris Bakker or Donita Follen

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

June – July 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
June 7	Nancy Rodman	
June 14	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
June 21		
June 28	Susie Karl	
July 5		
July 12		
July 19		
July 26		



On Sunday, May 24th the following joined UCC-Neillsville.

Harold Arndt

Kirk Rodman

Kevin Christiansen

Nancy Rodman

Earnest Ruegsegger

Emily Steinbach

It is with the warmest of hearts and most joyful of minds that we welcome you to UCC – Neillsville.

To bring a new member into our congregation is an exceptional blessing and we look forward to sharing our faith in the Lord with all of you.

United Church of Christ Coffee Mugs for Sale



If anyone would like to purchase a UCC coffee mug for \$10, please see Emile.

Thank you!

Looking for volunteers to help with church landscaping

Are you interested in landscaping? Our beautiful church building is surrounded by plants that need tending and maintenance. We have a crew of workers ready and able to trim and mulch and perform the physical labor, but we need a crew chief. This person must understand our bushes, trees, and foliage and be willing to direct and guide our workers in proper maintenance to keep our landscape looking its best.

If you or someone you know would be interested in being that guide, please contact any of the Trustees or the church office (715-743-2147).

JUNE 21, 2026

FARM TO TABLE GIVEAWAY

9:45 - 10:00 A.M.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST 2ND STREET

SERVICES @ 9:30 A.M.

DONATIONS FROM

GRASSLAND DAIRY PRODUCTS

NASONVILLE DAIRY

LYNN DAIRY

BADGER STATE FRUIT

SMITH BROS. MEATS

ALL ARE WELCOME



2026 Baked Goods Fundraiser Summary

Well as usual, the church members did not let this fundraising event down; we had 22 bakers making 75 baked goods/services, which consisted of pizza, chicken pot pies, strawberry cream cheese pies, raspberry pies, breakfast tray, chicken and dressing casserole, poppy seed cake, scotch-a-roo bars, just to name a few. The baked goods raised \$5,705, along with donations of \$31 for a **GRAND TOTAL of \$5,736!** This year's money will go into the general fund to help our daily activities of the church. Thanks again for another successful year for the baked goods fundraiser!

The breakdown over the years is as follows:

- 2007, 49 pies = \$2,043
- 2008, 50 pies = \$2,408
- 2009, 49 pies = \$3,960
- 2011, 52 pies = \$5,385
- 2012, 54 pies = \$5,065
- 2013, 41 pies = \$4,325
- 2014, 53 pies = \$4,775
- 2015, 40 pies = \$3,445
- 2016, 36 baked goods = \$3425
- 2018, 59 baked goods = \$5,595
- 2019, 61 baked goods = \$3,440 (plus \$37 from the coffee hour)
- 2023, 56 baked goods = \$4,136 (including \$125 donations)
- 2025, 98 baked goods = \$5,000 (including \$ 70 donations)
- 2026, 75 baked goods = \$5,736 (including \$ 31 donations)

This event could not have been possible without the help of many people, whom I would like to thank:

- our three (3) baked goods displayers**
 - DeWayne Seelow
 - Kevin Erickson
 - Hap Eddy
- those who donated the 75 wonderful baked goods**
 - Byrl and Sharon Buddenhagen
 - Kelley Burch
 - Kevin and Jenny Erickson
 - Stephanie Heck
 - Deb Holman
 - Susie Karl
 - Carla Marty
 - Kathy Mathis
 - Barb Miller
 - Em Miller
 - Karen Mohr
 - Deb Perkl
 - Barb Petkovsek
 - Marla Raine
 - Rosie Repinski
 - Carole Romans
 - Bonnie Shaw
 - Barb Shoemaker
 - M.E. & Jim Sjolin
 - Linda Stalsberg
 - JoAnn Voss
 - Bonnie Weyer

- ☐ **all perspective bidders (whether you were successful or not)**
- ☐ **the donation of money**
- ☐ **my wonderful co-workers**
- Susie Karl
- Carla Marty
- Barb Miller
- Jenny Romens-Erickson
- Linda Stalsberg

Also, thanks to Stephanie and Calvin Heck for tag-teaming with Jenny and I with the AV/PowerPoint on Sunday.

Again, thanks for helping with this fundraiser and your continued support with the church.

- Emile Miller



A scholarship has been set up with money donated by a church member. It will be given to any church youth (12-18 years old) wanting to attend a UCC Camp this summer.

Please check the church website/church office to fill out an application. **It will be due June 15, 2026**

Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on **Tuesday, March 24, 2026** in the craft room at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Vice Moderator Petkovsek called the meeting to order at 5 PM.

Attendance

Council Members Present: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker, Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck (joined at 5:08 PM), Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek, Moderator Paul Vine (via telephone), Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer.

Others in Attendance: Pastor Julie.

Prayer

Pastor Julie guided the committee with a prayer.

Minutes

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried.

Financial Report

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Karlene Wallace 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.

Stephanie Heck joined the meeting at this time.

New Business

Nothing currently.

Old Business

Future Connections Update

- Silent Auction – Emile Miller
 - 49 items have been donated for the auction, with a profit so far \$2,146
 - final bids are due on Sunday, March 29 at 11:30 AM
 - winning bidders will be notified to pay and pick up their items by Friday, April 3
- Chili Feed – Barb Petkovsek
 - all food items were donated
 - \$1,100 profit

MORE →

Future Connections Update Continued

- Youth Guest Speaker – Barb Petkovsek
 - will touch base with Kyle tomorrow
 - looking into possibly taping program
 - planning for 40 students
- Baked Goods Auction – Emile Miller
 - submitted a newsletter article and sign-up sheet to the church office
 - still working on securing auctioneers
- Chili Contest – Paul Vine
 - coordinated by Kirk and Nancy Rodman for September
 - more information at our next meeting

Ray Fund Money Transfer

Bonnie Weyer inquired who she needs to contact to transfer money from the Ray Fund to the church's account. Paul Vine stated that Jim Sjolín is the new chair of the Investment group.

Pastor Report/Update

Pastor Julie shared the following:

- March 8 – baptism held
- March 22 – confirmation students did an excellent job leading worship
- March 26 – last day to order Easter flowers
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service with communion
- April 3 – Good Friday
 - no services at Living Hope
 - UCC will have prayer stations
- April 10-11 – attending the Annual Meeting in Green Lake
- April 12 – a baptism scheduled
- April 22 at 6 PM
 - council will provide a meal for the confirmation students, mentors and parents
 - confirmands will read their Statement of Faith and practice for confirmation Sunday
- April 26 – Confirmation Sunday
- May 3 – son's wedding with Barb Shoemaker filling the pulpit
- update on her health

Committee Reports and Requests for Action

Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- back storage area has been reorganized by Bob Petkovsek and Mike Perkl and disposed of items no longer needed

MORE →

Committee Reports and Requests for Action Continued

Trustees Continued

- Kevin Erickson had the parking lot cleared after the snowstorm with his brother's tractor; a donation of \$250 was given to Kevin's brother
- kitchen countertops
 - all will be replaced
 - Kevin has an estimate of around \$3,800
 - a special congregational meeting needs to be scheduled for approval
- furnace room faucet needs to be repaired, and Kevin is working on this
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Trustees voted to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce
 - there is a membership fee
 - being a member, they will promote any church activity automatically on their website

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to proceed with the replacement of the kitchen countertops and updating the furnace room sink and hold a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 19 immediately following the service for approval of these two (2) items and where the funds will come from. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- Jesus and Me (JAM)
 - April 1
 - April 15
 - April 29, which will be the last session for the year
- March 6-8
 - chaperoned a retreat for confirmands
 - not as structured as usual, making the kids think on their own
 - focused on meditation
 - participated in a trust session and scavenger hunt; good seeing the kids working together

Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services were finalized with communion being served at both services
- discussion on concern for Pastor's health
 - recommended keeping the services shorter so Pastor doesn't get worn out

MORE →

Closed Session – WI Statute § 19.85(1) (e)

At 6:10 PM, motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Bonnie Weyer that the committee go into closed session in accordance with WI Statute § 19.85(1) (e) for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the investment of funds and considering the donation of funds, where competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Topic: Christmas Family Fund Distribution.

Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried.

At 6:13 PM, motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to reconvene into open session. Voice vote taken with all “aye”, motion carried.

The committee may go in and out of closed session, take any action deemed appropriate from closed session and may return to open session to continue transacting business.

Christmas Family Fund Distribution

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Bonnie Weyer to grant distribution from the Christmas Family Fund as discussed in closed session. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried.

Other/Next Agenda Items

Other

Nothing currently.

Next Agenda Items

Nothing currently.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Karlene Wallace to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all “aye”; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Submitted by:
Emile J Miller
Neillsville UCC Council Secretary

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
June 7, 2026 – July 26, 2026

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point / AV
Sunday, June 7, 2026	Byrl Buddenhagen	Corinne Armitage	Paul Schmidt	Paul Vine /
		Neil Armitage	Neil Armitage	Emile Miller
Sunday, June 14, 2026	Barb Shoemaker	Howie & Kathy Mathis	Ben Mathis	Bonnie Weyer /
			Kelly Mathis	
Sunday, June 21, 2026	Sally Sadowska	Steve & Leslie Buchholz	Paul Vine	Barb Petkovsek
			Kelley Burch	
Sunday, June 28, 2026	Karlene Wallace	Larry & Kathy Marshall	Don Quicker	Barb Petkovsek
			Jerry Quicker	
Sunday, July 5, 2026	Janice Miller	Pat Acheson	Mike Perkl	Bonnie Weyer
		Herman Seebandt	Guy Jodarski	/ Emile Miller
Sunday, July 12, 2026	JoAnn Wren	Doris Bakker	Kevin Christiansen	Barb Petkovsek
Heritage days		Ellie Golembiewski	Hap Eddy	
Sunday, July 19, 2026	Wayne Voss	Paul Vine	Dick Lewis	Paul Vine
		Kelley Burch	Bob Petkovsek	
Sunday, July 26, 2026	Byrl Buddenhagen	Wendy & Craig Sigurdson	Joel Raine	Janice Miller
			Marla Raine	
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 9 AM Card Making	2 1 PM Bible Study	3 7 PM NA	4 Noon- T&C Quilters	5	6
7 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30- 1:30 VBS 7 PM NA	8	9 1 PM Bible Study 5 PM Council Meeting	10 1 PM StewardshipMtg 7 PM NA	11 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	12	13
14 <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	15 9 AM Card Making 9 AM- T& C Quilters	16 1 PM Bible Study	17 7 PM NA	18	19	20
21 <u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 Worship Father's Day 7 PM NA	22	23 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM – HCE Homemakers	24 7 PM NA	25	26	27
28	29	30 1 PM Bible Study	 7 PM NA			