

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Neillsville, Wisconsin**  
**Church 715-743-2147**  
**Pastor Julie Ruegsegger**  
**Pastor's Office 715-743-2117**  
**Cell Phone 608-558-2397**  
[www.neillsvilleucc.org](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)

## ***MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER***

*"Just ask the animals, and they will teach you. Ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Speak to the earth, and it will instruct you. Let the fish in the sea speak to you. For they all know that this has come from the hand of the Lord. For the life of every living thing is in his hand, and the breath of every human being." Job 12:7-10*

Dear Friends,

Spring seems to have finally arrived! The grass is green, flowers are blooming, leaves are budding on the trees. The bird feeders are hosting a bright menagerie of colorful characters: robins and cardinals, goldfinches, the silly woodpecker who keeps working at the metal clothesline pole, squirrels and rabbits racing around the yard.

I have always loved spring: the promise of new beginnings as the earth wakes from winter dormancy. Everything just feels more alive and energetic. People working in the garden, cleaning up yards, taking advantage of longer, warmer days. We see increased activity with spring sports, prom, graduations, confirmations, Mother's Day and all the extra events that often overwhelm our May calendars.

When my kids were young, I remember telling them that I love the color green because to me it means new life; David replied, "Green is my favorite color, because green means GO!" For a kid who was constantly moving, it made perfect sense and made me laugh, even as I longed for some respite from our busy schedules.

One of my favorite spring appearances is the butterfly. I love the beauty of these delicate insects and the symbolism of transformation and new life. A lowly caterpillar builds a cocoon and eventually emerges as a fully transformed creature. Butterflies have a special significance for the Ruegsegger family. It was a beautiful spring day, and my father-in-law was pushing Earnie's sister, Elaine, in her wheelchair along the driveway. He was in a bit of a hurry and already a little annoyed to have to step away from his chores to do this task, when suddenly she called for him to stop, pointing out a bunch of butterflies drinking from a puddle.

"Did you ever notice that the white ones take off faster than the yellow ones?" she asked. It stopped him in his tracks, and his annoyance flew away faster than the butterflies, as he realized that she had just seen something most people missed, to see the wonder in that moment, to recognize God's beauty in small butterflies gathered in a driveway mud puddle. My father-in-law recounts this story often when he talks about Elaine, remembering how she always took time to notice the beauty around her, to bask in mystery and wonder, to glory in God's beautiful creation. So now, when our family sees butterflies, they are not just a reminder of transformation and new life, but also a reminder to pause on occasion and take in the wonder of this marvelous world, to slow down a bit to soak in God's goodness and providence even when "Green means GO" and schedules are a flurry of activity.

May God grant you "butterfly moments" to refresh your soul, to renew your sense of wonder, to restore your hope, and to remind you of the promises of new life, transformation and resurrection!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Julie*



**Join us for “Jesus is the Light”**

Vacation Bible School **on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 10:30 – 1:30 p.m for youth 3K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**  
**Registration information to follow soon.**



We would like to honor those graduating this year, high school or college.  
 -please let the office know of any students graduating this year.



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

- Gayle Schermitzler
- Lisa Schermitzler
- Duane Marty
- Brian Eddy
- Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

- Fritz Hediger
- Fran Ormond
- Mike & Sherrie Holub
- Nancy Boon

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



**To the family & friends of those who have passed**

- 3/19 Gloria Trotta – grandmother of MacKenzie Keller
- 3/29 Robert Marty – father of Mickey & Carla Marty
- 4/3 Joseph Felser – husband of Margie Felser
- 4/17 Ronnie Wren – brother-in-law of JoAnn Wren
- 4/22 Patricia White – sister of JoAnn Wren



Sunday, April 5, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with the message of “God’s Blessing to All and Happy Easter!”.

Sunday, April 12, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen with thoughts and prayers to their grandson, Matthew & the Army’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division on their deployment.

Sunday, April 19, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with the message “May HIS words be heard by ALL”.

Sunday, April 26, 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.

The following dates are still open for the year –

May 17, 24, 31	September 6, 13, 20
June 7, 21, 28	October 25
July 12, 19, 26	November 1, 8, 15, 22
August 2, 9, 23	December 6, 13, 20, 27

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

April 5 EASTER	online	4	Sunday	81
April 12	online	10	Sunday	70
April 19	online	10	Sunday	67
April 26	online	4	Sunday	97



- 1- Don Quicker
- 3- Duane Marty
- 6- Sharon Buddenhagen  
Ashley Vine
- 7- Jocelyn Vine
- 9- Haylee Erickson
- 11- Kevin Erickson
- 12- Byrl Buddenhagen
- 13- Lacey Erickson  
Carol Harnisch  
Jim Sjolín
- 15- Susan Jodarski
- 27- Michelle Bergemann
- 29- Paul Schmidt
- 30- Craig Sigurdson

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



- 1- Roberta & Bob Gaier
- 4- Ruth & Bob Schmidt
- 9- Kelly & Ben Mathis
- 18- Donald Quicker & Cindy Grota
- 23- Rick & Kay Buchsteiner



**JUNE 1 -9**

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

**Birthdays**

- 3- Barb Miller  
Karen Northup

**Anniversaries**

- 3- Jim & M.E. Sjolín

**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.

**Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship**

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 26	Susie Karl	
May 3	Nancy Rodman	
May 10	Ray Weyer	
May 17	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
May 24		
May 31		



March 8th -Harlow Jean Hagen  
Daughter of Krista Hamm & Ricky Hagen

April 12th – Amelia Rein Fox  
Daughter of Logan & Talyn Fox



On Sunday, April 26th the following youth were confirmed  
at UCC-Neillsville.

**Lexi Bergemann**  
(parents Michelle & Luke Bergemann)

**Kalvin Heck**  
(parents Stephanie & Craig Heck)

**Lexi Woods**  
(parents Julie & Clint Woods)

We welcome these dear ones as they take this next step in their faith journeys. We promise our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior. In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Neillsville United Church of Christ, we extend the hand of Christian love.

### 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).



## MEAL GIVEAWAY

**MAY 17, 2026  
9:45-10:00 AM**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-NEILLSVILLE  
515 WEST SECOND STREET**

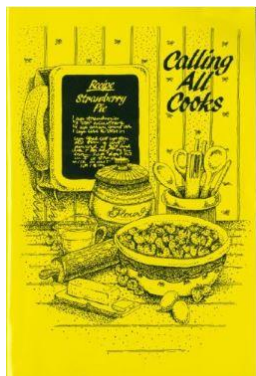


### Silent Auction Outcome

We had a total of 55 auction items donated and we made \$3,282 for our church! Congratulations to everyone that donated and bid on the items. Thank you again!

- Em and Carla

# Baked Goods Auction Scheduled



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, May 3, 2026** right after church in the fellowship hall. Remember, it's just not pies, we will auction off bars, muffins, casserole, hot dishes, or any other type of baked goods. Proceeds for this auction will go into the fundraising account line for future needs.

So now for the first step of this fundraiser, we need the help of our trusty bakers/cooks of the church. Please use the signup sheet in the narthex, if you are interested in making any items to be auctioned off. If you cannot make it to church to sign up for a baked good item, please call the church office and Janice will sign you up!

To keep the auction going smoothly, we are asking for no small quantities, therefore:

- bars to be from a 9 x 13 or larger pan
- cookies to be in a package of two (2) dozens
- muffins/cupcakes to be in packages of a dozen

Bidders, if you have a favorite pie or baked goods, talk to the bakers/cooks so you get the one you want and a good donation to the church; what a deal!

Thanks for your continued support and get ready to bid!

Emile Miller & Carla Marty

## Strengthening the Church Offering

How can we follow the Spirit to bless emerging ministries in the United Church of Christ? Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, which will be collected on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. The offering is divided in half with 50% staying regionally within our conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. Our support funds the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church.

One UCC youth after attending a leadership program said, "This experience has prepared me to pursue a ministry with greater intentionality, creativity, and resilience, equipping me to serve diverse communities with both grace and practical leadership."

Together we can answer the Spirit's call to be united in Christ. Thank you for your gifts!

--The Stewardship Committee



**Unapproved Special Congregational Meeting Minutes**

## **Kitchen Countertop Replacement Neillsville United Church of Christ**

The meeting was held on Sunday, April 19, 2026 in the Sanctuary at the Neillsville United Church of Christ. Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 10:28 AM.

### **Attendance**

Those in Attendance: The following 35 people were in attendance: Susie Karl, Ken Shoemaker, Barb Shoemaker, Hap Eddy, Jenny Romens Erickson, Kevin Erickson, Sue Vornholt, Kathy Mathis, Howard Mathis, Nancy Boon, Doris Bakker, Crispin Hediger, Lisa Hediger, Paul Vine, Karlene Wallace, Wayne Voss, JoAnn Voss, Kelley Burch, Jerry Quicker, Don Quicker, Bob Petkovsek, Barb Petkovsek, Mike Perkl, Dorothy Steiger, Debbie Holman, Carla Marty, Joel Raine, Bonnie Weyer, Byrl Buddenhagen, James Vradenburg, Audrey Vradenburg, Roseanne Repinski, James Repinski, Janice Miller, and Emile Miller. (see sign in sheet).

### **Replacement of Kitchen Countertops**

Moderator Vine shared the reason for this special congregation meeting is that the Trustees are looking into replacing the kitchen countertops and the estimate is over \$2,500, therefore, approval is needed by the congregation. Moderator Vine yielded the floor to Trustee Representatives Doris Bakker and Kevin Erickson to answer any questions and/or concerns.

Mike Perkl, Trustee representative, shared that the current set up with the three (3) stainless steel compartments for the sink will be maintained.

Bonnie Weyer shared that there are issues currently with the faucet and this may need to be addressed once the sinks are hooked back up. If there is an issue with this, the Trustees will address this.

Deb Holman commented that the kitchen gets a lot of use from multiple people, not just those in the church, and recommended to purchase countertops that will last. Kevin Erickson stated that the estimate from Sav-Rite is for Formica countertops, which is what is in the kitchen currently.

Kathy Mathis asked if there were any other estimates besides Erickson Construction were looked at. Moderator Vine stated that we only have one (1) estimate for this project, but in the future, they will be getting more than estimates for other projects.

Motion by Mike Perkl, seconded by Rosie Repinski to approve the replacement of kitchen countertops. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

Motion by Carla Marty, seconded by Kathy Mathis to approve the estimate of \$3,601.89 from Sav-Rite Building Center and Ace Hardware dated March 17, 2026 for the cost of the new countertops with standard edges and with the noted eased and capped ends, which is minus the tax, and the estimate of \$1,200 from Erickson Construction dated April 5, 2026 for the cost of labor for removing and installing the new countertops and the estimate of \$500 from Robert Schoen Plumbing dated April 5, 2026 for associated plumbing cost with unhooking and hooking up the kitchen sink and faucet, not to exceed \$5,500 from the Holiday Fair funds. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Hap Eddy, seconded by Howie Mathis to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Submitted by:  
Emile J Miller, Neillsville UCC Council Secretary

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**May 3, 2026 – June 14, 2026**

	<b>Deacon/ host</b>	<b>Greeter(s)</b>	<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Power Point / AV</b>
<b>Sunday, May 3, 2026</b>	Sally Sadowska	Lydia Schumacher	Roger Carl	Jenny Erickson /
		Karen Northup	Hap Eddy	Emile Miller
<b>Sunday, May 10, 2026</b>	Janice Miller	Paul Vine	Paul Vine	Bonnie Weyer /
			Jim Sjolin	Crispin Hediger
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2026</b>	Karlene Wallace	Jim & Rosie Repinski	Craig Heck	Brynn Heck/
			Kalvin Heck	Stephanie Heck
<b>Sunday, May 24, 2026</b>	JoAnn Wren	Phil & Donita Follen	Mike Perkl	Janice Miller /
			Debbie Perkl	
<b>Sunday, May 31, 2026</b>	Wayne Voss	Linda Stalsberg	Ken Shoemaker	Janice Miller /
		Carla Marty	Bob Petkovsek	Lydia Schumacher
<b>Sunday, June 7, 2026</b>	Byrl Buddenhagen	Corinne Armitage	Paul Schmidt	Paul Vine /
		Neil Armitage	Russ Karl	Emile Miller
<b>Sunday, June 14, 2026</b>	Barb Shoemaker	Howie & Kathy Mathis	Ben Mathis	Bonnie Weyer /
			Kelly Mathis	
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here or make arrangements with another church member. <b>715-743-2147</b>				



M A Y

# 2026 United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3 Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 AM Worship No communion today 7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>4</b> 9 AM Card Making	<b>5</b> 1 PM Bible Study	<b>6</b>  7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>7</b> Noon- T&C Quilters	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Worship <i>Mothers Day</i> 7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>11</b>  6 PM PEO	<b>12</b> 1 PM Bible Study  4:00 PM Deacons Mtg	<b>13</b>  7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>14</b> 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting  4:30-7:30 PM Optimist Dinner	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 Worship  Graduation Sunday 7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>18</b> 9 AM Card Making  9 AM- T& C Quilters	<b>19</b> 1 PM Bible Study  5:00 PM Trustees Mtg	<b>20</b>  7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Pentecost Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship 7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1 PM Bible Study  6 PM – HCE Homemakers	<b>27</b>  7 PM <b>NA</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
31 <b>Trinity Sunday</b>						