

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 21, 2026**  
United Church of Christ - Neillsville  
Barb Shoemaker

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PRELUDE Deon Spangler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 116)

Rejoice! God's love is poured out for you!

**How awesome is God who showers us with love!**

This is a day of celebration!

**Let's celebrate God's mighty healing love.**

It's time to worship!

**We are ready! Let us worship God together!**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, come to us in our fears and frustrations. We feel unable to serve and often beaten down by life. Give us courage and strength and help us joyfully serve you by serving others. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

HYMN "The Summons" John L. Bell

#350 W&R (vs. 1-3)

**1 Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?**

**2 Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?**

**3 Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Lord, we are so beaten down by life. We see the shadows all around us and shrink away from your light in our fears. We turn our backs on others because we don't believe that we have anything to offer. Our attitudes and our actions often reflect anger and hostility rather than compassion and hope. Please forgive us, Lord. Please heal and restore us to wholeness and hope. Give us courage to be your disciples. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF GRACE

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".

HYMN RESPONSE:

"From All that Dwell Below the Skies"

#27 NCH Isaac Watts

**From all that dwell below the skies  
Let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
Through every land, by every tongue.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CHILDREN'S TIME

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 21:8-21**

#### *The rescue of Hagar and Ishmael*

<sup>8</sup>The boy (Isaac) grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. <sup>9</sup>Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

<sup>11</sup>This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. <sup>12</sup>God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. <sup>13</sup>But I will make of your servant's son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant."

<sup>14</sup>Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away.

She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. <sup>15</sup>Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. <sup>16</sup>She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept.

<sup>17</sup>God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. <sup>18</sup>Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." <sup>19</sup>Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup>God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. <sup>21</sup>He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

### **NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 10:24-39**

#### *The cost of discipleship*

<sup>24</sup>"Disciples aren't greater than their teacher, and slaves aren't greater than their master. <sup>25</sup>It's enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it's certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

<sup>26</sup>"Therefore, don't be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing secret that won't be brought out into the open.

<sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. <sup>28</sup>Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. <sup>29</sup>Aren't two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. <sup>30</sup>Even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>"Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>"Don't think that I've come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup>I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>People's enemies are members of their own households.

<sup>37</sup>"Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

#### **VIDEO** "The God Who Sees"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai5iDB8kaX0>

## **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**

**HYMN** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

#23 NCH Frederick William Faber

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in God's justice  
Which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows  
Are more felt than in God's heaven;  
There's no place where earthly failings  
Have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader  
Than the measures of our minds;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
We would gladly trust God's word;  
And our lives would show thanksgiving  
For the goodness of our God.

**THE OFFERING SERVICE**

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

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

Praise God, the Source of life and birth;  
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;  
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;  
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

On this lovely day, at the end of the month of June,  
we praise and thank you, O Lord. We bring before  
you our gifts, our lives, our talents. Take all these  
gifts and use them for work in your kingdom. Bless  
the gifts and the givers of all gifts. AMEN.

**HYMN** "God's Eye is on the Sparrow"

#475 NCH Civilla D. Martin

1 Why should I feel discouraged?  
Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely  
And long for heaven and home,  
When God is ever my portion?  
My constant friend will be:  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me;  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me.

**Refrain:**

I sing because I'm happy—  
I sing because I'm free—  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me.

2 "Let not your heart be troubled."  
Christ's tender word I hear,  
And resting on God's goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears.  
Though by the path God leads me  
But one step I may see:  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me;  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me. *[Refrain]*

3 Whenever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies,  
I draw the close to my Savior;  
From care I am set free:  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me;  
God's eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know God watches me. *[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.*

**HYMN** "The Summons" #350 W&R (vs. 4)

4 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when I but call your name!  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you, and you in me.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Deon Spangler

## RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored  
anonymously by a church member  
in honor and memory of all our fathers.

## 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, June 21, 2026  
<https://youtube.com/live/V2YIKXB2h-8>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### This Sunday, June 21st

#### - 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Sally Sadowska  
Greeters – Steve & Leslie Buchholz  
Ushers – Paul Vine & Kelley Burch  
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, June 28th

Deacon – Karlene Wallace  
Greeters – Larry & Kathy Marshall  
Ushers – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker  
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek  
AV – Stephanie Heck

### Tuesday, June 23rd

-1:00 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -  
Sign up on back bulletin board

June 21 – Follen's  
June 28 – Rodman's  
July 5 –  
July 12 -  
We need people to sign up

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



Whoever  
finds their life  
will lose it,  
— and —

Whoever  
loses their life  
for my sake  
will find it.

MATTHEW 10:39, NIV