

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Fairest Lord Jesus with My Heart Ever
Faithful"* Anna Laura Page Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and
hope upon us.

**May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing
of hope and peace.**

Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

Let us sing songs of joy to God.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of abundant love, we come to you this day in
the midst of a season of great growth and coming
harvest. All around us are signs of growth, in our
earth, in our families, in our world. We come this
day, seeking your healing love and abounding mercy.
Nourish the soil of our lives with goodness, courage,
hope and love that we may grow in your word and in
your way. AMEN.

HYMN *"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"*

#181 NCH (vs. 1-3) Marty Haugen

1 You are salt for the earth, O people:

Salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people:

Life in the City of God!

Refrain:

Bring forth the reign of mercy,

Bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice,

Bring forth the City of God!

2 You are a light on the hill, O people:

Light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people:

Shine for the City of God! [Refrain]

3 You are a seed of the Word, O people:

Bring forth the reign of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,

Grow in the City of God! [Refrain]

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with
so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of
the events this week have been very positive and
have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly
besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These
negative things crowd out your word and we
become like useless soil, unable to receive and grow.
Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us
because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us
when we allow negativity to drown out your Word.
Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy
that we may be better disciples for you in this world
which is in so much pain. 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".*

RESPONSE: *"Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"*

#393 NCH (vs. 1) John Fawcett

**1 Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life
is like to that above.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and don't return there without watering the earth, making it conceive and yield plants and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty. Instead, it does what I want, and accomplishes what I intend.

¹² Yes, you will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace. Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ In place of the thorn the cypress will grow; in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow. This will attest to the Lord's stature, an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 65:-9-13

⁹ You visit the earth and make it abundant, enriching it greatly by God's stream, full of water. You provide people with grain because that is what you've decided.

¹⁰ Drenching the earth's furrows, leveling its ridges, you soften it with rain showers; you bless its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food. ¹² Even the desert pastures drip with it, and the hills are dressed in pure joy.

¹³ The meadowlands are covered with flocks, the valleys decked out in grain— they shout for joy; they break out in song!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

Parable of the soils

³ He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴ As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it.

⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸ Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹ Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

Explanation of the parable of the farmer

¹⁸ "Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹ Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹ Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²² As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³ As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."

SERMON "The Foolish Farmer" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Soil of God, You and I" #174 More Voices Words and Music: Jim Hannah, 1995

1 Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care. Growing in everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

2 Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be part of God's promise for others to see. Open to everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

3 Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth, joining as partners with all of the earth. Living in harmony for here God is found. All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

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

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

Gardener God, thank you for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Receive these gifts that they may become seeds of hope and love. AMEN.

HYMN *"In the Bulb There is a Flower (Hymn of Promise)"* Natalie Sleeth
#433 NCH

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in ev'ry silence,
seeking word and melody.
There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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 Trees of the Field"*

#710 W&R Steffi Geiser Rubin

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen
in celebration of their
family's July birthdays,
Kevin, Brad, Janessa and Sandy

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, July 12, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/I8XaFxO4he0>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, July 12th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Sally Sadowska
Greeters – Doris Bakker, Ellie Golembiewski
Ushers – Hap Eddy, Kevin Christensen
Power Point – Brynn or Calvin Heck
AV – Stephanie Heck

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, July 19th

Deacon – JoAnn Wren
Greeters – Paul Vine, Kelley Burch
Ushers – Dick Lewis, Bob Petkovsek
Power Point – Paul Vine
AV – Lydia Schumacher

Tuesday, July 14th

-1:00 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

July 12 – Buddenhagen's
July 19 – Carole Romens
July 26 -
Aug 2 -
We need people to sign up



Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

July – September 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
July 12	Ray Weyer	Bonnie Weyer
July 19	Barb P	Barb P
July 26	Wendy S	Wendy S
Aug 2		
Aug 9		
Aug 16		
Aug 23		
Aug 30		
Sept 6		

Meal Giveaway

July 19, 2026

UCC-Neillsville

515 West Second Street

9:45-10:00 am

