

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
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JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Then Jesus called a little child over to sit among the disciples, and said, "I assure you that if you don't turn your lives around and become like this little child, you will definitely not enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:2-5)

Dear Friends,

As you likely know, my family and I just returned from vacation in Estes Park, Colorado. We spent a little over a week with both of our sons, their wives, and our grandchildren. Ryan and Krysta stopped in Omaha on their way to Colorado and took the children to the zoo. Parker, who is a very bright and imaginative 5-year-old, watched the flamingoes and then proceeded to the next enclosure, where he saw a colorful bird that he quickly named "a rock-and-roll flamingo!" His mother videotaped the whole thing, and we all got to giggle over his imagination and innocent renaming of this unusual bird.

Grey-crowned Crane of Tanzania
AKA "Rock-and-Roll Flamingo"



I've been reflecting on the imagination and innocence of children, not just my grandchildren, but also reflecting on story time with the kids during VBS. As I settled into the story chair, and the kids gathered at my feet, one brave child asked what happened to my hair. It prompted a full age-appropriate discussion about my cancer and ongoing treatment, including the Optune Gio tumor treatment field device that I wear every day, except Sunday morning, when I come to church bald and free. The Optune requires me to replace the metal arrays on my freshly shaved scalp every 3-4 days. It fires electrical impulses into my brain, specifically aimed at the area of my tumor at a precise frequency that targets cancer cells and inhibits cellular division and reproduction, optimally slowing down the progression of my cancer. The children took in all the information just as matter-of-fact as if we were talking about the sky being blue or the grass being green.

All of this reminded me that children are so accepting of the world around them, so trusting and impressionable, imaginative and creative, humble and welcoming, filled with love and openness and wonder and questions. Young children especially have not yet learned to judge others or to truly fear. They trust their grown-ups to guide them and protect them, to teach and lead and answer questions and encourage their imagination and unique insights into the world around them. I believe this is the attitude that Jesus is encouraging when he tells his disciples that you must become like a child to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

May you experience again the wonder and freedom of childlike innocence, trusting in God to guide and protect you, Jesus to teach and lead, and the Holy Spirit to encourage and support you. May you show the humility and welcome of a small child who has not yet been taught to judge or ostracize another who is different than you. May you never fear asking questions and instead embrace your imagination and creativity. May you find your own "rock-and-roll flamingo"!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Julie*

from Christian Ed



Our “Jesus is the Light” Vacation Bible School was held on Sunday, June 7th from 10:30 – 1:30 p.m for youth 3K – 8th grade. A special thank you to the 11 kids, parents, Pastor Julie, Linda Stalsberg, Lydia Schumacher and Stephanie Heck for participating in our summer fun.



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Gayle Schermitzler
Lisa Schermitzler
Duane Marty
Brian Eddy
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Russ Karl
Lisa Hardesty
(niece of Barb Shoemaker)

Fritz Hediger
Fran Ormond
Mike & Sherrie Holub
Nancy Boon
Brooks Sigurdson
Barb Petkovsek

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



Sunday, June 7, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously “In praise of the family farmer”.

Sunday, June 14, the radio broadcast was sponsored by JoAnn & Wayne Voss in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary.

Sunday, June 21, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously in recognition of all fathers, past and present.

Sunday, June 28, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with the message “May HIS word be heard by ALL”.

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 –
July 12, 19, 26 October 25
August 2, 9, 23 November 1, 8, 15, 22
September 6 December 6, 13, 20

June 2026 Attendance for In-Person Worship

June 7	online	2	Sunday	56
June 14	online	4	Sunday	49
June 21	online	5	Sunday	49
June 28	online	tech diff.	Sunday	49



- 1- Tyler Williams
- 2- Pam Stitt
- 9- Sophie Heck
Sandy Schmidt
JoAnn Voss
- 11- Emile Miller
- 13- James Mohr
- 16- Neil Czarnecki
- 17- Guy Jodarski
- 18- Patricia Garbisch
- 19- Roger Carl
Gayle Schermitzler
- 21- Haakon Sigurdson
- 24- Karsen Czarnecki
- 25- Kathy Carl
Bonnie Shaw
- 26- Reese Ziegler
- 28- Dan Patey
- 29- Kelley Burch
Barb Shoemaker
- 30- Erik Sigurdson
- 31- Crue Sigurdson

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



- 14- Joe & Kristine Anderson
- 17- Ray & Bonnie Weyer



AUGUST 1 -9

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

Birthdays

- 1- Earnie Ruegsegger
Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke

Anniversaries

- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn



Confirmation May 2026

Front row – Pastor Julie, Lexi Woods, Calvin Heck,
Lexi Bergemann

Back row – Emile Miller, Howie Mathis, Linda Stalsberg

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

July – August 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 5	Barb Petkovsek	Barb Petkovsek
July 12		
July 19		
July 26		
Aug 2		
Aug 9		



*God Bless America!
Happy 4th of July!*

**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!



On Thursday, June 18th UCC volunteers- Mike Perkl, Byrl Buddenhagen, Bob Petkovsek, and Paul Vine spread mulch around the landscape areas at UCC.

Another volunteer, Debbie Perkl was seen out earlier doing some much needed weeding & trimming. Thanks to all our volunteers who support UCC with their time, talent and treasures.

Meal Giveaway

July 19, 2026

UCC-Neillsville

515 West Second Street

9:45-10:00 am





After 3 years of living on the Luchterhand farm west of Unity, Olesia and Mykola are facing another crisis. They fled the war in Ukraine in January of 2023 and found a safe place to raise their family. Both are bright, well-educated, and resourceful. Living in Wisconsin has given them a chance to earn money, get their boys used to a life without war, and make plans for the future.

Olesia enrolled at Midstate Technical College and is now an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) working at the Clark County Rehabilitation Center near Owen. She has one more semester of classes to become an RN. Mykola works for Mullin's Cheese at their plant south of Marshfield. He has over 50 bee hives and sells honey plus nucs, which are small bee colonies that he creates for anyone that needs a hive or wants to start beekeeping. The boys, Roman and Dmytro, (ages 9 and 6) are enjoying summer vacation on the farm. Mykola takes them fishing in area streams and they frequently go swimming at the 'Y'. The Hnatiuks had never had a garden before coming to America. Every year their garden produces more tomatoes, dill, lettuce, zucchini, beets, and potatoes than they can eat.

It sounds idyllic, but current policies at USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services), may cause them to give it all up. Mykola and the two boys only have authorization to be in this country until October. Applications to extend their humanitarian parole have languished in USCIS offices for 2 years with no action. They have requested an expedited review of their situation but were told they do not qualify even though Mykola will lose his work authorization and driver's license in October. Olesia has authorization until January 28, 2027.

Olesia has called and met with a number of lawyers, but there is nothing anyone can do with the current administration policies as they are. She called Congressman Tiffany's office and Senator Baldwin's office for assistance. USCIS does not respond.

The family has done everything they can to be active, contributing members of their community but they may be forced once again, through no fault of their own, to leave everything they have and start over.

King's Conquest to Perform at the Neillsville United Church of Christ



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM** for an afternoon of Christian fellowship with Kings Conquest performing at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

King's Conquest is an award-winning Christian band based in central Wisconsin, with a mission to shine the light of Jesus through a blend of pop/rock and contemporary music styles. The band consists of three members who are siblings:



- Noah on lead vocals and keyboards
- Ella on the violin and vocals
- Ezra on the drums and vocals

Noah, Ezra and Ella come from a family with a musical background and got started in performing through their families' band known as MPK Christian Celtic band. Through years of performing with the family band, Noah wrote many of his own original songs, acquired his own studio and formed King's Conquest with his siblings. The band released their first 12 track album on February 3rd 2023 and are currently working on album 2!

For more information, visit their website at <https://kingsconquestmusic.com> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@kingsconquestmusic>

After the Kings Conquest's performance, we will host a "Baked Potato Bar", with broccoli, butter, sour cream, parsley flakes, bacon bits, cheese, etc. More details will be published in the August newsletter.




SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
July 5, 2026 – August 23, 2026

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point / AV
Sunday, July 5, 2026	Janice Miller	Pat Acheson	Mike Perkl	Bonnie Weyer
		Herman Seebandt	Debbie Perkl	/ Emile Miller
Sunday, July 12, 2026	JoAnn Wren	Doris Bakker	Kevin Christiansen	Brynn or Calvin
Heritage days		Ellie Golembiewski	Hap Eddy	/Steph Heck
Sunday, July 19, 2026	Wayne Voss	Paul Vine	Dick Lewis	Paul Vine
		Kelley Burch	Bob Petkovsek	/Lydia Schumacher
Sunday, July 26, 2026	Byrl Buddenhagen	Wendy & Craig Sigurdson	Joel Raine	Janice Miller
			Marla Raine	
Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026	Barb Shoemaker	Stephanie & Craig Heck	Craig Heck	Barb Petkovsek
		and family	Kalvin Heck	/Emile Miller
Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026				
Clark County Fair				
Sunday, Aug. 16, 2026	Karlene Wallace	Jim & M.E. Sjolin	Jim Sjolin	
			Jerry Hamm	
Sunday, Aug. 23, 2026	Janice Miller	Donita & Phil Follen	Joel Raine	
			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 7 PM NA	2 Noon- T&C Quilters	3	4 
5 <u>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 AM Worship 7 PM NA	6 9 AM Card Making	7 1 PM Bible Study	8 1 PM Stewardship Comm. Meeting 7 PM NA	9 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	10	11
12 <u>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	13	14 1 PM Bible Study	15 7 PM NA	16	17	18
19 <u>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:30 Worship 7 PM NA	20 9 AM Card Making 9 AM- T& C Quilters	21 1 PM Bible Study	22 7 PM NA	23	24	25
26 <u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u>	27	28 1 PM Bible Study 4 PM – Deacons Mtg 6 PM – HCE Homemakers	29 7 PM NA	30	31	

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