

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Dona Nobis"* Mozart
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome today to a celebration of God's love!

We are grateful for this welcome.

Feel the loving power of God flow into your lives.

We open our hearts and lives to receive God's blessings.

Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

Lord, be with us today as we listen for your words of hope.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams, God. Be with us as together we experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

HYMN *"O for a World"* Miriam Therese Winter
#575 NCH (vs. 1-4)

**1 O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**2 O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**3 We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

**4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.**

**Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God of abundance, forgive us for living as if scarcity is an unavoidable reality. Forgive us for allowing siblings in our neighborhoods, communities, and world to live in poverty as an unending condition. Forgive us for not trusting in your abundance, and propel us to defy the temptation to adopt a scarcity mindset due to challenging economic conditions. Empower us to participate in mutual sharing of resources, as well as to demand and create equitable systems that eliminate poverty for all your creation. 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: *"Open Our Eyes"*

#491 W&R Bob Cull

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

CHILDREN'S TIME Barb Shoemaker

SCRIPTURE READINGS Nancy Rodman

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹The Lord says:

Act justly and do what is righteous,
because my salvation is coming soon,
and my righteousness will be revealed.

⁶The immigrants who have joined me,
serving me and loving my name, becoming my servants,

everyone who keeps the Sabbath without making it impure,

and those who hold fast to my covenant:

⁷ I will bring them to my holy mountain,
and bring them joy in my house of prayer.

I will accept their entirely burned offerings and sacrifices on my altar.

My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,

⁸ says the Lord God,
who gathers Israel's outcasts.

I will gather still others to those I have already gathered.

GOSPEL Matthew 15: 10-28

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. ¹⁴ Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch."

¹⁵ Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us."

¹⁶ Jesus said, "Don't you understand yet? ¹⁷ Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. ¹⁹ Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. ²⁰ These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

²¹ From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." ²³ But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

²⁴ Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel."

²⁵ But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me."

²⁶ He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

²⁸ Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.

SERMON "He Resisted, She Persisted" Pastor Julie

HYMN "A Place at the Table"

#617 W&R (vs. 1,2,5) Shirley Erena Murray

**1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

Refrain:

**And God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy.**

**2 For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair. [Refrain]**

**5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free. [Refrain]**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 "Prayer" Mozart

Doxology "We Give You But Your Own"

#785 NCH Wm. W. How

We give you but your own,
What-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
We give it gratefully. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. AMEN.

HYMN "Help Us Accept Each Other"

#388 NCH (vs. 1-2) Fred Kaan

1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

BLESSING (Psalm 67)

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 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

#388 NCH (vs. 4)

4 God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by John Shaw
in loving memory of parents,
Bob & Lorraine Shaw.

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, August 16, 2026

<https://youtube.com/live/s4FCliKeeX4>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, August 16th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Karlene Wallace

Greeters – Jim & M.E. Sjolín

Ushers – Jim Sjolín, Jerry Hamm

Power Point – Paul Vine

AV – Lydia Schumacher

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, Aug 23rd

Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeters – Donita & Phil Follen

Ushers – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker

Power Point – Janice Miller

AV – Bonnie Weyer

Tuesday, August 18th
-1:00 PM – Bible Study

-5:30 PM – Trustees Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 16 – Rodman's
Aug 23 – Follen's
Aug 30 – Perkl & Weyer
Sept 6 – Carole Romens
Sept 13 -
We need people to sign up



Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

August – 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
Aug 2	Barb Shoemaker	Barb Shoemaker
Aug 9	Barb Petkovsek	Barb Petkovsek
Aug 16	Nancy Rodman	Barb Shoemaker
Aug 23	Donita Follen	Deb Perkl
Aug 30	Wendy Sigurdson	Wendy Sigurdson
Sept 6		
Sept 13		
Sept 20		
Sept 27	Ray Weyer	Bonnie Weyer



August 16, 2026
UCC- Neillsville
515 West Second Street
9:45-10:00 am