

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE "Allegretto" G.F. Handel
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 124)

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

We belong to God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

God is on our side.

When we are afraid,

God will keep us safe.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the Lord!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Romans 12)

Loving God, call us together as your people;
transform us with your love.

Transform our hearts, that we may love generously.

Transform our eyes, that we may see your grace.

Transform our hands, that we may serve others.

Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of
Christ,

gathered to worship and sent out to serve. Amen.

HYMN "I Am Yours, O Lord"

#455 NCH Fanny Crosby

1 I am yours, O Lord, I have heard your voice,
and it told your love to me;
but I long to rise in the arms of faith,
Drawn to you eternally.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where you have died;
draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to your precious, bleeding side.

2 O, the pure delight of a single hour
that before your throne I spend,
when I kneel in prayer, and with you, my God,
I commune as friend with friend! *[Refrain]*

3 Consecrate me now to your holy work
by the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope;
Let your will be done, not mine. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Caring God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to
live in community, to care for one another, to use our
different gifts. Instead of working to sustain
community, we follow our own desires. Instead of
trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone.
Forgive our neglect of others. Give us obedient
spirits, that we may care for one another, depend on
your love, and use our gifts for your gospel. 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 Debbie Perkl

SCRIPTURE READINGS Donita Follen

NEW TESTAMENT Romans 12:1-8

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I
encourage you to present your bodies as a living
sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your
appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to

the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

¹⁵ He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. ¹⁹ I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." ²⁰ Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

SERMON "Stitched Together" Pastor Julie

HYMN "Take My Life and Let it Be"

#466 W&R Frances R. Havergal

**1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love,
at the impulse of thy love.**

**2 Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King,
always, only, for my King.**

**3 Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages for thee;
Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold,
not a mite would I withhold.**

**4 Take my love; my God, I pour
at your feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

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 "Thou Shalt Bring Them In" Handel

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

Generous God, you have given us many gifts and drawn us together into Christ's body, the church. You have blessed us with generous and cheerful spirits. May the gifts of our money, time, and talents support the ministry of your church. Amen.

HYMN "The Church's One Foundation"

#386 NCH (vs 1-2) Samuel J. Stone

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are Christ's new creation,
by water and the word;
From heaven Christ came and sought us
in love to set us free;
With precious blood Christ bought us
for all eternity.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
One charter of salvation,
one God, one faith, one birth;
One name together blessing,
one holy food we share,
To one hope we are pressing,
at one in work and prayer.

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 Church's One Foundation"

#386 NCH (vs 3) Samuel J. Stone

3 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of our war,
We wait the consummation
of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
our longing eyes are blessed,
And the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored anonymously with the message
"May HIS word be heard by ALL".

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 23, 2026

https://youtube.com/live/lrU4_93AxjU

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, August 23rd

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – JoAnn Wren

Greeters – Donita & Phil Follen

Ushers – Don Quicker, Jerry Quicker

Power Point – Janice Miller

AV – Bonnie Weyer

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 30th

Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeters – Jenna Ziegler & family

Ushers – Craig & Wendy Sigurdson &/or family

Power Point – Barb Petkovsek

AV – Stephanie Heck

Monday, August 24th
- 6 PM – Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 25th
- 1 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 23 – Follen's
Aug 30 – Perkl & Weyer
Sept 6 – Carole Romens & Mathis
Sept 13 –
Sept 20 -
We need people to sign up

FREE CONCERT

King's Conquest

Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Neillsville United Church of Christ
515 W 2nd Street



An award-winning Christian band's mission is to shine the light of Jesus through a blend of pop/rock and contemporary music styles.

Following fellowship, we will host a "BAKED POTATO BAR" (Free Will Offering)



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	Joint Service at Calvary	Joint Service at Calvary
Sept 27	Ray Weyer	Bonnie Weyer



Please have any newsletter articles for **September** into the office by this **Monday, August 24th – 9:00 AM.**