

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"El Shaddai" with "What A Friend"*

Arr. Anna Laura Page Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as a community of compassion and hope.
Jesus calls us to care for each other tenderly and willingly.

By this caring and sharing we will be known as
followers of Jesus.

By our example others may be led to lives of peace.

Lord, open our hearts and minds this day to your
word.

Teach us to serve you with all our gifts and talents.

Come, let us joyfully worship God in all that we do.

**Let us praise God in our words, our thoughts, and our
actions.**

GATHERING PRAYER

**From all our life's pathways, you have called us to
this place, O Lord. Be with us as we listen for your
word and seek your ways. Guide our steps and guard
our lives that we may serve you more effectively in
this broken world. AMEN.**

HYMN *"Help Us Accept Each Other"*

#388 NCH (vs 1,2,4) 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 Lord, 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.**

**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!**

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 *"Little Children, Welcome"* Fred Pratt Green **#323 NCH (vs. 1-3)**

**1 Little children, welcome!
Earth is yours to live in;
Arms of love protect you,
Little children, welcome!**

**2 Little children, welcome!
Jesus cares about you;
Jesus now enfolds you,
Little children, welcome!**

**3 Little children, welcome!
We, the church of Jesus,
We will help your growing,
Little children, welcome!**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Wendy Sigurdson

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Brooks Howard Sigurdson

Parents: Jenna & Erik Sigurdson

Sponsors: Shelby & Brianna Hilke

Invitation and Welcome

Questions to Parents

Questions to Sponsors

Questions to Congregation

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit

Prayer of Blessing

Act of Baptism

HYMN *"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

#83 W&R Carolina Sandell Berg

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father,
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nesting bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**2 God his own does tend and nourish;
In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them;
In his mighty arms he bears them.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace is showing,
And their sorrows all is knowing.**

**4 God has given, he has taken,
But his child is ne'er forsaken;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve us, pure and holy.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Craig Sigurdson

New Testament: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. ¹¹ Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! ¹² Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. ¹⁴ Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. ¹⁶ Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. ¹⁷ Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

¹⁸ If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. ¹⁹ Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. ²⁰ Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. ²¹ Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. ²² Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." ²³ But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. ²⁵ All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. ²⁶ Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives?

What will people give in exchange for their lives? ²⁷
For the Human One is about to come with the majesty
of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay
each one for what that person has done. ²⁸ I assure
you that some standing here won't die before they see
the Human One coming in his kingdom."

SERMON "Loving Others: A Checklist" Pastor Julie

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 "As the Deer Pants for Water"
Martin Nystrom

Doxology "We Give You But Your Own"

#785 NCH William 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

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts
lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to
use these gifts for ministries of hope through our
church and into our community, nation and world.
AMEN.

HYMN "I Would be True"

#492 NCH (vs. 1,3) Howard Arnold Walter
1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

3 I would be prayerful through each busy moment;
I would be constantly in touch with God;
I would be tuned to sense God's slightest whisper;
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod,
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

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 "I Would be True"

#492 NCH (vs. 2) Howard Arnold Walter
2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh and love and live,
I would look up, and laugh and love and live.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored by Rosie & Jim Repinski
in celebration of
Jim Repinski's 89th birthday.

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 30, 2026
https://youtube.com/live/THevCdV6_ik

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, August 30th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Janice Miller

Greeters – Jenna Ziegler & family

Ushers – Craig & Wendy Sigurdson &/or family

Power Point – Barb Petkovsek

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, Sept. 6th

Deacon – Wayne Voss

Greeters – Lydia Schumacher & Karen Northup

Ushers – Donita & Phil Follen

Power Point – Jenny Erickson

AV – Emile Miller

Tuesday, September 1st

- 1 PM – Bible Study

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 30 – Perkl & Weyer

Sept 6 – Carole Romens & Mathis

Sept 13 –

Sept 20 – at Calvary

Sept 27 -

We need people to sign up

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Worship

August – October 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 30	Craig Sigurdson	Wendy Sigurdson
Sept 6		
Sept 13		
Sept 20 at Calvary		
Sept 27	Ray Weyer	Bonnie Weyer
Oct 4		
Oct 11		
Oct 18		
Oct 25		

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)

