

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

All music in this service copied and streamed under
OneLicense.net A-723900 and CCLI License # 20913817

PRELUDE *"Bless The Lord" with "How Great Thou Art"*
Anna Laura Page Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Over the turbulent waves in our lives, Jesus calls us.
**We get so busy watching the waves, we block out
Jesus' call.**

Listen carefully to what God is saying,
for he comes to us today speaking peace,
and offering life to all who love him,
and honor him with our hearts and lives.
Let's worship God together.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God who is greater than the most powerful forces in
this world, enable us to be still and know that You
are God. You come to us not in the chaos of the
whirlwind, not in the roar of the earthquake, not in
the crackling heat of the fire, but in the sound of
sheer silence. Quiet our minds, bring peace to our
hearts and stillness to our bodies that we might meet
you in that silence. Help us to listen for your still,
small voice. Give us the courage to go wherever you
lead us, trusting that you will prepare the way. We
pray this in the name of our Companion on the
journey, Jesus the Christ. **AMEN.**

HYMN *"Come and Find the Quiet Center"*

#477 W&R Shirley Erena Murray

**1 Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**

**2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace;
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Gracious and eternal God, You know how easy it is
for us to come to you and to proclaim loudly of our
faith when all is going well. But when the waters get
rough and the waves threaten to swamp our little
boats, we cry and wail in fear. Over the wind and the
waves you call to us to place our trust in you. Help us
take our focus off the wind and the waves and place
our gaze directly on you. Attune our hearts and our
lives to hear your call and to respond in faith. For we
offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. **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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ There [Elijah] went into a cave and spent the night. The Lord's word came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ Elijah replied, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!"

¹¹ The Lord said, "Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He said, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, "Go back through the desert to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram. ¹⁶ Also anoint Jehu, Nimshi's son, as king of Israel; and anoint Elisha from Abel-meholah, Shaphat's son, to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill. Whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸ But I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven't bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven't kissed him."

NEW TESTAMENT Matthew 14:22-33

²² Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴ Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵ Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

²⁷ Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³ Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

SERMON "Pop Quiz" Pastor Julie

HYMN "I Want Jesus to Go With Me"

#490 NCH African-American spiritual

**1 I want Jesus to go with me;
I want Jesus to go with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
O I want Jesus to go with me.**

**2 In my trials, O comfort me;
In my trials, O comfort me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
O I want Jesus to comfort me.**

**3 When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;
When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
O I want Jesus to stay with me.**

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 *"Bless The Lord"* Taizé'

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

Lord of sea and storm, of sunshine and meadow, we
present these offerings as tokens of our lives in
grateful praise for your love for us. Use these gifts
for the ministries of hope and justice in this, your
broken world. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

HYMN *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

#472 NCH (vs 1-2) Thomas A. Dorsey

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, lin-ger near,
When my life is al-most gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

LITANY OF REASSURANCE

When the wind is strong and the waves are high,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our dreams come to nothing,
and we wonder what lies ahead,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When those we love disappoint us,
or hurt us deeply,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When we begin to question God's call,
or doubt God's love,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When we've lost all hope,
and don't know where to turn,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

When our faith is stretched to the breaking point,
remember the words of Jesus:
Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid.

I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are Mine.
When you go through deep waters,
I will be with you.
When you pass through rivers of difficulty,
you will not be overwhelmed.
When you walk through the fire,
you shall not be burned,
and the flame will not consume you.
For I am the Lord, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

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 *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

#472 NCH (vs 3) Thomas A. Dorsey

3 When the dark-ness ap-pears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the riv-er I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

RADIO BROADCAST

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

This week's radio broadcast is
sponsored anonymously
by "a faithful listener".

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 9, 2026
<https://youtube.com/live/-sBRMBWJKmk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, August 9th

- 9:30 AM Worship

Deacon – Sally Sadowska
Greeters – Rosie & Jim Repinski
Ushers – Guy Jodarski, Larry Marshall
Power Point – Emile 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 16th

Deacon – Karlene Wallace
Greeters – Jim & M.E. Sjolín
Ushers – Jim Sjolín, Jerry Hamm
Power Point – Paul Vine
AV – Lydia Schumacher

Tuesday, August 11th
-1:00 PM – Bible Study

-4:00 PM – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, August 12th
-1:00 PM – Stewardship Meeting

Thursday, August 13th
-1:30 PM - Circle of Friends Meeting

Coffee fellowship after worship -
Sign up on back bulletin board

Aug 9 – Mathis'
Aug 16 – Rodman's
Aug 23 – Follen's
Aug 30 – Perkl & Weyer
Sept 6 -
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		