

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2026

*Thank You Sunday: Honoring those who give of
themselves to our church and community*

United Church of Christ - Neillsville

Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

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PRELUDE *"Prelude on 'St. Catherine'"* Gordon Young
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Our hearts are lifted up toward God.

P: God created all that is!

L: We celebrate that great love of God.

P: God gifted us with God's only son, Jesus the Christ.

L: Rejoice and be glad today!

**P: Our hearts and spirits praise God for all God's
blessings.**

GATHERING PRAYER

**Lord of light and hope, be with us this day as we have
gathered to hear your word. Help us open our hearts
to the commandments to love, even when loving is
difficult. Give us the courage to be people who will
commit their whole lives in your service. For we ask
this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

HYMN *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

#565 NCH (vs. 1-3) Robert L. Edwards

**1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store:
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.**

**2 Skills and time are ours for serving,
That your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;**

**Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at your throne.**

**3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
Gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Honoring you by loving all.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

¹ Lord, you have been our help, generation after
generation.

² Before the mountains were born, before you birthed
the earth and the inhabited world— from forever in
the past to forever in the future, you are God.

³ You return people to dust, saying, "Go back,
humans,"

⁴ because in your perspective a thousand years are
like yesterday past, like a short period during the night
watch.

⁵ You sweep humans away like a dream, like grass that
is renewed in the morning.

⁶ True, in the morning it thrives, renewed, but come
evening it withers, all dried up.

¹³ Come back to us, Lord! Please, quick!

Have some compassion for your servants!

¹⁴ Fill us full every morning with your faithful love
so we can rejoice and celebrate our whole life long.

¹⁵ Make us happy for the same amount of time that
you afflicted us—

for the same number of years that we saw only
trouble.

¹⁶ Let your acts be seen by your servants;
let your glory be seen by their children.

¹⁷ Let the kindness of the Lord our God be over us.
Make the work of our hands last.
Make the work of our hands last!

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 *"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"* Louise Respini

#73 NCH vs. 1

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

SPECIAL MUSIC **JAM Kids** *"Go! Tell it on the Mountain!"*

CHILDREN'S TIME JoAnn Voss

"THANK YOU AWARD" PRESENTATION M.E. Sjolín

HYMN *"O God, Who Teaches Us to Live"*

#359 NCH (vs. 1-3, 5) Tom Hunter

**1 O God, who teaches us to live
And guides us on our way,
For all the teachers in our midst,
We give you thanks and praise!**

**2 For love that welcomes children in
And holds them when they stray,
For knowledge hearts and souls receive,
We give you thanks and praise!**

**3 For wisdom, skills, and confidence
Where wonder leads to faith,
For those who ask and those who hear,
We give you thanks and praise!**

**5 For all who follow teaching's call
With courage and with grace
To build a future for us all,
We give you thanks and praise!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Kelley Burch

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The Lord showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan's territory; ²all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; ³also the arid southern

plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar.

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it."

⁵Then Moses, the Lord's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's command. ⁶The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is.

⁷Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit.

⁸Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over.

⁹Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the Lord commanded Moses.

¹⁰No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in Israel; Moses knew the Lord face-to-face! ¹¹That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the Lord sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land— ¹²as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

Great commandment

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. ³⁵One of them, a legal expert, tested him. ³⁶"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷He replied, *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.*

³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: *You must love your neighbor as*

you love yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

⁴¹ Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” “David’s son,” they replied.

⁴³ He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, ⁴⁴ *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’*? ⁴⁵ If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” ⁴⁶ Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

SERMON “Thank You” video

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

HYMN “A Lawyer Came Near”

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TUNE: ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11 D ("Let All Things Now Living")

1 A lawyer came near, asking Jesus a question;
he did it to test him, to find Jesus' flaws:
O Teacher, we've listened and heard what you're saying.
Now which is the greatest of all of God's laws?
With six hundred thirteen commandments to choose from,
Now tell us your views! Tell us: What do you say? —
The lawyer was searching for ways to accuse him
By tripping up Jesus, that long-ago day.

2 Yet Jesus was wise and he knew what was happening;
he knew if he said that one law mattered more,
then he'd be accused of ignoring, belittling
the six hundred twelve that he chose to ignore.
So Jesus chose love: You should love the Lord dearly
with all of your heart and your soul and your mind.

And yes, there's another — to go, love your neighbor;
these two hold up all of the others, combined.

3 Lord Jesus, you teach us to love God and neighbor,
for love adds the flavor to all that we do.
At home or away, in our leisure or labor,
there's nothing that's greater than love — it is true!
And Lord, in this world that is filled with great suffering,
May we know that love is not just some ideal;
Your practical teaching is really far-reaching;
God's love is a gift that will help the world heal.

THE OFFERING SERVICE

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory “Ash Grove with “Thanks Be To God”
arr. Anna Laura Page

Doxology “Take My Gifts” Shirley Erena Murray
#562 NCH vs. 1

1 Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Love, we dedicate these gifts to you in hope and trust that, through you, our generosity makes a difference in the world. We give you thanks in advance for the fruit nurtured by this offering. As you bless these gifts, also bless the giver and those entrusted with the stewardship of these resources in your name and for your church and world. Amen.

HYMN “Help Us Accept Each Other” Fred Kaan
#388 NCH (vs. 1-2)

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 "A Blessing for Those Who Serve Others"
by Kate Bowler

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 Donita & Phil Follen
in praise of the "church family".

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, October 25, 2026
<https://youtube.com/live/x95J63isani>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday, October 25th

- 9:30 AM Worship "Thank You Sunday"

Deacon – Wayne Voss
Greeters – Paul Vine, Kelley Burch
Ushers – Ken Shoemaker, Hap Eddy
Power Point – Janice Miller
AV – Crispin Hediger

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, November 1st

Deacon – Byrl Buddenhagen
Greeters – Jim & Rosie Repinski
Ushers – Roger Carl, Paul Schmidt
Power Point – Barb Petkovsek
AV – Emile Miller

Monday, October 26th

**- 6:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting
at Pastor Julie's home**

Tuesday, October 27th

- 1:00 PM Bible Study

Wednesday, October 28th

**-4:15 – 5:30 PM Confirmation at Pastor Julie's home
-5:00 – 5:45 PM JAM at Calvary**

Coffee fellowship after worship -

Sign up on back bulletin board

Oct 25 - Stewardship Comm.
Nov 1 -
Nov 8 -
Nov 15 -



**Please submit articles for
the November Newsletter
by Monday, October 26th.**