

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor James Mohr

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

PRELUDE

"Prelude & Fugue in G" J.S. Bach

Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*"Welcome!
No Matter Who You are,
or Where You are on
Life's Journey,
You are Welcome Here!!"*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beautiful are the works of God!

Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

Beautiful is the mind of God!

Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

Beautiful is the heart of God!

Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

God made the heavens and the earth!

To God be the glory for the things God has done.

HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Harry Emerson Fosdick

#436 NCH

**1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.**

**4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be armored
with all Christlike graces,
in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
In the quest for liberty,
In the quest for liberty.**

**5 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you, to one another, and to ourselves that we are not what you have called us to be. We have stifled our gifts and wasted our time. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness but have been quick to take offense. We have pretended that we could make no contribution to peace and justice in our world and have excused ourselves from risk-taking in our own community. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and help us to live our lives differently, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose call to follow haunts our every prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 41:17-20

When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

James 2:14-26

Faith without Works Is Dead

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—

and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

MESSAGE *"The Fire of Little Jim"*

Pastor James Mohr

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER
AND LORD'S PRAYER**

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN *"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"*
#448 NCH Frances R. Havergal

1 Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.

3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.

4 Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(You are invited to stay seated for Postlude)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us
in-person, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

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

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

***Tuesday, September 13th –**

1 PM – Bible Study every week at
Marge Goetch's - 510 W 14th Street

5 PM Deacons Meeting

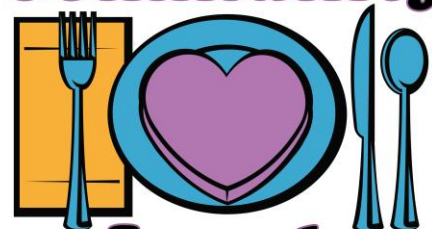
NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

Sunday School starts at 9 AM
Blessing of backpacks at worship

Today is Patriot Day



**Free
Community**



Lunch

September 18, 2022

11:15 am-12:30 pm

United Church of Christ

Fellowship Hall

**Takeouts
will be available**