



**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Neillsville, Wisconsin**  
**Church 715-743-2147**  
**Pastor Julie Ruegsegger**  
**Pastor's Office 715-743-2117**  
[www.neillsvilleucc.org](http://www.neillsvilleucc.org)

## ***JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER***

*“But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God.” (Romans 5:8, 10-11)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently I met a kind gentleman with friendly eyes. As we visited, I noted that he was leaning on a beautiful walking stick. The gnarled branch had been sanded smooth and polished until it shone. It felt like satin under my fingertips. As I admired it, he told me the story of how he came to own this remarkable piece of useful art. After a storm, he was cleaning up his yard. As he worked, he came upon a sizable branch that was just the right length for a walking stick. It was sturdy, and he found himself using it as he navigated the uneven terrain of his lawn. A car pulled up alongside him, and a man got out carrying a beautifully polished walking stick. He asked if he could trade, and suddenly the broken branch had been switched for a new one, and the man was back in his car and left without another word. No payment was accepted, barely even an opportunity to offer a word of thanks. Simply an unsolicited exchange of old, broken, useless for something new, beautiful, useful.

As he told me this story, I was deeply touched and reflected on how this simple act so clearly demonstrates God's love for us. “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Grace and mercy offered freely, unsolicited, without us doing a thing to deserve it. God simply took our old, broken lives and changed us into something new, something beautiful. The beautiful walking stick was simply a broken branch at one time, too. But someone took the time to sand and polish it until its natural beauty shone through. God's grace and love polishes us until our natural beauty shines through. There is nothing on earth great enough to repay that gift, the amazing grace freely poured out on each of us. But we do have the opportunity to express our gratitude, each and every day. Let your natural beauty shine for the world. Live as Jesus taught, knowing that you have been redeemed, restored, renewed.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*Pastor Julie*



**Scholarships Available**

for Fall camps due  
by September 15<sup>th</sup>

Go to Church Website  
for Applications

**REMINDER** our  
summer worship  
schedule has  
changed to 9:00 a.m.  
thru Labor Day  
weekend.



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

Janet Harrington	Dave Beck
Lisa Schermitzler	Gayle Schermitzler
Wallace Garbisch	Jim Repinski
Duane Marty	Fran Ormond
Cheryl Steinbach	Lois Lonning

Please let us know if others not listed  
(with their permission) would like prayer requests.



Sunday, May 5, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker in honor of all mothers.

Sunday, May 12, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sharon Buddenhagen in celebration of husband, Bryl's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and to honor all mothers this Mother's Day.

Sunday, May 19, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Pat Acheson and Herman Seebandt in recognition of "Rural Life Sunday".

Sunday, May 26, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Frances Short in memory of husband, Kenneth Short and our parents.

**2024 Radio Broadcast Sponsors Needed**

Would you like to sponsor a **2024** radio broadcast? Please reserve your date with the church office. You may choose to honor or dedicate a particular service to someone.

We believe our radio broadcast is a valued service and want to keep it on the air.

The cost remains the same:  
\$75 for a full broadcast

The following dates remain open -

Jun 30  
Jul 28  
Aug 4, 18  
Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27  
Nov 17  
Dec 1, 8, 15, 29

## OFFERINGS FOR – MAY 2024

### May 13, 2024

General Offering	\$1,942.00
Strengthen the Church	130.00
Radio Broadcast	<u>75.00</u>
	\$2,147.00

### May 28, 2024

General Offering	\$3,854.00
Strengthen the Church	368.00
Memorial Fund	6,000.00
Circle of Friends	180.00
Meal Give Away	50.00
OGHS	20.00
VBS	<u>20.00</u>
	\$10,492.00

VANCO for May \$ 404.00

### Facts and Figures of May 2024

#### Attendance for In-Person Worship

May 5	online 9	Sunday 58
May 12	online 9	Sunday 113
May 19	online 3	Sunday 61
May 26	online 6	Sunday 57



## Holiday Fair News

Doris Bakker shared that another church did a history presentation on how their Holiday Fair came about and wondered if that would be something we would be interested in doing for our Holiday Fair this year.

Just wondering if there are any ladies out there, that are from the original group of Holiday Fair ladies, that would be willing to write a newsletter article on how the group was formed, what the funds were used for, etc. If you or a group of you would be willing, it would be a great article to have, as we approach our 60<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair.

Thanks!

Emile Miller, 715-937-4626



THANKS to  
Sally Sadowska for planting petunias  
in our front planters.

**JUNE 16, 2024**

**FARM TO TABLE GIVEAWAY**

10:00-10:15 A.M.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST 2ND STREET

SUMMER SERVICES 9:00 A.M.

DONATIONS FROM

GRASSLAND DAIRY PRODUCTS

NASONVILLE DAIRY

LYNN DAIRY

BADGER STATE FRUIT

**ALL ARE WELCOME**





- 3- James M.E. Sjolín
- 8- Tim & Cheryl Steinbach
- 11- Larry & Kathy Marshall
- 13- Joey & Michelle Kranz
- 15- Mike & Sherrie Holub
- 17- Wayne & JoAnn Voss
- 21- John & Sue Vornholt
- 29- Ricky & Clarissa Rochester

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Did we have the wrong date or miss your Anniversary?**



- 3- Barb Miller  
Karen Northup
- 8- Lois Lonning
- 12- Corinne Armitage
- 13- Dan Miller
- 14- Julie Woods
- 15- June Thompson
- 17- Doris Bakker  
Lars Woods
- 18- Dave Fields
- 20- Zoey Hediger  
Barb Petkovsek
- 25- Ellie Keller  
Margi Rakestraw
- 26- Lennon Erickson  
Lois Kren
- 27- Debbie Perkl  
Claire Ziegler

**Happy Birthday to all who have a June birthday!**  
**Did we miss your birthday or have the wrong date?**  
*Let us know if we did.*



**JULY 1 -9**

We are adding the first days of JULY birthdays and anniversaries so as not to miss any if the Newsletter is late.

July 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Tyler Williams
- 3- Arianna Rochester
- 9- Sophie Heck  
Sandy Schmidt  
JoAnn Voss

July 1-9 Anniversaries

none

**CARE GIVERS TEAM**

**May Meeting UPDATE**

Here is the update from the May CG Team meeting. The majority of the time was spent reviewing and updating the list of members to be visited as the number has decreased over the past 6 months due to people moving outside our service area or passing away.

We also spent time trying to identify any homebound or isolated member who may benefit from CG Team visits. If anyone is aware of anyone who may benefit from the Team's home visit, please notify a team member or Pastor Julie.

Pastor Julie was present and provided input and support of the Team's mission.

The next CG Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Church.

Thank You!  
Kelley Burch



from Stephanie Heck

We had a great time learning about the creations of God  
at our Jesus Loves You S'more VBS.

The kids explored the creations of God while out on a scavenger hunt outside, they heard the Bible  
story about creation, colored rocks and camping bags to take home, played fun games outside,  
enjoyed a campfire and s'mores to end the fun night!

They all went home with a camp T-shirt as well!

Thank you to the wonderful helpers and kids that made VBS a success!!  
(And thank you parents for bringing your kids)



## **Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council**

The meeting was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in the Lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

### **Attendance**

Council Members Present: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker, Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck, Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek, Moderator Paul Vine, Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer (via telephone, lost connection around 7:30 PM).

Others in Attendance: Pastor Julie.

### **Prayer**

Moderator Vine guided the committee with a prayer.

### **Welcome Pastor Julie**

Moderator Vine formally welcomed Pastor Julie to our church.

### **Minutes**

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Doris Bakker to approve the financial report as presented by Bonnie Weyer reading Assistant Treasurer Don Quicker's written report. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### Camp Scholarships

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Karlene Wallace to accept the additional three (3) camp scholarships that have been received since last month using the guidelines of the Ray Funds. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

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## **New Business Continued**

### Vanco Contributions

Bonnie Weyer shared that we only have four (4) people donating to the church using the Vanco program. Bonnie informed the committee that there is a fee to the church for the use of this program and is wondering if we need to investigate continuing with Vanco or not. After discussion it was decided to advertise Vanco more via the newsletter, bulletin, and/or PowerPoint to see if more members will contribute this way and discuss this topic again in a few months.

### Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

Motion by Doris Bakker, seconded by Stephanie Heck to pay any fees for Pastor Julie to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual meeting, which will be held June 6, 7, and 8. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### Audit Committee

Barb Petkovsek reported that the committee has not finalized their report yet, but it should be completed hopefully by the May meetings of the Trustees and Council. The committee will report to the Trustees first, then the Council, and lastly a report will be submitted to the church newsletter.

## **Committee Reports**

### Trustees

Doris Bakker shared the following:

- all the old wooden tables are sold or will be used in areas of the church
- the supplies for the lights on the bell tower have arrived and will be installed in the next couple of weeks
- the new computer for Pastor's Office is still in the works
- Kevin Erickson will present proposals at the next Trustees meeting for the protective covering for the east kitchen outside entrance door
- the west basement entrance door was reported not working properly; this was investigated and is in working order
- some issues have been reported with keys not working in the church's southwest front door entrance; this will be checked out
- Hap Eddy will work with Dave Harnisch and Karlene Wallace on the church landscaping, including updates and maintenance needed

MORE →

## **Committee Reports Continued**

## Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- Committee met on April 9
  - discussion on our recap with Calvary
    - Confirmation
      - a little rocky at first but going very well now
      - students were great
      - Pastor Chad did an excellent job with the students
      - some distractions with the location of the class when held at Calvary with others entering the building for services
      - talked about having mentors back
      - May 1 meeting at UCC with Pastor Julie and Cheryl
      - confirmation date has not been set, whether it should be Spring or Fall
      - parents and students like Wednesday nights
    - JAM
      - going well
      - we will have a discussion with Karen and Julie at Calvary to see if we will continue to combine the two (2) churches next year
      - parents and students like Wednesday nights, so we will continue this procedure, even if we do not continue with Calvary
      - we will poll the parents to see what they like and do not like with the program
    - Brainstorming
      - if we split, will Pastor Julie be willing to conduct a church service every other Wednesday night
      - Confirmation continues to be a two (2) year program with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, only 8<sup>th</sup> graders being confirmed
        - have confirmation as separate classes with each church
        - JAM with both churches
          - JAM would be students from 3K to 6<sup>th</sup> graders
      - The committee will host fellowship on Mother's Day with the students making and handing out cards for the mothers in church that day
  - students sang on Sunday, April 21 and presented Pastor Jim and Pastor Sue with a thank you card
  - Vacation Bible School (VBS)
    - will be held on Friday, May 31 from 3:30 to 8 PM
    - theme will be camping
      - Jesus Loves you S'More or Camp Out Getting S'More of Jesus
      - will offer Calvary students to join us

***We lost our telephone connection with Bonnie at this time.***

MORE →

**Committee Reports Continued**



## Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- Lenten Services went well with Calvary, and we will continue this practice again next year
- committee members wrote a thank you to Pastor Jim and Pastor Sue for working with the Deacons during the absence of a full time Pastor
- next meeting is set for May 1 at 6 PM

## **Other**

Nothing currently.

## **Next Meeting Date and Time**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 PM.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Barb Petkovsek, seconded by Stephanie Heck to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Submitted by:  
Emile J Miller  
Neillsville UCC Council Secretary



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**June 9, 2024 – July 28, 2024**

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)
<b>Sunday, June 9, 2024</b>	Wayne Voss	Jenny Erickson	Kevin Erickson
		Carole Romens	Cris Hediger
<b>Sunday, June 16, 2024</b>	Sally Sadowska	Doris Bakker	Emile Miller
		Ellie Keller	Marla Raine
<b>Sunday, June 23, 2024</b>	Karlene Wallace	Travis & Ashley Vine	Paul Vine
			Kelley Burch
<b>Sunday, June 30, 2024</b>	Janice Miller	Larry & Kathy Marshall	Don Quicker
			Jerry Quicker
<b>Sunday, July 7, 2024</b>	JoAnn Wren	Audrey Vradenburg	Russ Karl
		Jim Vradenburg	Paul Schmidt
<b>Sunday, July 14, 2024</b>	Wayne Voss	Nancy Boon	Hap Eddy
<b>heritage days</b>		Dorothy Steiger	Roger Carl
<b>Sunday, July 21, 2024</b>	Barb Shoemaker	Howie & Kathy Mathis	Corinne Armitage
			Neil Armitage
<b>Sunday, July 28, 2024</b>	Byrl Buddenhagen	Stephanie Heck	Craig Heck
		Brynn Heck	Max Heck
<b>Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member.</b>			
715-743-2147			



# 2024 United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible				1
<b>2 Second Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9 AM Worship Communion	<b>3</b> 9 AM Card Making	<b>4</b> 1 PM Bible Study	<b>5</b> CC	<b>6</b>  *WISCONSIN CONF 12 PM - T&C Quilters	<b>7</b>  *WISCONSIN CONF	<b>8</b>  *WISCONSIN CONF
<b>9 Third Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9 AM Worship	<b>10</b>  6 PM - PEO	<b>11</b> 1 PM Bible Study	<b>12</b> 1 PM Stewardship Mtg  *Meal Prep	<b>13</b> 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting  *Meal Prep	<b>14</b>   *Meal Prep	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9 AM Worship <b>FATHER'S DAY</b>  <i>Meal Give Away</i>	<b>17</b> 9 AM Card Making  9 AM - T&C Quilters	<b>18</b> 1 PM Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:30 PM – Council Mtg	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>30</b> 9 AM Worship Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1 PM Bible Study  6 PM - HCE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>