

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neillsville, Wisconsin
Church 715-743-2147
Pastor Julie Ruegsegger
Pastor's Office 715-743-2117
www.neillsvilleucc.org

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

*"But now, says the Lord—
the one who created you, Jacob,
the one who formed you, Israel:
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."*

Isaiah 43:1 (CEB)

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, we have finally gotten a break from the rain, the sun is shining, and the temperature is comfortable - perfect weather in my opinion. Hopefully you are finding an opportunity to truly enjoy the beauty of God's creation, too.

I have a confession: I am terrible at remembering names. As I am still learning the names of people here in our new community and church family, I beg for your patience and forgiveness when I get it wrong. My mother has a talent for remembering the name of every person she has ever met. My father, on the other hand, was exactly the opposite. It was a regular occurrence for him to say, "I'm supposed to tell you hello from someone I ran into, but I don't know their name." My grandma is well-known for her difficulty in using correct names. She knows the name, just can't quite spit it out at the moment. She once looked right at me and called me "Hazel Ruth Norma Joyce Janice Julie". She had to get through five family members before she got it right!

I have been "gifted" with a combination of both my dad's difficulty in remembering names and my grandma's talent for misnaming people, especially when I'm distracted or in a rush. I developed a habit of calling kids by generic endearments, like "buddy" or "kiddo" or "sweetie." A favorite name for little girls visiting our house was "sweet-pea." I used it without even thinking about it. One day, Katie and Jessie were both at the house playing with my boys, and when I needed Jessie's attention, I called her "sweet-pea." Katie immediately stopped what she was doing and glared at me: "*I* am Sweet-pea!!" Katie was horribly offended that I would use *her* name for another child.

Oh, the power of a name. It can be hurtful to have someone call you by the wrong name, wondering if it means you just aren't important enough. But God knows your name - it is written in the Book of Life. You are precious and chosen and redeemed and called by name. You belong to God. God will never forget your name or call you by another. All praise to God who loves us each so completely and intimately and calls us by name!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Julie



Scholarships Available

for Fall camps due by September 15th

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, June 2, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Sue & Jim Popple in honor of Sue's parents Norbert & Phyllis Embke's wedding anniversary.

Sunday, June 9, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by "a faithful listener".

Sunday, June 16, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Doris Bakker in honor of all fathers on this Father's Day.

Sunday, June 23, the radio broadcast was sponsored in loving memory of Clarence & Anita Miller by their children.

Sunday, June 30, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Donita Follen in celebration of her husband, Phil Follen's 80th birthday.

JULY 21, 2024

10:00 - 10:15 AM

MEAL GIVEAWAY

UCC - NEILLSVILLE

515 WEST SECOND STREET



OFFERINGS FOR – JUNE 2024

June 10, 2024

General Offering	\$3,107.00
Strengthen the Church	20.00
Meal Give Away	117.00
Radio Broadcast	<u>75.00</u>
	\$3,319.00

June 24, 2024

General Offering	\$2,789.00
Memorial Fund	15.00
Circle of Friends	40.00
Meal Give Away	367.00
Radio	<u>750.00</u>
	\$3,961.00

VANCO for June \$404.00

Installation for Pastor Julie Ruegsegger

July 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at UCC-Neillsville

A special worship service will be held in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. to formally install Julie Ruegsegger as Pastor of the United Church of Christ in Neillsville. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among the Northwest Association, the local church and the pastor. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

All members are encouraged to attend this special worship service and celebrate this milestone in the life of the church. Clergy and representatives from the Northwest Association will be present to share in this covenant, and visitors from Pastor Julie's home church, family and friends plan to attend to support her and this church. Refreshments will be served after the service. We look forward to celebrating together!

Facts and Figures of June 2024

Attendance for In-Person Worship

June 2	online 9	Sunday 48
June 9	online 5	Sunday 34
June 16	online 5	Sunday 42
June 23	online 8	Sunday 63
June 30	online 4	Sunday 48

VANCO – Online Giving



Just a reminder that one way of donating to the church is by using our online program called VANCO. You can support your church with your weekly/monthly offering by writing a check, using your offering envelope, or giving online with VANCO (once you have this set up you are set to go!)

Visit the Neillsville UCC website

<https://www.neillsvilleucc.org/> and click on the appropriate link or download the VANCO app for your smartphone.

If you have any questions or suggestions or need assistance with VANCO, please contact me at 715-937-4626.

The online giving program is not only for your weekly/monthly offering ... you can also donate to any church activity through VANCO. Other activities you can donate to on the website are:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
 - Stewardship mission
- Lenten
- Memorial
- Mission and Outreach
 - Soup Give Away

Just a reminder to committees of our church, if there are any programs that you would like added to the VANCO website for online donations, please get a short write up for the webpage to Emile two (2) weeks prior to the date you need it posted.

Your generosity and continued support to the Neillsville UCC is greatly appreciated, whether it is by using your church envelope, a check, cash and/or using VANCO.

Thank you!

- Emile Miller



- 13- Richard & Carolyn Lewis
- 14- Joe & Kris Anderson
- 17- Ray & Bonnie Weyer

Happy Anniversary!

Did we have the wrong date or miss your Anniversary?



- 1- Tyler Williams
- 3- Arianna Rochester
- 9- Sophie Heck
Sandy Schmidt
JoAnn Voss
- 11- Emile Miller
- 13- James Mohr
- 16- Neil Czarnecki
- 17- Guy Jodarski
- 18- Patricia Garbisch
- 19- Roger Carl
Gayle Schermitzler
- 21- Haakon Sigurdson
- 24- Karsen Czarnecki
- 25- Kathy Carl
Bonnie Shaw
- 26- Reese Ziegler
- 28- Dan Patey
- 29- Kelley Burch
Barb Shoemaker
Eileen Zank
- 30- Erik Sigurdson
- 31- Kole Miller
Crue Sigurdson

Happy Birthday to all who have a July birthday!

Did we miss your birthday or have the wrong date?

Let us know if we did.



AUGUST 1 -9

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

August 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
Earnie Ruegsegger
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke
- 9- Elsbeth Johnson

August 1-9 Anniversaries

- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn

We had visitors on Tuesday, July 2nd - **David Pietenpol** (pictured) originally from Neillsville who now resides in Lake Holcombe. He wanted to show his friend & driver, **John Spiegel** also a native of Neillsville, now residing in Jump River, the masterful woodwork he had done on the balcony of our church sometime back in the 1960-70's.

Perfectly crafted wood spindles made of red oak adorn our balcony banister. He also makes beautifully crafted wood bowls and donates them to the HighGround for raffles.





A special thank you to our summer volunteers who pitched in on June 7th with placing new mulch onto the landscaped areas of

our church. Those who helped with this project included- Paul Vine, Bob Petkovsek, Mike Perkl, and Dave Harnisch. Others who helped with pulling and spraying weeds - Doris Bakker, Carol Harnisch, Deb Perkl, and Earnie Ruegsegger. Thanks to any one I may have missed, your efforts are always appreciated.



Giving Thanks For Summer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.

Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.

Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.

Draw me closer to You this summer.

Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.

Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

- *Author Unknown*

Becoming WISE



The WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health Resolution was adopted at the United Church of Christ General Synod in 2015 and by the Wisconsin Conference in 2023. The objective of WISE is to

encourage our congregations to become more welcoming of those living with mental health challenges, to expand our inclusion of those who are living with mental health challenges, to be supportive of all who are affected by mental health conditions, and to engage in ways to live our commitment to be WISE about mental health.

Since one in four individuals lives with a diagnosable mental health condition, it's safe to say that individuals in this congregation are dealing with any variety of mental health, dementia and substance use challenges every day. Due to stigma, many of these people may be reluctant to either seek help professionally or speak about it with their pastor or other members of their church. However, an atmosphere of openness and acceptance in a congregation makes members, friends, and visitors more likely to feel safe and free from judgment. This acceptance and sense of safety can help create a place of belonging, where truly everyone, no matter where they are on life's journey, is welcome.

If you are interested in forming a team to study this issue and consider the WISE certification process for our church, please contact Pastor Julie at 715-743-2117 (office) or 608-558-2397 (cell) or NUCCpastor@gmail.com.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference UCC, the Board of Directors brought forth a Resolution of Witness calling for adoption of the 2021 General Synod Resolution *Declaration for a Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel*. This resolution was presented and is supported by the Wisconsin Conference Palestine Justice Working Group.



United Church of Christ
Palestine Israel Network

The process for adopting a Resolution of Witness calls for a vote of the Annual Meeting when first brought forth, followed by a year of study and engagement by local congregations, and a confirming vote at the next year's Annual Meeting. The confirming vote takes place if at least 30% (63) of the congregations in the Conference report they have engaged in some study of the issue. This study can be in the manner chosen by the local church. Local congregations are asked to study and discuss the resolution and/or the situation it addresses. Congregations are not asked, or expected, to take a vote or a particular position. Our hope is that by engaging with the issues, we might all have a deeper understanding of what this resolution is addressing.

If you are interested in studying this resolution, please contact Pastor Julie at 715-743-2117 (office) or 608-558-2397 (cell) or NUCCpastor@gmail.com.

SEVEN PRAYERS WITH SEVEN SCRIPTURES

YOU CAN PRAY ONE EACH DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN YOU READ THE MORNING NEWS OR SOCIAL MEDIA AT YOUR LUNCH BREAK, OR AT THE END OF A TROUBLING DAY. OR, YOU CAN PRAY THE PRAYER YOU NEED IN THAT MOMENT.

On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations

When our anger leads us to roads of rage;

Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.

“Depart from evil and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”- Psalm 34:14

When the news is disturbing

When hopelessness troubles us;

Gentle God, may we know Your presence is with us.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27

When social media posts or politics threaten friendships

When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us;

Prince of Peace, reign in us.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”- Colossians 3:15

As political signs are posted

When we see our neighborhoods covered with blue and red signs;

Creator God, remind us You created every one of us, all our neighbors, in Your image.

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”- Romans 12:18

When we feel defeated, or don't want to engage with others

When our despair causes us to withdraw;

O Lord, remind us that we belong together.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”- Matthew 5:9

When our mental health is affected

When our anxiety keeps us up at night;

God Who Watches Over Us, grant us restful sleep.

“I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.”- Psalm 4:8

When fear of what might happen overwhelms us

When hope seems but a glimmer;

Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.

“And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.”- James 3:18

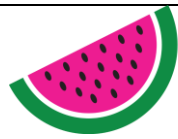
loving your neighbor

IN ELECTION SEASON

[More resources at wchurches.org/elections](http://wchurches.org/elections)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
July 7, 2024 – August 25, 2024


	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)
Sunday, July 7, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Audrey Vradenburg	Russ Karl
		Jim Vradenburg	Paul Schmidt
Sunday, July 14, 2024	Wayne Voss	Nancy Boon	Hap Eddy
Heritage days		Dorothy Steiger	Roger Carl
Sunday, July 21, 2024	Barb Shoemaker	Howie & Kathy Mathis	Corinne Armitage
			Neil Armitage
Sunday, July 28, 2024	Byrl Buddenhagen	Stephanie Heck	Craig Heck
		Brynn Heck	Max Heck
Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024	Sally Sadowska	Wendy Sigurdson	Kirk Rodman
		Craig Sigurdson	Nancy Rodman
Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024 FAIR	Karlene Wallace		
Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024	Janice Miller	Jim & M.E. Sjolin	Paul Vine
			Kelley Burch
Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Phil & Donita Follen	Ben Mathis
			Paul Schmidt
Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member.			
715-743-2147			



JULY

2024

United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9 AM Card Making	2 Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible	3 9 AM Pastor Relations Comm Mtg 7 PM NA	4 	5	6
7 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship Communion	8 6 PM - PEO	9 1 PM Bible Study	10 1 PM Stewardship 7 PM NA	11 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	12	13
14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship	15 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	16 1 PM Bible Study	17 1 PM Stewardship Mtg *Meal Prep 7 PM NA	18 *Meal Prep	19 *Meal Prep	20
21 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship 3 PM Pastor Julie Installation Meal Give Away	22	23 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM - HCE	24 7 PM NA	25 6:30 PM – Council Mtg	26	27
28 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship	29	30 1 PM Bible Study	31 7 PM NA			