



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

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:23-25

Dear Friends,

First, I have to say a huge thank you to all who made our installation day such a rousing success. Our visitors were all warmly welcomed and shared with me how much they enjoyed being a part of this church for the day. As always, this church family shows exemplary hospitality - from the greetings at the front door to helping with the service and finally with our amazing food and fellowship afterward. You are all a wonderful example of the extravagant welcome that Jesus requires. Thank you one and all for your participation and prayers.

As we enter into August and face the end of summer, I am getting excited about the “new year” that comes with September. I know that January 1 is typically when people talk about a new year, new resolutions, new challenges. But for me, that reflection has always come with the beginning of a new school year. All of our lives are structured around the school year, even if we no longer have children of our own in the school system. Our worship schedule returns to a later start time, committee meetings start up again in full force, and our Christian Education program begins anew.

As I am seeing ads for sales for school supplies, my excitement ramps up. I have always loved new school supplies. There is something about brand new notebooks, clean white pages without any marks yet, folders with no creases, crayons with that perfect point, pencils freshly sharpened and erasers not yet marred by mistakes. It all speaks to me of possibilities and opportunities to learn, to do better, to be better. It seems to be a fitting follow-up to our installation day - a new start for us to be the church together.

JAM and confirmation will be beginning again soon. I am excited to have our confirmands together again in this church, and thrilled that our younger children will continue to have the exceptional experience of learning together with Calvary Lutheran. We are talking about new programs to enhance Christian Education beyond confirmation, reaching out to older youth and adults in new ways. I encourage any ideas or volunteers. Just like those brand new notebooks, we have clean pages to start writing a new story, making new plans, exploring new possibilities. A box of brand new crayons invites imagination and colorful experiences.

I look forward to filling the pages together - and using up all the crayons, too!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Julie



Rev. Michael Jones, Pastor Julie Ruegsegger;
and Mary Barnes

Julie Ruegsegger installed as pastor at Neillsville UCC

Sunday, July 21 was a special day at UCC. At a 3PM special service we celebrated the official installment of Julie Ruegsegger as the pastor of the Neillsville United Church of Christ. Joining the service were many of Julie’s friends and family, many UCC members, and local clergy, as well as Rev. Michael Jones, Associate Conference Minister of Northwest Association, and Mary Barnes, representative of Northwest Association Division of Church and Ministry.

The service was coordinated and facilitated by search committee members Neil Armitage, Jenny Erickson, Mike Perkl, Barb Petkovsek, JoAnn Voss and Paul Vine, with special music by Corinne Armitage and Karen Mohr. We were honored to have Julie’s home church pastor, Reverend Kelly Volk, here to give the sermon. Following the service, members along with the deacons provided a light lunch.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make this a special day. Welcome again to Pastor Julie and Earnie. We are so excited you have joined our church family.

We will be starting **JAM and Confirmation** on Wednesday, September 11th at UCC. More details and registration information to come in the next month.

JAM for youth ages 3K to 6th grade will be joined again this year with Calvary and will meet every other week at either UCC or Calvary.

Confirmation will be for youth in grades 7th & 8th and will meet each time at UCC with Pastor Julie.



Confirmation students and their parents/guardians are invited to a brief gathering on Sunday,

August 25th immediately following worship. Pastor Julie will provide treats! We will meet in the lounge to talk about our plans for this year. This is a great opportunity for all of us to get to know each other a little bit and get prepared for classes to start September 11, 2024. All 7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in being a part of confirmation but unable to join us on August 25th, please call the church office by September 1st to register for class and get more details.

Blessing of the BACKPACKS will be Sunday, September 8th

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Dave Beck, a friend of the church. Dave passed away on July 2, 2024 at the Clark County Rehabilitation & Living Center.



Dave was a kind soul and had many friends in our church. Pastor Julie presided over a private graveside service at the Christie Cemetery. Our sympathy goes to the Beck family & friends.



Continuing the following in our thoughts and prayers.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Janet Harrington | Rick Buchsteiner |
| 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, July 7, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jerry Quicker in memory of sons, Mike and Paul.

Sunday, July 14, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Wally & Pat Garbisch in celebration of Pat's 84th birthday.

Sunday, July 21, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Lori and John Shaw in loving memory of parents, Bob & Lorraine Shaw.

Sunday, July 28, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Ellie Keller and Doris Bakker remembering Jenni Peterson on her birthday and praying that she comes back home to us.



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



August 18, 2024
UCC- Neillsville
515 West Second Street
9:45-10:00 am

OFFERINGS FOR – JULY 2024

July 8, 2024

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| General Offering | \$4,224.00 |
| Circle of Friends | 3.00 |
| Meal Give Away | 35.00 |
| Radio Broadcast | <u>300.00</u> |
| | \$4,562.00 |

July 22, 2024

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| General Offering | \$2,432.00 |
| Circle of Friends | 10.00 |
| Meal Give Away | 80.00 |
| Christmas Ange Project | <u>1,000.00</u> |
| | \$3,522.00 |

Facts and Figures of July 2024

Attendance for In-Person Worship

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|----|
| July 7 | online 6 | Sunday | 58 |
| July 14 | no internet | Sunday | 46 |
| July 21 | online 9 | Sunday | 74 |
| July 28 | online 3 | Sunday | 52 |



- 9- Linette & Wendell Kuhn
- 11- Howie & Kathy Mathis
- 14- Mike & Debbie Perkl
- 15- Paul & Sandy Schmidt
- 18- Francis (Butch) & Kathy Carl
- 19- James & Karen Mohr
- 20- Barb & Steve Miller
- 22- Neil & Kellie (Murphy) Czarnecki
Craig & Stephanie Heck
- 28- Sandy & Roy Bieneck
Jerry & Judy Quicker
Linda & John Stalsberg
- 30- Wallace & Patricia Garbisch

Happy Anniversary!

Did we have the wrong date or miss your Anniversary?



- 1- Ruth Schmidt
Sue Voigt
Earnie Ruegsegger
- 3- Delaney Rochester
- 6- Layne Woods
- 7- Morgan Erickson
Sydney Subke
- 9- Elsbeth Johnson
- 11- Ava Kruschke
- 12- Alexis Bergemann
- 19- Nicole Keller
Benjamin Mathis
- 21- Karen Mohr
Patricia Wall
- 23- Craig Heck
Cole Hediger
Axel Kruschke

- 27- Kathy Marshall
- 28- Sandy Bieneck
- 29- Nancy Boon
Jim Repinski

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



SEPTEMBER 1 -9

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

September 1-9 Birthdays

- 1- Logan Erickson
Rosemary Opelt
Jerry Quicker
- 2- Fritz Hediger
- 3- Mary Ellen Sjolín
- 5- Joel Raine
Donita Follen
Cheryl Steinbach
Hannah Erickson
- 6- Crispin Hediger
Audrey Vradenburg

September 1-9 Anniversaries

- 6- Bruce & Margaret Rakestraw
Carla & Mickey Marty

We are always grateful for those who bring in their aluminum cans for recycling. Rick Buchsteiner has been our go to man for picking up the cans and



taking them to the recycling center, however he recently injured his foot & ankle. I put a call out to Dave Harnisch to ask if he could take over for a short time. Dave along with his brother-in-law, John Hake & with the use of John's trailer, hauled in a bunch of bags from our fenced in crib.

It was quite a task to unload all the bags, even with the assistance of three helpers at the Clark Recycling in breaking them all open and doing some unwanted sorting. If some of that junk, other than aluminum cans, gets into the machinery, it can cause serious damage and cause the machinery at Clark Recycling some serious and costly repairs. We would like to remind all those who bring in aluminum that the recycling center ONLY WANTS ALUMINUM CANS.

Our total collected the last few months = \$195.00
Thanks to Rick, Dave & John



Fair Service – August 11th at 9 AM

We will again worship under the WCCN Tent with Calvary Lutheran Church, Pastor Chad and UCC, Pastor Julie sharing in leading the worship. Entry is free if you tell those at the gate you are coming for the church service.



Sharing Our Church Building

If you have been by the church on a Wednesday evening recently, you may have noticed unfamiliar vehicles in the parking lot. Our "teen lounge" is the new meeting space for a new support group, Narcotics Anonymous.

A message from NA

Hello everyone,

My name is Patrick L. Pellett and I am a substance abuse counselor for Clark County. I am also a person in long term recovery, having entered recovery in a small church over forty years ago. From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank the congregation and Pastor Julie for allowing us to provide a safe supportive space for a new local Narcotics Anonymous meeting on Wednesday nights. We are so grateful to you all as our group members find their way back to being productive members of our community. The meetings we have had so far have been well attended with lively group discussions and shares. These meetings are where our members learn how to live and grow within their recovery, using these tools to move forward in their lives. It is not an overstatement to say that meetings like the one in your church have the potential to save many lives.

A heartfelt thank you and much gratitude for allowing us this space for much needed healing, growing, and most importantly support.

Please contact me if I can answer any questions about our meeting or addiction in general.

"If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." Abraham Maslow

Patrick L. Pellett B.S. M.A.
SAC Counselor

Patrick.pellett@co.clark.wi.us

715 743 5203



Feeling Stretched as a Caregiver?

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational series designed to provide you with the tools you need to take care of yourself.

This program helps family caregivers reduce stress, improve self-confidence, improve communication, balance their lives, increase their ability to make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources.

The caregiver class consists of six sessions held once a week. Two experienced Class Leaders conduct the series (many are experienced caregivers themselves, who have successfully applied the techniques they teach). Interactive lessons, discussions and brainstorming will help you take the “tools” you choose and put them into action for your life.

Participants will receive a book, *The Caregiver Helpbook*. A suggested contribution of \$25.00 for class materials.

For more information, or to register, contact Aging and Disability Resource Center of Clark County at 715-743-5166. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

Classes will be hosted at the Clark County Courthouse on Wednesdays and begin on August 7th from 2:00pm-3:30pm.

Holiday Fair- November 9, 2024

I know it's only August but when you are out and about at garage sales or cleaning out your own garage/house, think about our crafts for the Holiday Fair. Do you have any of the following that you are willing to donate to us:

- Old pails
- Pallets
- Old and/or new pine or barn boards
- Shutters
- Old wooden framed screen doors
- Old wooden kitchen chairs
- Old milk cans
- Old wooden sleds
- Old license plates
- Any metal containers

If you have or know where we can obtain any of the above items to be donated, please contact Carla Marty at 715-937-0077 or Emile Miller at 715-937-4626. Thanks!

If you have ideas that you would like us to try to incorporate with the Holiday Fair, please let us know.

We will be starting our craft work nights on Wednesday, September 4 at 5:30 PM and every Wednesday after that until the Holiday Fair. If you can help for an hour or two (2) please come and Carla will find something you can do! The southeast upper entrance door will be unlocked for you to come in to the craft room.

Our sales departments are as follows:

- GIFT BOUTIQUE
 - o Indoor & Outdoor Decorations
 - o Quilts, Knitted, and Crocheted Items
- GREETING CARDS
 - o All Occasions
- KITCHEN CUPBOARD
 - o Sweets & Bakery
- NEW TO YOU TREASURES
 - o Collectibles from Grandma's Attic

We need all crafters, sewers, bakers to think of what you can supply for this annual event. Also, if you have any good items that you no longer use but could be sold in the New to Your Treasures department, please bring them to the church. NO CLOTHES PLEASE.

If you have any questions regarding the Holiday Fair or would like to help with donations or with sales the day of the fair, please contact the appropriate chairman of each department:

- Gift Boutique – Carla Marty at 715-937-0077
- Greeting Cards – Susie Karl at 715-937-3506 or Carole Romens at 651-359-5196
- Kitchen Cupboard – Susie Karl at 715-937-3506 or Carole Romens at 651-359-5196
- New to You Treasures – Debbie Perkl at 715-797-6290
- Luncheon – Emile Miller at 715-937-4626

Oh, and yes, mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 9, 2024** for our **60th annual Holiday Fair!**

Thank you for your support, both in the past and for the future of our church.

Em and Carla



NOW IN THE WORKS -

The **Christmas Angel Project** for Neillsville, Granton, Chili and Humbird is in place to help provide Christmas gifts, needed clothing items (i.e. winter coats, boots, sweatshirts, jeans, hats, mittens, etc.), toys, and groceries for needy children of families in these communities. A secondary mission of this project is to educate people in these communities that there are needy families in the area. We work in coordination with United Church of Christ and St Mary's Catholic Church, both of Neillsville. UCC graciously allows us to "take over" their church basement during the month of December.

(Thanks to Doris Bakker & Paul Vine for picking up the donation from the Jackson Correctional Institute)

Our target population is children of needy and working poor families of Neillsville, Granton, Chili and Humbird. We have grown from serving 146 children of 48 families in 2003 to serving 235 children of 93 families in 2023!

Initially, needs/wants lists for children are distributed to Christmas trees in area organizations, churches and businesses. Volunteers collect the gifts purchased by kind individuals and organizations, wrap each gift, and deliver the gifts and groceries to each family. Volunteers also coordinate community donations of various items, e.g. handmade teddy bears/hats/mittens made by inmates at Jackson Correctional Institution. Since 2003, this effort has grown to provide winter coats, boots, groceries, hand-made (donated) blankets, teddy bears, backpacks, toothbrushes/ toothpaste, Christmas stockings and other donations. The majority of the winter coats, boots, and pajamas are purchased in January at large discounts and stored until the following December.

A large portion of the Project budget is spent on groceries. In 2023, in addition to several generous bags of non-perishable food items, we were delighted to have the funds to provide a large jar of peanut butter, two loaves of bread, small ham, one gallon of milk, and two pounds of cheese to each family. We receive donations of dog and cat food and provide it to families with pets.

The Project occurs only by the grace and contributions of many volunteers. There are no paid employees. Any and all donations are used for the kids. We are honored to include volunteers of all ages. Granton Future Farmers of America students play an integral part in packing groceries into standard bags for ease of distribution to each family. Numerous amazing individuals and service organizations volunteer their time and talents to feed the volunteers, wrap gifts, organize the items for each family, and deliver the gifts and groceries.

from Stacy Schilling,
Project Manager

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
August 4, 2024 – September 22, 2024

| | Deacon/ host | Greeter(s) | Usher(s) | Power Point |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024 | Sally Sadowska | Stephanie Heck | Craig Hek | Reese Ziegler |
| | | Brynn Heck | Max Heck | |
| Sunday, Aug. 11, 2024 FAIR | Karlene Wallace | | | |
| | | | | |
| Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024 | Janice Miller | Jim & M.E. Sjolín | Paul Vine | Paul Vine |
| | | | Kelley Burch | |
| Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024 | JoAnn Wren | Phil & Donita Follen | Ben Mathis | Emile Miller |
| | | | Paul Schmidt | |
| Sunday, September 1, 2024 | Wayne Voss | JoAnn & Wayne Voss | Wendy Sigurdson | Barb Petkovsek |
| COMMUNION | | | Craig Sigudson | |
| Sunday, September 8, 2024 | Barb Shoemaker | Lydia Schumacher | Cris Hediger | Janice Miller |
| | | Karen Northup | Larry Marshall | |
| Sunday, September 15, 2024 | Byrl Buddenhagen | Sandy Bieneck | Barb Petkovsek | Reese Ziegler |
| | | Michelle Bergemann | Bob Petkovsek | |
| Sunday, September 22, 2024 | Sally Sadowska | Carole Romens | Debbie Perkl | Paul Vine |
| | | Jenny Erickson | Mike Perkl | |
| Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member. | | | | |
| 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 Noon- T&C Quilters | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship Communion | 5 9 AM Card Making Noon–Interfaith Mt | 6 1 PM Bible Study | 7 5 PM Deacons Mtg 7 PM NA | 8 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship At the Fair | 12 6 PM - PEO | 13 1 PM Bible Study | 14 *Meal Prep 7 PM NA | 15 *Meal Prep | 16 *Meal Prep | 17 |
| 18 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship Meal Give Away | 19 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters | 20 1 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Trustees Mt | 21 7 PM NA | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9 AM Worship | 26 | 27 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM - HCE | 28 7 PM NA | 29 | 30 | 31 |