



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

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

"Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. ... In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:1, 8)

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over already. The lazy days of summer give way to the busy days of autumn as school gets back in session, JAM and confirmation start up again, church programming gets back into full swing. I have enjoyed the laidback, relaxed hours of summer, but I am looking forward to greater activity around the church, and I hope you are, too.

Recently I had the honor of participating in the program at CART to dedicate the beautiful baby grand piano so generously donated by Jim and Rosie Repinski. This also meant that I "had" to spend hours at my piano at home playing and preparing for the program. I have always found the piano to be good prayer time for me. Music is a universal language, and sometimes it is the only way I can truly express my heart. One particular evening, when I learned of the sudden, tragic death of my son's best friend, I was at a loss for words, so I went to the piano. I played mournful tunes through my tears, and as my tears began to dry, I moved to somber but comforting pieces. Eventually, I found myself playing songs of praise, as the ache in my heart eased enough to allow me to sleep comfortably that night. This, for me, is the true gift of music - prayer in song that allows me to fully express all of my emotions when words just won't suffice.

The beautiful book of Psalms is a book of music. We no longer have the notes that were originally written for these songs, but we have the words. Just like my "piano prayers", the psalms offer us prayers to fully express all of our emotions when we don't have the words ourselves. We often think of the psalms as rejoicing, praising, magnificent hymns about the power and faithfulness of God. But there are just as many psalms of lament, giving words to our deepest anguish and reminding us that we are not alone, never alone. These prayers have united God's people throughout thousands of years. Let these prayers give voice to your deepest emotions, rejoicing or lamenting, praising or worrying, thankful or fearful. Much like my sessions at the piano, psalms of lament often begin with distress and pleas, and eventually end with comfort and peace.

May your prayers bring you comfort and peace. Pray without ceasing - whether that is your own words or through music or scripture or simply sighs of the heart too deep for words.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. .. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever." (Psalm 145:18-19, 21b)

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Julie



We will be back to 10 AM worship
- starting Sunday, September 8th.

Communion will not be served the first
Sunday in September
(as it is Labor Day weekend),
but it will be served the following weekend
on Sunday, September 8th.



A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

LORD ON THIS LABOR DAY,
WE THANK YOU FOR THE BLESSING OF WORK.
WE ASK FOR STRENGTH TO COMPLETE EACH DAY.
WE ASK FOR REST WHEN WE ARE WEARY.
WE ASK YOUR GUIDANCE FOR EVERYONE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT,
AND WE ASK THAT YOU BE WITH THOSE WHOSE FACES
WE MIGHT NEVER SEE BUT WHO WORK TIRELESSLY EACH DAY
FOR THE GOOD OF US ALL.
AMEN.

JAM for youth ages
3K to 6th grade will
be joined again this
year with Calvary and
will switch off every
other week between
UCC or Calvary
church.



- Wednesday, September 11th at UCC We will be
starting this year's JAM session at 5 PM on with a
JAM kick-off party.

- Wednesday, September 25th – 5 PM at Calvary

Confirmation will be for youth in grades 7th & 8th
and will meet at UCC each Sunday evening at 5:30 PM
with Pastor Julie starting September 8th.



Kids bring your backpacks on
Sunday, September 8th



to Bob & Barb Petkovsek on the death of Bob's sister,
Mary Ann Wayer, 94 of Waukegan, Illinois.
Our thoughts are with you.



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, August 4, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski "In Praise of Jesus Christ".

Sunday, August 11, Clark County Fair – radio shared with Calvary

Sunday, August 18, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Howie & Kathy Mathis in celebration of their 44th wedding anniversary.

Sunday, August 25, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Wally & Pat Garbisch in celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary.

FREE COMMUNITY
PICNIC
UCC-NEILLSVILLE
 515 WEST 2ND STREET
FELLOWSHIP HALL
 September 15, 2024 11:00 AM-12:00 PM
TAKEOUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

OFFERINGS FOR – AUGUST 2024

August 5, 2024

General Offering	\$4,170.00
Camp Scholarship	200 .00
Meal Give Away	10.00
Radio Broadcast	<u>750.00</u>
	\$5,130.00

August 19, 2024

General Offering	\$2,041.00
Meal Give Away	<u>110.00</u>
	\$2,151.00

VANCO \$404.00

**Facts and Figures of
August 2024**

Attendance for In-Person Worship

August 4	online 6	Sunday 46
August 11	Church at the Fair	
August 18	online 4	Sunday 47
August 25	online 6	Sunday 80



- 1- Logan Erickson
Rosemary Opelt
Jerry Quicker
- 2- Fritz Hediger
- 3- Mary Ellen Sjolin
- 5- Joel Raine
Donita Follen
Cheryl Steinbach
Hannah Erickson
- 6- Crispin Hediger
Audrey Vradenburg
- 10- Karlene Wallace
- 11- Mike Perkl
- 12- John Vornholt
- 14- JoAnn Wren
- 16- Iris Vine
- 17- Mary Finney
- 19- Wendy Sigurdson
- 22- Linette Kuhn
- 23- Carole Romens
William Ziegler
- 24- Michelle Kranz
- 25- Roseanne Repinski
- 26- Mackenzie Hediger

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



- 6- Margi & Bruce Rakestraw
- 8- Carla & Mickey Marty
- 12- Ashley & Travis Vine
- 13- Sue & Guy Jodarski
- 14- Deon & James Spangler
- 16- Barb & Ken Shoemaker
Wendy & Craig Sigurdson
- 20- Jill & Scott Williams
- 23- Lisa & Crispin Hediger



OCTOBER 1 -9

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

October 1-9 Birthdays

- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Mickey Marty
Alex Northup
- 7- Joe Felser
Corliss Fields

October 1-9 Anniversaries

- 2- Julie & Earnie Ruegsegger
- 4- Rosie & Jim Repinski
Michelle & Lucas Bergemann
- 5- Eric & Jenna Sigurdson
- 7- Dixie & Fritz Hediger
Debbie & Joe Holman



60th Holiday Fair- November 9, 2024

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, please contact Carla Marty at 715-937-0077 or Emile Miller at 715-937-4626 with any questions. Thanks!

Em and Carla

Mental health is
a universal
human
right

*"God will not falter or lose heart until justice
prevails throughout the earth." (Isaiah 42:9)*



NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is one of the “Five for Five” missions of the United Church of Christ. One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry. Two thirds are used by justice and witness ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. 100% of Neighbors in Need donations go to grants and project support.

This year 2024 the Neighbors in Need theme is, “Mental Health Justice for All” The focus is mental health justice. In 2015 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are on a mental health journey. In today’s world with the constant variety of media and messaging, the impact can be overwhelming. Focus on mental health and self-care is essential.

Sharing our church building with the local Narcotics Anonymous group is just one example of our local church supporting our “Neighbors in Need”.

This offering is typically collected on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 6. However, you may donate at any time by dropping your donation at church, through our website or VANCO on line.

Thank you our UCC church family for the continued support of our local church as well as our “Five for Five” mission. In 2023 we raised \$540 for the Neighbors in Need Mission campaign.

“Life, most urgent question? What are we doing for others?” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For Fun: Coloring page in this issue!



Mental health
is a universal
human right

Ed Dawson



STEINBACH FAMILY BENEFIT

CHERYL WAS DIAGNOSED WITH
GLIOBLASTOMA EARLIER THIS SUMMER,
ALL MONEY FUNDRAISED WILL GO BACK TO
CHERYL AND HER FAMILY TO HELP COVER
MEDICAL COSTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
GRANTON SCHOOL
FIELDHOUSE
217 N MAIN ST
GRANTON, WI 54436

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

50 CENTS PER TICKET

**CARNIVAL, SILENT
AUCTION, RAFFLE
BASKETS AND KICKBALL**



Kickball Tournament

- 10 Person Teams
- Team Registration due September 14
- \$25 Registration Fee
- 9 AM till finished
- Contact Jamie at 715-305-8833 to reserve your spot!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
September 1, 2024 – October 20, 2024

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point
Sunday, September 1, 2024	Wayne Voss	JoAnn & Wayne Voss	Wendy Sigurdson Craig Sigudson	Barb Petkovsek
Sunday, September 8, 2024	Janice Miller	Lydia Schumacher	Cris Hediger	Janice Miller
COMMUNION		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	
Sunday, September 29, 2024	Karlene Wallace	Barb Miller	Bonnie Weyer	Janice Miller
		Janice Miller	Ray Weyer	
Sunday, October 6, 2024	Janice Miller	Bonnie Shaw	Mickey Marty	Bonnie Weyer
COMMUNION		Frances Short	Joel Raine	
Sunday, October 13, 2024	JoAnn Wren	Pat Acheson	Emile Miller	Reese Ziegler
		Herman Seebandt	Janet Meredith	
Sunday, October 20, 2024	Wayne Voss	Doris Bakker	Don Quicker	Paul Vine
		Ellie Keller	Jerry Quicker	
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
1 Fifteenth Sunday <u>after Pentecost</u> 9 AM Worship	2	3 1 PM Bible Study 9 AM Card Making	4 5 PM Deacons Mtg 7 PM NA	5 Noon- T&C Quilters	6	7
8 Sixteenth Sunday <u>after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Worship Communion Blessing of Backpacks	9 6 PM - PEO	10 1 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Trustees Mt	11 1 PM Stewardship Mtg *Meal Prep 7 PM NA	12 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting *Meal Prep	13 *Meal Prep	14
15 Seventeenth Sunday <u>after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Worship Camp Sunday & Free Comm. Picnic Meal Give Away	16 9 AM Card Making 9 AM - T&C Quilters	17 1 PM Bible Study	18 7 PM NA	19	20	21
22 Eighteenth Sunday <u>after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Worship	23	24 1 PM Bible Study 6 PM – HCE meeting	25 7 PM NA	26	27	28
29 Nineteenth Sunday <u>after Pentecost</u> 10 AM Worship	30	Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible				