



**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)

## ***OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER***

*"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105 NLT)*

*"If you are planning ahead for a year, sow rice; for ten years, plant trees; for a hundred years, educate the people." Chinese proverb*

Dear Friends,

As I am writing to you, we are in the middle of "Banned Books Week." My Facebook feed has been flooded with examples of classic books that have been banned for one reason or another, encouraging all book lovers to reread and advocate for others to read them, too. I'm still stunned to learn that "Charlotte's Web", one of my favorite books as a child, has been banned in many places because "it suggests to children that animals can talk."

One of my greatest weaknesses is books, which anyone can tell by the overflowing bookshelves in my office and home. And one of my greatest sadnesses is when narrow-minded people ban books - and even more devastating to me is the burning and destruction of books. Education and easy access to information is, in my mind, one of the greatest privileges of a free society, and one of the most important rights to preserve. Well-informed, open minds are one of the best defenses against tyranny and corruption.

When I review the reasons for banning books, it occurs to me that the Bible has every one of those characteristics and should be leading the list of banned books, if these "concerns" were applied equally! In confirmation, we have been learning about the history of the church. Two of the greatest events to advance Christianity were the translation of the Bible from Latin into English and the printing press that allowed affordable copies of the Bible for regular people, not just the wealthy and privileged. Once the Word of God was available to everyone in their own language, people no longer had to unquestionably accept the interpretations of the priests. This changed everything. Common people could finally read the Bible for themselves. This sparked an intense interest in a more personal relationship with God, allowed people to call out the corruption that had crept into the church, and prompted incredible growth of the church worldwide. All because people were finally able to read the Bible for themselves.

Today, many of us take our Bibles for granted. I personally own 22 different Bibles (I counted just for you!), 24 if you include the Bible apps on my phone. We have Bibles in every pew, piles of the Action Bible available for the children and CEB Study Bibles for confirmation, even BibleGateway.com for anyone to have free internet access. The Bible has been translated into 736 languages, with the New Testament translated into an additional 1,658 languages. We have easy access, and we forget just how amazing it is to have the Word of God at our fingertips, how blessed we are to be able to read the word for ourselves and not rely on someone else to tell us about it.

As much as I try to faithfully and prayerfully read and interpret scripture for you each week, I also hope and pray that you will read the scripture for yourself. And maybe say a prayer of thanks for the freedom to read your Bible openly, in your own language, whenever and wherever you like. We are truly blessed!

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Julie*

## 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.



**ALL SAINTS DAY** will be observed here on **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you have a loved one you would like to have remembered in the service please contact the church office at 715-743-2147.

## **JAM for youth ages 3K to 6th grade**

**- Wednesday, October 9th – 5PM at UCC**

**- Wednesday, October 23rd – 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.



*With Sincere Sympathy*

to Rosie & Jim Repinski on the death of Rosie’s sister, Marylyn Murphy, 88 of Racine, WI. Our thoughts & prayers 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, September 1, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Jim & Rosie Repinski “In praise of Jesus Christ”.

Sunday, September 8, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Phil Follen in celebration of wife, Donita Follen’s birthday.

Sunday, September 15, the radio broadcast was sponsored by Howie & Kathy Mathis in appreciation & thanks for all prayers for Millie and for meals brought to the family.

Sunday, September 22, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously by a “faithful listener”.

Sunday, September 29, the radio broadcast was sponsored anonymously with the message “May his word be heard by all”



Dear UCC Members,  
I wanted to let you all know how much I have appreciated being able to attend the Moon Beach Bible Camp the

past three summers. Your church has paid the majority of my bill, even though I am not a member, making it possible for me to attend with other family members who are a part of your congregation.

It is a very special week for all of us and a highlight of our summer. To take a week to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature at the lake, and strengthen our faith with the community of believers that attend is wonderful. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Hamm

## OFFERINGS FOR – SEPTEMBER 2024

### September 3, 2024

General Offering	\$6,429.00
Camp Scholarship	200.00
Meal Give Away	125.00
Circle of Friends	<u>81.50</u>
	\$6,835.50

### September 16, 2024

General Offering	\$1,435.00
Meal Give Away	120.00
Circle of Friends	<u>15.00</u>
	\$1,570.00

### September 30, 2024

General Offering	\$2,441.00
Meal Give Away	65.00
Neighbors in Need	<u>220.00</u>
	\$2,726.00

### Facts and Figures of

### September 2024

### Attendance for In-Person Worship

September 1	online 5	Sunday 43
September 8	online 6	Sunday 45
September 15	online 8	Sunday 63
September 22	online 7	Sunday 50
September 29	online 7	Sunday 56



## Meal Giveaway

**UCC NEILLSVILLE**

**515 WEST SECOND STREET**

**October 20, 2024**

**10:45 -11:00 AM**



# October BIRTHDAYS

- 3- Tim Steinbach
- 4- Mickey Marty  
Alex Northup
- 7- Joe Felser  
Corliss Fields  
Brian Eddy
- 10- Luke Erickson
- 11- Tim Voigt
- 12- Clarissa Rochester
- 17- Dante Erickson
- 25- David Harnisch
- 30- Derek Zschernitz

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



Kirk & Nancy Rodman were surprised with a cake celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on September 15th.



# October ANNIVERSARIES

- 2- Julie & Earnie Ruegsegger
- 4- Rosie & Jim Repinski  
Michelle & Lucas Bergemann
- 5- Eric & Jenna Sigurdson
- 7- Dixie & Fritz Hediger  
Debbie & Joe Holman
- 9- Clinton & Julie Woods
- 14- Karen & David Northup
- 16- Sue & Tim Voigt
- 17- Jennifer & Kevin Erickson
- 18- Sharon & Byrl Buddenhagen
- 20- Carol & David Harnisch



# NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

## NOVEMBER 1 -9

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

### November 1-9 Birthdays

- 2- Debra Holman
- 4- Alexander Vine

### November Anniversaries

- 5- Donita & Phil Follen

# UCC Financial Update

Below is an update of UCC Financials. Included are receipts of regular offerings as well as nontraditional donations. In addition, the year-to-date total includes \$9,000 funds from investment income. Expenses include regular operating, salaries, benefits as well as 10% contributions to area and wider missions.

If anyone has more specific questions please contact Bonnie Weyer or Don Quicker.

	August	Year to date
Receipts	\$6,615.00	\$91,480.27
Expenses	\$11,464.19	\$92,783.82
Grand Total	(\$4,849.19)	(\$1,303.55)

## 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





## *60<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair- November 9, 2024*

### **Holiday Fair Fast Approaching**

Just a reminder to everyone ... the money in the Holiday Fair account is not raised just by the Holiday Fair ladies; it belongs to EVERYONE in our church. We have so many people who have very generously donated items to make our crafts with from wood, windows, buckets, sleds, pine boughs; not to mention all that have donated money to buy supplies. Not to mention the individuals that donate baked goods, greeting cards, and all the items to our New to Your Treasures. We could NOT make the money we do each year at our Holiday Fair, without all these people, both men and women, so we can give back to our church in whatever way is needed.

This year's Holiday Fair, which is Saturday, November 9, 2024 is fast approaching for our 60<sup>th</sup> Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 1 PM; with lunch serving from 11 AM to 1 PM. The lunch will consist of chicken salad on a croissant, baked potato soup, and dessert, (Betty Opelt's recipes). Carry-outs will be available.

Our sales departments are as follows:

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

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

Thank you!

- Em Miller

# Approved Minutes Neillsville United Church of Christ Council

The meeting was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 in the Lounge at the Neillsville United Church of Christ.

Moderator Vine called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

## **Attendance**

Council Members Present: Christian Education Representative Stephanie Heck (joined at 6:31 PM), Moderator Paul Vine, Deacons Representative Karlene Wallace, and Treasurer Bonnie Weyer.

Council Members Absent: Trustee Representative Doris Bakker and Vice Moderator Barb Petkovsek.

Others in Attendance: Pastor Julie and Trustee Representative Hap Eddy.

## **Prayer**

Pastor Julie guided the committee with an inspirational devotion.

## **Minutes**

Motion by Bonnie Weyer, seconded by Karlene Wallace to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024 meeting. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

## **Financial Report**

Motion by Stephanie Heck, seconded by Karlene Wallace 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**

### Use of Building Request

Motion by Bonnie Weyer, seconded by Stephanie Heck to permit the Clark County AODA support group meetings to be held at our church, upon completing the necessary paperwork with the church's Administrative Assistant. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried.

### Installation Service

An Installation Service for Pastor Julie will be held on Sunday, July 21 at 3 PM, with light refreshments served after in the fellowship hall.

### June, July, and August Meeting Schedule

The Church Council will not meet during June and July unless a meeting is needed.

### Medical Appointment Transportation Needed

Pastor Julie received a request for medical appointment transportation. Bonnie Weyer stated that anyone needing assistance should contact Judy Morrow, Interfaith Caregivers Director.

MORE →

## **Old Business**

### Church Landscaping

Karlene Wallace stated that some of the shrubs were a little slow with the growth progress, but they are all doing well at this time.

Moderator Vine stated he will schedule a workday for applying fresh mulch to the landscaping.

Earnie Ruegsegger treated the church lawn for weeds and will apply again since mowing was done before the proper allotted time. Thank you to Doris Bakker for donating the chemicals and to Earnie for donating his time.

## **Pastor Report/Update**

Pastor Julie shared the following:

- one (1) month since she started as our Pastor
- her office is almost put together
- services held so far:
  - confirmation
  - graduation recognition
  - communion
- meetings attended:
  - Confirmation
  - Deacons
  - Trustees
- two (2) hospital visits
- three (3) home visits
- conducting story time at VBS
- June 6-8 attending the Annual meeting in Green Lake
  - Karen Mohr going as a delegate
  - Pastor Mohr going as a retired Pastor
- officiating at a funeral on June 15 at Louise Marie Chapel in Christie
- June 20-22 Pastor will be out of the office

## **Committee Reports**

### Trustees

Hap Eddy shared the following:

- no meeting held in May
- tower light has been installed and invoice paid
- west basement door has been fixed
- plastic covering on a light in Pastor's office is broke and will be taken care of
- shrubs are being taken care of by Dave Harnisch and Karlene Wallace
- shelter over the east basement kitchen door entrance is still being investigated
- Pastor's computer is being handled by Bonnie Weyer

MORE →



## Christian Education

Stephanie Heck shared the following:

- May 15 a VBS an organizational meeting was held:
  - will be the Story of Creation
  - Jesus Loves You S'More will be the theme
  - supplies are being ordered
  - t-shirts ordered from JBC
  - portable campfire rings will be used
  - 12 UCC students attending, currently

## Deacons

Karlene Wallace shared the following:

- discussed the Installation Service for Pastor
  - meeting July 10 to finalize installation
- services
  - going well with Pastor
  - 9 AM start time as of Memorial Day weekend
    - discussion on switching all service times to either 9 or 9:30 AM, if Sunday School continues Wednesday nights

## **Other**

Moderator Vine shared a positive ... his daughter Lyndsey had a baby boy, congratulations Paul and Kelley!

## **Next Meeting Date and Time**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15 at 6 PM.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Bonnie Weyer, seconded by Hap Eddy to adjourn. Voice vote taken with all "aye"; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Submitted by:  
Emile J Miller  
Neillsville UCC Council Secretary



Many years ago, I had the honor of attending a lecture by the late William Sloane Coffin, renowned social justice preacher at New York City's Riverside Church from 1977 to 1987. That day, Coffin grounded his prophetic remarks in four little words written by the apostle Paul

to the Corinthians almost 2,000 years ago: Make love your aim (I Corinthians 14:1). He talked about love as prophetic witness and as a dynamic power, not reserved by God but unleashed for humanity to embody.

Coffin understood "love in action" as the key to transformation. Remember how often we used to sing "and they'll know we are Christians by our love by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love"? One way we embody the love of Christ is by voting according to the values of our faith.

In 1976, my fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Dahl, challenged the class to memorize Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, offering a prize for the student who memorized the most words. I practiced long and hard, and before I knew it Mr. Dahl announced to the class that my prize was an invitation to accompany him to the voting booth. On Election Day in November, Mr. Dahl and I headed to the Delavan Police Department, where he showed his driver's license, got his ballot and promptly said to me, "I'm going to vote for my values."

I've always been curious about why people vote. It's downright perplexing to me. I learned in a civics course to write down the 10 most compelling economic, social and geopolitical issues and to score the candidates according to my views. It turns out that's way more complicated than many people make it. Some vote based on a single issue, like reproductive rights or border control. Others decide based on the likeability of a candidate, the cost of groceries or the size of their investment portfolio. Still others are swayed by the demeanor of the candidates and their level of empathy - or apathy -- toward common folk.

This year the UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, led by the Rev. Michael Neuroth, is encouraging us to participate in the election with an initiative called Our Faith Our Vote. The theme Vote with Love is resonating with many churches and individuals who want to engage in the Nov. 5 election not through a partisan filter but through the lens of UCC values.

What if, this year, we promoted voting based on the gospel of love as modeled by the life and ministry of Jesus? Love for the poor. Love for those who lack medical care. Love for the stranger. Love for those who need better access to education and vocational training. Love for those who simply want their marriages honored, their lives dignified, their bodies respected, their hearts mended. Love for families who grieve the victims of war and plead for peace, for children who need safe and affordable care, and for seniors who worry that their Social Security check might be cut.

Which candidates will govern with love as their aim? Who will more closely reflect the care and concern Jesus had for the poor and marginalized? Who will promote the values of civil discourse, truth and honesty, kindness and respect? Who will govern with love?

I'm not much of a campaigner, but the stakes in this year's election are high and the consequences deep. Trinn and I have three adult children, and they have nine cousins. Not only am I going to urge all 12 twentysomethings to "vote with love," I'm going to encourage them to share the idea with their friends.

Choosing love, after all, is the essence of our Christian life.

With autumn blessings to you and your congregation,

The Rev. Franz Rigert, WI Conference Minister

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
**October 6, 2024 – November 24, 2024**

	Deacon/ host	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Power Point
<b>Sunday, October 6, 2024</b>	Janice Miller	Bonnie Shaw	Mickey Marty	Bonnie Weyer
WORLD COMMUNION		Frances Short	Joel Raine	
<b>Sunday, October 13, 2024</b>	JoAnn Wren	Pat Acheson	Emile Miller	Reese Ziegler
		Herman Seebandt	Janet Meredith	
<b>Sunday, October 20, 2024</b>	Wayne Voss	Doris Bakker	Don Quicker	Paul Vine
		Ellie Keller	Jerry Quicker	
<b>Sunday, October 27, 2024</b>	Barb Shoemaker	Jim & Rosie Repinski	Ken Shoemaker	Emile Miller
			Roger Carl	
<b>Sunday, November 3, 2024</b>	Byrl Buddenhagen	Paul Vine	Hap Eddy	Barb Petkovsek
COMMUNION/ All Saints Day		Kelley Burch	Roger Carl	
<b>Sunday, November 10, 2024</b>	Sally Sadowska	Barb & Ken Shoemaker	Jenny Erickson	Emile Miller
			Kevin Erickson	
<b>Sunday, November 17, 2024</b>	Karlene Wallace	Kirk & Nancy Rodman	Craig Heck	Bonnie Weyer
			Max Heck	
<b>Sunday, November 24, 2024</b>	Janice Miller	Byrl & Sharon Buddenhagen	Kirk Rodman	Crispin Hediger
			Nancy Rodman	
<b>Please call the church office if you are unable to be here, or make arrangements with another church member.</b>				
715-743-2147				



# OCTOBER 2024 United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Each Tuesday - 1 PM Marge Goetsch Bible Study – church lounge / bring bible	2 5 PM Deacons Mtg at Byrl's home  7 PM NA	3  Noon- T&C Quilters	4	5
<b>6 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 AM Worship <b>World Communion</b> 5:30 Confirmation	7 9 AM Card Making	8 1 PM Bible Study	9 1 PM Caregivers Mt <b>5 PM JAM at UCC</b>  7 PM NA	10 1:30 PM Circle of Friends Meeting	11	12
<b>13 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 AM Worship 5:30 Confirmation	14  6 PM - PEO	15 1 PM Bible Study  5:30 PM Trustees Mt	16 1 PM Stewardship Mtg <b>*Meal Prep</b>  7 PM NA	17  <b>*Meal Prep</b>	18  <b>*Meal Prep</b>	19
<b>20 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 AM Worship 5:30 Confirmation <b>Meal Give Away</b>	21 9 AM Card Making  9 AM - T&C Quilters	22 1 PM Bible Study  5:30 PM Council Mtg  6 PM – HCE meeting	23 <b>5 PM JAM at Calvary</b>  7 PM NA	24	25	26 <b>Change of Seasons /raking</b>
<b>27 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> 10 AM Worship 5:30 Confirmation	28	29 1 PM Bible Study	30  7 PM NA	31 Halloween  		