GLAD TIDINGS!

April 2024

Gathered by the lake,
we are
Embraced by God
to **grow**
Empowered by Christ
to **care,**
Enriched by the Holy Spirit
to **celebrate**



Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah / Menasha

Dear Friends and Members, Journeying With Jeannie

How exciting it is to have the privilege of going through Easter with all of you. But did you know that the season of Easter is not yet when Easter Sunday ends? Some of us don't even realize or have forgotten that the Easter Season continues until Pentecost Sunday (which falls on May 19th, this year).

Warning! Theology lesson coming your way:

In the Christian church year, there are two major cycles of seasons, Christmas and Easter. We all know this because those are the Sunday's when we have a full house for worship. But these two seasons are more than a single day of observance. Like Christmas, Easter itself is a period of time rather than just one day. It is actually a seven-week season of the church year called Eastertide; meaning "The Great Fifty Days" and it begins at sundown the evening before Easter Sunday and lasts for six more Sundays until Pentecost Sunday.

These seven Sundays are called the Sundays of Easter. They climax on the seventh Sunday, the day before Pentecost Sunday. The Seventh Sunday is often celebrated as Ascension Day. Ascension Day marks not only the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but his exaltation from servanthood to Ruler and Lord as the fitting climax of Resurrection Day (Ephesians 1:20-22).

The following Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, which is the day that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. It is a day of celebration in many ways.

Through this all we need to remember; Jesus came to bring us new life. When he died, we were invited into new life, we were invited to a resurrected life. Resurrection life is available to all of us, but we must receive it by faith. We ought to embrace a daily recognition of the life of God dwelling inside us and making alive our mortal flesh. This should become a reality. We ought to wake up every morning and declare, "The resurrection life of God is living in me today!"

Wasn't that fun information! Now that you know more than you ever wanted to know, let us remember that these special days and seasons are a means to shape sacred time, a structure in which to define what it means to be Christian and to call God's people to a reverent and faithful response to God.

Easter encompasses a time of preparation as well as a time of reflection on its significance for the life of God's people, which follows Easter Sunday. As we continue to go through this Eastertide, let us remember that Easter is not just one day. Easter is not over when we leave church on Easter Sunday. Easter continues through these next few weeks. And as we continue our journey these next few weeks, let us continue to reflect on all that Christ truly did for us the day He hung on that cross.

Continued Easter Blessing to all of us,

Pastor Jeannie



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WITH YOU

<u>April 14th</u>
Election of Ministry Leaders



Alanna Smith will be out of the office
April 1st–April 8th..

Spring Clean Up
April 20th
10:00am

We'll be raking leaves, picking up sticks & broken branches, and doing a final mowing.





4/01 Paula Botten
4/06 Tim Montour
4/12 Karen Waters
4/13 Emily Nault
4/17 Sharon Swatscheno
4/18 Gary Bezella
4/19 Dolores Gear
Sharon Oestreich
4/21 Graham E.
Alex A.
4/24 Ginny Stutzman
4/26 Jack Fry
4/27 Petie Agnew
4/28 Pat Katzman
4/29 Christopher Meyer

Wedding Anniversaries

<u>April 13th</u>
Don and Laurie Kleist
Amy and Wayde Rogoff

We would like to wish all a happy birthday or anniversary. If your birthday or anniversary was omitted , or you would rather not have it published, please contact church office.



Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Connie Regazzi
Terri Flesburg
Gerry Benthein
Patty Hoehne
Don Kleist
Tiffany Williams
Brian Stoll,
Jerry Hupe
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Paul Franke,
Carol Sweet,
Carol Wilcox

SUMMER MUSICIANS/ PIANISTS NEEDED



We're in need of capable musicians to lead our summer worship services. Are you a talented pianist? Do you know a musically talented high school or college student who is looking for a summer side-gig? If so, please ask them to contact the church office or Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com.

PLEASE spread the word!!!!

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING

SHARE THE LIGHT

"Here's another way to put it: you're here to be light, bring out the God colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Parent in heaven." Matthew 5:14 (The Message)

Background.

On Easter Sunday in 1949, on the nationwide radio, Christians were challenged to do donate $1 million in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge : in the goal was met.

That was the beginning of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS). This year marks the 75th anniversary of its inception. Our world has changed since 1949, but human needs remained.

OGHS continues to carry God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.



Since the first offering, OGHS has expanded its mission to support domestic and international development, by poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities, torn by war, or ravaged by natural disaster, advocate and offer resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its mini forms. OHS provides funding and hands-on assistant, and collaboration with local and international partners.



Stay Connected, Stay Inspired: Follow Us on Facebook!

Want to stay in the loop with everything happening at our church community? From heartwarming events and inspiring messages to I insightful articles and upcoming announcements, **our Facebook page is your one-stop shop for staying connected!**

By following us on Facebook, you'll:

- **Strengthen your connection to our church family.**
- **Stay informed and engaged in important events and initiatives.**
- **Find inspiration and encouragement throughout the week.**
- **Share your own faith journey and connect with others.**

It's simple and easy! Just search for Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah Menasha in Facebook and click "Follow" to join our growing online community.

We can't wait to connect with you on Facebook!



EXCITING NEWS FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has found a candidate to be our next settled pastor! Some members of our congregation have had multiple experiences with Candidate Weekend while for newer members, it is a brand-new thing. The following information is an explanation of how things work and what dates you need to know.

The most important thing for you to know right now is the date of the Candidate Weekend. It will be a two-day event and will be held on April 27 & 28. On Saturday, April 27 the search committee will be hosting a meet and greet at church. This will be your opportunity to interact with the candidate and get to know the candidate in a casual setting. The time of the meet and greet has not been worked out as of now, but it will likely be held during the afternoon on April 27. The search committee will inform you of the time and location in the church when those details have been finalized.

On Sunday, April 28, our candidate will lead worship at the usual time of 10:15 am. Pastor Jeannie will not be present with us that day, as this is the candidate's opportunity to showcase their style of worship. Immediately following the worship service, the candidate will go to a different location in the church and the congregation will be invited to remain in the sanctuary. Scott Olson (our moderator) will then lead us in a congregational meeting. The meeting will function precisely like other congregational meetings you may have attended. There will be time for discussion and then all *voting CUCCNM members* will have the opportunity to vote to extend the formal invitation to call the candidate as our next settled pastor. The votes will be immediately tallied, and the candidate will return to the sanctuary and be informed of the outcome of the vote.

Most people reading this will be anxious to learn the identity of the candidate. This information will be revealed during the candidate weekend. The candidate's identity needs to remain confidential in the weeks leading up to April 27. The discernment process a pastor follows has multiple steps. The pastor first decides that it is time for them to begin the search and call process. They then submit their profile for consideration by search committees at churches they feel match their skill sets and passions. Common practice is that the pastor secures a new ministerial call before notifying their current congregation that has been engaged in the search and call process to serve a new congregation. This is the case with our current candidate. Out of respect for the candidate and the congregation they currently serve, confidentiality is vital. The search committee is committed to this, and we ask that you understand the need to safeguard this information.

That is all the information we have right now. Further updates will follow as we get closer to Candidate Weekend. Please make sure to mark the dates of April 27 & 28 on your calendar now. Your search committee looks forward to the opportunity to present you with our candidate!

Pastoral Search Committee: Chuck Luebke, Sherri Jischke, Scott Olson, Kathy Mahoney, Sue Knuth, Katie Ellisen-Doe, Dar Schuff, Bob Nault, and Wendy Remmel



Weekend Fundraiser
Rummage/Plant Sale
Brat-Burger Fry/Bake Sale
June 7 & 8



RUMMAGE SALE: We will begin to collect items for the Rummage Sale on April 2 ! We will gather the items on the stage in fellowship hall. We will take almost anything (clothes, household, furniture, toys, games, glass, knick-knacks, antiques, beds, towels, etc.) But we won't take TVs, old monitors, printers, or computers or basically, if you have to pay to recycle it – we won't take that item. We need Volunteers to help set up, work the days of the sale, and clean up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marilyn Kostrzak (920-680-5237 or mkostrzak@aol.com) and indicate the days/times you are available, along with the tasks you would like to help with.

PLANT SALE: Share Your Extra Plants! Donate to the Plant Sale. On June 6 bring your POTTED PLANTS, LABELED with NAME, COLOR, PERENNIAL or ANNUAL, SHADE or SUN, and approximate HEIGHT. Plants will be sold June 7 & 8. Please contact Mary Liesch or Laurie Kleist for questions.





BRAT/BURGER FRY: Saturday, June 8th from 9am-2pm (or until sold out) is our annual Faith Development Fund (formerly Camp Scholarship Fund) BRAT/BURGER FRY! We will be looking for donations for items needed to make it a successful event. We need items such as condiments, onions, kraut, individual bag chips, hotdog/hamburger buns…For more information contact Connie Regazzi or Mary Janness.

BAKE SALE: We will be looking for donation of baked goods to be sold to help raise funds for the Faith Development Fund. Please contact Alan-na Smith for more information.



VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULE

Upon receiving the schedule, please review it to ensure you are available when scheduled. If you are unavailable, please use the contact information to find a replacement for yourself. Please notify the church office **office@cuccnm.org** with the schedule change. Thanks to all for your continued support and service as volunteers**! If you would like to be added to the schedule please contact the church office. We are always looking for substitutes !**

TASK	4/7/24	4/14/24	4/21/24	4/28/24
LITURGIST	John Tschudy	Ginny Stutzman	Marilyn Kostrzak	Search Committee
HEAD USHER	John LaPrairie	Kerry Fox	Leon Flesburg	
USHER 2	Sue Knuth	Sue Dollhopf	Kerry Fox	
USHER 3	Alan Gear	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch	
USHER 4	Mary Liesch	Ginny Stutzman	Terri Flesburg	
ACOLYTE	TBD	Abram E.	Christopher S.	Annabeth H.
SINGING BOWL	TBD	Ethan M.	Colin S.	Nolan S.
REFRESHMENTS	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch	Jenn Abing	
COMMUNION PREPARATION				

<u>YOU</u> CAN HELP SERVE!



The Ministry of Spiritual Life would like to continue to offer a time for fellowship and snacks after worship each Sunday, but it needs your help. We are asking those with surnames starting with "T" through "V" to bring in 1 dozen cookies, bars (need not be homemade) or a gallon of juice sometime during the month you are assigned. Label the item "Fellowship" and take to the kitchen freezer, or bring them to the lounge .Your contribution is much appreciated! Watch for your turn to share as your "letter" comes up! Contact Terri Flesburg with questions . Here is the schedule:

April: T-V,

May: W-Z





SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING APRIL

Sunday School is during worship Sunday, the youth will be excused to their classrooms with their teachers after Children's Moment.

No Sunday School on Sunday, April 7th.

PreK-1st grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Pick your child up in room 4.
2nd-5th grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Pick your child up in room 6.
6th-8th grade will start in worship at 10:15am. Your child will be in room 7.

High School meets at 9:00-10:00am.

April 7th No Sunday School.
April 14th will be at the Church Kitchen cooking for Community Table
April 21st will be at Sweet Lair in Menasha.
April 28th will be at Sweet Lair in Menasha.

SUMMER CAMP

We are all dreaming of sunnier days, making this the perfect time to register yourself, your kids or your whole family for summer camp. Summer camp is not just for the kids, there is family camp at Moon Beach, "and Me" camp (parents, grandparents or friends of a little one) and many youth camps at Daycholah Center as well as adults camps at Cedar Valley to choose from! Don't wait too long to register as camps are filling up fast! Go to https://ucci.org/ to find out what camp you may be interested in and to register for camp. All campers are entitled to receive a scholarship. Once you are registered send your receipt to ce@cuccnm.org to apply for the scholarship.

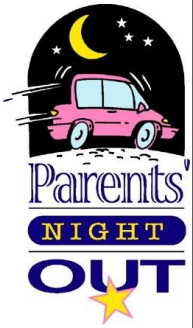
If you have any questions about camp feel free to email me at ce@cuccnm.org. Camp is a great place to make memories and friendships for a lifetime!



FAITH DEVELOPMENT FUND SILENT AUCTION!

The Silent Auction will continue until **Sunday, April 7th** in the hallway, make sure to stop by the tables to place your bid, and then stop by again to make sure you weren't out-bid! All donations go towards scholarships, sending youth, adults and families to camps and retreats!

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT



Friday, April 12th the high school youth, and 1 adult supervisor, will be offering a babysitting event for families with children 3 years and older. Drop your kiddos off at church from 6:00-9:00pm and go out for a much deserved night off! Free-will donations will be accepted. (donations will go towards the mission trip)

EARTH DAY TRASH COLLECTION



The high school youth will be picking up trash on Sunday, April 21st after worship. Every dollar donated will equal a minute of trash pick up. They will be collecting donations in April.

CAMP AWESUM HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP NEWS!

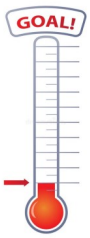
Don't know what to do this summer and are between the ages of 14-22? Consider being a volunteer at Camp AweSum for the experience of a lifetime. Spend one week at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in St. Germain, WI where you will observe, learn, and work alongside experienced professionals in the field of autism to provide support for families who are attending camp, training is provided. Volunteers also get a chance to enjoy all the beauty and activities Moon Beach has to offer. If this sounds like an opportunity for you, please contact Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org and register online at https://ucci.org/. Once you have registered, email Alanna with the receipt to apply for a camp scholarship. We strive to fund this volunteer/mission trip 100% if possible through our Faith Development Fund.

MISSION TRIP



The High School students will be headed to Kansas City, MO June 9th-15th., Drew B, Izzy H, Ethan M, Tyler M, Ava N, and Nolan S along with Scott Olson and Alanna Smith. The group is fundraising their way to Kansas City, keep an eye on opportunities to help them.

MARCH'S FUNDRAISER'S



Last month we were busy with lots of fun activities helping us get closer to our goal for the mission trip and camp scholarships. Mission Trip still needs $1,500.00 and Camp Scholarships is right on schedule for their goal.

- **Culvers Night Out** raised just under $200.00
- **Irish Lunch and Bingo** raised just under $250.00
- **Pizza Ranch Night Out** raised just over $450.00
- **Camp Lunch** (went towards camp scholarships) raised just over $50.00

Thank you to everyone who made these events successful!

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation class will start September 2024, please reach out to Alanna to let me know if your child would like to be a part of confirmation this year. It is open to youth who will be in 7 grade and above.

CUCCNM KEYCHAINS will be on sale after church. $20.00. A picture of the church is on one side and the coordinates of the church is on the other side. All proceeds will go to the Mission Trip. They will be located outside the church office.



BIGGER TABLE



A Bigger Table meets Tuesdays at 6:30-7:30 both on Zoom or in the Youth Room (room 7). We will watch a video and enjoy great conversation built from our thoughts of the video. All are welcome. If you would like the zoom link, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

NEXTREX RECYCLING PROGRAM

We are excited to offer a new recycling program at our church! NexTrex Recycling Challenge program started January 7th and will run through the end of the year. If we collect 1000 pounds of plastic in 2024 Trex will build us a free bench made from the recycled plastic.
We will have bins located at the parking lot door as well as the Lake Edge Learning Center door. The following is recyclable by Trex

****All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue****

- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Ziplock & other reclosable able food storage bags
- Cereal bags
- Case overwrap (from water, soda, etc.)
- Salt bags
- Pallet wrap & stretch film
- Wood pellet bags

NexTrex



A PRAYER FOR APRIL - Ask God to Replace Your Worry with Worship, And to Surrender the things we long to control over that are not meant for us to carry. Ask God to reveal the things in your heart that need to be brought to the light, and in return, share that light with all you meet. Amen

April proves to once again be a very busy month.

Sunday April 7th - Baptism of Paige and Art's daughter "Callie"

Sunday April 14th - We will vote on confirmation of Church Council for 2024 directly after service.

Sunday April 21 - We will celebrate "Earth Day". Rev. Bob Ullman will not only lead us in service, but he will also host an informal meeting after service to discuss putting together a "Green Team"

Saturday April 27th - We will Host our New Candidate for Settled Pastor. More Details to come.

Sunday April 28th - Our Candidate will do the sermon, and directly after service we will have a Congregational vote to Hopefully call the Candidate as our New Settled Pastor.

I want to end by thanking and acknowledging the members of the Search Committee. As they say " We have been up and down and all around " but rest assured there has always been a 100% commitment to our church. Chuck, Sherri, Sue, Dar, Wendy, Katie, Kathy, Bob.: it has been a great pleasure to serve with you all.

Have a Wonderful Month, Scott Olson, Moderator

DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE TO CUCCNM

1.Cash or check in the offering plate or by mailing it to the church.

2. Have your bank send an electronic check. (Bill Pay)

3. Use our QR Code that is linked to our website. Your giving will be taken through Pay Pal were you will use your credit card. *This option charges a fee to the church.*

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie in the church office. office@cuccnm.org or 920-725-4873

Accountant's Corner

	February	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 16,727	$ 51,187
Interest + Rents	3,101	6,402
Other Income	6	7
Total Income	$ 19,833	$ 57,596
Expenses	16,416	33,967
Expenses	**$ 3,417**	**$ 23,630**



We were in the **Black** at the end of the month, and in the **Black** for the Year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

Church Information
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
Neenah Wi 54956
920-725-4873

Website: www.cuccnm.org

Pastor
pastor@cuccnm.org

Church Office
office@cuccnm.org

Christian Education Director
ce@cuccnm.org

Wider Church Contacts:

www.ucc.org
(United Church of Christ)

www.neaucc.org
(Northeast Association)

www.wcucc.org
Wisconsin Conference

DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesdays at 8:30-9:30 am



We meet at Four Seasons Restaurant in Neenah for breakfast and lively discussion about current events and faith trends

1104 South Commercial Street, Neenah

Everyone is Welcome!

NEEDLERS GATHERING



SHARE FELLOWSHIP AND DO NEEDLEWORK

All who like to do (or learn how to do) any type of needlework.

Meet Friday, April 19th at 1:00 pm in the church lounge to visit and work on needlework such as knitting, crocheting, etc.

Invite your friends and share in the conversation and creation!

LIVE

Sunday Worship is in person. Services will be broadcast **live on FB** every Sunday morning and later put on our website.

Click below to find our FB page

https://facebook.com/CongregationalUCCNeenahMenasha/

It will be posted on the church website later in the day.

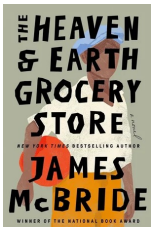
BOOK CLUB

April 21st

12:00 pm AT Sweet Lair

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride



The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store opens in 1972, when workers clearing a lot for a new townhouse development in Pottstown discover a skeleton at the bottom of a well, along with a mezuzah, a small case that often hangs on the doorframes of Jewish homes. The police question the one elderly Jewish man still living at the site of the old synagogue on Chicken Hill, but before the investigation intensifies, an Act of God intervenes: Hurricane Agnes hits the Northeast, washing away the crime scene. Questions contact Mary Janness



Ministry Council

Moderator:
Scott Olson

Vice Moderator:
Signa Meyers

Secretary:
Jenn Abing

Accountant:
Dave Zernicke

Ministry of Faith Development
Dawn Welling

Ministry of Service:
Mary Janness

Ministry of Spiritual Life
Terri Flesburg

Ministry of Stewardship
Jeff Nichols

At Large:
Sue Dollhopf
Shirl Alix
Sherri Jischke

Church Historian:
Mowry Smith

Communication Coordinator
Marilyn Kostrzak

Time and Talent Coordinator:

Personnel Committee
Scott Olson
Marilyn Kostrzak

Pastoral Relations Committee
Steve Ware,
Gary Zurbuchen, Kerry Fox



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 **Church office closed**	**2** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**3** **6:30 pm** Choir	**4** **6:30pm** Ministry Council **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**5**	**6** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
7 **NO Sunday School** **10:15 am** Worship	**8** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **6:00 pm** Court of Honor for Kolby Steiger	**9** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**10** **6:30 pm** Choir	**11** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**12** **5-9:00 pm** Parents Night Out	**13** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
14 **Congregational Meeting** **9:00am-10:00am** H.S Sunday School **10:15 am** Worship **10:15- 11:15am** Sunday School	**15** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**16** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **10:30 pm** **Community Table** **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**17** **6:30 pm** Choir	**18** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**19**	**20** **Spring Clean up** **10:00am** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
21 **9:00am-10:00am** H.S Sunday School **10:15 am** Worship : **Earth Day Service** **10:15- 11:15am** Sunday School **11:45am** **Book club at Sweet lair**	**22** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **5:-8:30** **Culvers** **Mission Trip Fundraiser**	**23** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Stewardship Mtg **NO** Bigger Table	**24** **6:30 pm** Choir	**25** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**26**	**27** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting **Candidate Meet & Greet**
28 **9:00am-10:00am** H.S Sunday School **10:15 am** Worship **10:15- 11:15am** Sunday School **Candidate Sunday**	**29** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**30** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table				

Congregational United Church of Christ
of Neenah / Menasha
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April 12th
Parent Night Out
April 14th
Congregational Meeting to vote for Board members
April 20th
Spring Clean up
April 21st
Earth Day Service with Rev. Bob Ullman
Book club meeting at Sweet Lair
April 22nd
Culvers Fundraiser
April 27th
Candidate Meet & Greet
April 28th
Candidate Sunday