GLAD TIDINGS!

June 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

Journeying With Jeannie

Dear Members and Friends,

Lately, in my free time, I have been thinking a lot about prayer. What is prayer? Why do we pray? What happens when we pray?

Abraham Heschel wrote "*The purpose of prayer is not the same as the purpose of speech. The purpose of speech is to inform; the purpose of prayer is to partake*." But if we are not praying but are only listening to a prayer, how do we partake?

Every Sunday, we have the opportunity to share our prayer request. We have two different choices on to making a prayer request: either fill out a prayer card found in the pews or raise your hand and share. It's wonderful that we are able to be so honest and share what's happening in our lives. But, sometimes, I think, we hesitate to request a prayer. There are so many reasons for and I understand the hesitancy. This is why, on our prayer cards, there is a box to check if you want prayer but don't want it mentioned in service. Sometimes we feel we need a little confidentiality. Just know that if you do need prayer, I am more than happy to pray with/for you.

So back to that question: how do we partake in prayer? I know how hard it is to pray and especially if you are asked to pray out loud. When I was a young adult and was suddenly asked to pray a prayer, without any notice, I always felt inadequate. I felt like I was stumbling around and there was no way I could sound as eloquent as others who prayed. To be honest, I hated praying out loud. But I did it, and I stumbled, and in my mind, I thought sounded dumb. The question always was: will I be good enough? But as a minister, I'm called on to pray at any given moment, and now I just jump right in and pray.

What about you? What makes you hesitant to pray, either out loud or just silently to yourself?

Have you ever sat in church beside someone who mumbles, under their breath, "amen" at the end of a prayer? Do you know what that means? The easiest and most accepted answer is that "amen" means "So be it!" It can also have a larger meaning: "So be it! May God indeed be praised for bestowing the gifts God's people need." So, when we *partake* of prayer, we listen, then we affirm.

(Continued on next page)

I began this letter with three questions, so here's the simple response to each of those questions: What is prayer? Prayer is your communication with God. God does not care if we stumble, mumble, or fumble, or even if we get off track. God wants to have communication with you. Next: Why do we pray? We pray to be in relationship with God. We pray for others: God knows we care. We pray for ourselves: God know we respect ourselves and have our own concerns. God wants to be in relationship with you. Finally: What happens when we pray? That one's a little harder, because sometimes when we pray, we want results. The truth of the matter is, when we pray, we begin to change. Yes, God *sometimes* answers prayer the way we want, ***but*** when that doesn't happen, we might get frustrated and even think God is not listening. However, if we look into our own hearts we can see life changing for us. If we are open to the power of prayer, we may be amazed at the results. We may realize that what we were asking for, may not have been the right thing, but God knows what we really need and answers us in surprising ways. I would like to end this rambling on about prayer with a quote from Terry McMillan: "*It takes me forever to say my prayers these days, but I don't care because this time-around I want to make sure God doesn't have to do any guesswork.*"

As children of God, we know, whatever happens, God is always walking alongside us and listening. Even if we feel we are mumbling and fumbling.

Many Blessings on all of us,
Jeannie

Our Hearts go out to...

Friend of the church, **Barb Oakley** passed away on May 23rd. Her memorial service will be at CUCCNM June 15th at 11:00am. Visitation starts at 9:00am. Please keep Jack, Sandy and Sindy and families in your prayers during this time.

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

06/02 Pat Rosenak
06/04 Steve Stoll
Sue Toeppler
Patty Protsman
Olivia C.
06/10 Clo Shumann
06/11 Kayla Jischke
06/12 Stephani Katzman
06/13 Max K.
06/18 Carol Nickels
06/21 Tiffany Mauritz
06/22 Gary Zurbuchen
Alanna Smith
Lars H.
Wyatt B.
06/23 Marilyn Kostrzak
06/26 Wayne Dickson
06/28 Jessica Rogoff

June Wedding Anniversaries

June 6th
Joel and Susan Toeppler
June 14th
Pat and Kathy Mahoney
June 16th
Paul and LaVerne Franke
June 18th
Jenny and Eric Blankenfeld
June 21
Connie and Tom Regazzi
June 22th
Marty and Jenn Abing
June 24th
Bob and Melanie Nault

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:
Dolores Gear
Connie Regazzi
Terri Flesburg
Gerry Benthein
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Paul Franke,
Carol Sweet,
Carol Wilcox

GREEN TEAM or
CREATION CARE TEAM.

On Sunday April 21st a Group Interested in establishing a "GREEN TEAM or CREATION CARE TEAM met with Bob Ullman. He shared what some churches are doing and began by suggesting we sign up for "Kairos Newsletter " . We will have another meeting on **Sunday June 2nd in the lounge**. Bob has sent us a link for videos he has suggested.



CUCCNM is responsible for the Community Table on 3rd Tuesday every other month

June 18th *is our next Community* Table Date

Please see Sign up Board for more details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Outdoor Worship

will be

June 16th

July 21st

Ice Cream Social

***Aug* 18th**

(Pet Blessing)

Outdoor worship will be held by the Narthex doors. Please bring a lawn chair.

Folding chairs will be available .



A Bigger Table

A Bigger Table, a video discussion group where we explore themes of faith and spirituality, is taking the summer off. We will get together again in September.



Church office Summer Hours

Monday–Thursday

8:30am-12:30pm



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

Volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board in the church hallway.



RUMMAGE SALE: 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. **Last Day to bring items is June 6th .**

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 9 am-2 pm (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 Alanna 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	6/2/2024	6/9/2024	6/16/2024 Outdoor Service	6/23/2024	6/30/2024
LITURGIST	Susan Knuth	Cheryl Humleker	Gary Zurbuchen	Pat Rosenak	Jack Fry
HEAD USHER	Leon Flesburg	Bonnie Pozolinski	Cheryl Humleker	Scott Olson	Susan Knuth
USHER 2		Alan Gear	Terri Flesburg	Susan Dollhopf	
USHER 3	Wendy Remmel	Susan Knuth		Jack Fry	John LaPrairie
USHER 4	Susan Dollhopf	Terri Flesburg		Wendy Remmel	Marcy Fry
REFRESHMENTS	Jack Fry	Laura Kleist	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch	Jack Fry
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Gay Dickson				

<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 during the summer , but it needs your help. Please bring baked goods , Juice ect. label the item "Fellowship" and take to the kitchen freezer, or bring them to the lounge .Your contribution is much appreciated! Contact Terri Flesburg with questions .



GRADUATION CELEBRATION



We have 2 High School Graduates; Ethan Meylink & Sevde Gerek (exchange student) and 1 honorary graduate; Tika Tsnobiladze. We have college graduates: Chloe Abing, Abigail Jischke, Cadey Katzman, Kelsey Wadleigh and graduate school graduate Emily Nault .

Ethan will receive a fleece tie blanket in their high school colors, made by our own youth, the rest will receive a CUCCNM keychain from Ministry of Faith Development on Sunday, June 2nd during worship. We are SO proud of you all!

Daycholah Center & Moon Beach campers



This year we had 17 campers going to Daycholah Center and Moon Beach this summer and fall. Additionally, 4 campers who have moved away are coming back to join our youth at Daycholah Center! There is a mixture of youth campers, & Me campers and Family campers going this summer, we know they will all return with wonderful stories and memories!

Please keep these youth, adults and families in your prayers as they are reunited with friends at their favorite camp this summer. Anna B., William E., Annabeth H. (twice), Diana H., Jon H., Sue K & Camryn R., Tyler M., Ava N., Carl N., Cassie S., Nolan S., Colin S., Christopher S., Carmen T.

We also have 2 young adults who will be counselors at Daycholah Center this summer; Ethan M & Quinn S have hung up their "Camper" hats and put on their "Counselor" hats! They have a fun and adventurous summer ahead of them.

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation class will be starting in September 2024. Anyone 7th grade and above who would like to be confirmed can be a part of this class. Please email Alanna to sign up.



Mission Trip: June 9-15

6 High School students (Ava A, Drew B, Ethan M, Tyler M, Izzy H, and Nolan S) and 2 chaperones (Scott Olson and Alanna Smith) will be heading to Kansas City, MO for their mission trip. There is one more fundraiser in June to help fund their way. Mark your calendars for this fun events.



June 8th: Bake Sale! We will have a Bake Sale set up along with the Brat Fry, all proceeds from both go into the Faith Formation Fund but will be divided between mission trip and camp scholarship.

The Mission Trip youth have made their fundraising goal of $7,000!

We hope this Mission Trip is as successful as the last two years and hope it will be an annual event for the youth. All the extra money will be used for future mission trips.

Keep an eye on Facebook for daily updates while we are on the trip.

BRAT FRY & BAKE SALE



We will be hosting our Annual Brat Fry and Bake Sale, featuring the famous Jacob's brats, & hamburgers on **Saturday, June 8th**. Plan to have lunch with us and or buy some delicious baked items and help support our youth and families with scholarship opportunities.

SUMMER CAMP



It is not too late to register for Summer Camp, go to https://ucci.org/ to find the perfect camp for you, your child, or your family. Camp is for ALL ages, so hurry up and register now! If you need help or have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. ce@cuccnm.org

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Just a reminder, if your child is interested in receiving a camp scholarship a copy of your registration form or receipt must be turned into the Christian Education office. If this is not done it will be assumed by the Camp Scholarship sub ministry that your child does not wish to receive a scholarship award. Most scholarships are 50% of camp cost per recipient. Please email the registration to ce@cuccnm.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



First Congregational UCC in Appleton has invited our youth to join their VBS, Community Love, **July 8-12** in the mornings. The youth will hear scripture, sing songs, have snacks, read stories, do service projects, play games, and more while learning about anti-racism, immigration, climate justice, and food justice. Email Alanna to register or for more information. Volunteers are also needed.



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. Contact Alanna if you would like to purchase one.

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



Note From The Moderator.

Welcome to June, Wow what a busy spring we have had. So many events to celebrate. I am so proud when I have had people in the community comment: "Your church is such a Great Community Partner. " Our June is also filled with events:

June 2nd: Graduation Sunday
June 6th-9th : Wisconsin Conference annual meeting.
June 7th & 8th: Doty Island Rummage Sale
June 8th: Brat Fry, Bake Sale, Plant Sale.
June 9th to 15th : Mission Trip to Kansas City
June 23rd: Mission Trip Recap Sunday
June 30th: Open and Affirming Sunday.

Council is looking for Volunteers to help give input on 2 projects: 1. Office Remodeling 2. Outside Sanctuary. Watch for information. Finally we are looking forward to Pastor Rob Van Ess starting. At this time it looks like his first day in office will be Monday, July 29th. His first Sunday will be August 4th.

Scott Olson

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

	April	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 14,241	$ 84,495
Interest + Rents	3,101	12,603
Other Income	6	2,931
Total Income	$ 17,348	$ 100,029
Expenses	15,541	66,332
Expenses	**$ 1,806**	**$ 33,697**



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 are taking the summer off!

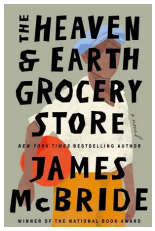
We will resume in the fall.

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
June 9th
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
Connie Regazzi
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

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JUNE–AUGUST

WORLD RELIEF SERVICES

Today, there are over **80 million people around the globe** who have been forced, or made the painful choice, to leave their home. After years of fleeing violence, famine and extreme poverty, **their greatest hope is that they'll find a safe place to rebuild their lives and call home.**

Sadly, this hope remains unattainable for many of our immigrant neighbors who feel marginalized, lonely and afraid. Rather than finding opportunities to flourish, many are losing hope as they struggle to overcome unexpected vulnerabilities and systemic barriers to integration.

With your help, we can continue helping immigrants in vulnerable situations in the United States find hope and rebuild their lives, creating communities of love and welcome that we all feel proud to be a part of.
Here's how we do it:



Provide vital services
We provide newly arrived refugees and other immigrants with access to basic necessities and begin them on the journey to belonging through English classes, immigration legal services, employment services, and more.



Build just and welcoming communities
We equip churches and community members with the information they need to educate, advocate and take action on behalf of our immigrant neighbors. And we work to change systems and resulting injustices that marginalize refugees and other immigrants in the U.S.



Bring people together
We connect churches and community members with immigrant families to foster transformative relationships, where both new and long-term community members flourish and find a sense of unity and belonging.

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
2 **Graduation Sunday** **10:15 am** Worship **11:30am** **Green Team Mtg**	**3** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**4** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**5** **6:30pm** Ministry Council	**6** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**7** **Church office Closed** **Rummage Sale 8:00-3pm**	**8** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting **Brat Fry 8-3**
9 **10:15 am** Worship **12:00 pm** **Book club @ Sweet Lair**	**10** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**11** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**12** **Mission Trip to Kansas City**	**13** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**14** **Church office Closed**	**15** **11:00am** Barb Oakley service **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
16 **10:15 am** **Outdoor Worship**	**17** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**18** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **10:30 am** **Community Table** **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Stewardship Meeting	**19**	**20** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**21** **Church office Closed**	**22** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
23 **10:15 am** Worship : **Mission Trip Recap**	**24** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**25** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**26**	**27** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**28** **Church office Closed**	**29** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
30 **10:15 am** Worship						

Congregational United Church of Christ
of Neenah / Menasha
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
Neenah, Wi 54956
920-725-4873
www.cuccnm.org
office@cuccnm.org



JUNE 2ND
Graduation Sunday
Green Team Meeting after church

JUNE 7& 8TH
Rummage, Plant Sale

JUNE 8TH
Brat Fry and Bake Sale

JUNE 9TH
Book club at Sweet Lair after worship

JUNE 16TH
Outdoor Worship

JUNE 18TH
Community Table