GLAD TIDINGS!

May 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,

I received a call this morning and the person who called asked if I would help a non-church member in an emergency case. It is a great question. When you have a minister in the community, do they serve more than their own church?

Tragedy exists in our world, and we are in a time where we get instant news of tragedy happening. How are we to deal with the bombarding news stories of loss and disaster? We seem to want to speak about it, get it out in the open, mull it over until it doesn't affect us anymore. And then we want to say, "No more, I don't want to hear about it anymore!!" And yet it continues to be in our face.

Tragedies are daily occurrences. We face difficulties and sometimes don't know how to handle them or who to contact for help. When you don't know where to turn, in my view, you can always turn to your pastor or minister.

One of the roles in being a minister is being a shepherd. A shepherd's primary responsibility is the safety and welfare of the flock. The shepherd will make sure the sheep have food and water and keeps a watchful eye out for danger. The shepherd rescues the sheep when they are in trouble.

In the gospel of John (John 21:15-17) three times Jesus asks Simon, son of John, if he loved him. Three times the answer was yes. And three times Jesus says, "then feed my sheep". There are so many passages in the Bible that talk about that, a minister could preach on this subject for a year and still not touch every passage on shepherding. However, if we use the Bible as a guide, then we see that we need to reach out to everyone and, according to Jesus, it doesn't matter if they are part of the flock (our church) or not.

Still, there is another equation to tragedy and emergencies, and that is: how do we, as Christians, reconcile emergencies and tragedies?

In the fourteenth chapter of Matthew, we find John the Baptist has been beheaded. John was dear to Jesus and when he heard the news, he went to a deserted place by himself. It seems to me that Jesus needed to grieve and be alone with God. Maybe he had questions, maybe he had doubts. Maybe he just needed to work this tragic event out in his own head. Once he did that, he could help others learn about tragedy. He could help others also learn about faith in a God who sometimes seems to not be there, but really is there for each of us.

Jesus went to a deserted place to be alone. We may pray about a situation, but are we ever alone, in the midst of God, listening for God's comfort?

(Continued on next page)

Later Jesus sent his disciples ahead of him, by boat, to the other side of the sea. While they were sailing, a big storm came up and they (the disciples) were afraid. You know the story: Jesus comes to them, walking on water. They then became even more afraid because they didn't expect Jesus to come to them, especially in that storm. We also know Peter wasn't convinced this was Jesus coming to them, however Jesus told Peter to come to him. As Peter was walking, doubt and fear began to overtake him, and he began to sink.

Jesus could have let Peter sink, but he didn't. Jesus reached out to Peter, brought Peter close to him and comforted him. When tragedy and emergencies happen in our world today, yes we need to talk and share our feeling.

So that brings me back to the original question that was asked of me: Would I help a non-church member in the case of an emergency? My answer is: "Yes, always!" If you ever have an emergency or tragedy that you are dealing with, do not hesitate to talk your pastor, whether that is me or your new called minister. I know some people think they are "bothering" the pastor, but I want you to know, this is one of the reasons we go into ministry, to help others.

We all need help at times. Jesus never faced life situations alone. He had his disciples, who he was training to be pastors, and he spent time alone with God. For whatever storms we face, we can be comforted by one another and if we turn to God, God will give us peace. Now I'm not saying the tragedy will go away, all I'm saying is we have someone to lean on.
As you might face tragedies or emergencies, know that I will be there for you, but more importantly know that we can always reach for the One who is always there.
Blessings,

Pastor Jeannie

Melanie Nault will be out of the office on Friday May 10th and May 17th.



5/03 Kaytie Botten
5/05 Nick Aliota
5/06 Ayanda Crispin
5/10 Linda Stoll
5/11 Laverne Franke
5/13 Bonnie Pozolinski
5/15 Kerry Fox
5/16 Noah C.
Les Woeckner
5/21 Cheryl Humleker
Carol Tschudy
Art Puguh
5/22 Madeline L.
5/23 Carl N.
5/24 Signa Meyers
5/26 Emily Botten
5/27 Chloe Abing
5/28 William E.
Mackenzie H.
Marty Abing
Karen Angell

Wedding Anniversaries

May 6th
Paul and Sharon Swatscheno
Diana and Jon Hintz
May 8th
Gay and Wayne Dickson
May 13th
Audra and Dennis Libertoski
May 22nd
Kevin and Stephani Katzman
May 25
Bill and Becky Brown
May 27th
Dan and Bridget Balogh

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

SERVICE SUNDAY!
MAY 19, 2024

9:00 am Gather at Smith Park Pavilion to organize into groups.
9:15 am Brief worship service and "send off" inspiration remarks
9:30 am Depart for work locations
11:30 am Head back to Smith Park Pavilion
12:00 am Lunch served and stories shared



SIGN UP FOR A SERVICE SUNDAY PROJECT IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX

(note - some projects have limited numbers of volunteers)

1) Menasha Conservancy Invasive Species Control (Lead Jack Fry)
2) Construct wooden benches for Bletzinger House and Lakeside Packaging Plus (Lead Kevin and Dan)
3) Put together food blessing bags (lead Dawn and Nolan)
4) Plant Doty Island Planters (Lead Signa Meyer)
5) Plantings in Downtown Menasha (lead Stephanie Vrabec)
6) Laundromat Assistance (Lead Connie and Sherri)

BRING:
Work tools and gloves if needed
Chips or cookies or bars to share at the lunch



THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE is very excited these days. We are celebrating the unanimous election of the candidate for our next settled pastor. We are not able to put our new pastor's name in writing for a week or so. He is in the process of notifying members of his current congregation that he will be leaving. If you were not able to attend the meet and greet on April 27 or the church service on April 28 you may not know the name of our pastor. If this is the case, please feel free to reach out to someone on the search committee or church council. The search committee bulletin board at the church has also been updated with that information.

Our settled pastor will begin his duties on or around August 1st. We continue to be thankful for the leadership of Pastor Jeannie during the next several months. If so inclined, please reach out to Pastor Jeannie and let her know how her many gifts have impacted you or our congregation. As we near our 175th anniversary as a congregation, we give thanks for the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our church!

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.



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!!!!

LEAVEN
Turning Hardship Into Hope

The special offering for May is LEAVEN. This year Ministry of Service decided to collect hygiene products for LEAVEN clients, in addition to collecting financial support. We will collect hygiene products (deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, single-rolled toilet paper, toothpaste, single-packaged toothbrushes, dental floss, and bars of soap) to be given to LEAVEN clients as needed. You can bring your items to church where there will be collection boxes. You can also donate on the church website: https://www.cuccnm.org/donate/ or send your check to the church office or drop it in the offering plate at Sunday worship. Financial donations will be matched at 50% from the Good Samaritan Fund.



What does LEAVEN do?
LEAVEN provides limited financial assistance to people who are struggling to meet their basic needs and have nowhere else to turn for help. In addition, they provide a warm hand off to connect people to other resources within our building and through referrals to the greater community. They provide advocacy and service coordination to address the household's immediate need and help achieve self-sufficiency.

LEAVEN helps with:
Rent, mortgage payments and security deposits, Utilities—including water, gas, electricity, propane and fuel oil ,Car repairs, Health insurance premiums, Gas vouchers, bus passes, diapers, and toiletries
Referrals for clothing and furniture, Other basic necessities

LEAVEN's financial assistance is typically immediate, short-term, and emergency-based.
Who does LEAVEN help?

LEAVEN helps residents of Outagamie, Calumet, northeastern Winnebago counties and New London residents living in Waupaca County.
LEAVEN helps people from all walks of life. The clients are diverse in age, ethnicity and culture.
Some clients suffer a situational crisis (job loss, health issue, divorce) and others have an unexpected expense, causing them to have difficulty meeting their basic needs.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: HOPE AND SUPPORT FOR ALL

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to shed light on an issue that affects millions of Americans. Mental illness can strike anyone, regardless of age, background, or faith. It can manifest in many ways, from feelings of anxiety or depression to more complex conditions.

Signs to Watch Out For:
Persistent sadness, hopelessness, or anxiety ,Changes in sleep patterns or appetite
Difficulty concentrating or making decisions, Withdrawing from social activities
Feelings of worthlessness or guilt, Increased drug or alcohol use, Thoughts of self-harm or suicide

Breaking the Stigma:
Sometimes the stigma surrounding mental illness prevents people from seeking help. However, mental illness is a treatable condition, just like any other health issue. Many effective treatments are available, including therapy and medication.

You're Not Alone:
One in five American adults experiences mental illness in a given year. Knowing this, it's important to remember that you are not alone. If you are struggling, please reach out to a trusted friend, family member, therapist, or faith leader.
Our church community is here to support you. Here are some resources that can help:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI): https://www.nami.org/Home
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988
MentalHealth.gov: https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health
Remember, there is hope! With support and the right treatment, people with mental illness can live fulfilling and meaningful lives. Let's work together to break the stigma and create a more supportive environment for everyone.



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

Volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board at 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.

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	5/5/24	5/12/24	5/19/24	5/26/24
Liturgist	Mary Liesch	Signa Meyers	**Service Sunday**	Pat Rosenak
Head Usher	Mary Janness	John LaPrairie		Susan Dollhopf
Usher 2	Alan Gear			Wendy Remmel
Usher 3		Susan Dollhopf		Scott Olson
Usher 4	Wendy Remmel	Mary Liesch		
Acolyte	Christopher S.	N/A		N/A
Singing Bowl	Colin S.	N/A		N/A
Refreshments	Ginny Stutzman	Bonnie Pozolinski		Mary Liesch
Communion Preparation	Sherri Jischke			

<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 "W" through "Z" 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:

May: W-Z



SUNDAY SCHOOL



The last day of Sunday School will be May 5th. We had a great year, thank you to all the families who trusted our teachers with your children. We cannot wait for next year!

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.

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

This year is an extra special year for our church at Daycholah Center, Ethan Meylink and Quinn Smith will both be counselors at camp this summer!

GRADUATION CELEBRATION



We will be celebrating the **High School** graduates **June 2nd;** Ethan Meylink and Sevde Gerek. **Honorary High School graduate;** Tika Tsnobiladze, **College graduates;** Kelsey Wadleigh, Chloe Abing, Abigail Jischke, and Cadey Katzman. **Masters graduate**; Emily Nault. Ethan will receive a blanket, made by our middle school youth, in the colors of his high school, while the rest will receive a key chain with the picture of our church and the coordinate of the church.
If you or your child is a member or friend of the church and would like us to celebrate their accomplishment, please let Alanna know at ce@cuccnm.org.



TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY



, May 5th we will be recognizing our wonderful teachers, acolytes, and singing bowl participants during worship. Please join us to show our gratitude to these wonderful teachers and youth!

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION!



The Silent Auction was a great success! We raised over $1,746.50 for the Faith Formation Fund, specifically going towards Camp Scholarships. Thank you to all who donated items, bid on items and organized the Silent Auction this year. Thank you, Mary Janness and Connie Regazzi, for organizing everything!

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 by **June 1st.** 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

A BIGGER TABLE



Join us for A Bigger Table Tuesdays in May at 6:30-7:30pm either in person (room 7) or via zoom, for a video discussion group where we explore themes of faith and spirituality. After a 5–20-minute video we will have a conversation about the video we watched together.
If you would like to be on the email list, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org or watch for Melanie's weekly newsletter for the zoom link and video link.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP NEWS!



6 High School students (Ava A, Drew B, Ethan M, Tyler M, Izzy H, and Nolan S) and 2 chaperone (Scott Olson and Alanna Smith) will be heading to Kansas City, MO for their mission trip. They will be hosting a few fundraisers in May and June to help pay their way. Mark your calendars for these fun events.



May 18th: Parent's Night Out. Let our high school and middle school youth watch your children for you on Saturday, May 18th from 6:00-9:00pm at church. A free will donation will be collected. This is our 3rd Parent Night Out, we are excited to watch your kids while you go out on a much deserved "adult night out"!



May 20th: Pizza Ranch, Oshkosh, from 4:00-8:00pm. Our youth will be working the dinner hours at Pizza Ranch. The youth will earn all the tips and a percentage of sales, last time they made $453.75, lets see if we can break that! Plan to have pizza for dinner on May 20th!



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.

As of date the Mission Trip has made $7,564.65. They started the fund with $3,693.87 left over from last year. They have made their goal of $7,000!!! All extra money will go towards scholarships for camps, retreats, and mission trips in the future.

We are very excited for our upcoming trip!



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.

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 MODERATOR.

With May here we all see the daily pop of God's work in Green Grass, Trees with bud's and flowers. Taking the time to stop and appreciate it all can be hard to do sometimes but so important. It's a very exciting time for us all. Please watch for communication at church, emails and Face-book.

Have a Great Month !
Scott Olson



Look for an announcement coming on

Monday, May 6th

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

	March	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 21,979	$ 73,172
Interest + Rents	3,101	9,502
Other Income	6	7
Total Income	$ 25,085	$ 82,681
Expenses	16,824	50,791
Difference	**$ 8,261**	**$ 31,890**



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, May 17th 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!

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.

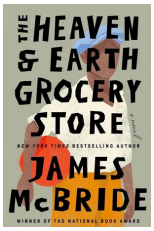
BOOK CLUB

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **6:30 pm** Choir	**2** **6:30pm** Ministry Council **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**3**	**4** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
5 **Last Sunday School** **9:00am-10:00am** H.S Sunday School **10:15 am** Worship **10:15- 11:15am** Sunday School **11:30 am** Min of Spiritual Life	**6** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**7** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**8**	**9** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**10**	**11** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
12 **10:15 am** Worship	**13** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**14** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**15**	**16** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**17** **1:00 pm** Needlers	**18** **6-9:00 pm** Parents Night Out **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
19 **9:00am** Service Sunday Smith Park	**20** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **4-8:00pm** **Pizza Ranch , Oshkosh Fundraiser**	**21** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Bigger Table	**22** **6:30 pm** Min of Faith Dev. at Solea	**23** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**24**	**25** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
26 **10:15 am** Worship	**27** **Memorial Day**	**28** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Min of Stewardship	**29**	**30** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**31**	

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of Neenah / Menasha
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
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MAY 7TH
Last Day of Sunday School
Teacher Appreciation

May 18th
5-9:00 pm
Parents Night Out

MAY 19TH
SERVICE SUNDAY
At 9:00 am at Smith Park, Menasha
NO Worship Service at CUCCNM
See inside for more details

