GLAD TIDINGS!

July 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, so many times I talk to you in sermons about how we learn to love God and how we actually love God. So, today I would like to start out with a question to you. Are we/you, as a church, grounded in love?

You have probably seen pictures, or you may have even been to Yosemite or the Sequoia National Park. There you can enjoy the beauty of the majestic Redwood. The Redwood trees are so huge that cars can drive through them. Redwood trees are what I grew up around. They are a unique tree, not only in their massiveness, but also in their beauty.

It is said that the Redwood trees reach so high that you can't even see their tops. But what is interesting is that they have a very shallow root system. The roots practically lay on top of the ground. When you consider the height and weight of the trees and the high winds in the Sierra Nevada's, it is amazing that these trees don't come crashing down during a storm.

You may wonder why they don't fall. The answer is the grove factor. The trees are growing in such close proximity to each other that it helps them withstand nature's onslaught. What happens is the roots reach out in all directions and they get tangled up with the roots from other Redwoods. The roots grow together, intertwining with each other and creating a stabilizing root bed that helps each tree continue to stand. A Redwood tree growing by itself wouldn't last long. But a Redwood Forest can last for thousands of years.

It seems to me this is the way we are as believers and as Christians. We have been woven together, intertwined together, in love, so that we might grow strong, to be stable and to be able to stand as people of faith. God has established the forest, which we call the church, in which we are to grow. We sink our roots into the local body and become entwined with each other's lives. As I think back over the months I have been here, I have watched this church work especially well together. We have been intertwined in many ways. Lots of people are involved in making this church a warm and welcoming place to worship. People here work together to make sure the

(Continued on next page)

needs in this community and met. Many of you are involved in many parts of the out-reach of this church. Many people have pitched in to help in all kinds of ways whenever and wherever needed.

The roots of our love for one another and for God have been showing through. We continue to become stronger in our faith and have continued to learn how to support one another. We celebrate victories together and mourn tragedies together. We have stood out as a community of faith, and I am proud to be your interim minister at this time.

So, as you look ahead to the new path you will be taking with Pastor Rob, I would like you to remember how, like the Redwoods you are very much intertwined. Remember that it is because of your "faith in" and "love for" God that you have become strong enough to withstand any obstacles that may come your way. It is because of this love that you continue to move forward. May God continue to bless you as your journey continues.

Many, many blessing to each one of you,

Pastor Jeannie

07/02 Jacob Nault
Hal Harding
Sue Dollhopf
07/03 Ava N.
Natalie H.
07/04 Madalyn Boehnlein
Norah H.
07/06 Nick Nelson
07/08 Travis Zielinski
07/12 Jeff Stewart
Henry L.
07/11 Dave Zernicke
07/14 Leah C.
07/17 Amy Rogoff
07/20 Tom Hobart
07/21 Patty Hoehne
07/23 Laurie Kleist
07/24 Colin S.
07/25 Pam Klockzien
Paul Franke
07/28 Kelsey Wadleigh
Jeff Nichols
Ce Ce L.
07/29 Mike Vrabec
07/30 Tyler Balcomb



July Wedding Anniversaries

July 6th
Art & Paige Puguh
July 16th
Adam and Sam Chaffin
July 29th
Dan and Sherri Jischke
July 30th
Steve and Linda Stoll

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Outdoor Worship

will be

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 .





WE WILL BE WELCOMING PASTOR ROB VAN ESS ON JULY 29TH.

This will be his first day in the office his first Sunday will be August 4th.



Church office Summer Hours

Monday–Thursday

8:45am-12:30pm



Pastor Jeannie's last Sunday with us will be July 14th and her last day in the office will be July 16th.

Please attend service on July 14th and thank Pastor Jeannie for her leadership during our time of transition



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.

FUNDRAISING WEEKEND WRAP-UP



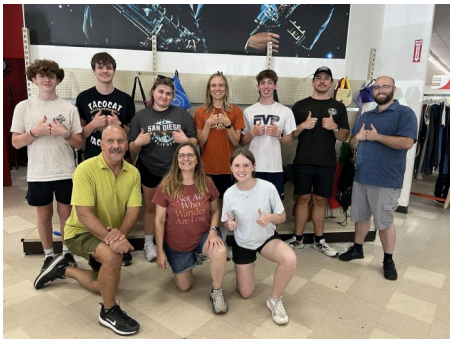
Thank you to everyone for supporting the Rummage/Plant Sale and the Brat/Bake Sale. We raised around $4,000 that goes to the programming of the church (line-item budget was a $2,000 goal.) Faith Development raised over $2,000 for scholarships and mission trips. This was all made possible by generous donations, purchasing the products and eating the yummy food. Our service to the community was evident. We continued to serve the community by taking the rummage sale left-overs to the Community Clothes Closet, Lions Medical Equipment location, Fox Valley Thrift Store and Habitat Restore. Many hands made for marvelous service - thank you everyone!

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Starting with the July issue of the Glad Tidings you will now be receiving a copy of the Ministry Council minutes from the previous month. In an effort to continue with transparency in all events and decisions made by all the Ministries of the church, we felt this was a step in the positive direction. The minutes will be included in the Glad Tidings link you receive in the weekly newsletter. This link actually directs you to the website, so this is available to you at anytime (https://cuccnm.org/newsletters/).

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

MISSION TRIP MEMORIES













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	7/7/24	7/14/24	7/21/24	7/28/24	8/4/24
LITURGIST	John LaPrairie	John Tschudy	Kathy Mahoney	Marilyn Kostrzak	Mary Janness
HEAD USHER	Jack Fry	John LaPrairie	Kerry Fox	Leon Flesburg	Marcy Fry
USHER 2	Jenn Abing	Mary Liesch	Mary Janness	Marcy Fry	Kerry Fox
USHER 3	Kerry Fox	Leon Flesburg		Mary Janness	Mary Liesch
USHER 4		Jack Fry		Kerry Fox	Leon Flesburg
REFRESHMENTS	Sue Dollhopf	Terri Flesburg	Bonnie Pozolinski	Scott Olson	Sue Dollhopf
COMMUNION PREPARATION	John				Sue

<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 .



SUMMER CHURCH CAMP CAMPERS



This year we have 17 campers going to Daycholah Center for Night Owl Camp, & Me Family Camp, DC Adventure, Teen in Adventure, Sail and Con camp. We also have a family going to Moon Beach for a family camp as well.

Please keep these kids (and parents) in your prayers as they are reunited with friends at their favorite camp this summer. Anna B., William E., Annabeth H, Diana & Jon Hintz, Kate K., Sue Knuth & Camryn R., Ava N., Carl N., Tyler M., Cassie S., Nolan S., Colin S., Christopher S., and Carmen T. We also have 3 past members, who have moved to Maryland (Reese and Tatum V.) & Michigan (Maggie B.) going with these campers as well. Even moving away from Wisconsin can't stop these kids from coming back to their favorite camp!

Ethan Meylink and Quinn Smith are excited to be working as Camp Counselors at Daycholah Center this summer! We wish them luck with their adventures but know they will have fun as they are working at their favorite summer place!

MISSION TRIP



6 High School students and 2 chaperones made the trip to Kansas City on June 9th- June 14th on a Mission Trip. Scott Olson and Alanna Smith accompanied Ava, Drew, Ethan, Izzy, Nolan and Tyler as they worked at garden, a thrift store, Project Cure and Kambe's Market.
Thank you for supporting the Mission Trip. The youth needed to raise over $7,000 by the end of May, they made their goal and more!

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

BRAT FRY AND BAKE SALE:



For details on the success of the Brat Fry and Bake Sale please see the article titled : Fundraising Week-end Wrap-up on page 4.



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

AREA VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OFFERING



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.



First Presbyterian in Neenah is also having a VBS, **Built By God's Love**, this July 15-17 from 5:30-7:30pm, including a light meal for ages 4 and up. To register for this VBS follow this link : Vacation Bible School (constantcontactpages.com)



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



Welcome to July! The Church Council will not meet in July. Listed are some dates to watch for more information to come.

July 14th Pastor Jeannie's Last Day.
July 21st - Outside Service.
July 29th - Pastor Rob's 1st Office Day.
August 4th - Pastor Rob's First Sunday.

(Watch For Details :ASK THE PASTOR in August GT)

Stay Cool and Enjoy the 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

There will be not Accountant corner this month due to Dave Zernicke's house fire. Luckily it only involved his electrical box and nothing else was damaged. He is having to play catch up since he did not have power for a few weeks.

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.



AUGUST 11TH

SWEET LAIR IN
DOWNTOWN MENASHA,

AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

On Our Best Behavior, by Eise Loehen

New York Times bestseller a groundbreaking exploration of the ancient rules women unwittingly follow in order to be considered "good," revealing how the seven deadly sins still control and distort our lives and illuminating a path toward a more balanced, spiritually complete way

Copies available in the Winnefox Library System



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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**2** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**3**	**4** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**5** **Church office Closed**	**6** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
7 **10:15 am** Worship	**8** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**9** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**10**	**11** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**12** **Church office Closed**	**13** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
14 **10:15 am** Worship : Pastor Jeannie Last Sunday with us	**15** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**16** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**17**	**18** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**19** **Church office Closed**	**20** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
21 **10:15 am** **Out door Worship:** **Ice cream Social**	**22** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**23** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**24**	**25** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**26** **Church office Closed**	**27** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
28 **10:15 am** Worship	**29** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **Pastor Rob** 1st day in the office	**30** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**31** **6:30pm** Min of Faith Dev at Solea			

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of Neenah / Menasha
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JULY 16TH
Pastor Jeannie's last day in the office

JULY 21ST
Outdoor Worship with Ice Cream Social

JULY 29TH
Pastor Rob's 1st day in the office