GLAD TIDINGS!

August 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 Members and Friends, Journeying With Jeannie

How exciting it has been to be your Interim Minister. This is such a wonderful church, and it is so very hard to move on, but life is a journey of experiences. If we face those experiences with expectation, we will see and begin to understand many of the great things God has in store for us.
I have so many things I would like to say to you in this last letter, but the first thing I will say is: As you embark on this new expedition, as you invite Pastor Rob into your presence, know that I am keeping you in my prayers. Know that I still care for you even though you will no longer see me around CUCCNM. As we go our separate ways, life will change for all of us. I will be doing a new interim and you will be settling in on your new adventure.

Before we look ahead, I would just like to say thank you to all of you for allowing me to be a part of your spiritual journey. Getting to know you and being a part of your lives, even for a short time, has made my life better. As I continue my work as an Intentional Interim Minister, I realize how very large our church family really has become and I realize I have had the opportunity to meet so many people I can call family. Now you too are a part of that family, and my wish for you is that you can see how far and wide this family reaches.

During my time at CUCCNM, I have seen so much potential within you and within this church. I would like to encourage you to continue to look deep within yourselves to find your own potential, and to find the best within yourselves and those around you.

Saying goodbye is never easy. Perhaps that is the way God intended goodbyes to be. If saying goodbye was easy, that would mean no significant-meaningful relationship ever existed – it was never developed.

I am certain Jesus knew how painful and frightening it is to be left alone. He knew how important it is for goodbyes to be said and to be said well. In John 17:20-26 we read how Jesus prepares to leave his disciples; he prepares them for his leaving and he prays for them in their struggles.

If Jesus had not done this, the disciples would not have had the strength needed to carry on the mission: to preach the gospel, to heal the wounded and to make disciples of all the nations. They may well have ended up back at their nets or hiding behind closed doors. If Jesus had not

(Continued on next page)

left, the disciples and the church would not have received the Holy Spirit.
So, as we say goodbye, we must say it completely in order to move beyond our past and make room for our present and our future.

As I say good-bye, I want you to know you will be missed. I have both enjoyed your friendship and your support. Know I will continue to pray for you and hold you in my heart. My hope for your church is continued spiritual growth and you continued outreach to this community and beyond. I know God will bless you as you reach into your hearts and touch and love those who you encounter.

And lastly, may God bless you and may God continue to shine God's light upon you all. Be Safe. Make good Choices.

Blessings,
Rev. Jeannie Douglas

AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

8/04 Bob Nault
8/05 Nicky Banks
8/04 Joel Toeppler
8/05 Nicole Lutz
8/06 Ellen Montour
8/06 Alyssa Rogoff
8/08 Dan Jischke
8/09 Leon Flesburg
8/12 Kevin Shumann
8/12 Josh Groom
8/15 Dylan L-M.
8/17 Judy Doornbos
8/20 Madison G.
8/21 Sam Chaffin
8/25 Shane Smith
Christopher S.
8/26 Stephanie Swatscheno
8/30 Evie J.
8/31 Aidan H.

August Wedding Anniversaries

August 5th
Becky and Jeff Nichols
August 13th
Denise and Jeff Stewart
August 16th
Erv and Sharon Wegner
August 22nd
Debra and Bruce Janda
August 26th
Ann and Chuck Luebke
August 28th
Leon and Terri Flesburg
August 28th
Mary and Ralph Liesch

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.

Our Hearts go out to...

Long time member **Dolores Gear** passed away July 20th. Dolores Service will be held August 17th at 11am. Visitation staring at 9:30 am . Please Keep Alan, Linda and Steve and their family's in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Keep Them In Your Prayers

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:
Dolores Gear Family
Connie Regazzi
Terri Flesburg
Gerry Benthein
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Paul Franke,
Carol Sweet,
Carol Wilcox

Hello Congregational CUCCNM!



I am so happy to be serving as your pastor as I write this my first day in the office. Nicky and I both look forward to getting to know all of you over the next several months. While I am getting settled, I wanted to take a moment to simply say thank you. Thank you for choosing me to be your next pastor. I am excited to see where God will call us as a congregation. I am eager to meet all the new people we will introduce to the gospel and the way of Jesus – all the lives that will be saved, all the people who will be transformed by God's love, how we will be the hands and feet of Jesus making the world a better place one day, one helping hand, one loving heart, at a time. I try to imagine all the grace and mercy we will share, the forgiveness that will bring forth new life, the healing and hope that will be empowered and fulfilled in our time together. It is both glorious and overwhelming at the same time. I will be your 30th settled pastor, maybe your 31st or even 32nd, *(one person served twice).* Hard to say. With churches as old as ours (1851) there are often a lot of pastors. Early on in our nation's history a pastorate was not a settled commitment. Regardless of the number, looking over their names this afternoon from Rev. J. W. Walcott to Rev. David Frey, I stop and think about all the people who have been touched by this church in the past almost 175 years and, frankly, I am honored, humbled, and a bit intimidated. So much loving kindness has been shared by the members of this church over the years, and yet the world needs so much more loving kindness. Thankfully, we do not do this work alone. We have our amazing God, each other, and the Holy Spirit. Knowing this it is with the confidence of a certain faith that I look forward with joy and gratitude in my heart. See you Sunday.

Amen and alleluia!

Rev. Rob Van Ess

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Outdoor Worship

will be

***Aug* 18th**

(Pet Blessing)

Bring your pet or a picture of your pet to share with everyone.



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

Folding chairs will be available.



Church office Summer Hours

Monday–Thursday

8:45am-12:30pm



Choir rehearsal will be starting back up on **September 11**. We will be rehearsing Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. It will be great to see last year's crew back again and hopefully some new faces, too! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me after the August 4th service, or when I return on September 8. Otherwise, feel free to shoot me an email at: jellenrosen@gmail.com



I'm looking for a **percussionist/drummer** to play occasionally during worship. If you have some experience and/or have the desire to play auxiliary percussion, PLEASE let me know. I have some musical projects in the works that really need your help!

Jill Rosenthal





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.



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

August 20th *is our next Community* Table Date

Please see Sign up Board for more details.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

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/).

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	8/4/24	8/11/24	8/18/24	8/25/24
LITURGIST	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch	Pat Rosenak	Sherri Jischke
HEAD USHER	Marcy Fry	Mary Janness	Jenn Abing	Sue Knuth
USHER 2	Sue Knuth	John LaPrairie	Jack Fry	Ginny Stutzman
USHER 3		Jenn Abing		Sue Dollhopf
USHER 4	Leon Flesburg	Marcy Fry		Mary Liesch
ACOLYTE				
SINGING BOWL				
REFRESHMENTS	Sue Dollhopf & John Williams	Jack Fry	Laura Kleist	Mary Janness
COMMUNION PREPARATION	Sue Dollhopf			

<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 .





CHURCH CAMP CAMPERS

This year we have 14 campers going to Daycholah Center for Night Owl Camp, & Me Camp, Con Camp, Sail Camp, Kids Camp, Teen Adventure in Leadership camp, Mini Adventure Camp. We also have a family of 3 going to Moon Beach for a family camp as well.

Please keep these campers in your prayers as they were reunited with friends at their favorite camp this summer and made new friends. 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 had 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 couldn't stop these kids from coming back to their favorite camp!

Ethan Meylink and Quinn Smith had a great summer working as Camp Counselors at Daycholah Center, their happy place, this summer!

If you see any of these campers, ask them how camp was and what their favorite thing was. Thank you notes will be hung outside the CE office when they come in, stop by and read them

Sunday School Teachers are Needed for next school year!!

Do you enjoy spending time with kids? Would you like to be a part of our youth's education?

We are looking for a teacher for 2nd-5th grade. The curriculum is very easy to follow with little planning. With 3 teachers each teacher will only need to teach 1 Sunday a month.

If you like hearing the laughter of children and would like to teach God's love, please talk to Alanna Smith today! ce@cuccnm.org



CONFIRMATION CLASS



Confirmation class starts this fall, Pastor Rob and I will host an informational meeting, at On the Fringe in Neenah. Any youth 7th grade and up are invited to join us. Email Alanna to let her know if your youth would like to join us.

***At the time of printing a new date was being determined.



RALLY DAY

Rally Day is coming up on September 15th after church in Fellowship Hall. You will be able to register for Sunday School, get to know your teachers, have lunch and play games.

YOUTH'S MUSICAL TALENTS

Does your youth have a musical talent that they would be willing to share with the congregation? We would love for them to share it, either as an individual or as a group. Please contact Alanna or Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com to set up a time to share their talent in worship.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Sunday School will begin **September 8th!** Children will start the morning off in church with their parents and will be excused to go to class with their teachers following the Children's Message. Class will finish around after worship, please pick your kids up by their classroom.



1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 8TH

RALLY DAY



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

September 15th

9:00 am to 10:00 am

In Fellowship Hall

All are Welcome!



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



MESSAGE FROM MODERATOR

August is here and last night I saw a commercial that had cars driving in snow. YUCK! Let's hope for a Beautiful Fall. We were blessed with a beautiful day for our July outside service. Thank you to everyone that helped put that together and thank you to so many others that lend their time and talent to keeping the church beautiful and operating. We are very lucky to have Pastor Rob begin with us Monday July 28th. He will have his first Sunday the 4th. Your council is working on many projects for the church and members. New name tags, office remodeling and new furniture. Of course all the fall events and Holidays we will have Pastor Robs guidance. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

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

	June	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 8,826	$ 101,081
Interest + Rents	6,425	22,125
Other Income	0	2,935
Total Income	$ 15,252	$ 126,141
Expenses	15,317	104,508
Expenses	**$ (65)**	**$ 21,632**



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.



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.

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 **5:15-6 :15 pm** **Narcan Training** **6:30 pm** Ministry Council **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**2** **Church office Closed**	**3** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
4 **10:15 am** Worship: **Pastor Rob 1st Sunday**	**5** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**6** **8:30 am** Discussion Group	**7**	**8** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**9** **Church office Closed**	**10** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
11 **10:15 am** Worship **12:00 pm** **Book club**	**12** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**13** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**14**	**15** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**16** **Church office Closed**	**17** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting **11:00am** **Dolores Gear Memorial Service**
18 **10:15 am** **Outdoor Worship :** **Pet Blessing** 	**19** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**20** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **10:30 am** **Community Table** **11:00 am** Bible Study	**21**	**22** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**23** **Church office Closed**	**24** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting
25 **10:15 am** Worship	**26** **11:30am** Staff Meeting	**27** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**28**	**29** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting	**30** **Church office Closed**	**31** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA Meeting

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of Neenah / Menasha
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AUGUST 1ST
5:15-6 :15 PM
NARCAN TRAINING

AUGUST 4TH
WELCOME PASTOR ROB

AUGUST 18TH
OUTDOOR WORSHIP:
PET BLESSING

AUGUST 20TH
COMMUNITY TABLE