GLAD TIDINGS!

November 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,

Imagine Together

The theme for our giving campaign this year is **Imagine.**

Imagine all the families we can support and nurture with God's love and care.

Imagine all the healing we can midwife as disciples of Mary's son.

Imagine all the forgiveness and restoration of the soul we can help the Holy Spirit build in the hearts and minds of our neighbors and our nation as followers of a carpenter's son.

Imagine all the new ways we can carry on the 174 yr. legacy of kindness and charity that is our inheritance from our ancestors and CUCCNM.

Imagine all the people at every stage of their life journeys who will find purpose and meaning as we embrace the principles of the Prince of Peace.

Imagine all the people we will support and advocate for in the name of God's steadfast and unconditional love for all people and creation.

Imagine all the new ways we will be called into being the hands and feet of Jesus for all people in the name of a gospel of love that knows no partiality.

Imagine all the ways our faith family will grow and change as we continue to listen to the Still-Speaking God.

Just imagine. Everything is possible where God is concerned. Are we ready to believe and invest in the future of the church by the lake we call home? I believe we are. I am so very excited as your new pastor and teacher to be walking with all of you in this time and place.

This is a time to reflect on the ways that Congregational United Church of Christ matters to you. It is a season for considering how you want to support its work in your life, in our city, and in the world. After all, **this community is what WE make it, and - likewise - being part of this community actually makes us, too.** Just as our gifts of time, talent, and treasure shape the church by the lake, the church by the lake shapes us: who we are and how we see the world, giving us tools to live with a vision of hope, to act from a place of courage, to stand in a posture

(Continued on next page)

of faith.

What kind of world, what kind of community, what kind of life are you committed to making? This is the question we are being asked in so many ways at so many levels right now.
The church by the lake is a place that makes space for hope amidst all the temptations to despair.
The church by the lake is a place that makes room for joy that is creative enough to hold heartbreak.
The church by the lake is a place that makes justice into a living value rather than some abstract political goal. In 2025, how will you help make this church everything we need it to be?

Together, we can continue to make the community we need to make the world we want. Hand/ send in our 2025 pledge card and time and talent survey today.

Our annual giving campaign began Sunday, November 13th and runs through Sunday November 17th. The pledge cards have been sent out with our annual time and talent survey. Please note we prefer a new pledge card and time and talent survey handed in each year. Thank you for taking the time to consider how you can support the church by the lake as we engage our ministries and mission.

Amen and alleluia,





Pastor Rob will be out of the office Wed. Oct. 30- Sat. Nov. 2. On Wed he will be attending a clergy retreat with the Northeast Association at the Daycholah Center, Thurs. – Sat. he will be taking some time off. Pastor Rob will be available by cell phone and email for emergencies.



Ruth Kobinsky husband John passed away on October 23rd. His service will be held at Kessler Funeral Home on Nov 2nd. Please keep Ruth and her family in your prayers.



11/02 Stephanie Groom
11/03 Ruth Kobinsky
11/03 Myles C.
11/05 Stephen Ware
11/08 Jon Hintz
11/10 Katie Hobart
11/20 Lucas A.
11/26 Sirena Thompson
11/28 Dennis Libertoski
11/29 Ann Luebke

Wedding Anniversaries

November 18th

Carissa and Crystal Lingenhag

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:

Ruth Kobinsky
Shirl Alix
Gerry Benthein
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Paul Franke,
Carol Wilcox

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURES & THEMES

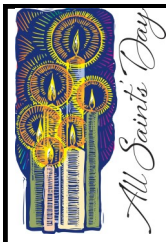
Nov 3 (Matthew 22:34-40) Final week in our series: Do Unto Others – A Campaign for Kindness. Our theme is love & we celebrate All-Saints Day.

Nov 10 – Rev. John Tschudy preaching.

Nov 17 (Mark 12:38-44) The widows offering – Generosity as a spiritual practice.

Nov 24 (John 18:33-37) Reign of Christ Sunday. The Cross of Constantine. Logos change and our faith remains. Hanging of the greens after worship.

marks the end of our 2024/25



SPECIAL ALL-SAINTS WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2024, IN OUR 10:15 AM WORSHIP

We will light a candle and remember the members we have lost over the last year. This is a moment for us to reflect and give thanks for their lives in this season of generosity and thanksgiving.



JOIN US FOR OUR ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17TH AT 9 AM BEFORE OUR 10:15 AM WORSHIP

We will mark the end of our 2024/25 giving campaign with a hearty breakfast as we give thanks for all the ways we have been blessed by the church by the lake. Our menu will be breakfast casserole, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, juice, and milk. Our shared generosity mirrors God's providence as we give thanks for all we have shared together at the church by the lake.



NEXT COMMUNITY TABLE DECEMBER 17th

Thanks to all who donated, cooked and worked in October! It was a huge success and we served nearly 100 meals! GREAT JOB CUCC!



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 14th

The dinner is held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Commercial Street. There are 12 faith communities working together to put on this festive holiday meal for people in our community. CUCC is responsible for gathering toothpaste, toothbrushes and floss. **We are still in need of *toothpaste*. Thanks to everyone who has already donated....we are all set on floss and toothbrushes!** These will go in a gift bag each guest receives that has needed hygiene articles. The youth group is making 15 fleece blanks which will go to the guests at the dinner

In addition we need to supply 6 fruit pies and 12 dozen cookies. Volunteers are also needed for the day of the event. Please sing up on the sheets in the hall to help in any way you can. Questions Ann Luebke or Gay Dickson



ASK THE PASTOR ON SUN. NOV. 17TH!

Send in your questions. Ask Pastor Rob anything. Get to know your new pastor. Ask questions about religion or the bible, world events or the church. We will put all the questions on slips of paper and draw them from a hat. Pastor Rob will answer as many as time allows in lieu of a sermon . Send your questions to office@cuccnm.org. Melanie will keep track of them.



BAGS FOR BENCHES Thursday, Nov 7th 12:00-2:00 pm

Want to be a part of our recycling program and have fun at the same time? Come and fellowship while we and sort plastic bags for our next bench. Questions contact Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org





HANGING OF THE GREENS
November 24th, 2024

Everyone is invited to stay after Church to help with hanging of the greens on Sunday, November 24th. The more people we have helping, the quicker we'll get done.



COMMUNITY TABLE

NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

Our congregation has a long history of serving our neighbors in need at the Community Table. The need for meals has grown recently given the many factors affecting cost of living including the price of food. In addition to providing a meal for the Community Table once every two months, we also raise funds to run the program and stock the pantry. During this month of giving thanks, Thank You for generously giving to the Community Table .





YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR GREATER NEENAH-MENASHA COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The service will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 pm. There will be a joint choir led by St. Paul's choir director, Eric Ihde. Pastor Rob Van Ess will be preaching at the service. Churches that are involved. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Congregational United Church of Christ, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Faith Global Methodist Church, and St. Gabriel's Catholic Church. How awesome it will be to worship together!



4 QUESTIONS WITH PETIE AGNEW – NEW MEMBER, JOINED 10/13/24.

Introduce yourself to us.

I am Petie Agnew, Petie is my nickname––-my legal name is Pierrette Agnew, I live in Hortonville with my sister, her husband, my brother and two Irish Setters Murphy and Shannon––i am a retired pediatric nurse––born in Canada I have siblings I make 10, the first 5 have French names and the next 5 have English names, they were born in the States––I now live in Hortonville, I did live in Menasha before the move.

What do you do for fun/ hobby/ relaxation?

After moving to Menasha, I became a square dancer and dance 3-4 times a week. I enjoy camping and being by the beach or lake.

What is the number one thing you wish people knew about you?

That I enjoy being around friendly positive people

What has brought you to the church by the lake: Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah/ Menasha?

I discovered CUCC after moving here from California after the loss of my husband. The Church was a big help in helping me move through my grief.





NOTE FROM MODERATOR

Welcome to November. It has officially been 2 years since I took the role of Moderator after Ann Pabst relocated to Minneapolis before her term expired. My actual term will expire in 6 months and then Signa Meyers will take over. We have had many things happen in the life of the church these past 2 years. First many prominent members have passed away. More funerals than any of us would like to attend. We went through the process of Lake Edge becoming their own separate entity. Pastor Dave gave notice that he would be leaving. The search committee was established and we began the process. Pastor Jeannie stepped in and kept things moving forward until Pastor Rob was selected and graciously accepted the position starting 3 months ago. As challenging as some of these things have been i have enjoyed being a part of the Church Council and I encourage everyone to step into a role and be active in the church. I know most everyone will say time commitment is hard but start small. Working on a ministry is usually a meeting every few months and then giving some time for events your ministry is doing. I really believe you will find these help add balance to your life. On a more personal note some of you may have noticed me not writing a Moderator Note these past few months and not being as active at church events as I have been previously. Thank God for Pastor Rob and the many others that have stepped up to help keep this church going with my recent limited involvement. My Father, Larry Olson had a big 90th Birthday party in July in August he ended up in the hospital and spent a month there. Fortunately he came around and was able to move to a rehab facility for just short of another month . Three weeks ago he was able to finally come back to his house. This has been a large under taking but with the help of my sister , my nephews and John we are making things work. Dad is comfortable and feeling well cared for at this time. His dog support is Samantha during the daytime and Simon each night and they really take their jobs of caring for Grandpa serious. So I feel very Blessed to have a Family and Church Family that have helped in so many ways.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Scott Olson ,Moderator



Veteran's Day is Tuesday November 11th. **Beginning Sunday October 20th** a tree will be set up and blank ornaments will be available. Write the pertinent information about the veterans in your life on an ornament and hang it on the tree. It's a great way to remember our veterans.

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	11/3/24	11/10/24	11/17/24	11/24/24
Liturgist	Marilyn Kostrzak	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch	Pat Rosenak
Head Usher	Leon Flesburg	Marcy Fry	Mary Janness	Jenn Abing
Usher 2	Mary Janness	Ginny Stutzman	Kerry Fox	John LaPrairie
Usher 3	Marcy Fry	Mary Janness	Alan Gear	Jack Fry
Usher 4	John LaPrairie	Kerry Fox	Leon Flesburg	Marcy Fry
Acolyte	Carmen T.	Sophie R.	Christopher S.	Chole R.
Singing Bowl	N/A	Colin S.	Colin S.	Colin S.
Refreshments	Mary Janness	Sue Dollhopf & John Williams	Jenn Abing	Mary and Ralph Liesch
Communion Preparation	Sue Dollhopf			

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



As our church gets back into the swing of things for fall, the Ministry of Spiritual Life would like to continue to offer a time for fellowship and snacks after worship each Sunday, but needs your help. We are asking those with surnames starting with "H" through "J" 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! Questions contact Terri Flesburg .Here is the schedule:

December: K-L, **January**: M-N,

February: O-R, **March:** S, **April:** T-V, **May**: W-Z



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER

3K-8th grade Sunday School is during worship every Sunday.
9th-12th grade meet from 9:00-10:00 the 2nd-4th Sunday

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 on the 2nd-4th Sunday youth will meet at 9:00-10:00am at Sweet Lair in Menasha. On the 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month the youth will meet at church working on Community Service projects.

***The 1st Sunday of each month is "What's The Scoop?"**, an all age class where the youth 3K-12th grade will learn about different lessons about the church, such as communion and baptism, etc. The youth will come back to worship in time for communion.



Youth ages 3-5th grade have a basket raffle they can put their names in every time they come to church! Make sure your child stops by the baskets at the back of the sanctuary.
We are always looking for more teachers, if you are interested in teaching or subbing any grades email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

We rotate our teachers allowing them to still enjoy the service while following their personal mission; to teach the youth of our church. The curriculum is very easy to follow, everything is laid out for you therefore only a little prep work needs to be done.

UNICEF/HALLOWEEN PARTY

We had a great turn out, 25 people, for the UNICEF/Halloween party on Sunday, October 20th. Thank you to everyone who helped make the UNICEF/Halloween party possible and raise money for UNICEF. **Pumpkin Judging will continue until November 3rd.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS:



The next Confirmation class is Sunday, November 3rd at 6:00-7:30. Mentors are invited to join their confirmands during this class.



YOUTH GROUP

6th-12th grade Youth Group has a new beginning! **They will meet Friday, November 1st** 6:00-8:00pm at church. Dinner will be served and then the youth will enjoy games and make Tie Blankets for the Community Table Christmas Dinner. **ALL ARE WELCOME- PLEASE BRING A FRIEND!!**

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



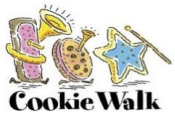
Mark your calendars for December 8th to see our youth perform *their Christmas Program! This year's play is "God Blessed Them One and All"*. **We will practice on Saturday, Nov 23rd 9-11am, Sunday, Nov. 24th 9-10am, Dec 1st During Worship, & Dec. 7th 9-11am**. If you cannot make all the practice times, you can still participate in the program! If your child would like to be a part of the program, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



If your child would like to share their talent with the congregation, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. We welcome youth of all ages, talents, songs and instruments of any kind to share their music with us.

COOKIE WALK



New this year, we will be hosting a Cookie Walk after the Children's Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 8th**. Get your Christmas cookies and candies all in one place. Grab a container and load up on your holiday favorites! Sign up to bake here **(Go to Dec 8th)**

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS

If you would like your child to participate in any of our youth programs, click here to fill out a form. All families who have completed the forms will

HOLY PIZZA



Our 3rd annual homemade pizzas, Holy Pizza, is underway! Order your pizza every Sunday until **November 10th** in the hallway. If you would like an order form to take orders from friends and family, please feel free to grab one. All proceeds will go to the Faith Development Fund (FDF) sending all who want to camps, a retreats or youth mission trips.

For Just $8-$11 You Get:

- a FRESH, handmade 12-inch pizza with your choice of toppings: **cheese $8**, **cheese & pepperoni, $9**, **cheese & sausage $9**, **Mega Meat $11** (pepperoni, sausage, &Canadian bacon, **Vegetarian $11** (onions, mushrooms, peppers and black olives), **Hawaiian $11** (Canadian Bacon & Pineapple)
- Holy Pizza are homemade by church volunteers on Saturday November 16th from 9-12
- **Pizza pick-up is Saturday, November 16th at noon.**

If you would like to volunteer to help make the pizzas, sign up here (Go to Saturday, November 16th to sign up for Holy Pizza, pizza making)

ADULTS AND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Did you know you don't have to be a youth or a member of Ministry of Faith Development (MoFD) to help make our youth program flourish? There are many ways everyone could help MoFD; you could teach Sunday School, help with Youth Group, Mentor a confirmand, Help with fundraisers and Help with the acolytes. Email Alanna if you are interested in helping with Sunday school or youth group or being a mentor.

To help with Fundraising sign up here
To help with Acolytes sign up here

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S



Order your Christmas Poinsettia between November 17th – Dec 1st. Fill out the form in the bulletin and return it to the church office or email/call the church office with your order. All donations will go to the Middle School and High School Youth Groups.

YOUTH IN WORSHIP



Youth can be a part of worship in many different ways. Please talk with your youth and see how they would like to participate in worship.



Acolyte: Youth will light the candles at the start of worship and put them out at the end of worship, bringing in the light of Jesus and taking it out into our community. (training is provided) Sign up here



Singing Bowl: Youth are invited to participate in ringing the Singing Bowl to start the service. (training will be provided) Sign up here



Readers: Youth will read the invocation at the start of worship (invocation will be emailed to parents ahead of time for youth to practice. Sign up here



Communion Helpers: Youth are invited to help with communion on the 1st Sunday of the month. They will stand alongside Pastor Rob and hand the plates off to the ushers. (training provided) Sign up here



November 2nd

Accountant's Corner

	September	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 29,228	$ 161,883
Interest + Rents	3,100	28,330
Other Income	(196)	7,141
Total Income	$ 32,133	$ 197,354
Expenses	19,002	157,125
Difference	**$ 13,131**	**$ 40,228**



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!

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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	**2** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
3 **10:15 am** Worship All Saints Day Service **10:15 am** What's the Scoop PreK- 12th S.S. **6:00pm** Confirmation w/ Mentor	**4**	**5** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**6** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **6:30pm** Choir Practice	**7** **12:00 -2:00** **Bags for Benches** **6:00 pm** Kidz Kart Club Banquet **6:30 pm** Ministry council **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA	**8** Faith Formation Retreat	**9** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
10 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **10:15 am** Worship **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S	**11**	**12** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**13** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **6:30pm** Choir Practice	**14** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA	**15**	**16** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
17 Commitment Sunday **9;00sm** Church Breakfast **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S **6:00pm** Confirmation	**18**	**19** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**20** **11:30am** Staff Meeting **6:30pm** Choir Practice	**21** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA	**22**	**23** **9-11:00 am** Christmas Program Practice
24 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade **11:30 am** Hanging of the Greens	**25**	**26** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Min of Stewardship	27 **6:30 pm** **Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's, Neenah**	**28** Thanksgiving Church office closed **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA	**29**	**30** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA



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

Share Fellowship and do Needlework
All who like to do (or learn to do) any type of needlework.

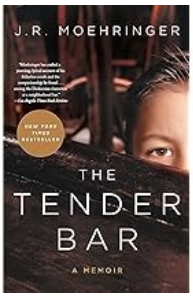
Meet Friday November 15th at 1:00pm in the lounge to visit and work on needlework such as knitting, crocheting, etc. Invite your friends and share in the conversation and creation!

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.
www.cuccnm.org.



Book Club : January 19th
Sweet Lair
After church
We will be discussing
The Tender Bar : A Memoir by J.R. Moehringer.



NEW PRICE !!!!!



CUCCNM KEYCHAINS will be on sale after church. **$15.00** 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 Faith Development Fund. Contact Alanna if you would like to purchase one.



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

Rev. Rob Van Ess Pastor,
pastor@cuccnm.org
Melanie Nault, Admin. Assistant,
office@cuccnm.org
Alanna Smith, Christian Ed. Dir.,
ce@cuccnm.org

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of Neenah / Menasha
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NOVEMBER 3RD
ALL SAINTS SERVICE DURING WORSHIP
CONFIRMATION WITH MENTOR 6:00PM

NOVEMBER 17TH
ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST 9:00-10:15
COMMITMENT SUNDAY
MISSION TRIP MEETING 11:30
CONFIRMATION 6:00PM

NOVEMBER 24TH
HANGING OF THE GREENS

THERE ARE LOTS MORE ACTIVITIES
ON THE CALENDAR INSIDE!