GLAD TIDINGS!

January 2025

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

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience."
– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Hello church! Soon we will be living in the year 2025! Twenty Twenty-five. I know it's just another year. A change in the 4th number from a four to a five. It's not hard to understand. But still, it's 2025!

I can remember as a kid thinking that the year 1980 was going to be a big deal. I mean, 1980! At 11 years of age this was the first beginning of a new decade I could remember. The 70's were yesterday's news and the 80's were new and exciting and filled with wonder. By the time the 80's w over, I would have just turned 21. A realization that blew my 11-year-old mind in December of 1979. The 80's. I just knew it had to be something special. And it was. The age of excess, shoulder pads, spiral perms, rap groups, and synthesized music. I loved the 80s. This was my coming-of-age decade. Everything was new to me. I didn't know enough to know that every generation has their own coming of age decade; their own time to learn, to come into their own, and find themselves. But I do now.

These days I look at every day as an opportunity for a new lease on life. The recovery mantra, "One day at a time," is something I have held in my heart for over twenty years. It helps me to pace myself amid the anxiety and tension I find in the gap between the future unknown and auld lang syne (times long past).

And yet, I still feel the magic in the air on New Year's Eve. It feels special, different. The beginning of a new year carries the power of possibilities and I find myself time and again standing in awe and hope. Which makes no sense. December 31, 2024, will be a Tuesday and January 1, 2025, will be just another Wednesday. The sun rises, the sun sets, just another day in an endless string of days.

On the other hand, it does make sense for the same reasons we have a desire for spiritual fulfillment. It was the French philosopher Chardin who famously said: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." We long to be a part of something bigger, larger, more than, we are on our own. And isn't that the way of Jesus? The inherent belief that there is always more. More to learn, more to love, more to share, more to become. In a world based on scarcity and oppression of the many for the benefit of the privileged few, Jesus preaches a message of abundance and freedom for all.

(Continued on next page)

"More love, more life." I can see that as a bumper sticker in the time of Jesus. As we walk into a new year together, I invite you to join us on a spiritual journey that reveals the "more" the way of Jesus promises us all. Let's embrace the power of possibilities while standing together in awe and hope in front of our amazing God. Together may we hear the Spirit speak. Together may we embrace the call to do new things. Together may we be a conduit of Christ's eternal hope for the world.

Amen and Alleluia,



Pastor Rob



The Church Office will be closed December 25th – January 1st.

If you have a pastoral emergency please call Pastor Rob on his cell .



Paul Franke long time member passed away Dec 13th. His funeral will be held Dec 28th at 11:00am at CUCCNM. Please Keep Laverne and their family in your prayers .

01/02 Sue Knuth
01/03 Alan Gear
01/04 Diana Hintz
01/04 Don Kloepfel
01/10 Teagan Janness-Jording
01/13 Mike Jahnke
01/15 Liz MacKelvie
Molly Britten-Campbell
01/15 Ethan Meylink
01/18 Tim Kellnhauser
01/19 Dean Katzman
01/24 Kay Roberts
01/24 Wayne Gibson
01/26 Becky Nichols
01/28 Abram E.



Wedding Anniversaries

No January Wedding Anniversaries

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:

The Franke Family
Melanie Nault
Shirl Alix
Gerry Benthein
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe

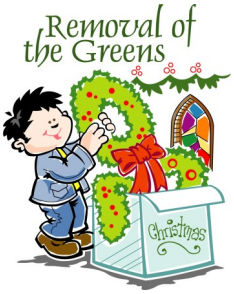
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Paul Franke,
Carol Wilcox



CHOIR NEWS!

Choir rehearsal will be moving to Tuesday evenings in 2025!

Come join us Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning Tuesday, January 7.
This would be a great time to join the choir ! The choir will sing on January 18th. Any question contact Jill Rosenthal
jellenrosen@gmail.com



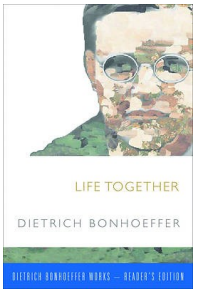
TAKING DOWN THE GREENS
January 5th, 2025

Everyone is invited to stay after Church to help take down The Christmas greens on Sunday, January 5th.

More hands make
light work!



New Adult Education Opportunity
Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30 PM
Jan. 15 – Feb 19, 2025



A conversation about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*. A 6-week study giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups.

"Life together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship."

We will also offer this same study and conversation in our corresponding Tuesday morning weekly bible study Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb 4,11, & 19th, in the church lounge.
Both conversations will be available on Zoom with the meeting link being provided in the weekly Friday email. Any copy of this book will do. We are using the Dietrich Bonhoffer Works-Reader's Edition for this study (122 pgs. Fortress Press. Nov. 1, 2015). A quick read, we will spend one session talking about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the remaining 5 session are dedicated to each of the 5 chapters in this book.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER AND THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help during this busy holiday season. Your help in all the different ways for the Community Christmas Dinner on December 14th and the Community Table on the 17th helped to make this Christmas season brighter for so many community members!



SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING JANUARY

Sunday School is during worship **Sunday January 5th, 12th and 28th. No Sunday School on 19th,** Sunday School 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 will meet at Sweet Lair in Menasha on the Jan. 12th & at church on Jan. 26th at 9:00-10:00am.
*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.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP



Summer of 2025- we will be having a **Home-Town Mission Trip-** this is a Cross-Generational youth group. We will be serving our own community! More information to come. **Summer of 2026** the Youth Mission Trip will be heading to **Colorado Springs, CO**! All youth who are currently in 7th grade would be eligible to go on this trip. If your youth is interested in joining us on a week-long trip in summer of 2026, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

YOUTH GROUP FUTURE DATES

6:00-8:00pm, dinner is provided.
6th-8th grade &
9th-12th grade



Friday, January 10th
Friday, February 14th
Friday, March 14th
Friday, April 11th
Friday, May 9th

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

What an awesome Christmas Program the youth did on Sunday, December 8th! They were all Fabulous! Thank you to all the youth and their families, Sherri Jischke for directing the play, Jill Rosenthal for playing piano, Kevin Shumann for helping with video and Art Puguh for helping with audio, Denise Stewart and Sashay Jenkins for helping with costumes, Dan & Sherri Jischke for making the set, John LaPrairie for making costumes, Signa Meyers for bringing snack, and Sue Knuth for doing the hardest job- keeping the kids safe and happy! Without all these people the play would not have been such a success!

SILENT AUCTION



The camp scholarship sub ministry will again be holding its Silent Auction to raise funds for the camp scholarship fund. We had a great mix of handmade items and services donated for this awesome cause in the past. If you wish to donate to this great cause, please contact Alanna Smith at ce@cuccnm.org.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sunday, January 12th
at 6:00-7:30- youth only

Sunday, January 26th
at 6:00-7:30- youth only

WINTER SOLSTICE RETREAT
Date Jan 24 - 26 2025

High schoolers and college-age young adults, join us for an experience that transcends the ordinary–because your weekend deserves to be extraordinary. Press pause on the stress of school life and get ready for a weekend of relaxation, camaraderie with friends, and an infusion of winter camp excitement that will recharge your spirits and take your faith journey to new heights! Ages 14-23.

Create a deeper connection to yourself and others through heartfelt worship and music led by Andra Moran.

This event is brought to you by the Wisconsin Conference UCC and UCCI. It's a low-key weekend where you can unwind, connect, and make some good memories. See you there!

Registration deadline: January 9th, 2024 $250

Email Alanna if you are interested in attending. Remember campers are qualified for a 50% scholarship. *

SUMMER CAMP



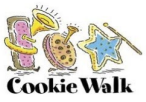
Speaking of camp… the summer camp schedule will be out in early January on the website! https://ucci.org/ Go visit the site and see what camp your kiddo, you or your family may want to attend this year. Camp is not just for the kids… there are adult camps and "& Me" camps (kids ages 4- 2nd grade and an adult) and family camps. Last year we had 13 kids, and 3 adults go to camp, let's see if we can beat that this summer! Camp is a great way to learn while having fun, so much fun that you don't even know you're learning! Meet new friends, have new adventures and try new (very tasty) food. Here at CUCCNM we feel camp is so important that we will give up to a 50% scholarship to members and friends of the church who apply & participate in the life of the church as well as the fundraisers that are raising the funds to support them. (apply by emailing your camp receipt to Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org).

HOLY PIZZA ARE STILL AVAILABLE!



Extra pizzas were made just for you! Email Alanna or buy some after church. All proceeds will go to the Faith Development Fund (FDF) sending all who want to camps, retreats or youth mission trips. Contact Alanna if you would like to purchase .

COOKIE WALK AND VISIT FROM THE NORTH POLE



The Cookie Walk was a great success! Thank you to all who donated holiday goodies and to everyone who purchased them. We made just around $600 which will go towards scholarships for summer camps, retreats and youth mission trips. Thank you to Santa and Mrs. Clause for making the long trip to see our families at CUCCNM!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT



Our next Parents Night Out will be **Friday, January 31st from 6-9pm**. This is a great opportunity for all families with youth ages 3+ to go out and enjoy an adult night out! Drop your youth off at church and let our teenagers watch them for 3 hours. The teenagers will accept a free-will donation, which will go towards mission trips. Tell your friends to join you for a fun night out! Email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org to register.

KWIK TRIP

KWIK TRIP GIFT CARDS

The youth will be selling Kwik Trip Gift Cards after church, along side the Holy Pizzas. When you purchase a gift card from us, the youth receive a percentage back from Kwik Trip. So pick up your gas card, grocery card, or a general gift card from us and help send youth to camp, retreats and youth mission trips!

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING FOR SAMARITAIN COUNSELING CENTER

"In every season, we are called to sow seeds of hope and nurture the roots of resilience in our community. At Samaritan Inc., we embrace this sacred work by offering healing and support through outpatient counseling, school-based mental health screenings, and faith community resources. Grounded in the belief that mind, body, and spirit are deeply connected, we strive to help individuals and families grow stronger together. This January, you have the opportunity to be part of this inspiring mission. Your support helps Samaritan bring hope and healing to individuals and families navigating mental health challenges. By giving, you are nurturing strength and transformation for those in need. Together, we can grow the roots of resilience and make a lasting difference. Visit www.samaritanfoxvalley.org to learn more." Rosangela Berbert, Executive Director

Samaritan
HEALING MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

Budget Hearing

BUDGET HEARING
January 19th & 26th after worship.

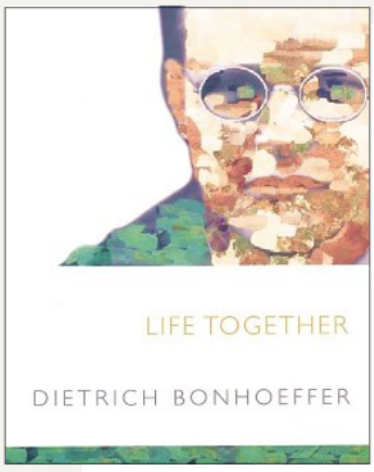
Come and look at 2025 Budget and ask questions before our Annual meeting on Feb 2nd.

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting

February 2nd

Stay tuned for more information.



Life Together: A Wed Night Adult Discussion Group

✠A look at Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*. A 6-week study giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families & groups.

✠ 6:30 – 7:30 PM Wed Jan 15, 22, 29, Feb 5,12, &19 in the church lounge.

Life together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.

VOLUNTEER 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	1-5-2025	1-12-2025	1-19-2025	1-26-2025
LITURGIST	Arthya Puguh	Stephanie Vrabec	Kathy Mahoney	Signa Meyers
HEAD USHER	Sue Dollhopf	Sue Knuth	Terri Flesburg	Ginny Stutzman
USHER 2	Ginny Stutzman	Kerry Fox	Wendy Remmel	Cheryl Humleker
USHER 3	Pat Mahoney	Alan Gear	Signa Meyers	Leon Flesburg
USHER 4	Colin Stewart	Wayne Dickson	Laura Kleist	Mary Liesch
REFRESHMENT	Terri Flesburg	Laurie Kleist	Sue Dollhopf & John Williams	Mary Janness

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



As our church gets back into the swing of things for winter 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 "M" through "N" 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:

January: M-N,

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





CHURCH BOOKS CLOSE DECEMBER 31ST

Church Books will close December 31st. Financial gifts to the church for the year 2024 must be received by the financial secretary by **Tuesday, Dec 31st**.

Thank you,
Melanie Nault Financial Secretary



There is still time to turn in your **TIME AND TALENT SHEETS** and **PLEDGE CARD.** There are pledge cards & time and talent sheets on the welcome table or you can fill one out on line . Click here . Question contact the church office. Thank you to those who have already turned them in.



2025 Envelopes are ready to be picked up. They are located by the church office. If you would like some please let the church office know.

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

Due to early printing of the Glad Tidings the Accountant corner was not available at the time of printing.

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

THANK YOU ...



... to All who helped around our building and yard this past year. The yard was always trimmed well. The flowers and plants were always looking fresh. New signs were put up. Sticks were picked up. Leaves were raked. And all that other stuff. Well done grounds people.

And the building – things broke, so we fixed them. Major and minor fixes were always met with flexibility and understanding. This ranged from replacing a broken key to lining the underfloor drain pipes.

So ... thanks everyone for all that went well this past year.

Kevin Shumann Buildings and Grounds



A special thank you
to Sue Dollhopf and
John Williams
for donating and hanging
the outdoor Christmas
greens .



JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 **6:30 pm** Ministry Council	3	4 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
5 **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** What's the Scoop? **11:30 am** **Taking down the Greens**	6	7 **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** **Adult Choir**	8	9	10 **6-8:00 pm** Youth Group	11 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
12 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **9:00am** **Min of Service** **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S. **11:30 am** **Min Spiritual Life** **12:00pm** **Book Club** **6:00 pm** Confirmation	13	14 **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** **Adult Choir**	15 **6:30-7:30** **Adult Education class**	16	17	18 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
19 **NO Sunday School** **10:15 am** Worship :	20	21 **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** **Adult Choir**	22 **6:30-7:30** **Adult Education class**	23	24	25 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
26 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S.	27	28 **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** **Adult Choir**	29 **6:30-7:30** **Adult Education class**	30	31	



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.

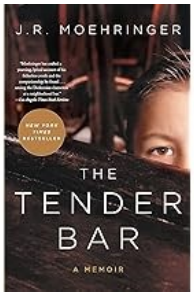
Meet Friday January 17th at 1:00pm in the lounge to visit and work on needlework such as knitting, crocheting, etc. Invite your friends and share in the conversation and creation!

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 12th
Sweet Lair
After church
We will be discussing
The Tender Bar : A Memoir
by J.R. Moehringer.



BAGS FOR BENCHES

TUESDAY, JAN 14TH & 28TH
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





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
Kerry Fox, Sue Knuth,
Patty Hoehne, Bob Nault

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

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



JAN 5TH
UNDECORATING THE CHURCH AFTER WORSHIP

JAN 10TH
YOUTH GROUP

JAN 14TH & 28TH
BAG TO BENCHES

JAN 15TH
ADULT EDUCATION SERIES STARTS

JAN 19TH & 26TH
BUDGET HEARING

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE