GLAD TIDINGS!

March 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

Hello church!

One of my go-to scholars, N.T. Wright, once said: "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because God wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things God has in store."

My grandmother used to do spring cleaning every year. In the spring, usually during lent ironically, she would direct us, and we would clean the house from "top to bottom." Nothing was spared. Light fixtures, the tops of doors and window frames, behind the stove and the refrigerator, were some of her favorite spots to check to make sure we "got it all." Together we would lay our hands on every-single-thing in her house, all the while sorting, organizing, and cleaning. The whole project was a lot of work. I don't remember anyone really enjoying spring cleaning. But I do remember a feeling of satisfaction after the fact. I would be sitting in the kitchen drinking Nestle's Quick and milk, strawberry flavor, looking out at the fruits of our labor. It was the same house, but it looked different. Or perhaps the experience of all the cleaning let me see the house in a different way. Rooms looked bigger by removing the clutter. The whole house looked brighter because you know she had us wash those windows inside and out. It was like you could feel the clean house, and everything felt lighter and more organized, peaceful even.

Our observance of Lent as a season in the church year serves many of the same purposes. It is an opportunity for us to engage in a spring cleaning of the soul. A time to stop and take inventory of our spiritual lives. To move all the appliances in our emotional kitchens and clean behind them. All to make ourselves feel lighter and brighter, to create more space, for all God has in store for us.

We have several opportunities to do that this year at the church by the lake. Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 5 (Soup supper 6-7PM, worship at 7PM). We will share in the imposition of ashes which helps us to remember our mortality and the fragility of life.

This year for the next 5 Wednesdays in Lent following Ash Wednesday we will enjoy a weekly potluck and conversations inspired by a video series with Christian author Rachel Held Evans. The schedule, menu, and topics are printed elsewhere in our Glad Tidings church newsletter.

Together we will talk about the future of our church. Where is God calling us and how is God

(Continued on next page)

calling us to be in these perilous times of uncertainty and social upheaval? The video series will open a new conversation each week where we will be challenged to consider how we may need to do some spring cleaning in the church by the lake. A big plus, our confirmands will join us for these conversations.

We will also enjoy a weekly sermon series on Hearing God's Call. How do we clean our lives, what do we need to get rid of, so that we can make room for the new things God is surely calling us to do in this extraordinary time and place? After this are shared Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and a joyous Easter Sunday celebration. More on that in the next Glad Tidings. Join us, won't you?

Amen and alleluia.





Melanie Nault the church administrative assistant will be out of the office March 14th due to having surgery . I do not know how long I will be out of the office. After my surgery at some point, I will start checking my emails and working from home. I will keep you updated on my return when I know more. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rob.
Thank you for all of your prayers and support . Melanie



Saturday, March 8th
Remember to set your clock ahead hour!



3/04 Izzy H.
3/07 Marcy Fry
Melanie Nault
3/09 Bruce Janda
3/11 Judy Brahe
3/16 Chloe R.
3/17 Katie Ellisen-Doe
Jon Janness
3/23 Stephanie Vrabec
Carmen T.
3/24 Connie Regazzi
3/25 Kelli Ellisen
Nolan S.

Wedding Anniversaries

March 13th
Steph and Tim Kellnhauser
March 21st
Doug and Paula Botten

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:

Crystal Lingenhag
Connie Regazzi
Melanie Nault
Shirl Alix
Tiffany Williams
Jerry Hupe
Homebound:
Judy Doornbos
Carol Wilcox



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday March 5th

Soup, Salad, Dessert Bar

6-7 pm

All Ages, all diets friendly menu,

Something for everyone!

Place setting provided.

Worship Service

7:00pm

THANK YOU!



Thanks to everyone who helped at the Community Table on February 18th. We fed a lot of guests who enjoyed not only the food but the warmth and time with friends sharing a meal. It's such a joy to be part of this program. **Our next meal is April 15th.**

WARMING SHELTER



The warming shelter has been open for a few weeks. There have been a few guests who have enjoyed the warmth, snacks and a place to relax for a while. We think there will be a lot more guests next year as the word spreads of this day time shelter at St. Paul's. There will be more opportunities to sign up to volunteer for a morning or afternoon in the future. There are 3-4 volunteers there for each shift so many volunteers are needed. If you have a few hours to help consider volunteering for next winter.



HELP FOR THE HOMELESS HYGIENE DRIVE.

Feb 23rd - March 16th

Items most needed: Bathroom tissue, diaper/ baby care, paper towels, cleaning supplies, face/body soap, razor, dental care, feminine care, texture hair care, deodorant, laundry detergent, trash bags, **The box located is in airlock by parking lot**

LENTEN DINNERS ARE BACK!
WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT
6:00PM

LENTEN DINNERS INFORMATION



Join us in our tradition of Lenten Potluck Dinners. Sign up on the service hub board or call the church office. It is nice to know how many to prepare for. **Please bring a dish to share, your own table service and a small donation to offset the cost of the main course**. Questions, contact church office.

Mar 12 – Service (Sloppy Joe);
Mar 19 – Spiritual Life (Breakfast food;
Mar 26 – Stewardship (Ham);
Apr 2 – Faith Development (TBD);
Apr 9 – Ministry Council (Baked Potatoes)



March Special Offering is

Habitat for Humanity

Did you know that Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity started right here at Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah Menasha over 30 years ago! More information to come.



Lend a Hand: Serve Our Church!

Our church thrives because of its dedicated members, and we're excited to offer several opportunities to get more involved! We're currently seeking individuals to fill these vital roles:

- **Vice-Moderator:** Support our Moderator and guide church leadership.
- **Ministry of Faith Development:** Nurture the spiritual growth of our youth.
- **Ministry of Service:** Organize our outreach and community efforts.
- **Member At-Large, Ministry Council:** Contribute to the planning of our church's mission.

Each position offers a unique chance to learn about church operations and use your talents to move us forward. Most require only one meeting per month or quarter, plus creative ideas, a can-do attitude, teamwork, good communication, and a desire to make our church the best it can be.

Want to help shape our future? Connect with Signa Meyers or Pastor Rob to learn more. And don't forget, we'll be voting on new members at our April meeting!

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

	January	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 12,603	$ 12,603
Interest + Rents	3,500	$ 3,500
Other Income	-	$ -
Total Income	$ 16,104	$ 16,104
Expenses	21,531	21,531
Expenses	**$ (5,427)**	**$ (5,427)**



We were in the **Red** at the end of the month, and in the **Red** 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)

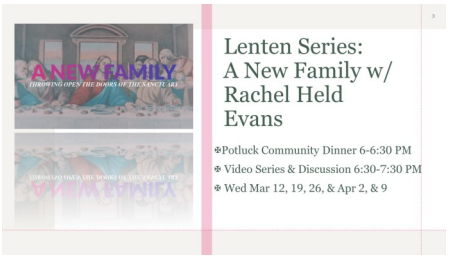
www.neaucc.org
(Northeast Association)

www.wcucc.org
Wisconsin Conference

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEENAH MENASHA (CUCCNM)
2025 LENTEN SCHEDULE

All events at CUCCNM unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 5 – ASH WEDNESDAY
6PM Soup ,Salad and Dessert Bar
7PM Service of Imposition of Ashes



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP
A New Family: Opening the Doors of the Church –
A Five-Film Series with Rachel Held Evans
5 Wednesdays: **March 12, 19, 26, & April 2, 9**
6-6:30PM Potluck
6:30-7:30PM Video Series & Discussion
Let's talk about what the church is and what the church can be, as a place, as a community, as a way of life that lives inside of us, wherever we go. Rachel Held Evans was quoted as saying: "The folks you are shutting out of the church today will be leading it tomorrow. The future is in the margins." If we are resurrection people, are we willing to let the ways of doing Church that do not serve God, ourselves, or our neighbors, die? If God throws open the doors of the church, who are we to monitor them, or worse, close them? When the doors are locked and requirements for inclusion are narrow are we willing to follow Rachael's example and become sanctuaries ourselves?

SUNDAYS IN LENT (10:15AM WORSHIP)
A Sermon Series: Hearing God's Call. We Embrace a new spiritual practice each week to help us hear God's call in our lives.
March 9 – Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (Spiritual Practice – Gratitude)
March 16 – Psalm 27 (Spiritual Practice – Patience/ Perseverance
March 23 – Luke 13:1-9 (Spiritual Practice – Confession
March 30 – Luke 15:1-311b-32 (Spiritual Practice – Surender)
April 6 – Isaiah 43:16-21(Spiritual Practice – Trust)
April 13 (Palm Sunday) – Lk 23:1-49 (Spiritual Practice – Love)

HOLY WEEK AT THE CHURCH BY THE LAKE:
No event Wednesday April 16.

This year Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha will host a joint Maundy Thursday service with St. Paul's ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America), Neenah, and St. Paul's ELCA Neenah will host a joint Good Friday service with Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha.
- *Our hope is to share these two Holy Week services every year on a rotating basis.*
- *This means that in 2026 St. Paul's ELCA Neenah will host the Maundy Thursday service and Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha will host the Good Friday service.*

April 17 – **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Service **at Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha** (service at 1511 Nicolet Blvd. Neenah, WI 54956), **7:00PM**, joint service with St. Paul's ELCA Neenah. Last Supper Reenactment with the CUCCNM Youth.

April 18 - **GOOD FRIDAY** service **at St. Paul's ELCA Neenah** (200 N. Commercial St. Neenah, WI 54956), **7:00PM**, **,** joint service with Congregational UCC Neenah Menasha.

Sun Apr 20 – **EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION** (10:15AM - regular Sunday worship time)

SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING MARCH



Sunday School is during worship Sunday, the youth will be excused to their classrooms with their teachers after Children's Moment.

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 meets at 9:00-10:00am.

March 2nd No high school Sunday school
March 10th will be at Sweet Lair
March 17th will be at the Church Kitchen
March 24th will be at Sweet Lair in Menasha.
March 31st No Sunday School- Spring Break

PIZZA RANCH

On Monday, March 10th the High School youth will be working at Pizza Ranch in Oshkosh from 4:00-8:30**.** 20% of sales and all the tips will be donated to the Mission Trip. Come out and enjoy chicken and pizza while supporting our youth. Eat lots so they have to work hard!
(Pizza Ranch: 1051 S. Washburn St. Oshkosh)

Souper Bowl of Caring: Thank you so much for helping the youth collect money and soup for the Food Pantry. With your help, they raised $110.00. We also collected 30 cans of canned goods. All donations will be given to The Community Table in Neenah. *Thank you!!!!!*

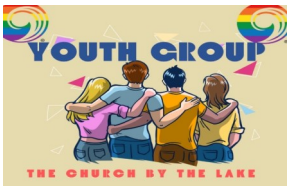
CAMP SUNDAY!

We had our Annual Camp Sunday in February. Thank you to all who came out and enjoyed a delicious Camp Breakfast, sang camp songs and played camp games.

EASTER FLOWERS



It is time to order your Easter Flowers!! All orders need to be in by **March 5th.** Please consider rounding up and donating to our Youth Programs when you order your flowers. Please includ payment with your order.



YOUTH GROUP

Friday, March 14th the youth, grades 6th-8th & 9th-12th, will have a quick dinner and then head off to Menasha High School to watch the play *Wizard of Oz*! The cost for this outing will be covered by the Youth Program. All are welcome, so please bring your friends!

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



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Coming Summer of 2025, the youth and the congregation are invited to work together at our first Hometown Mission Trip! Stay tuned for dates and events.

Coming Summer 2026, the High School Youth will be heading to Colorado Springs, CO for a Mission Trip. Stay tuned for dates.

SUMMER CAMP



Hey Campers of ALL ages! Whether you are an experienced camper or new, Daycholah, Moon Beach and Cedar Valley have what you are looking for. It is time to start thinking about camp registration. Registration is open and filling up fast. A complete camp schedule and registration online can be found at www.ucci.org. Your kids have also been given an individualized family calendar with camps that work for you family. Camp is open for campers as young as 4 and as old as 104 plus family Camps! Scholarships are available for all campers. Once your camper is registered, please email me a copy of the registration so I can start the scholarship process. Email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. If you have questions about camp or wonder which camp is best for you or your child, please call or email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

CAMP AWESUM!

Camp AweSum is open to all high school and college students. They will experience a week of great fun at Moon Beach as they assist families with children of the Autism Spectrum. There are multiple weeks being offered, please contact Alanna if you are interested in going. ce@cuccnm.org



HOMEMADE PIZZA FUNDRAISER

There are still some yummy homemade pizzas available for purchase. Either stop by the table in the hallway after church on Sundays or email Alanna ce@cuccnm.org to pick some up during the week. All proceeds will go to the Faith Development Fund (FDF) to support anyone going to camp, a retreat or mission trip.

For Just $8 You Get: handmade 12-inch pizza with your choice of toppings: cheese, cheese & pepperoni, or cheese & sausage.

KWIK TRIP GIFT CARDS

Need gas? Food? Car Wash? Stop by the pizza table to buy your Kwik Trip Gift Card, if we don't have the gift card you are looking for, we will order it. This is a simple fundraiser, where you pay for the exact amount of the gift card and Kwik Trip gives us a percentage back. Thank you for supporting the youth!!!



Weekend Fundraiser
Rummage/Plant Sale
Brat-Burger Fry/Bake Sale
June 13 & 14



RUMMAGE SALE: **Beginning April 1** 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 12 bring your POTTED PLANTS, LABELED with NAME, COLOR, PERENNIAL or ANNUAL, SHADE or SUN, and approximate HEIGHT. Plants will be sold June 13 & 14. Please contact Mary Liesch for questions.





BRAT/BURGER FRY: Saturday, June 14th from 9 am-2 pm (or until sold out) is our annual Faith Development Fund BRAT/BURGER/ HOTDOG 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 donations of baked goods to be sold to help raise funds for the Faith Development Fund. Please contact Alanna Smith for more information. Sign up online: https://signup.com/go/MRrApLB



Volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board at the church – hallway.

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	3-2-2025	3-9-2025	3-16-2025	3-23-2025	3-30-2025
Liturgist	Carol Tschudy	Sue Knuth	Arthya Puguh	Mary Liesch	Sue Knuth
Head Usher	Sue Dollhopf	Terri Flesburg	Gay Dickson	Terri Flesburg	Sherri Jischke
Usher 4	Kerry Fox	Signa Meyers	Wayne Dickson	Pat Mahoney	Wayne Dickson
Usher 2	Nicky Banks	Wayne Dickson	Sue Knuth	Mary Liesch	Nicky Banks
Usher 3	Cheryl Humleker	Wendy Remmel	Alan Gear	Ginny Stutzman	Marcia Fry
Refreshments	Connie Regazzi	Gay Dickson	Scott Olson	Terri Flesburg	Jack & Marcy Fry
Acolyte	Evie J.	Cece L.	CeCe L	Graham E.	Matthew
Singing Bowl	Sophie R.	Colin S.	Abram E.	William E.	Callie P.
Youth Reader	Chloe R.	Lars H.	Henry L.	Abram E.	Ava N.
Communion Shepherd	Eve J, Sophie R, Chloe R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communion Prep.	Sue Dollhopf				

<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 "O" through "R" 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:

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



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
2 **9:00am** NO HS S.S, **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** What's the Scoop **11:30 am** Confirmation Class	**3**	**4** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **12:00–2:00pm** Bags to Benches **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**5** **Ash Wednesday** **6:00- 7:00PM** Soup, Salad & Dessert **7:00 pm** Ash Wednesday Service	6 **6:30 pm** Ministry Council	**7**	**8**  **Day light Savings** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
9 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **10:15 am** Worship : **Staff Appreciation** **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S.	**10**	**11** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**12** **6:00-6:30 pm** Lenten Pot Luck **6:30-7:30 pm** Lenten Video Discussion	**13**	**14** **6-8:00pm** **Youth Group**	**15** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
16 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Church **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S.	**17**	**18** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**19** **6:00-6:30 pm** Lenten Pot Luck **6:30-7:30 pm** Lenten Video Discussion	**20** **12:00–2:00pm** Bags to Benches	**21**	**22** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
23 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Sweet Lair **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S **12:00 pm** Book Club at	**24**	**25** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Adult Choir Min of Stewardship	**26** **6:00-6:30 pm** Lenten Pot Luck **6:30-7:30 pm** Lenten Video Discussion	**27**	**28**	**29** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
30 **9:00am** H.S. S.S. at Church **10:15 am** Worship : **10:15 am** PreK- 8th grade S.S.	**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

All of 

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

Meet Friday March 21st 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!

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.

BOOK CLUB

SIPSWORTH BY SIMON VAN BOY



SUNDAY, MARCH 23

After church at Sweet Lair in Downtown Menasha

Sipsworth is the story of Helen Cartwright, an elderly woman who returns to the English village of her childhood, alone, following the deaths of her husband and son. Helen is mired in routine, and one day is much like the next. She feels her life can be lived only as the "after" of all she had before. She avoids, when she can, thinking about her lost beloveds, instead "Turning from any face that appeared in the dust or the darkness between cans." Her grief even dictates that she always walk, because "taking a taxi would mean talking. Being asked questions that rattle the doors she keeps locked."

BAGS FOR BENCHES



1St Tuesday of the Month and 3rd Thursday of month

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:

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
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
Neenah, Wi 54956
920-725-4873
www.cuccnm.org
office@cuccnm.org



<u>March 5th</u>
6:00 pm Soup, Salad & Dessert
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

<u>March 9th</u>
Staff Appreciation Sunday

<u>Wednesday, March 12th, 19th, 26th</u>
6:00-6:30pm Lenten Potluck

6:30pm –7:30pm
Wednesday Night Lenten Discussion Group

March 14th
Youth Group

<u>March 23rd</u>
Book Club at Sweet Lair, Menasha