GLAD TIDINGS!

June 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

"I had that familiar conviction that life was
beginning over again with the summer"
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

Hello church!

Officially the first day of summer in the United States is Wednesday June 20th. Yet for most of us Memorial Day has always been the beginning of the backyard BBQ, pool party, cottage culture, planting, and vacation season. Nicky and I have all the usual plans, biking, cookouts with family, hikes to take, sunsets to see, (we hope), and the annual pledge to spend more time outside this year, which always seems to get away from us as the busyness of our lives creeps in and steals our summer away. We all have plans for the summer. It's a thing. Our church calendar reflects this. The adult education and Sunday school programming takes a break for the summer months. Many of our various ministries follow the church program year (September- May) that allows them to slowdown in the summer. I'm all for it.

Everyone needs to take the time for rest and relaxation. As a child and even more so now as an adult, that is how I look at the summer months – as a time of renewal. A time to get lost, rediscover simple pleasures, and simply be present in the moment. We will continue to worship on Sundays at 10:15 AM as we always do. I often see the summer as a time to experiment in worship. Join us in person or online and see what sort of shenanigans we'll be up to.

The first Sunday in June we will be hosting a unique event: *The Singular They*. Join us for an eye-opening workshop with Jeff Rabe, an expert in Children & Youth Ministry. (After church from 12 to 1:30PM) Explore the world of gender identity, orientation, and expression. What to expect: Learn key terms like cis, trans, and non-binary; Discover the historical fluidity of sexuality; Understand identity and Pride Flags; Get tools to advocate for ALL of God's people. This is a safe space to ask tough questions and gain valuable insights. Don't miss this opportunity to broaden your understanding! We are strengthening our commitment to our Open and Affirming covenant by offering this educational opportunity as a community wide event for people to come together and learn more about ourselves and our neighbors.

The following 3 days, June 2-4, I will be off, after which, Thurs. – Sat. (5-8) I will be attending the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting in Green Lake. One day I will take a daylong seminar entitled: "So, We Did This Thing…", an interactive intensive workshop focused on exploring innovative ministry approaches. Speakers will share different ideas for ministry in a variety of settings. I look forward to seeing how what we do stacks up against what others are doing across the country.
After that I will be attending the annual meeting for the Wisconsin Conference representing the Northeast Association and the church by the lake.

(Continued on next page)

That weekend, Sunday June 8th, our own Paige Puguh will be leading worship and preaching.
The week after that is our annual Doty Island Rummage Sale and our church rummage sale, infamous brat fry, and plant sale, all coordinated as an all-church fundraiser. I am excited to see how this works as my first time through. I hear it is an all-hands-on-deck affair and that a good time is had by all. Sign up to help out and join me, will you? Do we sell vegan brats?

The next Sunday, June 15th we will have our first outdoor worship service with an ice-cream social afterwards. Always a good time, join us if you can. This is a great Sunday to bring a friend.
Fox Valley Pride is Saturday June 21st at Jones Park in Appleton. We will have a booth there this year. I will be offering glitter blessings. Come see me to find out what they are all about. Last year we had monsoon like weather so hopefully this year we will have clear skies and a happy day. Come on down and help us represent the church by the lake that welcomes all people with the lifesaving gospel of Jesus Christ.
Even as we slow down for summer there is a lot going on. Rumor has it there may be a couple of pop-up youth events on the horizon as well. Stay tuned.

One more thing. While we walk towards the dog days of summer as the constellation Sirius appears in the sky just before sunrise in late July, I want to challenge you to find new ways to love one another. Reach out, check in, care for each other. Be kind, charitable and considerate. One truth I learn time and again in ministry is that all that really matters in this life is spending time with the ones we love, in the moment. Do that. Do a lot of that. Let go of all the things we tell ourselves are important every day and go spend time with the ones you love. When you do that, you find God. There is something holy and sacred about the love we share with each other that carries the power to restore and renew us.

May the most you wish for be the least you get. May good fortune proceed you; love walk with you and good friends follow you. May your home be a place where friends meet, family gathers, and love grows.

Amen and alleluia,



Pastor Rob



06/02 Pat Rosenak
06/04 Steve Stoll
Sue Toeppler
Olivia C.
06/10 Clo Shumann
06/11 Kayla Jischke
06/12 Stephani Katzman
06/13 Max K.
06/18 Carol Nickels
06/19 Drew Britten-Campbell
06/22 Gary Zurbuchen
Alanna Smith
Lars H.
06/23 Marilyn Kostrzak
06/26 Wayne Dickson

June Wedding Anniversaries

June 6th
Joel and Susan Toeppler
June 14th
Pat and Kathy Mahoney
June 18th
Jenny and Eric Blankenfeld
June 21
Connie and Tom Regazzi
June 22th
Marty and Jenn Abing
June 24th
Bob and Melanie Nault

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:

Ongoing Prayers:
Connie Regazzi, Gay Dickson, Jill Rosenthal, Alanna Smith, Crystal Lingenhag, Larry Olson, Shirl Alix, Tiffany Williams, Dar Schuff, Jerry Hupe.

Homebound:
Judy Doornbos in California, Jim Sell, and Carol Wilcox.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Outdoor Worship

will be

June 15th

Ice Cream Social

July 20th

All church Picnic

***Aug* 17th**

Pet Blessing

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

THE SINGULAR THEY-
An Introduction to Better Understanding GENDER & GENDER IDENTITY



We are excited to welcome Jeff Rabe, on **Sunday, June 1st from 12:00-1:30pm,** to our church where we will be hosting this wonderful workshop. Childcare will be provided by our very own teenagers. Do you have questions Biological Sex, Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression? Want to learn about Gender Terminology and understand the history of Fluidity? This is a safe space for EVERYONE to come together, listen, learn, and ask tough questions so you can feel comfortable opening your heart, lives and community to ALL.

This is open to the community, please invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Share our Facebook Event. https://www.facebook.com/share/16ATHU5TEQ/



COMMUNITY TABLE

Our next meal is June 17th

Sign up on the board in the hallway



Church office Summer Hours

Monday–Thursday

8:45am-12:45pm



Pastor Rob will be o vacation June 2nd–June 5th then will be at Wisconsin Conference Annual meeting at Green Lake June 5th-8th. Please contact the church office if you need pastoral assistance**.**



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

	April	Year to Date
Giving Income	$ 13,898	$ 59,657
Interest + Rents	3,600	14,102
Other Income	60	90
Total Income	$ 17,558	$ 73,849
Expenses	19,068	85,745
Expenses	**$ (1,509)**	**$ (11,896)**



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

PRIDEFEST
JUNE 21, 2025
JONES PARK, APPLETON



Help us showcase our congregation's acceptance, inclusion and extravagant welcome.
Volunteer opportunities abound!
If you would like to volunteer contact Mary Janness malojann@yahoo.com to sign up.

Rain date is June 28.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Special Offering for June

Sleep in Heavenly Peace believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support of a child. There are local children who do not have a bed. This is a national organization, with local affiliates, answering the call to a big, but often unknown, problem. Your donations go directly to building beds and to helping kids in need get off the floor.

This is a new organization for our church We will hear from a representative of this nonprofit group at our June 15 worship service.



CUCCNM: THE CHURCH BY THE LAKE
CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
OCTOBER 25TH

If you or anyone you know would be interested in being a crafter/ vendor for the church by the lake show please contact Amy at Amyboehnlein@gmail.com (put craft show in subject bar)
$25 for an 8 foot table/ Event is on **Saturday, October 25 from 9am to 2pm** Or just mark your calendars and support our crafters / vendors-while getting a start on your holiday shopping!

GRADUATION CELEBRATION



We have 5 High School Graduates; Sam A, Maggie B, Drew B, Izzy H, Nolan S.

They will receive a fleece tie blanket in their high school colors, made by our own Youth Group, from Ministry of Faith Development, on Sunday, June 1st during worship. We are SO proud of you all!

Brat Fry & Bake Sale



We will be hosting our Annual Brat Fry and Bake Sale, featuring the famous Jacob's brats, & hamburgers on **Saturday, June 14th.** Plan to have lunch with us and buy some delicious baked items and help support our youth and families with scholarship opportunities.



DAYCHOLAH CENTER & MOON BEACH CAMPERS

This year we have 13 campers going to Daycholah Center and Moon Beach this summer and fall. There is a mixture of youth campers, & Me campers and Family campers going this summer, we know they will all return with wonderful stories and memories!

Please keep these youth, adults and families in your prayers as they are reunited with friends at their favorite camp this summer. Annabeth H., Diana H., & Jon H., Lars H., Lenny H., Evie J., Sue K & Camryn R., Tyler M., Sophie R., Cassie S., Colin S., Christopher S.

We also have 2 young adults who will be counselors at Daycholah Center this summer; Ethan M & Quinn S have hung up their "Camper" hats and put on their "Counselor" hats! They have a fun and adventurous summer ahead of them.

SUMMER CAMP



Hey Campers of ALL ages!
Summer Camp

It is not too late to register for Summer Camp, go to https://ucci.org/ to find the perfect camp for you, your child, or your family. Camp is for ALL ages, so hurry up and register now! If you need help or have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. ce@cuccnm.org

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Just a reminder, if your child is interested in receiving a camp scholarship a copy of your registration form or receipt must be turned into the Christian Education office. If this is not done it will be assumed by the Camp Scholarship sub ministry that your child does not wish to receive a scholarship award. Most scholarships are 50% of camp cost per recipient. Please email the registration to ce@cuccnm.org

HOMETOWN MISSION TRIP: JUNE 10-12 (CROSS-GENERATIONAL)

We are hosting our very first Hometown Mission Trip this June! This is a cross-generational Mission Trip, we hope to have a great mixture of adults and youth participating in this trip.

To register please fill out this form https://forms.gle/9cAqDZWqb3c7UbDe7 for EACH participant. We prefer for participants to register for the 3 days, but you can register for 1 or 2 days if that is what your schedule allows.

The Mission Trip runs Tuesday, June 10th- Thursday, June 12th from 8:00am-4:30pm, with a picnic (hosted by Habitat For Humanity) at 4:30pm on Thursday, June 12th at Smith Park.

Colorado Springs, CO Mission Trip- Summer 2026 for High School Youth

Any youth, currently in 8th grade- or above , who are interested in going to the Colorado Springs, CO mission trip **June 13th-20th, 2026** needs to be in touch with Alanna & give their downpayment by June 10th, 2025. Please contact Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. We are very excited to serve the community in Colorado Springs, CO!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Are you looking for a VBS for your kids this summer?
First Congregational UCC- Appleton will be hosting an awesome VBS and has invited our youth to join them.





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



RUMMAGE SALE: We are gathering 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) 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	6-1-2025	6-8-2025	6-15-2025	6-22-2025	6-29-2025
Liturgist	Stephanie Vrabec	Marilyn Kostrzak	Sue Knuth	Art Puguh	Signa Meyers
Head Usher	John LaPrairie	Connie Regazzi	Sherri Jischke	Terri Flesburg	Sue Dollhopf
Usher 4	Mary Janness	Wendy Remmel	Sherri Jischke	Bonnie Pozolinski	Wayne Dickson
Usher 2	Jack Fry	Sue Knuth	Pat Mahoney	Alan Gear	Mary Liesch
Usher 3	Cheryl Humleker	Laura Kleist	Colin Stewart	Marcia Fry	Laura Kleist
Refreshments	Paige Puguh	Bonnie Pozolinski	Terri Flesburg	Jack & Marcy Fry	Gay Dickson
Communion Prep	John LaPrairie				

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



Ministry of Spiritual Life would like to continue to offer a time for fellowship and snacks after worship each "W" through "Z" 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:

May: W-Z



JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **10:15 am** Worship **Graduation Sunday** **12:00 pm** **The Singular They**	**2**	**3** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **12:00–2:00pm** **Bags to Benches**	**4**	**5** **6:30 pm** Ministry Council	**6** **Annual Meeting at Green Lake**	**7** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
8 **10:15 am** Worship **11:30 am** Min of Spiritual Life Mtg	**9**	**10** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **8am-4pm Home Town Mission Trip**	**11**	**12**	**13** **Rummage Sale 8:00-3:00**	**14** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA **BRAT Fry/ Bake Sale**
15 **10:15 am** Outdoor Worship OUTDOOR worship	**16**	**17** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **10:30 am** **Community Table** **NO** Bible Study	**18**	**19** **12:00–2:00pm** **Bags to Benches**	**20**	**21** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA **1-8:00pm** **Pride Fest.** Jones Park , Appleton
22 **10:15 am** Worship	**23**	**24** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30pm** Ministry of Stewardship	**25**	**26** **11:30 am** Grief Group	**27**	**28** **7-8:30pm** Horizon II AA
29 **10:15 am** Worship	**30**					



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.

Needlers are taking the summer off!
We will resume in the fall.

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
FIRE KEEPERS DAUGHTER
by Angline Boulley
JUNE 8TH
at Sweet Lair after Church

BAGS FOR BENCHES
1St Tuesday of the Month and 3rd Thursday of month
June 3rd & June 19th
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:
Signa Meyers

Vice Moderator:
Sue Knuth

Secretary:
Chris Parson

Accountant:
Dave Zernicke

Ministry of Faith Development
Becky Nichols

Ministry of Service:
Mary Janness

Ministry of Spiritual Life
Terri Flesburg

Ministry of Stewardship
Jeff Nichols

At Large:
Connie Regazzi
Sherri Jischke
Chuck Luebke

Church Historian:
Mowry Smith

Communication Coordinator
Marilyn Kostrzak

Time and Talent Coordinator:

Personnel Committee
Scott Olson
Marilyn Kostrzak

Pastoral Relations Committee
Kerry Fox, 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



JUNE 1ST
GRADUATION SUNDAY
THE SINGULAR THEY

JUNE 3RD & JUNE 19TH
BAGS TO BENCHES

JUNE 10TH-12TH
HOMETOWN MISSION TRIP

JUNE 13TH & 14TH
RUMMAGE SALE, BRAT & BAKE SALE

JUNE 15TH
OUTDOOR WORSHIP

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE