GLAD TIDINGS!

September 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

Why Church? A New Series Exploring Meaning, Healing, Belonging, and Purpose

In a world where more and more people describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious," the question naturally arises: *Why church?* With so many demands on our time and attention, and with many of us actively trimming our commitments rather than adding new ones, it's worth asking—what does the church have to offer us today? *(HINT: IT ALL BEGINS WITH THE BUTTER-FLIES IN THE SANCTUARY.)*

This September, we're launching a 4-week series titled **"Why Church?"** that invites us to reflect deeply on the role of the church in our lives and in our world. Each week, we'll explore one of four themes—**meaning, healing, belonging, and purpose**—through the lens of the Psalms. These ancient songs of faith still speak with surprising relevance to our modern questions and longings.

We begin with **Psalm 1**, which invites us to consider where we find meaning. In a culture that often equates success with busyness or status, Psalm 1 paints a picture of a life rooted in something deeper delight in God's wisdom and a community that nurtures growth. Church is a place where we're reminded that our lives matter, not because of what we produce, but because of who we are in God's eyes.

Week two brings us to **Psalm 51:1-10**, a raw and honest prayer for healing. We all carry wounds—some visible, some hidden—and the church is meant to be a place where we can bring those hurts into the light and find grace. In a world that often tells us to "keep it together," Psalm 51 shows us that healing begins with confession, vulnerability, and the assurance of God's mercy.

In week three, we turn to **Psalm 113**, a song of praise that lifts-up the lowly and honors the overlooked. This psalm reminds us that church is a place of **belonging**—not just for the powerful or the perfect, but for everyone. In a time when loneliness and isolation are on the rise, the church offers a countercultural community where we are known, loved, and invited to share life together.

Finally, we'll close with **Psalm 146**, which celebrates God's justice and care for the oppressed. This psalm calls us to live with **purpose**, aligning our lives with God's mission in the world.

Continued on next page

Church isn't just a place to receive—it's a place to be sent, to make a difference, to be part of something bigger than us.

So, why church? Because in the midst of our busy, fragmented lives, we need places that help us reconnect—with God, with others, and with our truest selves. We hope you'll join us for this series, whether you've been part of church for years or are just beginning to explore what faith might mean for you. There's a seat for you here. Let's ask the question together—and discover the answers in community.

Amen and alleluia.
Pastor Rob



9/01 Wayde Rogoff
9/02 Amelia G.
9/03 Ebben Libertoski
9/06 Chuck Luebke
9/06 Debra Janda
9/08 Kevin Katzman
9/08 Maddison C.
Jerry Hupe
9/09 Nina H.
Paige Puguh
9/10 Denise Stewart
9/12 Shirl Alix
9/15 Becky Brown
9/20 Carissa Lingenhag
9/21 John Crispin
9/22 Mary Janness
9/23 Matthew K.
9/24 Pat Mahoney
9/26 Carol Wilcox
9/28 Sherri Jischke

September 7th
Katie and Tom Hobart
September 10th
Patty & Len Hoehne
September 11th
Patty and Len Hoehne
September 14th
Abigail and Alex Borgan
September 21st
Alanna and Shane Smith
September 23rd
Gary and Mary Zurbuchen
September 28th
Jack and Marcy Fry

We would like to wish all a happy birthday or anniversary. If your birthday or anniversary was omitted , or you would rather not



Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Ongoing Prayers:

Marrissa Franke, Ann Luebke, Crystal Lingenhag, Larry Olson, Shirl Alix, Tiffany Williams, Dar Schuff, Jerry Hupe.

Homebound:

Judy Doornbos in California, and Carol Wilcox.

CHOIR STARTS SEPTEMBER 3RD



Choir practices will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, starting September 3. This is a great time to join the choir. We have a lot of fun! Please reach out to Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com if you have any questions.



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

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, cooked or donated to our August 19 Community table! The guests all enjoyed a wholesome meal and an hour of cool and comfortable fellowship with each other and with all of us. Thank you to everyone.

Please think about joining us in the fall .Our first meal will be October 21. If you have questions, email me at dickson.anne5@gmail.com

Gay Dickson.

12 9 3
CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

Regular office Hours

resumes September 2nd

Monday–Friday

8:45am-12:30pm



COMMUNITY 1ST FOX CITIES MARATHON SEPTEMBER 21st

Go to the website to see how it affects your route to church.

ttps://foxcitiesmarathon.org/event-maps/



Just a reminder:

If you would like to borrow church property. Please contact Melanie or Pastor Rob so that it can be written down in the Loaned out book . This will let us know where things are if they are missing.

CONGRATULATIONS DAVE!

On August 10th, I had the honor and privilege to honor Dave Zernicke who has been the church Accountant for the past 40+ years.

When I think of Dave, I think of loyalty and institutional knowledge. Not too many people can say they've worked at the same place for 40 years. Dave has.

The other term I mentioned was institutional knowledge. Dave knew the history of the finances of the church.

It was a pleasure to work alongside Dave over the past 10 years, a quarter of his tenure with the church.

Many of you may or may not know that Dave is a huge Chicago Cubs fan. To honor and show our appreciation for Dave, we presented him with a Chicago Cubs jersey. It was a number 40 Rick Sutcliffe Chicago Cubs jersey. It fit perfectly.

I saw Dave at church yesterday, and he was wearing it proudly.

Thanks again, Dave, for all you have done for the church over the past 40+ years.

Jeff Nichols , Chair of Ministry of Stewardship

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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.wcucc.org
Wisconsin Conference

YOU ARE THE HEART OF OUR CHURCH: SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Our church is a living body, and its direction is guided by the people who make it a home. The Ministry Council believes that to truly serve our congregation, we need to listen more intentionally to what matters most to you.
That's why we're moving beyond simply posting our meeting minutes online. We want to hear from you directly about what you personally want to see our church be and do. What brings you here each week? What makes you feel connected? What changes or new ideas would help make your church experience more meaningful?



Starting on the **second Sunday of each month**, we will host an informal will be a chance for you to grab a cup of coffee and sit down with members of the Ministry Council. We want to open the floor to your thoughts, dreams, and suggestions. This isn't a structured meeting; it's a casual, judgment-free zone where we can all listen and learn from each other.

The goal is to create a shared vision for our church's future. We believe that by understanding the diverse needs of our members and visitors, we can better direct our energy and resources to ministries that truly resonate with our church and our community. We look forward to hearing from you!

Signa Meyers . moderator



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

If you or anyone you know would be interested 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!



Pancake Breakfast & Sunday School kick-off!

Join us for an all-church breakfast on Sunday, **September 7th at 9:00am.** Enjoy a delicious breakfast while meeting up with your friends and teachers. Registration forms and church activities calendar will be available. Invite your friends and family for a fun Sunday School kick-off!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School will begin on September 7th! 3k-8th grade attend Sunday School from 10:30am-11:15am, while 9th-12th grade will attend Sunday School from 11:30am-12:15pm. Youth in 3K-8th grade will start the morning off in church with their parents and will be excused to class with their teachers following **The Way**, the children's message. Youth ages 3K-5th grade need to be picked up in their classroom (room 4 & 6) by their guardian. Older youth will be excused to the lounge after class.

There are a few new changes in our Sunday School program for this year.
The 1st Sunday of every month will be **What's the Scoop?** A one-room classroom for youth 3K-12th grade, in Fellowship Hall. Youth will return to worship for Communion.
Classrooms will be divided as follows:

3K-2nd grade- in room 4, taught by high school youth, during worship
3rd-5th grade- in room 6, taught by a rotation of adults, during worship
6th-8th grade- in room 7, taught by 2 adults, during worship
9th-12th grade- in room 7, taught by a rotation of adults, **AFTER worship**

- **1st Sunday**- No after worship class for high school
- **2nd Sunday**- Gospel Project
- **3rd Sunday**- Crosswalk
- **4th Sunday**- Gospel Project or Story Corp Faith Edition
- **5th Sunday**- No after worship class for high school

Why the change in High School Class? If you want to know more CLICK ON THE LINK

Our teachers:

- Abram E, Graham E, Lars H, Tyler M, Ava N, Carl N, Cassie S, Colin S, & Carmen T for **PreK-2nd grade**. Teachers will rotate Sundays, with 2 teachers per Sunday.
- Carissa Lingenhag, Dan Lutz, & Denise Stewart for **3rd-5th grade**. Teachers will rotate Sundays, there will be 1 teacher per Sunday.
- Bryan Engelhardt and Pat Rosenak for **Middle School**. There will be 2 teachers each week.
- Jack Fry, Scott Olson, & Pastor Rob Van Ess for **High School.** There will be 1 teacher per week

Sue Knuth, John LaPrairie, and Paige Puguh for Youth Group and Sheri Jischke will be directing the Youth Christmas Program.

If you see these awesome people, make sure to thank them for all their hard work with our youth! We rotate our teachers allowing them to still enjoy worship 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. We are always looking for more teachers, if you are interested in teaching or subbing any grades email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

REGISTRATION & OTHER FORMS Follow the links below to register for Sunday School and Youth Group. Paper copies we be available at the Pancake Breakfast or email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

Sunday School & Youth Group Registration Form: https://pdf.ac/DTxcIS7z
Middle/High School Covenant: https://pdf.ac/s9tLAochIS
Elementary School Covenant: https://pdf.ac/s9tLAochIS
Travel Release Form: https://pdf.ac/7hN3BR4aR

YOUTH'S MUSICAL TALENTS



Does your youth have a musical talent that they would be willing to share with the congregation? We would love for them to share it, either as an individual or as a group. Please sign up at https://signup.com/go/eNLSCBZ to set up a time to share their talent in worship.

SINGING BOWL TRAINING



All youth are invited to participate in ringing the Singing Bowl at the start of worship. Ringing the Singing Bowl will start our worship each week. Singing Bowl training will be after worship on **Sunday, September 7th.** If your youth cannot make this date, please let Alanna know and we will set up another time. Please sign your youth up to ring the singing bowl https://signup.com/go/ouBnEQZ

ACOLYTE TRAINING



All youth 3rd grade and up are invite to participate in worship as an acolyte. They will bring the light of Jesus into worship, lighting the candles at the front of the sanctuary, at the start of worship and take the light of Jesus out into the world, putting out the candles at the end of worship. If your child would like to be a part of this great tradition, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. Acolyte training will be **Sunday, September 21st** right after worship, we should be done by noon. If your child cannot make this date please let Alanna know and we will set up another time. Please sign up for your youth to acolyte. https://signup.com/go/BmsHdox

FUNDRAISERS FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ministry of Faith Development feels it is extremely important to everyone's faith journey to be able to participate in the wider church and the activities they have. Summer Church Camps, Year-Round Retreats, and Youth Mission Trips are an essential part of learning about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, our community and the world God created. We believe that *everyone* who wants to go to a camp, retreat or youth mission trip should be able and that it is the church's responsibility to make sure they can.

A minimum of 50% scholarship is given, to everyone who applies, for Summer Church Camp and Retreats.

A 100% scholarship is given to *Required* retreats, such as confirmation retreats.

A 75% scholarship is given to Youth Mission Trip participants.

In order to make these scholarships possible Ministry of Faith Development has created a Fundraiser Committee to organize fundraisers and help raise the funds we need. Please thank Kevin Katzman, Sue Knuth, Shanna Krueger, Teri Meylink and Becky Nichols for their hard work!

YOUTH GROUP

Join us on **Friday, September 5th** 6:00-9:00pm, for another fun youth group! Grades 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade will enjoy a light snack, great conversation, and a fun night of Karaoke!

Life of the Church Youth Opportunities

Acolyte Sign Up (3rd grade & up): https://signup.com/go/BmsHdox

Singing Bowl Sign Up (any age): https://signup.com/go/ouBnEQZ

Read in church (4th grade & up): https://signup.com/go/MerrYVS

Communion Shepard (any age): https://signup.com/go/bwYDRnu

Musical Talent (any age): https://signup.com/go/eNLSCBZ



FUNDRAISERS AND COMMUNITY WORK FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday September 20th: Parents' Night Out!

Take advantage of our teenagers to watch your little ones (ages 3+) from 6:00-9:00pm and go out on that much deserved break! A Free-Will Donation will be accepted; all donations will benefit the Fatih Development Fund. Email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org to register. Tell your friends and family!!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars, the youth will be putting on their annual Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 14th!** There will be 2 practices leading up to this date, **Saturday, December 6th 9-12 and Saturday, December 13th 9-12. We will have an additional practice the morning of the program, Sunday, December 14th 9-10am**.

Please let Alanna know if your youth is interested in participating in the program, both spoken and non-spoken parts are available. We understand that life is busy, and youth may not make all of the practices. We will work with the youth to make sure they are able to participate.

YOUTH RETREATS

November 21-23: Knock Knock Retreat at Daycholah Center

An opportunity for middle school youth groups and their leaders to bond as they explore the challenges of those in-between years and beyond.

January 16-18: Winter Soulstice Retreat

This retreat provides space for high school students and young adults of college age to explore who they are and where they are on their faith journey while focusing on the ways we show up in the world and live out our faith.

Let Alanna know if your youth is interested in one of these awesome camps!

MISSION TRIP



June14-19, 2026 the high school youth (finishing 9th grade) will be heading to Colorado Springs, CO for a Youth Mission Trip! (with travel dates: June 13-21). If your youth is interested in joining us, please contact Alanna now. Registration for Colorado Springs, CO is happening now!

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING KIDS KART CLUB



Kids Kart Club is a non-profit club organized by member, Pete Kardong. It is intended for kids aged 7-18 who have an interest in building and racing go-karts. At this club the kids build their own vehicle along with a supervising adult and then race them throughout the summer. The club puts a strong emphasis on doing well and staying in school. Kids Kart Club's mission is to keep kids in school by providing an exciting and interesting alternative to drugs, gangs, and other negative social pressures. This alternative is the assembly, maintenance, and racing of motorized go-karts. Keeping kids in school by providing hands-on mechanical training, teamwork, task accomplishment, job satisfaction, competition, sportsmanship, and recreation is the primary goal of Kids Kart Club. You can learn more about Kids Kart Club here: http://www.kidskartclub.net/

Please give as you can to support this amazing opportunity for kids; your gift will be matched at 50% from the Good Samaritan Fund of the church



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	9-7-2025	9-14-2025	9-21-2025	9-28-2025
LITURGIST	Mary Janness	Kathy Mahoney	Sherri Jischke	John Tschudy
HEAD USHER	John LaPrairie	Terri Flesburg	Connie Regazzi	Sherri Jischke
USHER 2	Wendy Remmel	Bonnie Pozolinski	Marcia Fry	Signa Meyers
USHER 3	Cindy Anderson	Colin Stewart	Mary Liesch	Bonnie Pozolinski
USHER 4	Connie Regazzi	Sue Knuth	Wendy Remmel	Kerry Fox
REFRESHMENTS	Bonnie Pozolinski	Jack & March Fry	Gay Dickson	Ginny Stutzman
COMMUNION PREP	John LaPrairie			



YOU 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 "A" through "C" 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:

October: D-G, **November:** H-J,

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

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





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	**2** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**3** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**4** **6:30 pm** Ministry Council	**5** **6:00pm- 9:00pm** **Youth Group**	**6** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
7 **9:00 am** **Pancake Breakfast** **10:15 am** **Worship:** Bible Sunday What's the Scoop **11:30 am** Singing Bowl Training	**8**	**9** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**10** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**11**	**12**	**13** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
14 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** **H.S. SS Starts** **11:30 am** Min of Spiritual Life **Congregation Conversation**	**15**	**16** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**17** **6:30pm** Adult Choir **6:30pm** MoFD Mtg	**18** **12:00–2:00pm** **Bags to Benches**	**19** **1:00 pm** Needlers	**20** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA **6:00pm- 9:00pm** **Parent Night Out**
21 **Race Day** **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** H.S. SS Crosswalk **11:30 am** Acolyte Training	**22**	**23** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Min of Stewardship	**24** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**25** **11:30 am** **Grief Group**	**26**	**27** **6:00-7:00pm** Horizon II AA
28 **10:15 am** Worship NO Sunday School **11:15am** **Appreciative Inquiry : Define**	**29**	**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 meet the 3rd Friday of the month.
September 19th at 1:00pm

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
THE SCHOOL OF ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS
BY
ERICA BUERMEISTE
OCTOBER 12TH
at Sweet Lair after Church 12:00pm

BAGS FOR BENCHES
3rd Thursday of month
September 18th
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 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

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

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SEPT 7TH
ALL CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS : WHAT'S THE SCOOP
BIBLE SUNDAY

SEPT 14TH
H.S. SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS
CONGREGATION CONVERSATION AFTER WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 18TH
12:00 PM BAGS TO BENCHES

SEPTEMBER 19TH
NEEDLERS

SEPTEMBER 19TH
PARENT NIGHT OUT

SEPTEMBER 25TH
11:30 AM GRIEF GROUP