GLAD TIDINGS!

November 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

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

Hello Church,
Can you feel it? That unmistakable energy in the air each autumn—the way life seems to shift into a new rhythm. There's something about this season that brings both endings and beginnings, old and new, all woven together in a beautiful tapestry. Over time, we've created traditions to help us make sense of it all.

It's more than just the harvest or shorter days. Fall invites us to slow down, travel less, and prepare for winter. The busy pace of summer gives way to a season of reflection, gathering, and waiting. We spend more time with family and community, celebrating holidays and looking ahead to spring, when we'll once again return to cottages, vacations, mission trips, and summer breaks.

This November, our church has its own meaningful rhythms to embrace:

- **Sunday, November 2 – All Saints' Day Worship**
  We'll honor the saints in our lives and remember those we've lost over the past year. Join us for this special service of gratitude and remembrance.
- **Saturday, November 15 – Visioning Meeting #2**
  This is the second of five gatherings in our church's visioning process. We'll review the results of the interviews and surveys currently underway. If you participated in the first meeting on September 28 or have already completed a survey or interview—thank you! If not, please submit your responses by **November 2**.
  These insights will help us refine our focus statement:
  "Growing an inclusive and thriving spiritual community."
  We'll explore what "inclusive" and "thriving" truly mean for us and how they shape our future together. Your voice matters—please consider joining this important conversation as we lay the foundation for our church's goals in the years ahead.
- **Sunday, November 16 – Stewardship Sunday**
  Our annual stewardship campaign, *Dream God's Dream*, concludes as we gather pledges for the coming year. Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully considered their giving. Your support enables us to share God's love with all and sustain our ministries.
  If you haven't yet made your pledge for 2026 or have questions, please reach out to our treasurer Jeff Nichols, myself, or any council member. We'd love to talk with you about how our faith community is living out the gospel in these extraordinary times.

Continued on next page

- **Wednesday, November 26 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship**
  On the evening before Thanksgiving at **6:30 PM**, we'll host the Neenah-Menasha Ministerial Association's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Seven congregations will come together in worship, with our own Jill Rosenthal leading a multi-church choir. Rev. Dr. Niveen from St. Mark's Lutheran Church will preach, and we'll be joined by clergy and members from Gloria Dei Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran, St. Gabriel's Catholic, St. Patrick's Catholic, and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches.
- **Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent & Hanging of the Greens**
  After worship, we'll decorate the church for Christmas during our annual Hanging of the Greens. This marks the **174th First Sunday of Advent** for our congregation—what a legacy! Come help us hang evergreens and reflect on the generations who've done so before us. We are part of a much larger story, one that continues to share God's grace and mercy with all.
  Everyone is welcome. We're so glad you're here.

Let's embrace the rhythms of our shared life—our traditions, our conversations, our remembering, and our dreaming. May the Spirit guide us in new ways as we seek the Risen Christ within and among us.

Amen and Alleluia!
Pastor Rob



11/02 Stephanie Groom
11/03 Ruth Kobinsky
11/03 Myles C.
11/04 Aubryn Stinson
11/08 Jon Hintz
11/10 Katie Hobart
11/20 Lucas Abing.
11/26 Sirena Thompson
11/28 Dennis Libertoski
11/29 Ann Luebke

November Anniversaries

Nov 8th
Chris and Darrell Parson

Nov 18th
Carrissa 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:

Ongoing Prayers:

Dave Zernicke, Larry Olson, Crystal Lingenhag, Ann Luebke, Shirl Alix, Tiffany Williams, Dar Schuff

Homebound:

Jerry Hupe, Judy Doornbos in California, and Carol Wilcox.

CHOIR PRACTICE



Choir practices are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, 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.



Our choir will be one of 7 choirs joining together to sing at the ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service, here at CUCCNM on **Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 pm**. If you would like to sing in the ecumenical choir, please reach out so that I can get you music and a rehearsal schedule.

COMMUNITY TABLE



Thank you to all who helped at the meal and donated money and food to make this meal available to approximately 100 people. The need is great and our church does a great job in helping provide a warm meal every other month

Next Community Table will be on December 16th…….
watch for sign up sheets in November.

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: Let's Do It Again In November!

We had a spectacular turn out at our first gathering in September. Thank you to everyone who attended; it was wonderful to see so many of you engaged in conversation about our church's future! You can still get involved even if you weren't able to come to the first meeting. Our next gathering will be from 3-8:00 PM on Saturday, November 15. This session will focus on the Discovery step of our process. We'll begin identifying our strengths, achievements, opportunities, and assets. This is one of our longer events, so dinner will be served. Childcare will also be provided. Click here Appreciative Inquiry to reserve your spot today!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



2025 will mark the 17th year of the Community Christmas Dinner of Neenah/Menasha. This year's dinner will be held on **Saturday, December 13th** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall. There are many elements to this event that all culminate in a wonderful day! The following are ways our church will be able to help.

VOLUNTEERS….see the sign up sheets for times and dates. Any help is appreciated!



DONATIONS….we are collecting large tubes of toothpaste, pies and cookies. There is a cart for the toothpaste near the board in the hall and a sign of up sheets for the pies and cookies.

DRIVERS….to deliver meals to a few of our church members. Sign up sheets on the bulletin

CHURCH EXTERIOR KEYS CHANGED TO FOBS



We are changing our exterior keys to key fobs for a more secure building. If you have a exterior key, please bring it to Kevin Shumann or church office, you will be given a key fob. The outside keys will be rekeyed soon so make sure you are not locked out! This is **ONLY** for exterior keys. The interior keys will still work.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



HANGING OF THE GREENS
November 30th,

Everyone is invited to stay after Church to help with Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday, November 30th.** The more people we have helping, the quicker we'll get done.



On **Saturday , November 29th at 1:00** we will be setting up the church Christmas Tree. We need a few strong people to help in setting up the tree. The more people we have the quicker it will go. Please contact the church office or Terri Flesburg if you are available to help. Thank you!

Veteran's Day is Tuesday Nov. 11th.



A Veterans tree will be set up in the Narthex starting Oct 26th Blank ornaments will be available to 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.

DONATION OF STOCKS TO CUCCNM



If you choose to give stocks to CUCCNM as a part of your donation please make that your let the church office know of your donation. I can give you the information that you will need. Melanie Nault office@cuccnm.org



Our annual **Fall Clean Up** project this year is planned for **9:00 AM on Saturday Nov 8th**. We will be gathering leaves and yard debris in the Labyrinth area, LE Playground, and west side yard and getting it all to the curb for City pickup. Bring your favorite rake and a tarp if you have one. It's **important** we know in advance if you can help so we can let you know of any changes or cancellation due to weather conditions. Please email Kevin Shumann at kevin.shumann@gmail.com if you can join us. Your help is sincerely appreciated.



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



As your **Church Moderator**, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone participating in our **Appreciative Inquiry process**. If you've attended a meeting or completed the survey, please know that your commitment is deeply valued. We need and appreciate every opinion as we discern the future direction of our church. Let's keep this great **momentum going**!

The Balance: Tradition and New Possibility

The **Church by the Lake** is blessed with a long and beautiful line of **tradition**. Our history and heritage are the bedrock of our community.

Yet, we also know that new families and individuals are seeking new things. Our ongoing task is to find the **balance**: How do we honor our vital traditions while making room for the wonderful **new possibilities** that lie ahead?

This journey of balance won't always be easy. It may mean that some things we've always done will shift to make space for what is possible. Grappling with this is a shared effort, but it ensures our church remains a dynamic, welcoming, and relevant home for all.

Let's continue this work together with courage and optimism. The future of the Church by the Lake is being built by us!

In Gratitude,

Signa Meyers, Moderator

TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS



It is that time of year again. Poinsettia sales will start soon. Order forms will be available on the welcome center, bulletin and weekly email. This year the proceeds will go to the Church Dinner fund. You can have the poinsettia decorate the church or you can pick it up when they are delivered. We ask that they be taken home after worship on Christmas Eve. All orders will need to be to the church office by November 30th .

4 ½ Inch (Red, White, Pink)			$12.00
6 ½ Inch (Red, White, Pink, Marble)			$20.00
8 Inch (Red, White)			$33.00
10 Inch (Red, White)			$48.00



Sunday School in November

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. To register for Sunday School, email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

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- Join What's the Scoop?
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

No Sunday School on November 30th

YOUTH GROUP



Join us on **Friday, November 7th from 6:00-9:00pm**, for another fun youth group! Tie Blankets for Community Christmas Dinner. A light snack will be served. ALL ARE WELCOME- PLEASE BRING A FRIEND!! If you want more information, email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org

HOLY PIZZA!

Our 4th annual homemade pizzas, Holy Pizza, is underway! If you would like to volunteer to make the pizzas, sign up here
(Go to Saturday, November 8th to sign up for Holy Pizza, pizza making)





If you ordered Pizza please remember

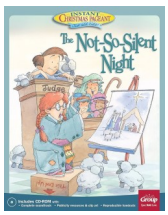
TO PICK UP YOUR PIZZA AT 12:00 PM ON NOV 8TH

UNICEF/HALLOWEEN PARTY



We had a great turnout, over 50 people, for the UNICEF/Halloween party on Sunday, October 19th. Thank you to everyone who helped make the UNICEF/ Halloween party possible and raise money for UNICEF. Between the dinner and pumpkin judging we will be donating $220.00 to UNICEF! The winners of the pumpkin judging prizes go to Sam B, Ava & Cassie, and Camryn! Congratulations!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



This year's Youth Christmas Program *The Not-So-Silent Night* *will be held* ***on Sunday, December 14th*** *during* worship (10:15-11:15). We will have **3 practices** leading to the performance. **Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 6th 9:00-12:00, Saturday, December 13th from 9:00-12:00**. We will also ask the youth to be at church for a final run-through on Sunday, December 14th at 9:00am. Please email Alanna if your youth would like a part in the program, speaking & non-speaking parts are available.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



If your child would like to share their talent with the congregation on Sunday, December 14th, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. We welcome youth of all ages, talents, songs and instruments of any kind to share

COOKIE WALK



Our 2nd annual Cookie Walk will be Sunday, December 14th after the Children's Christmas Program. 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 13th)

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!

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 contact Alanna or Jill at jellenrosen@gmail.com or sign up here to set up a time to share their talent in worship.

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



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, and help with fundraisers. Email Alanna if you are interested in helping with any of the youth programs. ce@cuccnm.org



KNOCK KNOCK CAMP

KNOCK KNOCK-
WHO'S THERE?
CAMP.
CAMP WHO?

Don't you want to go to camp ***November 21st-23rd****?*
Knock Knock is an awesome retreat for 6th-8th grade students at Daycholah Center. Throughout the weekend, youth will explore the challenges and opportunities middle school youth face through the lens of faith. We'll focus on navigating changes in relationships (family and friends), dealing with the "tough stuff" today's teens experience, exploring the influence we have on those around us, and we'll enjoy some fun and games! Rev. Jacob Nault will inspire and encourage us through music and worship.

Check-in for the retreat begins at 7 pm on Friday, Nov. 21st. The program will begin at 8 pm. The retreat ends at 11:30 am on Sunday, Nov.23rd.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 5, 2024 ($250/person)

If your youth is interested in attending email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org and following this link to register. **Knock Knock Registration**

Here at CUCCNM, we believe camps and retreats are a VERY important part of our Christian Faith. So much so that we will help pay up to 50% of the registration fee! Let me know if your child is interested in this awesome camp.

Note: Rev. Jacob Nault, who is leading music and worship, is one of our own, he grew up in this church- just like you are!



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	11-2-2025	11-9-2025	11-16-2025	11-23-2025	11-30-2025
Liturgist	Jack Fry	Mary Liesch	Wayne Dickson	Jack Fry	Anthony Britten-Campbell
Head Usher	Terri Flesburg	Sherri Jischke	John LaPrairie	Gay Dickson	Connie Regazzi
Usher 4	Marcy Fry	Ginny Stutzman	Nicky Banks	Sue Knuth	Wendy Remmel
Usher 2	Wendy Remmel	Mary Janness	Pat Mahoney	Leon Flesburg	Signa Meyers
Usher 3	Signa Meyers	Cindy Anderson	Colin Stewart	Kerry Fox	Laura Kleist
Refreshments	Connie Regazzi	Mary & Ralph	Ginny Stutzman	Page Puguh	Terri Flesburg
Acolyte	Lizza H.	Anna Beth H.	Christopher S.	Evie J.	Carl N.
Singing Bowl	Callie P.	Garrett L.	Colin S.	Sophie R.	Ava N.
Youth Reader	Anna Beth H.	Dylan L.	Aubryn S,	Chloe R.	Ava N.
Communion Shepherds	The Homan's	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Communion Prep	Sherri Jischke	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



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 "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



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 **Day light Saving Ends**
2 **10:15 am** **Worship:** Bible Sunday What's the Scoop	**3**	**4** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**5** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**6** **6:30pm** Ministry Council	**7** **6:00pm- 9:00pm** **Youth Group**	8 **7:30 am** **Pizza Making** **9:00am** **Yard Clean up** **12:00 pm** **Pizza Pick up**
9 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** **H.S. SS S** **Congregation Conversation**	**10**	**11** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**12** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**13**	**14**	**15** **3:00-8:00pm** Appreciative Inquiry / Discovery
16 **Commitment Sunday** **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** **H.S. SS Crosswalk**	**17**	**18** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study	**19** **6:30pm** Adult Choir	**20**	**21**	**22**
23 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K- 8th **11:30am-12:15pm** **H.S. SS Gospel Project**	**24**	**25** **8:30 am** Discussion Group **11:00 am** Bible Study **6:30 pm** Min of Stewardship	**26** **6:30 pm** **Community Thanksgiving Service at CUCCNM**	**27** **Thanksgiving** 	**28** **Church office Closed**	**29** **1:00 pm** **Setting up Christmas Tree**
30 **10:15 am** Worship No Sunday School **11:15 am** **Hanging of the greens**						



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.
November 21st 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

Clock Dance by Ann Tyler

Sunday, January 4

At Sweet Lair after church service

Copies will be available at church

BAGS FOR BENCHES

3rd Thursday of month
November 20th
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

Congregational United Church of Christ
of Neenah / Menasha
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
Neenah, Wi 54956
920-725-4873
www.cuccnm.org
office@cuccnm.org



NOV 8TH
YARD CLEAN UP
PIZZA MAKING
PIZZA PICK UP

NOV 15TH
APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY: DISCOVERY

NOV 16TH
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

NOV. 26TH
COMMUNITY ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

NOV 29TH
SET UP CHRISTMAS TREE

NOV 30 TH
1ST DAY OF ADVENT
HANGING OF THE GREENS

MORE INFORMATION INSIDE