GLAD TIDINGS!

April 2026

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!
As we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 5), I have been reflecting on how the gift of eternal life resembles a Christmas tree—not just any Christmas tree, but the tall, beautiful 14-, 16-, even 18 foot real trees that grace our sanctuary every holiday season.
Yesterday I learned of the passing of a woman I never had the privilege of meeting, yet I find myself both grieving and grateful for her life. On March 12, 2026, Nancy Stuyvenberg died at the age of 90 years, 9 months, and 5 days. She lived a beautiful life rooted in her family, her faith, and her many acts of service. She served as Deputy Clerk for the Village of Kimberly, worked as an election officer, volunteered with the Kimberly Historical Society, Holy Spirit (Holy Name) Parish, and the Girl Scouts. She and her husband Paul also started a Christmas tree farm in Bowler, Wisconsin, selling trees from their home in Kimberly for 53 years.

Our connection to Nancy began eighteen years ago with one of those Christmas trees from Bowler. Her generosity intersects with our story through church member Kevin Shumann—and through the memory of Nancy's aunt, Marion Hagenson, who died in 2015 at the age of 102. Marion was a longtime member of Congregational United Church of Christ in Neenah, first attending the old Menasha church on Broad Street. She served on committees, visited shut ins, and drove others to church well into her nineties. Kevin remembers how this unexpected connection came to light:

"Every year our Christmas tree is donated by Nancy Stuyvenberg from Kimberly, in Bowler, WI. She donates a tree of our choosing in remembrance of her aunt, Marian Hagenson, a long time church member. I know Nancy from watching her grandson and my son play baseball together—at Ripon College and later with the Menasha Mac's.
We didn't realize the connection with Marian until I tagged along up to Bowler with my son one Saturday to help the family cut Christmas trees for sale in Nancy's yard in Kimberly. Out on the tree farm I noticed a good stand of taller trees that had grown too tall to sell. Afterward, while spending time around the cabin, I asked what it would take to get one of those tall trees for our church.

Nancy was open to the idea and mentioned that her aunt had attended a church in Neenah. I explained who we were, and Nancy said, 'That was my aunt's church.' After a few rounds of 'Are you kidding me?' and 'What a small world,' she told us that her aunt's church could have a tree—free of charge—for the foreseeable future. All we needed to do was help cut it down and bring it home on our own trailer.
Merry Christmas, Kevin

Continued on next page

Nancy's annual gift honored her Aunt Marian during the last eight years of Marian's life—a gesture of affection, gratitude, and respect. Continuing the tradition for the ten years since Marian's passing has honored not only her memory but also the shared commitments that shaped both women: their faith, their service, and their desire to help others without expecting anything in return.

One woman honoring another, both inspired by Jesus—and all of us blessed because of it. We will never know how many people were comforted by Marian's visits or how many Girl Scouts were shaped by Nancy's leadership. Nor can we count the number of children who stared up in wonder at "the biggest tree they've ever seen" on Christmas Eve, or how many curious visitors have asked us, "How do you even get that thing in here?"
Some say we live only as long as someone remembers us—that immortality is measured in memory. Perhaps that is part of what we see as Nancy remembers Marian. But Jesus promises something far greater: eternal life for all who believe in him and follow his teachings. This promise is central to the Gospels—a gift of salvation, a life with God now, and a future free from death, pain, and sorrow.

As we move from the season of Lent into the fifty great days of Easter, we will reflect on this promise of eternal life—what it is, why it matters, and how it reshapes our lives as followers of Jesus.
I will share the link to Nancy's obituary below. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family and all who loved her. We remain deeply grateful for her generosity and for the yearly tribute she offered to her Aunt Marian.

Amen and alleluia,
Pastor Rob
https://www.wichmannfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/nancy-stuyvenberg





4/01 Paula Botten
4/06 Tim Montour
4/13 Emily Nault
4/17 Sharon Swatscheno
4/18 Gary Bezella
4/21 Graham E.
Alex A.
4/24 Ginny Stutzman
4/26 Jack Fry
4/27 Petie Agnew
4/28 Pat Katzman
4/29 Christopher Meyer

Wedding Anniversaries

April 5th
Anthony & Molly Britten-Campbell
April 13th
Don and Laurie Kleist
Amy and Wayde Rogoff

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:

Sherri Jischke, Patty Hoehne, Adam Anderson, Dave Zernicke, Crystal Lingenhag, Ann Luebke, Larry Olson, Shirl Alix, Tiffany Williams, Dar Schuff, Jerry Hupe.

Homebound:

Judy Doornbos in California, and Carol Wilcox.



CHOIR PRACTICE FOR

MONTH OF APRIL

April 1st (5:30),

April 8th, 22nd and 29th at 6:30 pm

NO practice on April 15th

Choir will be singing in church

April 5th, 3rd and 19th .

WE ARE GETTING NEW FLOORS!

We will have Worship in the sanctuary on April 12th



The week of April 13th our floors are being abated.

Building will not be accessible

We will have Worship in the sanctuary on April 19th

The week of April 20th our new flooring will be installed.



Building will not be accessible .

We will have Worship in the sanctuary on April 26th

While the building is not accessible We all will be working from home. The phone will be checked at least once a day.

Please email us:
Office @cuccnm.org
ce@cuccnm.org
Pastor@cuccnm.org after (April 20th)



COMMUNITY TABLE

Thanks you to everyone who cooked, donated and worked at the February CT! We served 93 meals. It's always so rewarding to see everyone enjoying a meal and fellowship with old and new friends. The guests are so appreciative of everything the Community Table has to offer which includes give aways of non perishable food.

Our next date to serve is April 21st.....mark your calendar to help with this important ministry of our church.

We still have a few spots to fill.



Pastor Rob will also be gone April 10th & 11th at Annual Meeting in Green lake .



Pastor Rob is on vacation April 13th through 19th. If you are in need of pastoral assistance please contact Melanie by email office@cuccnm.org to get in touch with pastor on call.

When Pastor Rob returns from vacation he will also be working from home. Email him at pastor@cuccnm.org



Maundy Thursday Service

At St. Pauls' Lutheran Church

200 N Commercial St, Neenah

April 2nd at 7:00 pm



Good Friday

Youth Lead Service

April 3rd at CUCCNM

7:00 pm

HOUSE 401, LET'S GET IT DONE!



CUCCNM has a long tradition of involvement with Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat For Humanity (see article below). From its very beginning 34 years ago in our church lounge, members have actively raised funds for Habitat homes and participated in a number of builds including houses 1, 101, 201, and 301. Now it's time to once again come together and dedicate our time and treasure to the building of House 401!

A group of CUCCNM members have been meeting for several months to plan for fundraising and building the 401 house. We are guided by Habitat for Humanity Fox Valley as they orchestrate all the details of a successful build. The build will occur in Neenah or Menasha and take place early in spring 2027, exact build dates can't be provided at this time. In the meantime, we are intent on building excitement for the build, raising the necessary funds, and collaborating with the broader Neenah Menasha community.

We are off to a great start in our effort to raise $100,000 toward the build. **We have seed money totaling $10,000 saved from previous fundraising for Habitat for Humanity and we have commitments from several key donors totaling $20,000 in the form of matching gifts. We welcome everyone's participation to donate now and double your gift through this match opportunity.**

Donate online or by check in ways listed below. For a gift of stock, one of the most tax efficient ways to give, please contact staff at the church or at Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity (920) 954-8702.

1. CUCCNM online via website (CUCCNM pays a 4% service fee)
   a. Click GIVE in the upper right corner
   b. Scroll down and enter an amount
   c. Continue to scroll down and click under "Would you like this donation to go to a specific fund?" Select "Habitat"
   d.. Continue to scroll to enter payment information
2. Send a check made out to CUCCNM (no service fee charged)
   a. Write "Habitat 401 House" on the memo line
   b. Mail to: 1511 Nicolet Blvd, Neenah WI 54956
3. Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity online via website
   a. Click DONATE in the upper right corner
   b. Choose an amount and click Donate Now
   c. Enter your information and write "For CUCCNM Habitat 401House" in the comment box
4. Send a check to Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity
   a. Write CUCCNM Habitat 401House on the memo line
   b. Mail to: Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity
   921 Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

April 5th - During Service - Habitat House 401 Campaign Launch

April 22nd at 5:00 PM - House 401 Planning Meeting #3 - Join Us - at Luigi's at 5:00.
Contact Stephanie Vrabec stephvrabec@gmail.com if you have Questions

May 23rd 10:00 am - 6:00 pm- Neenah Festival Foods (Green Bay Rd) Brat Fry - show up to support House 401. Volunteer by contacting Kevin Shumann (kevin.shumann@gmail.com) or Petie Agnew (petieagnew2@icloud.com)

HOW THE GREATER FOX CITIES AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BEGAN RIGHT HERE ON DOTY ISLAND

By Dar Schuff, Don Kleist, and R. Van Ess

The Neenah–Menasha Habitat story began with one person—Ken Nichols, a young member of Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah Menasha. While volunteering on a house renovation with the Oshkosh Habitat Affiliate, Ken sensed a calling. As a member of the Board of Mission and Stewardship, he asked to be placed on the agenda in April 1992 to share an idea. That idea changed everything.

The Board met in the home of a member that evening, unaware that something remarkable was beginning to take root. As Zechariah 4:10 reminds us, *"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."* And so, He did. The Board unanimously agreed to explore forming a Habitat for Humanity affiliate.
By May, letters went out to churches and organizations across Neenah and Menasha inviting them to consider the vision. Hand delivered invitations even reached Neenah Mayor Margie Carpenter and Menasha Mayor Joe Laux—who was himself a member of Congregational UCC.

On June 15, 1992, representatives from the community filled the church lounge. That night, Habitat Neenah-Menasha was born. What started as a spark in one Doty Island congregation quickly became a movement fueled by many. For example, Don Kleist later recalled that much of the work on House 1 was completed by members from across the community including many volunteers from Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Commercial Street.

In the early years, Congregational UCC became the organizing hub, with members taking on key leadership roles. Ken Nichols served as the first Board President. After the affiliate was approved, he stepped away, and leadership passed to others: Don Kleist as President, Marilyn Kostrzak as Secretary, Carla Rabe as Treasurer, and several additional UCC members serving on committees. Barry Christenson and John Bleaukamp supervised construction. Two years later, the hiring of Jean Stoeger as parttime Director helped propel the mission forward.

By the end of 1992, the Neenah–Menasha Area Habitat for Humanity was awaiting state approval as a nonprofit organization. The Board's Annual Report described their year with words like *challenging, rewarding, exciting,* and *creative*—the hallmarks of a mission that had found its purpose.

In May 1993, the City of Neenah offered a house near Cook Park, with one condition—it had to be moved. Our church stepped forward to tackle House Number One. It was no small task. The two story house needed a new lot, and when one wasn't available, a block grant allowed the purchase of land on South Oak Street. The second story was ultimately removed, and the house was completed in the spring of 1994.

Then came a milestone: on February 3, 1993, the Neenah–Menasha Area Habitat for Humanity was officially approved as an affiliate. Eventually, it expanded into what we now know as the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity. In the decades that followed, new homes rose from the ground, and our church continued to play a meaningful role—sponsoring House 101 (2009), House 201 (2015), and House 301 (2021). And now, once again, the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.

In early spring 2027, our congregation will partner once more in sponsoring House Number 401. This is your invitation to be part of a legacy of hope, generosity, and community transformation. Whether you want to swing a hammer, provide meals, support the project financially, or simply learn more, your participation matters. Join us at the planning meeting 5:00 PM, April 22nd.

House 401 – Let's get it done!



As the frost thaws and the first signs of April begin to emerge, there is a palpable sense of renewal in the air—not just in the world around us, but within the very heart of our church.

This spring marks a significant milestone for our congregation. We have officially wrapped up our series of visioning sessions. Using the process of **Appreciative Inquiry**, we looked deeply at our strengths and shared dreams to map out where we are headed next. I am incredibly proud of the hard work, honesty, and creativity shown by everyone who participated. Your voices are the foundation of the road map we are building together.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes to **Marilyn Kostrzak, Becky Nichols, and Chris Parson**. Their leadership and dedication throughout this process were instrumental in helping us navigate these conversations and distill our collective hopes into a clear path forward.

Putting Vision into Action

We are now moving from the "dreaming" phase into the "doing" phase. It is time to put our vision into action! There is so much to be excited about regarding what our church has to offer.

Speaking of renewal, have you heard? We are getting **new floors!** Talk about the ultimate spring cleaning. This update is a vital part of our ongoing commitment to enhance our building, ensuring our space is truly welcoming, modern, and accessible to every person who walks through our doors.

Looking Ahead

Our goal remains clear: to ensure we are the "new church by the lake" for generations to come—serving our congregation, our local community, and the world at large.

If you were unable to attend the sessions but would like to learn more about the results of our visioning process, please reach out to me directly. I would love to connect you with the information and share the excitement of what's next.

As we embrace this season of growth, I hope you feel the same energy and optimism for our future that I do.

Be well,

Signa Meyers *Moderator*

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

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	4-5-2026	4-12-2026	4-19-2026	4-26-2026
Liturgist	John Tschudy	Marilyn Kostrzak	Mary Janness	Mary Liesch
Head Usher	Sue Dollhopf	Terri Flesburg	Connie Regazzi	Sherri Jischke
Usher 4	Mary Janness	Darrell Parsons	Gay Dickson	Alan Gear
Usher 2	Wendy Remmel	Debi Brandenburg	Laura Kleist	Leon Flesburg
Usher 3	Gary Joosten	Signa Meyers	Wayne Dickson	Sue Knuth
Refreshments	Mary Janness	No Refreshments	No Refreshments	John LaPrairie
Acolyte	Annabeth H	Cassie S.	Garrett L.	Lenny H.
Singing Bowl	Ava N.	Calli P.	Dylan L	Liza H.
Reader	Matthew K.	Carmen T.	Dylan L	Lars or Lena
Music	Annabeth H & Olin			
Communion Shepherd	Matthew K & Carl N.			
Communion	Terri Flesburg			



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

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 "T –V" 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





SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING APRIL

Sunday School is during worship; the youth will be excused after The Way (children's message). Due to the construction, we will be meeting in the North end of Fellowship Hall.

April 5th: No Sunday School- Easter
April 12th: Youth ages 3K-12th grade will meet together to plan a youth-led community service for Service Sunday
April 19th: Youth ages 3K-12th grade will meet together to plan the youth-led worship service on May 3rd.
April 26th: Youth ages 3K-12th grade will meet together to plan the youth-led worship service on May 3rd.

MISSION TRIP- COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



Mission Trip- Colorado Springs, CO

Our High School youth will be traveling to Colorado Springs June 13–21, 2026! You can support their journey through direct donations or by joining their upcoming fundraisers.

Fundraisers for the Faith Development Fund:

Help support the Faith Development Fund, giving scholarships to our youth, adults, and families to be able to enjoy summer camps, weekend retreats and youth mission trips.



Tuesday, April 14 • Culver's in Neenah • 5-8pm 15% of all profits—including gift card sales—will support Camp Scholarships. All tips go directly to the fund as well.



Saturday, April 18 • Parents Night Out • 6-9pm Bring your kids (ages 3 years–5th grade) to church for an evening of fun while our teens provide childcare. A free will donation will be accepted for the Scholarship program. Invite your friends! RSVP to Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org



Saturday, April 25 • Brat Fry at Festival Foods in Neenah • 11am-6pm All profits and tips will support the Scholarship program. We need help for the April 25th Brat Fry at Festival. Please sign up here or email Alanna ce@cuccnm.org with the shift(s) you want.



Youth Group (grades 6th-12t)

Friday, April 3 will meet at the church from 5:30–8:00 PM. We'll begin the evening by rehearsing for the Good Friday worship service, enjoy a pizza dinner, and then close the night by participating in the youth led Good Friday worship.



Friday, May 1 Oshkosh Escape Room Trip Youth Group will be heading to the Oshkosh Escape Room! Please RSVP to Alanna TODAY so we can reserve enough rooms and ensure we have enough drivers. We are asking for $5 per youth to help offset the cost.



Hey Campers of ALL ages!

Whether you're a long time camper or brand new, Daycholah, Moon Beach, and Cedar Valley have something for everyone. Camp registration is now open and You can find the full camp schedule and register online at **www.ucci.org**. Your kids have also received a personalized family calendar highlighting the camps that best fit your family's schedule.

Camps are available for ages **4 to 104**, plus there are a variety of family camp options. **Scholarships are available for all campers.** Once your camper is registered, please email a copy of the registration to Alanna so the scholarship process can begin. Email: **ce@cuccnm.org**

If you have questions about camp or need help deciding which session is the best fit for you or your child, feel free to call or email Alanna.

Exciting Camp News

3 members of our church, Maggie Balogh Ethan Meylink, and Quinn Smith, will be working at Daycholah Center as Camp Counselors this summer! We are so very proud of the three of them. Quinn has been going to camp at Daycholah Center since he was 4 and Ethan and Maggie started at age 7. They all loved camp so much they decided to continue their experience as camp counselors. Parents, if you have been considering camp but are concerned about your child not knowing anyone at camp, this is the summer to send them! There will be familiar faces at camp, they could possibly even be your kid's counselor!

Camp AweSum

CAMP AWESUM!

Camp AweSum is open to all 14 and older. They will experience a week of great fun at Moon Beach as they assist families with children of the Autism Spectrum. Diana Hintz will be chaperoning a group August 2nd-8th, please contact Alanna if you are interested in going at ce@cuccnm.org. If these dates do not work for you and would like to attend a different week, let me know, perhaps we can plan 2 weeks to volunteer at this AweSum camp!

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **5:30 pm** Adult Choir **6:30pm** Ministry Council	**2** **7:00 pm** **Maundy Thursday Service** at St. Paul's Neenah	**3** **7:00 pm** **Good Friday** Service At CUCCNM Youth Group helps with service	**4**
5 **EASTER** **10:15 am** **Worship:** **No Sunday School**	**6**	**7** **11:00 am** Bible Study at Shellattes	**8** **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**9** **Wisconsin Conf Annual Meeting**	**10**	**11**
12 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K– 8th	**13** **CUCCNM Floors being abated : Building will not be accessible**	**14** No Bible Study	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**
19 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K– 8th	**20** **CUCCNM NEW FLOORS BEING INSTALLED Building will not be accessible**	**21** No Bible Study	**22** **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**23**	**24**	**25** **8am –7:00pm** **Brat Fry at Festival Neenah**
26 **10:15 am** Worship S.S. 3K– 8th	**27**	**28** **11:00 am** Bible Study at Shellattes	**29** **6:30 pm** Adult Choir	**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!



BAGS TO BENCHES AND NEEDLERS
will **NOT** Meet in April due to the floors being redone. More info to come for the May dates



APRIL BIBLE STUDY
April 7th and 28th will be held at **Shellattés Café**
330 N Commercial St, Neenah, WI 54956
Meeting Time: 11:00 AM
There will be **NO Bible Study** on April 14th & 21st.

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.



ALL CHURCH EVENT



RUMMAGE SALE



Friday, June 12
and
Saturday, June 13
Items may be dropped off on the Fellowship Hall stage beginning May 18.
Talk to Cindy Anderson or Mary Janness



BAKE SALE

Saturday, June 13

Contact Alanna Smith to donate or volunteer



BRAT FRY
Saturday, June 13
See Connie Regazzi to donate



PLANT SALE

Friday, June 12 &
Saturday, June 13
Contact Mary Liesch



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
Dan Jischke

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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of Neenah / Menasha
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APRIL 2ND

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
at ST Paul's Church , Neenah

APRIL 3RD
7:00pm Good Friday Service at CUCCNM

April 5th
Easter
No Sunday School

April 21st
Community Table

April 13th-17th
April 20th -24th
CUCCNM Floors being abated /New Floors put in :
Building will not be accessible

Worship Services will be held at CUCCNM
on April 12th, 19th & 26th