

THE WORD



**NEKOOSA UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
(THE CHURCH BY THE BRIDGE)
REV. TIMOTHY MILLER,
PASTOR
205 MARKET STREET
NEKOOSA, WI 54457
715 886-3371

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWS WORSHIP

OFFICE HOURS: MON – FRI
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

PASTOR'S HOURS: MON
12:00 NOON – 6:00 PM
TUES – THUR
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

EMAIL:

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pastor@nekoosaucc.com

WEB SITE:

www.nekoosaucc.com



MARCH 2018

THERE'S ALWAYS ONE

Last week we had a beautiful warm and sunny day here in the big city of Nekoosa. I went for a walk to the bank and then down to Beavers to get a few things I needed. It was 35 degrees according to the bank sign and water drops were dripping off of rooftops and cars, and from anywhere that the sun was coming in contact with. I'll admit that I wasn't wearing my coat even though the breeze was giving me chills. It wasn't my fault for you see the sunshine, blue sky, and the melting ice and snow tricked my body into thinking it was May. On my way to Beavers I was strutting down the sidewalk like a proud tom turkey but on the way back to the church, covered in goosebumps, I felt more like a silly goose.

Then it happened, the one in every crowd person, got out of his car and walked into the bank wearing a t-shirt, hi-top shoes, and shorts! Even with goosebump-covered arms I suddenly felt overdressed for the spring like occasion that was going on. I'm sure that Mother Nature will try to trick us into believing that spring has sprung a few more times before it really happens. Just think how many times that you saw tulips or other plants digging out of the cold soil reaching for the warmth of the sun, only to get a blanket of cold snow or ice thrown on top of them? The temptations that spring brings with it are...well, tempting.

We are sick of winter, sick of snow and ice, of cold car seats and scraping windshields off, and sick of looking ridiculous as we try to recover from the tailspin we find ourselves in after slipping on black ice on the sidewalk just as a couple cars are driving by watching. The temptation to believe it's spring is growing as fast as the sun's warmth is. We are hitting the middle of the Lenten season this month and the temptation to end the contemplation and the giving things up or adding things to our lives for lent is growing in strength daily.

I hope we all remain strong willed and give the Lenten season the respect and time that it deserves. For everything there is a season, and until Easter comes with its Alleluias, Halleluiahs, and white flowers, we must muddle along in our seriousness and repentive darkness. Let us remember what the scripture of James 1 says, ***“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing”.*** *cont.*

Let's let spring take its time and to run its course;
and let's let our faiths take its own time
contemplating and then re-adjusting the sails.
This will ensure that we are not running around
in the cold in our t-shirts and shorts in the winter
time of our souls. Spring time does come.

God's peace and loving warmth be with you,
Pastor Tim



Your help is needed at SWEPS (The South Wood County Emerging Pantry Shelf) during the week of March 26 - 30. It is Nekoosa UCC's week to provide volunteers to fill the food orders for the clients that come to the Pantry. The work is easy and fulfilling. We work in pairs and "grocery shop" around the pantry filling orders and filling a cart with food for people that need a little help feeding themselves and their family. It only takes 3-4 hours of your time and it means so much. If you can help us out that week, please sign up on the schedule in the entryway at church. 4-5 people are needed each day. You may work more than one day if you wish. I need to turn the schedule in to SWEPS by March 12th so please sign up now. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday hours are 11:45am-4 pm. Tuesday hours are 3:45pm-7 pm.

If you have any questions, or to volunteer to work you may call me at 715-887-3702. Cindy Dorr

Also, we do take food donations all through the year for SWEPS. There is a grocery cart available year round at the bottom of the stairs as you come into the church. Donations of any kind of nonperishable foods - canned fruits, soups, meat products, stews, vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, beans, tomato products, dried foods such as pasta, crackers, snacks, cereal, oatmeal, hamburger helpers, rice mixes, boxed potatoes, stuffing, beverages such as coffee, tea, juices, etc. Someone will then take the items to the pantry as needed. Thanks!



- 2 Tina Krummel
- 9 Mike Turok
- 11 Connie Pangburn
- 11 Vern Dicks
- 13 James Ginter
- 16 Darrow Cather
- 16 Ruby Scofield
- 19 Bill Eichhorn
- 21 Jami Williams
- 22 Rita Layton
- 22 Joyce Wells
- 23 Allan Wegner
- 23 Abbey Lee Reber
- 23 Chris Williams
- 24 Cary Lyons
- 24 June Roberts
- 24 Margaret Turner
- 24 Dillon McCullough
- 26 Randy Walrath
- 28 Zebbulen Weston Bennett
- 28 Kristen Saylor
- 29 Reed Sorenson
- 30 Bob Schultz
- 30 Troy Williams
- 31 Margie Goodness



- 29 Gary and Pat Fischer



"A Silent Talk with God"

... Do you have someone or something you especially want to pray for or just need some time for quiet reflection. Our sanctuary is open every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Please come in!!



Sit and Stitch...March 3
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Meetings

Mar 7 ... 9:00am

Prepare for Quilt Show

Mar 10 ... 10:00am-4:00pm "QUILT SHOW"

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

DIACONATE – MAR 12 – 6:30 PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – MARCH 20-6:00

MISSION & OUTREACH- MAR 20- 6:00PM

TRUSTEES- MAR 20 – 6:00PM

CHURCH COUNCIL- MAR 20 – 7:00PM

(MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO CONGREGATION)

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 6 – PRAYER SHAWL 6:30PM

MARCH 7 – LENTEN SERVICE AT PORT
EDWARDS 7:00PM

MARCH 10 – **QUILT SHOW** 10:00AM – 4:00PM

MARCH 12 – DIACONATE

MARCH 14 – LENTEN SERVICE HERE – 7:00PM

MARCH 21 – LENTEN SERVICE AT PORT
EDWARDS 7:00

MARCH 29 – MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
6:00PM

MARCH 30 – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 1:00PM
APRIL 1 – EASTER



It is through the anonymous generosity of many people in our church that our Wish List needs have been and continue to be met. We are always in need of:

TOILET PAPER and PAPER
TOWELING

Thank you to the many wonderful individuals in our church family who continue to provide when the need is there. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW???

SAVE MONEY ON INCOME TAXES BY DONATING TO YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ITEMIZE.

IF: YOU HAVE A TRADITIONAL IRA AND YOU ARE OVER 70 1/2.

SIMPLY HAVE A WITHDRAWAL FROM YOUR IRA MADE PAYABLE DIRECTLY TO THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. THE CHECK CAN BE SENT TO YOU. MAXIMUM \$100,000. THIS IS KNOWN AS QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD). DON'T HAVE FEDERAL TAXES WITHHELD. IT WILL BE TAX FREE ON YOUR FEDERAL RETURN EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ITEMIZE YOUR DEDUCTIONS. (WISCONSIN WILL TAX IT) IT CAN REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE SOCIAL SECURITY. IT WILL COUNT TOWARD YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD). IT MAY INCREASE YOUR DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH EXPENSES.

QUESTIONS?
ASK DOROTHY RESHESKE

NEW MEMBERS

Andrew, Sarah, and Harper Gollnick



We both grew up on the west side of the state a mere 30 minute drive apart from each other but we did not meet until college. We both attended UW- Stevens Point for a forestry degree. After traveling around the country for various seasonal positions, we settled back in Wisconsin. We both currently work in forestry and fire control for the State of Wisconsin. A year and a half ago we welcomed our daughter Harper. The three of us, along with our two chocolate labs, Annie and Nelson still do quite a bit of traveling. In our free time we enjoy camping, canoeing, shed hunting with the pups, and competing in timbersports competitions. We are very excited to join such a welcoming congregation.

Gracias mi Familia de la Iglesia

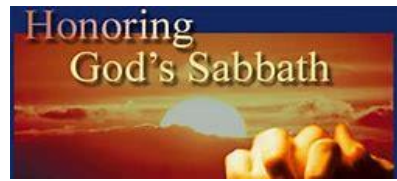
I would like to take this moment and opportunity to give thanks. I am thankful for being your pastor for the past four and a half years; and for the love and support you all have given to me and my family. My grandmother Lenora, helped teach me manners and to always be grateful for everything. If she knew that I haven't sent thank you cards for any Christmas cards and gifts, birthday cards and gifts, winning the football pool gifts, the just because gifts, and for the words of appreciation and encouragement; she would have been greatly disappointed in me. My dear grandmother tried her best but I don't think I'll ever get to sit down and express my gratitude to you properly. My hope is that you all can feel my appreciation when I give to you now my heartfelt gratitude and Thank-Yous to all in this congregation that help me feel so loved and blessed to be here! Thank You.

Peace and Love,
Pastor Tim

Rainbow Preschool/4K

Rainbow Preschool is taking registrations for the 3-year old program starting now. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2018. Our 3-year old program meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 11:30 am throughout the school year. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Vicki Humphrey 715-886-3300, Lynette Hilgers 715-886-4189 or Cindy Dorr 715-887-3702

We are also looking for a preschool teacher. If you know someone who might be interested in a part time teaching position with our 3-year old program, please contact one of us.



Hygiene Drive 2018, Feb. 18 – March 11

Donate Personal Care Items for Wisc. Rapids' SWEPS & The Family Center

Urgent Needs:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Feminine Needs
- Bathroom Tissue
- Diapers/Baby Care
- Hair Care
- Deodorant
- Dental Care
- Body Lotion
- Laundry Soap
- Kitchen Trash Bags
- Paper Towels
- Face/Bath Soap

Donations remain in the community where they are collected.

6th Annual South Wood County Empty Bowls

Helping to fight hunger in South Wood County

Saturday, March 3, 2018
First English Lutheran Church
440 Garfield Street
Wisconsin Rapids
11:00am-2:00pm

For your donation of \$10 you will receive a meal of soup from a local restaurant, bread, beverage, and homemade cookies. Take home bowl handcrafted by one of our local potters as our thanks for your support.

According to research done by SoulShepherding.org, pastoral work is acutely stressful, draining and risky for pastors and their families. A few statistics on pastor stress:

- 90% work 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 91% have experienced some form of burn out
- 70% have lower self-esteem then when they entered the ministry
- 70% fight depression
- The average seminary trained pastor lasts five years in professional ministry

The word *sabbatical*, which can be a noun or an adjective, comes from the Greek word *sabatikos*, which means "of the Sabbath," the day of rest. Everyone deserves a day of rest!

When Pastor Tim accepted his call to our church, **he signed our contract that we offered him which guarantees a sabbatical leave after every five years of service.** Time flies when things are going good and things have been very good for the last five years. On that note Pastor has decided to take his sabbatical leave during the months of August, September and October 2018. It is a well deserved rest for a very thoughtful, compassionate and hardworking person.

A Sabbatical team has been set up to work with Pastor Tim to ensure that every aspect of church life is covered while he is gone. It should be an exciting time for our congregation and a restful period for Pastor Tim – he will come back relaxed, refreshed and spiritually rejuvenated.

Nancy Kautzer is offering another **Grief Share Workshop** for anyone who is grieving over the loss of a loved one. The workshop will start at 6:30pm on March 5 and run for 13 weeks at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The is no cost and anyone is welcome. If you have any questions, call Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 715 886-4081



**One Great Hour of Sharing's theme this year is
"More Than We Can Imagine"**

It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We can feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that what little we can do—won't have an impact.

But there is hope! Better yet: we are that hope!

As the Apostle Paul writes, "by the power at work within us," God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). "We are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure this world" (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can't foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don't know and blesses in ways we can't expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

The OGHs offering will take place March 11th 2018

Do with our gifts even more than we can imagine, Holy One, and make of us a loving and generous people. Amen.



The **Nekoosa United Church of Christ** will hold its **Fourteenth Annual Quilt Show** on Saturday, March 10, 2018, from 10am until

4pm. You are invite to the quilt show *and* have the opportunity to enter item(s) in it. Set up will be on Friday, March 9th. You may drop off your entries any time on Friday after 9 am, but before 4pm. Entries may be picked up immediately after 4pm on Saturday the 10th.

This is a free event to enter or attend. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. Our primary goal is to enhance the interest,

knowledge and skills of quilting and to share ideas, expertise and fellowship among our community. A light lunch will be offered and there will be time to relax and enjoy fellowship. There are five categories this year: 1) wall hanging, 2) crib/ throw, 3) bed quilt, 4) miscellaneous, 5) Youth (18 and under). The community will be invited to view the variety of quilts and have an opportunity to vote on a viewer's choice in the five categories. *Entry forms may be picked up in the church office.*

We will have a special display this year "Treasured Heirlooms". If you would like to show any of your heirlooms, we would love for you to bring it! Items that are vintage or antique (handmade or not). An antique kitchen item, old picture/frames, antique china, grandma's doilies or other handmade item are just a few ideas.

Older or antique quilts will be on display in the same general area. If you have shown an item at one of our previous shows, we ask that you bring something different.

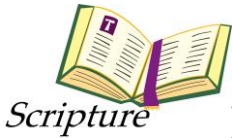
A few quilts that the UCC Women United tied will be for sale along with other miscellaneous items.

All women of the church are encouraged to help with this event. We need help in many areas. Kitchen and dining room help will be needed for the luncheon. Help is needed to mingle with the visitors that will be in the church, making them feel welcome. Spotter's are needed to keep guests from touching the quilts. Setting up the quilts for display on Friday is a big job and extra hands would be appreciated. If you could help in any way, even for just an hour or two would greatly be appreciated. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

We are in need of quilt racks and/or drying racks. Please let Sandy Dicks 715-424-0309 or Lynette Hilgers 715-886-4189 know if we could borrow them.

Thank You!

******We are wondering if anyone would like to make a donation for a door prize for the quilt show? It can be anything. Sewing related or not. It should be something new, could be handmade, a box/bag of candy (quilters like chocolate!), a candle, a new towel, bottle of hand lotion.....anything! Thanks for your consideration!**



MARCH

SCRIPTURE READERS

Mar 4 – Dorothy Resheske
 Mar 11 – Dorothy Resheske
 Mar 18 – Dorothy Resheske
 Mar 25 – Dorothy Resheske

MONTHLY COFFEE HOUR

Please Sign Up

Mar 4 –
 Mar 11 –
 Mar 18 –
 Mar 25-

USHER

Joan Witherler

LENTEN & EASTER SCHEDULE

7:00 pm – Worship Service

March 7 - @ Port Edwards UMC
 March 14 - @ Nekoosa UCC
 March 21 - @ Port Edwards UMC

March 29 – Maundy Thursday – 6:00pm
 March 30 – Good Friday – 1:00pm



April 1 – Easter Breakfast 8:00am
 Worship w/communion – 9:30am



SHOUT OUT to **Donette Krcmar** for keeping our church looking so beautiful and festive.

SHOUT OUT to **Lynette Hilgers & Joye Kuhlka** for the beautiful music they make every Sunday (and sometimes in between)

SHOUT OUT to **Bonnie Wheeler** and the **Choir**. They make amazing music!

SHOUT OUT to the **Ushers**. They do more than meets the eye.

SHOUT OUT to the **Sunday School Teachers**. They have the future in their hands.

SHOUT OUT to the **Secretaries**. They keep things running smoothly (Thanks Rose Ann)

SHOUT OUT to **Pastor Tim!!** Our spiritual leader.


And a big **SHOUT OUT** to the entire congregation. **WE are the CHURCH!!**



Congratulations! *Logan and Nicole*



Nekoosa United Church of Christ
 205 Market Street – Nekoosa, WI 54457
 715 886-3371
 Church Office...office@nekoosa ucc.com
 Pastor...pastor@nekoosaucc.com
 Web Page...www.nekoosaucc.com

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:00...Exercise 6:00..."Uninvited" 7:00-8:00pm... Silent Talk w/God	2	3 9:00am-4:00pm – Sit'nStitch
4 9:30am...Worship w/ Communion 10:30... Coffee & Fellowship 11:00...'Living the Questions'	5 6:00...Choir Practice 7:00pm...AA	6 3:00...Exercise 6:30pm...Prayer Shawl	7 9:00am...Women United 7:00pm...Lenten Service at UMC PE	8 3:00...Exercise 6:00..."Uninvited" 7:00-8:00pm... Silent Talk w/God	9	10 10am-4pm 
11 9:30am...Worship 10:30am...Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am...'Living the Questions' Daylight Savings Time	12 6:00...Choir Practice 6:30pm...Diaconate 7:00pm...AA	13 3:00...Exercise	14 7:00pm...Lenten Service here	15 3:00...Exercise 6:00..."Uninvited" 7:00-8:00pm... Silent Talk w/God	16	17
18 9:30am...Worship 10:30am...Coffee & Fellowship Pocket Change Sunday	19 6:00...Choir Practice 7:00pm...AA	20 3:00...Exercise 6:00...Board Mtgs 7:00 Council Mtg	21 9:00am...Women United 7:00pm...Lenten Service at UMC PE	22 3:00...Exercise 6:00..."Uninvited" 7:00-8:00pm... Silent Talk w/God	23	24
25 9:30am...Worship 10:30am...Coffee & Fellowship 11:00am...'Living the Questions'	26 11:45 -4:00pmSWEPS 6:00...Choir Practice 7:00pm...AA	27 3:00...Exercise 3:45 -7:00pmSWEPS	28 11:45 -4:00pmSWEPS 7:00-8:00pm... Silent Talk w/God	29 Maundy Thurs. 11:45 -4:00pm-SWEPS 6:00pm...Service	30 Good Friday 11:45 -4:00pm-SWEPS 1:00 pm...Service	31