

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:

office@nekoosaucc.com
pastor@nekoosaucc.com

WEB SITE:

www.nekoosaucc.com



January 2019

Wintertime Nakedness

Ah the wintertime! It's its own season, often it seems like the longest of the four seasons. As I'm writing this it is officially the first day of winter even though it seems to have started a few weeks ago. Right now there is not much that we can do outdoors. The lakes are not frozen enough to safely ice fish on, there is not enough snow to go snowmobiling or even snowshoeing or cross country skiing. You could go for a hike through the woods but the trees lost all of their color and now just wave their bare gray branches in the cold wind, standing in all their nakedness looking like they are deadwood that hasn't fallen to the ground yet.

I'll admit that I can still find beauty in the trees standing totally exposed wearing nothing but their nakedness. It might not be the same beauty that the trees display wearing their colorful robes of fall glory, but it's still beautiful none-the-less. Have you ever taken the time to look for birds' nests in the spindly branches? Many times the nests were right where we walked under on a daily basis and we never noticed. In the darkness of night the branches seem to dance in the moonlight that lights up the entire woods. I often wonder why do the branches suddenly bend one way and then abruptly turn another way. How does the tree sense that it needs to grow more towards the north this year and then next year turn towards the east?

Maybe in this time of winter, when nothing is going on, when the trees are not trying to sprout buds and green leaves, or trying to shade and protect baby birds and colorful eggs, when the trees are resting from displaying their brilliant fall colors, maybe this down time is when God speaks with the trees and gives them guidance on which way they should be leaning and when their branches need to reach out in a different direction. Maybe it's not God but rather it's Mother Nature or maybe it's just instinctual; either way it seems to be important for the trees to take a time out to sit in their nakedness and just be. Be still, Be still and know, Be still and know that I am God, Just Be!

As many of you know by now I am a big believer in taking time and just being still. In seminary when I learned that the word "Ontological" meant "dealing with the nature of being", when asked what I did for a living, I would respond that I was an "Ontologist" (One who studies being). When asked where my practice was located I would respond "my office is wherever I am at the moment". Brian McLaren writes about having fundamentalism religion forced down his throat throughout his childhood almost causing him to become an atheist. But then a transformation happened to him and he says, "underneath all the layers upon layers of religion, I discovered a living, breathing, naked spirituality...what had been a concept or theory got translated into naked experience and real-life practice. You felt something. You knew something. You changed". (cont on next

My hope for the church this coming year is that we dig deeper into our spirituality. Our true “naked spirituality”, not the pretty dressed up on Sunday spirituality, but the real spirituality. Our true be-ing. Hopefully, we can strip down to our bare souls and in that state of just being, we can begin to add our living breathing naked spirituality and feel something. You changed.”

It may sound easy but I guarantee you that it takes time, work, and tears. The bright side is it will be worth it, it will give meaning to your life and you will feel your soul burning with love and passion. This year, let’s do that!

Peace and Love,
Pastor Tim

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the Nekoosa UCC Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 27, immediately following worship.

It is extremely important that all church members attend this informational meeting to be heard and let your vote count. With the new year upon us we need to make decisions on the growth and health of our/your church family.

All secretaries of the various committees and groups are asked to submit a narrative report of what your committee accomplished during the year. And all treasurers are to submit a financial accounting. Please have your narrative report into the Church Office by January 1, 2019. Financial Reports should be submitted no later than Friday, January 4, 2019. All of this information must be ready for the Church Council’s review at the January meeting.

We prefer you submit your report via the office email at office@nekoosaucc.com. Or have it print ready in the Church Office during business hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at 715 886-3371.

Also **REMEMBER**, all financial books must be audited. You need to put your books in order and have them in the office by January 30. If this is a problem for you, please let the office know.



- 1 Susan Ginter
- 5 Wayne Johnson
- 6 Deb Martin
- 11 Betty Heckman
- 13 Seth Schider
- 15 Nita Kirst
- 18 Alyssa Wilhorn
- 22 Sue Clark
- 22 Wayne Johnson
- 23 Harold Grunewald
- 24 Michelle Sorenson
- 26 Monica Barnhart
- 27 Ron Fischer
- 29 Hadley Alison Michels
- 29 Pastor Tim Miller
- 31 William Frazier III
- 31 Joye Kuhlka



- 6 Dennis & Kay Christensen
- 8 Tom & Nita Kirst
- 9 Cindy & Carl Saylor
- 12 Larry & Barbara Schauer
- 13 Tim & Missy Miller
- 20 Jim & Lynne Anderson
- 31 Jim & Joy Kraft



CAMPING SEASON IS NEVER OVER!!

Camping season is never over in the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Our own Nekoosa UCC was at Moon Beach Camp near St. Germain at the end of October!! However, time and the wear and tear on the buildings does make things come to an end – furnaces & boilers need to be replaced, hot water heaters say their final good-byes, and roofs begin to curl from the rain, snow & other outdoor elements. The need for major repairs was the reason for the Wis Conf UCC’s “CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN”.

The CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN was a 3-year fund drive to raise monies for major projects at both Moon Beach Camp and Pilgrim Center Camp in Green Lake. Many of us have enjoyed fun, relaxing, and spiritual time at our church camps. Now is our chance to “pay it forward” for the next generation to do the same.

The CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN ends January 31, 2019. Anytime before Jan 31, just put your donation in an envelope marked **CAMP** and drop it in the collection plate or the church office. Make sure your name is included, so you can be credited accordingly for your tax records. No amount is too small or too large – every donation is important.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this important ministry of our UCC churches.

Lynette Hilgers & Melani Johnson



9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Bring a project you are working on. It can be anything, not necessarily something to “stitch”.

Any hobby is welcome and there is plenty of space to work on it. Bring a bag lunch or grab something at Subway or McDonalds.

***SHOUT OUT** to the very generous members of our church family and organizations who reached into their pockets and pulled out enough to help cover the cost of the plumbing repairs. The Women United donated \$2000 and the Women’s Evening Group gave \$1000. And twenty-four individual members donated amounts from \$5000 to \$25. And money is still coming in. Please know how grateful and blessed your church is.*

***SHOUT OUT** to all of the Committee members whose terms will end in January. You are very important to our congregation*

***SHOUT OUT** to all of you who serve God by generously giving of your time to help whenever or wherever help is needed. You are appreciated more than you know.*

God’s blessings to all of you.



“A Silent Talk with God”

.In December our sanctuary will be open the first (Jan.3) and third (Jan. 17) Thursday of month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm for silent meditation, prayer or just to sit and be still.

January

SCRIPTURE READERS



- January 6 – Melani Johnson
- January 13 – Melody Moody-Zuege
- January 20 – Joyce Murray
- January 27 – Tom Kirst

USHER

Keith Boardman

MONTHLY COFFEE HOUR

**Need People to Sign Up
Please Sign Up**

- January 6 – Women United
- January 13 – Diaconate
- January 20 – Mission & Outreach
- January 27 – No coffee hour -Annual Meeting



Zachary T Dorr #640993

**Fox Lake Correctional
Institute**

P. O. Box 200

Fox Lake, WI 53933

Pay is not that great but the retirement is heavenly.

Ushers Needed



We will work with your schedule. Whether you can work a whole month (just 4 days) or just a week at a time, we will accommodate

your schedule. Please contact Tina Krummel or the church office at 715 886-3371.

ATTENTION

Church Boards & Committees
Notice that Weekly Coffee Hours are covered by different groups each week. After discussion, the Diaconate thought this would be more convenient as you would not be responsible for an entire month, just one week. Hopefully, members of the congregation will continue to sign up as part of their Time & Talent pledge.

From your Financial Secretary

Anyone who needs Offering Envelopes for the 2019 year. Please let the office know. On the other hand - if you do not use or want envelopes, the office would like this info also.

2019 DUES PER MEMBER

Wis Conference Dues.....\$15.25

NW Association Dues.....\$ 4.50

\$19.75



SWEPS Volunteers Needed

Looking for Volunteers to work our shifts at the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf better known as SWEPS. The Nekoosa UCC is scheduled to work the week of February 4 -8, 2019. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the hours scheduled are 11:45 am to 4 pm. Tuesday hours are 3:45 to 7 pm. We would like 5 people signed up for each day if possible. The work is not hard. You "go shopping" with a list and a shopping cart and fill each clients order from the shelves at the pantry. You then wheel your cart out to the client and they take the cart from there. If you have not worked at the pantry shelf before, you get an orientation each time you volunteer and you don't work alone. It is fun and rewarding at the same time.

Sign-up sheets will be out in early January in the narthex at church. If you have any questions, please see the church office or contact Cindy Dorr at 715-887-3702. We need to have our list of volunteers in to SWEPS 2 weeks before our scheduled week to work.

Also, donations of non- perishable foods are always needed at the pantry. A grocery cart is located at church at the bottom of the stairs going into the dining room. We collect food items there and someone will deliver it to SWEPS when the cart gets full. Food items can be soups, beans, vegetables, tuna, spaghetti and spaghetti sauces, tomato products, dry pastas, pasta mixes, rice, small bags of sugar and flour, snacks, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, and more.

Our schedule to work at the pantry this next year also includes:
May 20-24, 2019
September 3-6, 2019 (closed 2nd)
December 16-20, 2019

From the NUCC Office: Cindy Dorr and Ellen Osborne are the coordinators for our church and do an excellent job. Thank them next time you see them.



Hurray
for our
Women
United
Group!

We did it!! With the plumbing problems and the bad weather, we still had a successful Christmas Coffee! We made over \$800. Because of all the problems, we weren't sure we would be able to have it this year but so many people stepped up to help. Thanks to all who helped get the plumbing fixed on time. Thanks to all of you who were on call to come in and put the kitchen back in order as soon as the plumbing was done. They came in cleaned, put everything back and set up for the Christmas Coffee. Then they went home and baked (some late into the night)and were back early the next day. Thanks to the women who made the great lunch and to Steve Zuege for the soup. Thanks to all who donated crafts and baked goods and to everyone who came, shopped and ate lunch. There were some tired people who went home Sunday afternoon. AGAIN...thanks to everyone who helped --we couldn't have done it without you. On to the next project!!!

Women United

DATES TO REMEMBER

- JAN. 1 OFFICE CLOSED
- JAN 2 WOMEN UNITED MTG (9:00AM)
- JAN. 8 PRAYER SHAWL (6:00PM)
- JAN 12 SIT N STITCH (9AM-4PM)
- JAN 13 COUNCIL MTG (BUDGET)(10:45AM)
- JAN 14 DIACONATE MTG (7:00PM)
- JAN 16 CE, TRUSTEES, (6PM) COUNCIL (7PM)
- JAN 20 M&O MTG (7PM)
- JAN 27 ANNUAL MEETING (10:45)

Nekoosa UCC Library

There are many good books of all genre in the library. Stop in and check it out.



CHANGES

If you are moving or have a change of address or if you are dropping your land line and just going with a cell phone, please contact the church office.



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 seem to be running low on paper toweling lately:

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.

HOSPITALIZATION?

As a church family, we are concerned about each and every one of you. **Please** remember to contact the Church Office (715 886-3371) when there is an illness, concern, hospitalization or, you would like a call from Pastor Tim. Please remember to notify your church family. The hospital will not inform us without your permission!

The Nekoosa UCC is now on FACEBOOK...

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nekoosa-United-Church-of-Christ/153330554707594>

NOTICE
WE ARE NO LONGER
COLLECTING EMPTY
POP CANS!!!!!!

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES:

office@nekoosaucc.com

pastor@nekoosaucc.com

Does the church office have your email address?? Please contact the office with this information.



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  New Year's Day Office Closed	2 9:00am...Women United	3 <i>"Silent Talk"</i> 7:00-8:00pm	4	5
6 9:30am...Worship w/communion 9:30 am –10:45... Sunday School 10:30 am... Fellowship	7 6:00pm...Choir 7:00pm...AA	8 6:30 pm...Prayer Shawl	9	10	11	12 Sit'nStitch 9am-4pm
13 9:30am...Worship 10:30am... Fellowship 9:45 am –10:45... Sunday School 10:45am...Council mtg	14 6:00pm...Choir 7:00 pm...Diaconate 7:00pm...AA	15	16 9:00am...Women United 6:00pm...M&O, Trustees 7:00pm...Church Council	17 <i>"Silent Talk"</i> 7:00-8:00pm	18	19
20 9:30am...Worship 9:45 am – 10:45 am... Sunday School 10:30am... Fellowship Pocket Change Sunday	21 6:00pm...Choir 7:00pm...AA	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am...Worship 9:45 am – 10:45 am... Sunday School 10:45am... Congregational Meeting	28	29	30	31		