

May, 2012

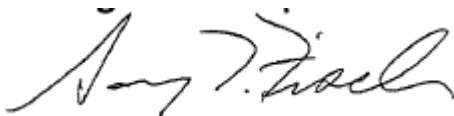
Lambs of God,

April showers bring May flowers. In April we shed our tears because our beloved Pastor Mary Anne was leaving our bed of flowers. With our blessings we have sent her off to where God has called her to bloom in another garden. Even though our garden will have one less flower we will continue to flourish and bloom from the spiritual nourishment Mary Anne has given us through the words of our Lord.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." We look down this highway to the day when the Lord blesses us with an interim minister and ultimately a new minister. In the mean time each of us needs to help out in our church by keeping our highway straight and answering God's call of "Whom shall I send?" With the answer, "Here I am Lord, call on me." I will be that person: who signs up to be a greeter, helps the ushers, cleans the church, gives a sermon, brings a baked good for fellowship, visits those that are sick, is one who attends church to hear the word of the Lord, no matter who is in the pulpit. The church (You) needs to continue to grow and blossom to its fullest potential in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Interim Minister Search Committee consisting of: Lynette Hilgers, Edie Behm, Tom Schider, Cindy Saylor, Bill Kaberle, Sr. and Gary Fischer have met and will be interviewing two pastors who have sent us their profiles within the next couple of days. With help, from the grace of God, we look forward to having one of these candidates as our new interim minister.

Love, grace and peace,



Gary T. Fischer/Moderator

# PIG ROAST

**-SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012-**  
**-10:30 AM - 12:30 PM-**

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NEKOOSA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
205 MARKET STREET (BY THE BRIDGE)  
NEKOOSA, WI 715-886-3371

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**MENU INCLUDES:**

**ROAST PORK, SAUERKRAUT, POTATO SALAD, POTATO  
CHIPS, BAKED BEANS, ROLLS, JELL-O SALADS,  
DESSERTS AND BEVERAGES!**

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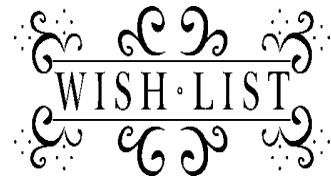
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ADULTS & YOUTHS (13 +).....	\$8.00
CHILDREN, 12 & UNDER.....	\$4.00

(CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE)

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## **2012 BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 - Tyler Dean
- 1 - Emma McKeel
- 3 - Lisa Schenk
- 4 - Melody Moody-Zuege
- 4 - Mary Catherine Biggs
- 5 - Ruth Bennett
- 5 - Vicki Nehring
- 7 - Danise Wegner
- 8 - Mary Schultz
- 13 - Loren Elkin
- 15 - Harley Bennett
- 16 - Bill Humphrey
- 18 - Heather Michels
- 22 - Andrew Beadell
- 22 - Jennifer Lau
- 22 - Doug Kirst
- 24 - Marilyn Elkin
- 25 - Joyce Murray
- 27 - Ken Marcoux
- 27 - Shanna Richardson
- 30 - Dorothy Shillius

## **2012 ANNIVERSARIES**

- 7 - Charles and Joy Schauer
- 8 - Loren and Marilyn Elkin
- 11 - Bill and Shelley Eichhorn
- 26 - Chuck and Shelby Sorrell

**If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary listed during the year, or there is an error in the date, please contact Vicki in the Church Office at 715-886-3371.**

**“Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, “I will try again tomorrow.”**

**-Mary Ann Radmacher**

It is through the generosity of many people in the church that our Wish List needs have been and continues to be met. At this time, we are in need of the following items:

- **Kleenix/Tissues**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Paper Towels**

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention”, a quote from Oscar Wilde. And I wish to offer my gratitude, on behalf of the church family, to those individuals who continue to support and supply our needs.

**THANK YOU**

Church Family;

What a wonderful 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. I am so thankful for such a loving and caring church family. They have always been there through the bad and good happenings in my life. I feel truly blessed. Thank you for all the cards and well wishes.

A special thank you to Donna, Tim and family and Deb and family for all they did to make my birthday a very special day.

**-Catherine Grunewald**

# FAREWELL!

Beloved,

It seems so strange to be writing something to you that is not going to appear on the first page. But I couldn't leave without telling you how very much John and I enjoyed our "farewell" party. It was filled with all of the things that I love most about this church ... good humor ... good food ... and good fun! Thank you to all of you for making the day so very special.

We will take a part of each of you with us to warm our hearts on those cold wintry days. Please know that you and this wonderful church will be first in my heart and in my prayers. I leave you with these words:

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)*

Grace, peace and love,

Pastor Mary Anne

## Strengthen the Church Offering -Spread the Love-

A little love can go a long way. When our lives become unpredictable or chaotic, when we're facing into a storm, when we're weary and discouraged, fearful or confused ... a little love can give the boost we need.

Many of us find that love in our church. But there are many people still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word. They have not found a church that's reaching out with an extravagant welcome, where they can hear the message of the unconditional love of our still speaking God. That's where the Strengthen the Church special mission offering steps in.

Each year, we receive a special offering that helps the church's love to grow and thrive. Called Strengthen the Church, this offering funds new congregations and renews existing ones. It supports programs for youth and young adults and nurtures current and future leaders. And it sends the God is Still Speaking Ministry's message of extravagant welcome and inclusivity into our world.

We will receive this offering on May 27 – the birthday of the church – Pentecost Sunday. I invite you to celebrate by giving to Strengthen the Church. Your generous gift today ensures a vibrant church tomorrow.

**Spread the Love. Strengthen the Church. God is Still Speaking!**

Peace,

Mission and Outreach Committee

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The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.”

-Honore de Balzac

## **2012 WISCONSIN RAPIDS CROP HUNGER WALK**

This annual event will take place Sunday afternoon, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at the First Congregational UCC in Wisconsin Rapids. Registration is at 12:30 p.m. the Walk starts at 1:00 p.m.

**CROP HUNGER WALK** is an interfaith and community collective effort organized annually in over 75 communities in Wisconsin to raise funds to fight local and global hunger and poverty. 25% of the CROP Hunger Walk collection will help families assisted by South Wood Emergency Pantry Shelf (SWEPS), and the Neighborhood Table in Wisconsin Rapids. 75% of the collection will enable Church World Service to help hungry and poor families in the US and in over 80 countries to survive and build a better future.

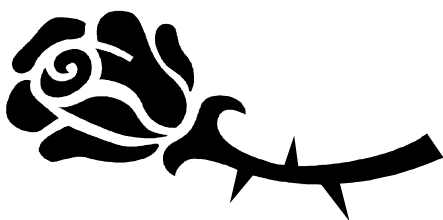
Participants solicit pledges to Walk or Run (if they choose). They ask for pledges from any sponsors, they can pledge others or themselves too. You may also "participate" by sponsoring a walker.

In addition to pledges and as a participation in the Feinstein Foundation Challenge, congregation members are invited to donate food items during the months of March and April 2012. Pledge and food donations will enable the Wisconsin Rapids CROP Hunger Walk to earn a percentage of the \$1 million from the Feinstein Foundation. The more the donated, the higher this percentage will be.

Our church has participated many years in local CROP WALKS. Let's help meet their goal of \$5,000 and have 100+ participants in this year's Walk!

If you would like to sign up to walk, pick up a pledge form, make a donation or find out more about the CROP WALK please contact Lynette Hilgers.

***Your pledges will make a real difference!***



## **SIT AND STITCH**

The Sit and Stitch group will now meet May 5th from 10am to 4pm. We will be working on "Little Dresses for Africa" and "Britches" for Boys" Mission Project. Last month during our session we completed 4 dresses and 3 britches. We will continue to make little dresses out of pillow cases or new fabric and britches for boys made out of **new** adult t-shirts.

*Little Dresses for Africa* is a non-profit, Christian organization which provides relief to the children of Africa. These dresses have also been shipped to other countries in crisis-Honduras, Guatemala, Philippines, Cambodia and Haiti as well as right here in the US in the Appalachian Mountains and South Dakota. Simple dresses are made out of pillowcases and distributed through the orphanages, churches and schools.

We would like to thank the people who donated new t-shirts, pillowcases and fabric to make the Little Dresses for Africa and Britches for Boys.

"These dresses and britches go out as little Ambassadors in the name of Jesus, to give hope to the children that receive them."

Please feel free to join us! You may bring your own projects to work on instead. Come and enjoy the company!

If you have any questions, call Lynette Hilgers, 715- 886-4189.

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**Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through the experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved.**

**- Helen Keller**

# ATTENTION:

**CHURCH SPRING CLEANING DAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012  
8:30 AM - NOON**

Mindy does a great job on the weekly cleaning, but we are responsible for the "spring cleaning" areas. We need a large group to get all our spring cleaning projects completed. Windows, dining room tables & chairs, pew cleaning, high corners, and more need to be done. Bring a bucket and rag, team up with someone when you get to church, and tackle a project together – you will be amazed at how fast the time goes by and how great it looks when you are finished. If you cannot stay the entire four hours, that's fine – we will take what-ever you can give us.

**Note:** We need a few good men to operate the power washer on the exterior windows. Let me know if you are willing to head up the power washing duties so we can check the equipment in advance.

God's house deserves to shine. See you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!!

Melani Sorenson, Chairperson  
(715-213-3062)

## Attitude Check

Attitude is the mind's paintbrush. It can color a situation gloomy and gray, or cheerful and happy. In fact, attitudes are more important than facts.

-Mary C. Crowley

**NEKOOSA UCC AND NEKOOSA BOYS &  
GIRLS CLUB**

"A WINNING TEAM ON MAY 19"

Our Church has invested \$250 to be a T-Shirt Sponsor for the May 19 Boys and Girls Club 2012 5K Walk. This means our name will be on all the walker's T-shirts, our beautiful banner will be displayed at the start/finish line, and we will be investing in the security, growth, and development of our local youth. The Boys and Girls Club is a great alternative to kids coming home from school to an empty house. The Club offers homework assistance, physical/sports activities, crafts, educational opportunities, games, field trips, and just plain old fun.

The 2012 5K Walk is also an opportunity for you to get involved and support the Nekoosa Boys & Girls Club on an individual basis. You can sign up to be a walker and solicit financial support from your friends and family or you can provide financial support to a walker.

Sponsor/Registration forms are available at the Nekoosa Boys & Girls Club located in the former Alexander High/Middle School. On the day of the walk, registration begins at 10am and the walk starts at 11am with the start and finish at the Boys & Girls Club.

We can also have a Booth on-site to promote our Church. If you are willing to take on this responsibility, please contact the Church Office at 715-886-3371.

Let's show our kids we care by supporting the Nekoosa Boys & Girls Club 5K fund-raising event!!

The funds for this event will come from the Book of Golden Memories/Cathy Kann Memorial.

-CHURCH COUNCIL

## Memorial Day Reflection

For each soldier that has fallen so that  
many may stand,  
We honor their spirit as they pass to God's  
hand.

For without their sacrifice we would live  
forever in fear.

We pray for their loved ones and provide a  
salute and a tear.

God help us heal the wounds of hate and  
the misery of war

That is our gift to our fallen heroes  
that are amongst us no more.

-Anonymous



## PORTAGE COUNTY CULTURAL FESTIVAL

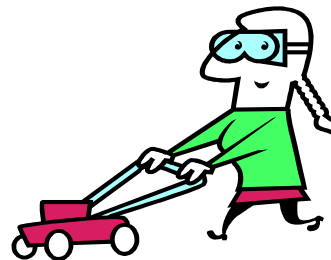
**WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**TIME: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**WHERE: SPASH (Stevens Point  
Area Senior High School)  
1201 North Point Drive**

- Six stages of entertainment
- Over 30 ethnic art demonstrations
- Hands-on crafts for children of all ages
- Delicious international cuisine
- Crafts from around the world

**FREE ADMISSION!**



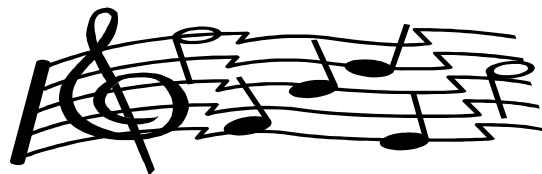
Mowing help is needed throughout the summer. See or call Loren Elkin at 715-886-3357 if you can assist with mowing. It doesn't matter if it's only one time or once a week. Your help is greatly appreciated!

## Lorie Line & Her Fab 5

Fans of Lorie Line will be happy to hear she is returning to Marshfield, Wisconsin on Sunday, May 20, 2012 at the Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts. It's for one night only, starting at 7:00 PM.

Anyone interested in going, can call Lynette Hilgers at 715-886-4189. The Toll Free number is 1-800-801-5463 or, the Marshfield number is 715-389-8999. The website is: [www.lorieline.com](http://www.lorieline.com).

**Tickets are \$39 each  
and on sale now!**



# DID YOU KNOW?

- Incorrect addresses will send your church mail back to the office, resulting in extra costs to the church. Please make sure we have the correct apartment numbers, post office box numbers or current address information. Each time a piece of mail comes back to the office, it can cost the church anywhere from 50 cents to \$1.15!!
- If you are **not** planning on playing softball for the Nekoosa UCC Team this summer, you are asked to re-turn your hats and shirts back to the church. We would like to have the new team members use the clothing items.
- Our church collects the UPC codes from Campbell Soup labels. We only need the UPC Bar Codes. Please drop them in the 'shoe box' located in the narthex area on a table near the church windows.
- Donette Krcmar is responsible for the attractive bulletin boards decorated throughout the church. She has spent a great deal of time and talent to create these beautiful displays.....THANK YOU!
- Sunday school classes for the 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders ends May 20, 2012. Barbara Schauer will continue to lead the Pre-K Sunday classes throughout the spring & summer.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT?

## Here's the New Address:

Rev. Mary Anne & John Biggs  
625 Bond Street  
Eagle River, WI 54521



Email Address is:  
[maryannebiggs1@netzero.net](mailto:maryannebiggs1@netzero.net)

\*When we get their new phone numbers, we'll pass them along!

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!



## Goodbye



## We Love You

# CHURCH OFFICE TIDBITS

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
**MONDAY to FRIDAY**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**[Closed Sundays and**  
**Most Holidays]**

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:**  
**715-886-3371**



## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

If you are moving, have a change of address or, planning a temporary address change, please contact the Church Office. Did you know returned mail is an additional expense to our church?

Call 715-886-3371.

## **HOSPITALIZATION?**

Please remember to contact the Church Office when there is an illness, concern, hospitalization or you would like a call from a member of the church. The hospital will not inform us without your permission!



## **CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

[office@nekoosaucc.com](mailto:office@nekoosaucc.com)  
[pastor@nekoosaucc.com](mailto:pastor@nekoosaucc.com)

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

## **OUR CHURCH WEB PAGE:**

[www.nekoosa-ucc.org](http://www.nekoosa-ucc.org)

## **THE NEKOOSA UCC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!**

Another way to stay up-to-date on current events, birthdays and news from our church! See you there!

**Deadline for Sunday**  
**Announcements:**  
**-By Thursdays, 10:00 AM-**

**Deadline for Newsletter Articles**  
**in the 'The Word':**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**  
**Of The Month**