Friends, here are a few thoughts in support of daily devotions and daily devotionals. I'm writing this as a companion piece to the list of devotional resources compiled by Marilyn Kostrzak, which you can find on page 7 of this issue of Glad Tidings. Her list describes the general spiritual/theological orientation or perspective of each resource, reveals web addresses that you can paste into your browser for access to each publication, and notes the cost, if any, associated with each.

For my part, I'll begin with a confession: I have never been able to stick with a daily devotional very long.

It isn't immediately clear to me why this is so. In all likelihood, there are a variety of reasons. On more than one occasion, I picked a devotional with which I continually disagreed. I was consistently annoyed by its author's presuppositions, unquestioned assumptions about life, and by the conclusions from the Bible. This happens occasionally, and it is ok. You can always stop reading a devotional resource that fails to move, inspire, or usefully challenge you; you can set that one aside and find a new one. I have and probably will again.

It is also the case for me that reading essays every day gets old. For professional and personal reasons, my days already include a lot of reading. I like to read and always have, but sometimes it feels like a slog. When that happens, a printed daily devotional is usually one of the first things I let go. That's ok, too.

Third, I primarily process my spirituality through music. I identify with the poor lonesome cowboy Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson, who warns mamas everywhere against raising the one who'd "rather give you a song than diamonds or gold." I experience prayer more by listening for the voice of God than by speaking words to or reading words about the Holy One. The voice of God in my ear is usually singing.

(Continued on next page)
Now, set aside my confession. Having considered that for me any given devotional is one resource among many, which sometimes fits my particular life or doesn’t, you may release those thoughts and let them go. Trust the experience of generations of our Christian ancestors: good daily devotionals contain and convey the power of the Holy Spirit. The best of them typically tell stories, which they link to biblical texts and theological ideas and spiritual practices. From this reflection, they draw meaning for life. They help people get closer to God, learn from God, grow deeper into God’s life.

Growth is a sign of vitality. We naturally want to develop our skills, pursue our questions, and explore our passions. As people of faith, God’s own Holy Spirit is continually drawing us toward the spiritual dimensions of human growth. A daily devotional offers one method by which the Spirit brings us depth in faith. Follow where the Spirit, working in your heart and soul and mind, leads! And tell us what you discover along the way, so we also may perceive signs of the presence and respond to the gracious call of God.

God blesses you, daily!
Pastor Dave

Wedding Anniversaries

August 5th
Becky and Jeff Nichols

August 10th
Audrey and Kent Mosebach

August 12th
Kris and Ken Anderson

August 13th
Denise and Jeff Stewart

August 16th
Erv and Sharon Wegner

August 22nd
Debra and Bruce Janda

August 26th
Ann and Chuck Luebke

August 27th
Pam And Terry Zielinski

August 28th
Leon and Terri Flesburg

August 28th
Mary and Ralph Liesch

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 the church office.

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Chuck Luebke’s brother Dennis, Alanna Smith’s brother Robert and sister in law Janet; Marilyn Kostrzak’s mother Geneva; Katie Hobarts’s grandmother Joan; Homebound: Karen Crivello and Paul Franke.
It's hard to believe that it's already August. This has surely been a strange year but it's great to have outdoor worship services together. As we navigate this strange time it would be amazing to have you share your talents with us! If you or one of your kids would like to share your musical talents of any kind let me know! We would love to have your enrich our services! Stay safe, healthy, and I hope to see you at our outdoor worship services.

Spencer Jones

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for worship until we are able to worship together

Click below to find our FB page
https://www.facebook.com/CONGREGATIONALUCCNEENAHMENASHA

It will be posted on the church website later in the day.
Www.cuccnm.org.

Free lunches are available at the Fox Valley Community Table (200 N Commercial St Neenah) Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:30am -12:30pm in the church parking lot. Thank you to the private donor who makes this possible.

August 18th is our day to service lunch. We have 7 more slots to fill. Each person to make 5 bag lunches. We are using Perfect Potluck online to sign up to help make lunches.

Click on the link to sign up or call the church office if you need help in signing up https://www.perfectpotluck.com/POHI8671.

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

August 2nd
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9th
I Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16th
Genesis 45:1-15 or
Isaiah 56:1 6-8
Psalm 133..or..Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-28

August 23rd
Exodus 1:8-2:10 or
.Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 124 or
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th
Exodus 3:1-15. or
.Jeremiah.15:15-21
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c or
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

August 15th
Glad Tidings Deadline
Spiritual Life

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
cUCCNM CHRISTMAS CARD GIVEAWAY

WHY?
This summer CUCCNM received a donation of about 800 cards, many of which are Christmas cards that the Congregational Care Ministry Team will not use. We would like to share them with you.

Just think! Christmas cards for this year, FREE, no shopping at a store required.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

* The cards have been sorted, put into XL sandwich bags, and marked with the number of cards enclosed, from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 18

* Tables will be set up along one side of the sidewalk leading to the Nicolet Blvd entrance to the narthex. Cards will be spread out so that you can see what’s inside without opening the bags. Volunteers will be there to help you.

* Masks will be required and hand sanitizer available

* Social distancing limits will be set up on the front walk and into the main parking lot so that you can line up and wait

WHEN?

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd following outdoor worship

RAIN DATE: Sunday, August 30th following outdoor worship

THE CARDS ARE FREE- NO DONATIONS REQUIRED
Take only what you will use and leave the rest for someone else.

If you wish to make a contribution, bring your quarters and dollar bills and put them in one of the containers on the tables. Any donations will go to the Camp Scholarship Fund.

A special note: There are a number of non-Christmas cards that will be set up on separate tables. Want an Easter card for your young nephew? A valentine for a friend or special person? A Garfield Happy New Year card? A batch of thank you notes? A grouping of Norman Rockwell lithographs from the Saturday Evening Post? You won’t believe the selection available!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!
Questions? Contact Barbara Meier at bjhmeier@gmail.com
BEHOLD! A NEW THING.

You know about the old thing. Every fall many churches conduct a month-long campaign to raise the budget for next year. At best it was seen as a duty to be accomplished. Yes, the annual stewardship drive helped remind us of the good things we had done and hoped to do in the coming year, but for some the concentrated talk about money was too much.

Since February several committees have been working behind the scenes on the new thing. Through the summer we’re a part of Wisconsin Conference Webinars exploring a happier, kinder, more positive way.

We believe our God is loving and generous and, when we believe anyone has loved us or been generous with us, a usual response is gratitude or thankfulness. Just recall the last time you got an unexpected gift or gave one. What positive and wonderful feelings did you experience?

SO THE NEW THING? Beginning soon, a year-round and gentle focus on God’s generosity and what generosity means in our lives will start. Like Jesus and the five thousand, we will discover there is lunch enough for everyone. God’s economy is one of abundance not scarcity. Throughout the year we’ll hear snippets on generosity and we’ll grow in faith; hear a testimonial from someone who served and was delighted - or a course on how to teach our children about generosity - or a sermon, not in October, about the generous Jesus. And we’ll grow normally and naturally in generosity, not be shamed into it. Won’t you join me for the joyful ride?

Kent Mosebach, behalf of those working on this.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS:

June
- Kevin Katzman and Steven Stoll for all their work in our Ministry
- Dan Jischke for his prompt attention in the installation of LELC door
- Pam Zelinski for all her work on the financial education survey
- Pastor Dave and Spencer for their Sunday services.

July:
- Erv Wegner for all his help in lawn care of church grounds
- The Jischke for their help with setting up outdoor worship
- Those who helped set up LELC playground
- Don Kleist and Dan Jischke for LELC door
- The Gift donor for LELC door
- Kevin Katzman for donation of the computer for LELC Assistant Director & electronic devices for 4K and elementary age children and also for the update of the computers
- Steve Stoll for taking over the stewardship drive
- Dean Katzman for the donation for stewardship material
**Confirmation Class**

**August 6th**: 6:00 pm at church  
(bring a lawn chair and a mask)  
**Mentors** will be with us.

**August 13th**: 3:00 via Zoom

**August 20th**: 6:00 at church  
(bring a lawn chair and a mask)

**August 27th**: 3:00 pm via Zoom

---

**Sunday School Teachers are Needed for next school year!!**

**HELP WANTED**

Do you enjoy spending time with kids? Would like to be a part of our youth’s education?

Our two PreK-1st grade teachers are moving on to college and will not be available to teach. We are looking for 3 or more people to fill their shoes. If you like hearing the laughter of children and would like to teach God’s love, please talk to Bridget Balogh or Alanna Smith today! ce@cuccnm.org

---

**WHAT TO DO WITH THE KIDS DURING THIS UNUSUAL TIME?**

1. Break into the Take Out Church boxes that are delivered weekly to your home.
2. Take Out Church will be delivered every 2 weeks throughout summer until we can join together as a group.
3. Chalk you Walk; write some happy or inspirational messages in chalk on your driveway, sidewalk, local park trail, etc, to help put a smile on those who walk by.
4. Dinner questions or bedtime questions:
   - Where did you see God today?
   - What was your high for the day?
   - What was your low for the day?
5. Ask God to help with our lows and praise God for our highs.
6. Take a look at this website, there are some great ways to help your kids through this challenging time, and beyond.  
   [https://faithink.com/the-faith5-steps](https://faithink.com/the-faith5-steps)

---

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

As you know Ministry of Faith Development along with the VBS sub committee (made up of CUCNNM & First Pres) have decided to not host VBS this year.

The magic of VBS is being together. There is this awesome feeling that we all (kids and adults alike) get when we are in the midst of VBS. It is what brings us together every year

**WE WILL MISS YOU!**

---

**INFORMATION ON TALKING TO YOUR KIDS**

If you are looking for information on talking to your kids about racism please see July Glad Tidings for more information:  
LOOKING FOR DAILY DEVOTIONALS

Our Daily Bread Have you been looking for daily devotionals - and maybe not knowing where to look? Below are some resources that may help guide you through your day. Included is a short description of the theological background for each resource.

UCC Daily Devotional (FREE)
https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional
The site asks you to “sign-up” - but you don’t need to do that unless you want to get emails. A “Button” link has been added on the Home page of our website: https://www.cuccnm.org/

Our Daily Bread (FREE)
https://ourdailybread.org/author/our-daily-bread/
The site asks you to “sign-up” - but you don’t need to do
You also can download this app - if you want it on your phone or tablet

About them: Our Daily Bread Ministries helps millions of people connect with God each day. For more than 75 years, our purpose has remained the same: to reach people with the life-changing wisdom of the Bible.

The Upper Room (COST)
This one you need to pay for ($2.75 per copy)
Each little magazine is 2 months of devotions
You can order this online

About them: The Upper Room® is a global ministry dedicated to supporting the spiritual life of Christians seeking to know and experience God more fully.

These Days (COST)
https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Pages/Item/59264/These-Days.aspx
There is a cost for this one - $8.95/Annually
You can order this online

About them: Remembering Jesus’ call to love God with our minds as well as our hearts and souls (Matt. 22:37), TheThoughtfulChristian.com is committed to helping Christians and seekers of all ages discover, grow, and live their faith by providing books and resources on a variety of issues.

Hold To The Good (John M. Buchanan's Blog) (FREE)
https://jmbpastor.wordpress.com/
This is a blog - published monthly - it is meant to be used as a place to comment and read others’ comments as well

About him: The Rev. Dr. John M. Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, where he was Pastor for 26 years, has held a variety of leadership positions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is the retired Editor/Publisher of The Christian Century magazine.
Ministry Council

3 WAYS TO SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH:

1. Yes, the "Donate" button on the website goes through your credit card or PayPal. PayPal charges 2.2% plus $.30 a transaction. Credit cards vary in charges depending on what kind they use. If you feel the church should not absorb this cost, simply add the fee to your amount being sent to cover the fee.

2. To have the bank send a check you need to go to your bank website and set up a payment. You can do a onetime payment or reoccurring. These checks will go directly to the Church (Congregational UCC, 1511 Nicolet Blvd, Neenah, WI 54956). The church does not use a form for withdrawing, but rather individuals work with their bank to "push" a payment to the church.

3. You can mail the check yourself directly to the church.

Now more than ever, we have witnessed that the church is not just the building in which we gather on Sunday morning, but the church is the people who are called to Christ’s mission in the world!

Accountant’s Corner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving Income</td>
<td>$ 9,307</td>
<td>$ 120,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest + Rents</td>
<td>1,760</td>
<td>8,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>-76</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$11,067</td>
<td>$129,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>19,706</td>
<td>107,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$ (8,639)</td>
<td>$ 21,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are still in the BLACK for the year in June!!
Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

As I write this in mid July I have not had the chance to attend live outdoor worship. I’m hoping it has been a good experience for those of you who have. I sure am looking forward to seeing you all in person soon.

Council continues to work on making sure communication is happening for all of you. Confirmation class is up and running. Alan continues his work to keep our church clean and healthy. Lake Edge continues to thrive.

Thank you all for continuing to fulfill your pledges and make donations. When the time is right, we will return to a welcoming, healthy church.

Blessings, Kathy Mahoney

Church Information
1511 Nicolet Blvd.
Neenah Wi 54956
920-725-4873

Website: www.cuccnm.org
Pastor
pastor@uccnm.org

Church Office
office@uccnm.org

Christian Education Director
ce@uccnm.org

Time & Talent Coordinator
volunteers@uccnm.org

Wider Church Contacts:
www.ucc.org
(United Church of Christ)

www.neaucc.org
(Northeast Association)

www.wcucc.org
(Wisconsin Conference)
For anyone feeling overwhelmed and in need of professional help:
Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Cities

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!
SCHEDULE YOUR
TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT
(920)886-9319

Tele-mental health sessions are proven to be as effective as in-person counseling.
All you need is access to the internet and a computer, tablet, or smartphone with audio and/or video capabilities.
You can meet with your counselor from the comfort of your own home.
We are taking new clients!
We are all in this together and will continue to meet your needs in the safest way!

BEER AND BIBLE
Zoom Beer & the Bible
August 25th 6:00 pm
Contact Church office for login information.

LAKE EDGE NEEDS
Snacks to help keep their cost down
Ritz Crackers
Goldfish crackers
Nutri grain bars
Saltines
Butter  Round crackers
Spaghetti noodles
No-yok Egg noodles
Wheat thins

Lake Edge is still in need of:
Tree logs( 3 feet long)-lots: 10
Contact Robin if you can donate any of the items.
lakeedgelearningcenter@gmail.com.
HELP OUR WIDER WORLD

Shopping on Amazon?

You can easily use the purchases on Amazon that you may already make to help support Global Ministries! By using [this link](https://www.amazon.com) before you start your Amazon shopping, 4% to 7% of the purchase can be donated to Global Ministries at no extra cost to you. Since 2013, Global Ministries friends have raised $9,459.22 through Amazon shopping!

You can read more about this program [here](https://www.globalministries.org/giving_resources#Amazon). Global Ministries also receives donations through AmazonSmile.

HELP OUR WIDER WORLD

At our Leap Into Leadership event one idea that brought forth much interest was forming a relationship with refugees living in the area. We now have that opportunity.

**Community Opportunities Temporary Services (COTS)** will be using its facility at 1312 Monroe Street in Appleton as a home for single refugee mothers and their children. At one time, this was a home for nuns. COTS has used it for a variety of programs and most recently it was used to house hospital workers during the pandemic.

The building has 16 bedrooms. Four or five families will each have their own area of the home and will pay a modest rent. The families will share some communal space, such as a large kitchen, newly remodeled by Home Depot, and dining area.

One woman who is ready to move in has a significant physical handicap. The living space for her and her 10 year old son includes a living area, a bathroom, and two bedrooms. She is excited because now she pays $600 of her $700 monthly income for rent. Her new rent will be significantly less. She is especially happy that there will be room for her sewing machine and supplies.

There are very few new forced immigrants entering the US right now. Families who have come here in the past few years, however, are still in need of support. Many of them have survived horrific experiences including long stays in refugee camps. Not only have they been forced to move far from their homes, they have not always been warmly welcomed and have had to learn to live in a new culture and climate.

**There are a variety of ways you can help. It is requested that we observe social distancing and wear masks while at the home, but church members can work alone or in groups to complete projects.**

**Needs:**

- Install a fence around the back yard
- Provide play equipment in the backyard
- Clean, remodel and equip a three seasons room.
- Sew or provide curtains
- Install safety items, such as baby gates or child safety locks.
- Furnish one of the living rooms for each family
- Add kitchen items (The kitchen is sparsely furnished with pots, pans utensils)
- Build a raised garden bed for next summer.
- Donate laundry supplies, cleaning and paper products

A tour of the home can be provided. You may find other projects that will fit your skill set and could benefit the new residents. And even if you do not work on this project, you can tour this fantastic building and learn more about COTS.

If you are interested in helping, contact Stephanie Vrabec [stephvrabec@gmail.com](mailto:stephvrabec@gmail.com), Sue Knuth [sknuth2@new.rr.com](mailto:sknuth2@new.rr.com) or Mary Janness [malojann@yahoo.com](mailto:malojann@yahoo.com).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 am Outdoor Worship : Communion</td>
<td>6:00 pm Confirmation at Church w/ Mentors</td>
<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 am Outdoor Worship</td>
<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 am Outdoor Worship</td>
<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>3:00 pm Confirmation Via Zoom</td>
<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 am Outdoor Worship</td>
<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>6:00 pm Confirmation at Church</td>
<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 am Outdoor Worship Christmas Card Giveaway</td>
<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Zoom Beer &amp; Bible 6:30 pm Finance Meets</td>
<td>3:00 pm Confirmation Via Zoom 6:30 pm Ministry Council</td>
<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td>Join us for our Outdoor service Weather permitting.</td>
<td>At 10:15 am</td>
<td>It will still be on FB at 10:15 am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WORSHIP
ON THE LAWN
Sunday's at 10:15

Here is how you can participate in worship:

1. Bring your own chairs or blankets and sit at least 6 feet away from your neighbor or

2. Sit in your car bordering the lawn.

You will need to wear a mask the whole time you are on church grounds. If needed we will provide one for you. Hand sanitizer will be available. Wearing a mask on the church grounds will be a visual demonstration of our loving care for one another.

Please do not enter the church while you are there. Bring your own refreshments.

Service will still be live on Facebook at 10:15am and will be posted on the website later in the day.

We will treat inclement weather like a snow day. If it is raining, we will suspend outdoor worship and Spencer and Pastor Dave, plus whoever may be assisting in the service, will live-stream morning worship from the sanctuary.