In sure knowledge that this month’s Thanksgiving will not be normal for most of us, here nevertheless is a poem reflecting on the holiday. It was written by John Berryman, and selected and collected in one of editor Garrison Keillor’s fine anthologies, *Good Poems for Hard Times* (New York: Penguin, 2005), 163.

**Minnesota Thanksgiving**

For that free Grace bringing us past great risks
& thro’ great griefs surviving to this feast
sober & still, with the children unborn and born,
among brave friends, Lord, we stand again in debt
and find ourselves in the glad position: Gratitude.

We praise our ancestors who delivered us here
within warm walls all safe, aware of music,
likely toward ample & attractive meat
with whatever accompaniment
Kate in her kind ingenuity has seen fit to devise,

and we hope—across the most strange year to come—continually to do them and You not sufficient honor
but such as we become able to devise
out of decent or joyful conscience & thanksgiving.
Yippee!
Bless then, as Thou wilt, this wilderness board.

This poem is a prayer, and, although, because of work and distance, it has been many years since I have enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving, I affirm and echo what John Berryman says to God. I acknowledge with him that surviving great risks and griefs is the gift of free Grace, that we share our victories with brave friends and every child, that we owe much to our ancestors and all to God. Thankfully, our lives are sheltered, tuneful, tasty, adorned by sacrifice and creativity. With Berryman, I pray that I may honor my people and Holy God with such goodness as I can devise “out of decent and joyful conscience & thanksgiving.” Every table is set in the wilderness, and we pray the presence of free Grace may enliven and enrich every feast. Kindly God, bless all, as Thou wilt, this Thanksgiving.

Yippee!, Pastor Dave
Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers: Karen Crivello's family, Carol Sweet, Jerry Hupe, Dar and Lee Schuff, Sue Dollhopf, Ellen Humleker, and Betty Curtis. Homebound: Paul Franke.

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.

Nov 3rd
Mark and Nancy Winkler

Long time member Karen Crivello passed about Oct 22nd. Her service was held at Kessler's Funeral home. Please keep Karen's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Remember to set your clocks BACK on October 31st.

11/02 Stephanie Groom
11/03 Ruth Kobinsky
11/03 Myles C.
11/05 Nancy Winkler
11/05 Stephen Ware
11/06 Bently M.
11/08 Jon Hintz
11/10 Katie Hobart
11/20 Lucas A.
11/20 Nick Richardson
11/23 Jared Adams
11/26 Sirena Jording
11/28 Dennis Libertoski
11/29 Ann Luebke
11/30 Bob Doornbos

Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks BACK on October 31st.

Happy Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
The leaves have changed color and have fallen to ground. Our thoughts turn from the colorful leaves to snow gently falling and blanketing our yards making everything look clean and beautiful. This month we are also reminded of being thankful for everything God has blessed us with; our family, friends, health, jobs, and much more. I would personally like to say thank you to all of you for supporting our music ministry through this unique time. Thank you for your wonderful comments and feedback on the hymn histories. It has been and continues to be a blessing to help deepen your worship and love of music. Have a safe, warm, and thankful November. I’m looking forward to connecting with you through our Sunday services and the Hymn History videos.

Spencer Jones

Sacred Music Histories. Every Thursday Spencer will have a new hymn. Check CUCNM Facebook or website to see Spencer’s weekly song.

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for outdoor worship or by going to Facebook

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.

Watch the Congregational United Church of Christ Camp Silent Auction page on Facebook for new items. Then bid and bid again.

https://www.facebook.com/cuccnmcampsilentauction/

November Lecctionary

November 1st
Joshua 3:7-17 or Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or
Psalm 43
I Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 8th
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 or
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 & Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 78:1-7 or
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 & Psalm 70
I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 1st
Judges 4:1-7 or
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 123 or
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12
I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22nd
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100 or
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29th
Isaiah 64:1-9
Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

November 10th
Glad Tidings Deadline
Mission Statement - Ministry of Service encourages people to put Christ’s teachings into action. Our goal is to engage the community in the joyful and compassionate service of others as a testimony and celebration of faith.

For the month of November, the Ministry of Service Offering will be collected for the Fox Valley Community Table (FVCT). FVCT is an ecumenical organization that provides free, hot meals on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, located at 200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah. In addition to raising funds this month to sustain this essential community service, CUCCNM Ministry of Service organizes the free lunch 6 times per year. Volunteers can bear witness to the tremendous help that the meals are for many in our community. Since March, there has been added economic struggle for many people due to the pandemic. The need for meals and food from FVCT has nearly doubled. Please give generously if possible, to support this vital service for our neighbors.

Traditionally, the Fox Valley Community Table also provides a Christmas dinner and household gift bags for their guests. In the past, CUCCNM has been one of the faithful church partners in this outreach. Unfortunately, this year the Community Christmas Dinner and give away will be different. FVCT will provide details of the Christmas meal soon but is currently asking that churches collect sanitizing wipes, disinfectant spray, face masks, shampoo, mittens, razors and shaving cream and canned goods for our guests. We will have a grocery cart in the airlock by the parking lot. Please place items in the cart. When the cart gets full, the contents will be taken to St. Paul’s to make space for more. before November 20th. Gifts will be given out through FVCT from November 24 through January 2 in a giving event called “The 12 Days of Christmas”.

GIVE $ 2 WAYS:

1) On Line - Go to https://www.cuccnm.org/donate/ and check the box next to “I would like to designate this donation to a specific fund”. Select “Fox Valley Community Table” in the drop down menu.

2) At Church - mail or drop your check or cash at church anytime during November. Label cash envelopes “COMMUNITY TABLE” or make your check out to CUCCNM, with "COMMUNITY TABLE" in the memo line.

Thank you so much for your help in providing for the needs of the Fox Valley Community Table. Questions? Contact Stephanie Vrabec at stephvrabec@gmail.com
MINISTRY OF SERVICE

The Alternative Christmas Market is going VIRTUAL!

But we do have an “alternative” Alternative Christmas Market this month and into early December, and here are some ways in which you can support the worthwhile charities that need our help even more this year:

1. Make a contribution to the overall Alternative Market fund, either to the church office, or during our Sunday worship throughout the month of November.

   Write your check to CUCC, and put “Alternative Market” in the memo line. These funds will be apportioned to the Market’s selected charities.

2. Donate online via our church’s Web Page.
   – Go to <https://www.cuccnm.org>
   – Look at the black links on the top of the page and choose “Donate.”
   – Select the box labeled “…designate to a specific fund.”
   – Choose any or several of the charities associated with the Alternative Christmas Market, and make your donations accordingly.

Our Sunday School kids will have the experience of deciding how to use $800 from the Good Samaritan Fund to add to the amounts received from Options 1 and 2.

3. If you’d like to purchase some actual merchandise and support Fair Trade, just go the Serrv website and shop from their catalog. <https://www.serrv.org>

THANK YOU!  Kerry Fox, Sue Knuth, Marcia Fry  And the Ministry of Service

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Ministry of Faith Development

GIVING TREE

We will be working with the Brigade once again this year to help make Christmas a dream come true for families of Neenah/Menasha. This year has been extremely hard on many families in the valley, if you have not helped with the program in the past, this is the year to do it! Please look for an email with the list of items that are needed and then email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org to let me know what you would like to donate. OR visit this link to sign up for yourself.  https://signup.com/go/yTPtTru  A basket will be set outside the parking lot door for your donations, place the unwrapped gift in the basket by December 3rd.

There will also be a Christmas tree, with ornaments on it, located in the hallway near the education wing. This will be set up for the Lake Edge Learning Center parents if they chose to participate.

Many kids of Neenah/Menasha will be happily surprised this Christmas by your generous donation!

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YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Mark your calendars for December 20th to see our youth perform their Christmas Program! Marilyn Kostrzak will be directing the program this year. The play the kids will be preforming is “A Super Christmas” by Vanessa Unti. If your child would like to be a part of the program, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. We will be scheduling a time for the children to join a Zoom meeting to record their lines, the first week of November. Marilyn will then put them all together in a movie to share with the congregation.

If your child would like to share their talent with the congregation, please let Alanna know. We are asking parents to record their child and email it to Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. Marilyn will include their talent in the Christmas Program.
Ministry of Faith Development

Sunday School during November
Sunday school will continue to be virtual via Zoom

NO Sunday School November 1st & 29th
PreK-4th grade will meet via Zoom at 9:30am. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents Friday prior to class. If household items are needed for class, we will send out an email early in the week. The story for the month of November is “The Plagues” (kind of fitting isn’t it?)

5th-8th grade will meet via Zoom at 11:30am. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents Friday prior to class. Please have a bible, paper and pen ready for class.

High School will meet twice a month via Zoom at 11:30. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents Friday prior to class. (November 8th and 22nd)

If you would like your child to participate in Zoom Sunday School or Youth Group activities your child (ren) will need to be a registered Sunday School student please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org to receive a Sunday School Registration form or follow this link: https://pdf.ac/4O87Z

Our Sunday School is a rotation curriculum; children will be taught 1 story a month but taught with different teaching techniques. Storytelling, crafts, science, games and cooking will be used to teach our children important Bible stories.

Sunday School is divided into different ages; 3 years old-1st grade, 2nd-4th grade, 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. However, while we are virtual, PreK-4th grade will meet together on Zoom meetings.

Sunday School Registration Forms
This year we have gone virtual with our forms. If you would like your child to participate in any of our youth programs, please follow this link https://pdf.ac/4O87Z to fill out a form. All families who have completed the forms will automatically be on our email list for Virtual Sunday School, Youth Group activities and Take Out Church.

Confirmation Class

November 5th: 6:00 pm via Zoom; Mentors will be with us.
November 12th: 6:00 pm Via Zoom
November 18th: 6:00pm Via Zoom (Wednesday)

November 26th: NO Class- Happy Thanksgiving!

Take Out Church

Once a month each family will receive a bag of activities for the youth or family to do during this COVID time. If you would like your family to receive this please fill out the Registration Form https://pdf.ac/4O87Z . If you would like to opt out of Take Out Church, please email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org.

Youth Group

Youth group has started up for 5th-8th graders and High Schoolers, please keep an eye out for emails about future dates. To be a part of Youth Group please make sure your child is registered for Sunday School. If you haven’t filled out the form yet, please do so here: https://pdf.ac/4O87Z

Tom the Turkey is back...
Tom the Turkey will be visiting your email box on November 4th. Please take a moment and sign up to donate an item or two. All donations need to be dropped off at church by Sunday, November 22nd. There will be a basket set outside the parking lot door for donations. All items will be donated to those in need of a Thanksgiving dinner. Please visit this link to sign up https://signup.com/go/uNSNdyQ or email the church office at office@cuccnm.org.

Still have time to donate to UNICEF .If you would like to donate, please visit our Facebook page, go under Fundraiser, there you will find a direct link to UNICEF.https://www.facebook.com/pg/ CongregationalUCCNeenahMenasha/fundraisers/?ref=page_internal OR send a check to the church office with UNICEF in the memo.
NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP

As we approach Commitment Sunday on November 8, we hope you’ve been enjoying the Ministries’ narratives and member interviews we’ve been providing each week. If, for some reason, you haven’t been receiving these either by email or US mail, please call Melanie in the church office (920-725-4873) or go to our website where you can easily view all the documents: https://www.cuccnm.org/generous-love-2021/.

We also hope you have, or will have, given prayerful thought about how you might contribute next year toward your church family’s mission, facility maintenance, and financial health. If we all do a little, together we can do more.

We look forward to a joyful worship service on November 8, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Generous Love: Children, Neighbor, Creation

The Committee

$300 - NEW 2020 CHARITABLE TAX DEDUCTION:

This year an additional $300 / person can be deducted in addition to the Standard Deduction for contributions to the church or other charitable entities.

FINANCIAL ZOOMINAR FOR NOVEMBER

CHILDREN AND GENEROSITY WITH A THANKSGIVING STORY

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM-7:45 PM

• 8 Steps parents can take to teach their young children well
• Bible verses and games to help teach children about generosity
• Different measures are appropriate for different ages
• Discussion: How does your congregation nurture generosity with children?
• Thanksgiving Story: “I’m a little too fat, a little too giving. I think I know why.”

Topic: Financial Meeting
Time: Nov 18, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84950333894
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 recurring. 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>September</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving Income</td>
<td>$10,883</td>
<td>$166,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest + Rents</td>
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<td>14,039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$12,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>15,554</td>
<td>152,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>$(2,971)</td>
<td>$27,880</td>
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We are still in the BLACK for the year through September!! Thank you to everyone who has contributed!

Moderator Moment

Fellow congregants and friends. November is our month to be thankful. Well, we should be thankful all months, but November is Thanksgiving. And as I write this in October, I don’t know exactly what we’ll have to be thankful for in November.

We have our church - maybe not the way we’d like it - but we have it. We have our fellow congregants - maybe we can’t see them in person - but we have them. As I said, I’m writing in October. I don’t know what our country will be like when you read this.

So be thankful for family and friends and God’s love! Nothing is more important.

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
Nov 24th 6:00 pm
Contact Church office for login information.

LAKE EDGE NEEDS

Do you have any Hat and gloves laying around that don’t fit your kids anymore.

Lake Edge Learning Center are looking for Hat and gloves that would fit a 2 to 6 year old.

Please drop them off in the air lock right by the parking lot door.
FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!

- Steph Vrabec and Ministry of Service for their narrative budget, mission statement and wish list.
- Erv Wegner for his donation of another zero turn riding mower and all his hard work.
- Kevin Shumann for his hard work getting things prepared for Heartland
- Spencer Jones for bringing back Sacred Song Histories and help with sound on Wally Finches’ memorial and September wedding.
- Marilyn Kostrzak for all her organizational skills with zoom and scheduling of meetings.
- Melanie Nault for her weekly emails and work in the church office keeping everyone informed.

A LAUGH FOR YOU!

“I’m praying they opt for fast food... or that they pray and fast.”

“The dog ate our pledge card, but the veterinarian made him spit it out.”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>6:00 pm Confirmation via Zoom w/ Mentors</td>
<td>6:30 pm Finance Seminar via Zoom</td>
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<td>Sunday School 10:15 am Worship</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>6:00 pm Confirmation via Zoom 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>Pre K- 4th S.S.</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
<td>Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>6:00pm Confirmation via Zoom 7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Via Zoom 10:15 am Worship Commitment Sunday 11:30am 5th-8th S.S. via Zoom</td>
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<td>7-8:30pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Via Zoom 10:15 am Worship via Zoom</td>
<td>Advent Wreath class via Zoom</td>
<td>Advent Wreath class via Zoom</td>
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<tr>
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<td>11:30am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:00 pm Beer &amp; Bible</td>
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<td>NO Sunday School 10:15 am Worship</td>
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for outdoor worship or by going to Facebook

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.