Gathered by the lake, we are
Embraced by God to grow
Empowered by Christ to care,
Enriched by the Holy Spirit to celebrate

Five Ways to Enjoy an Easter Faith

The phrase "Easter Faith" refers to faith in the living God, the One who possesses real power to effect transforming change in our world. Christians, whether we are baptized as infants by our families or choose baptism as adults, inherit a core belief system and view of the world that insists that God has power over and brings new life out of death. We believe in a resurrecting God. New life--good, holy, creative life--has begun in our world, and we each of us may embrace it and live it: right here, right now.

1) Read a book that describes a culture--or cultural experience--other than your own. Alternatively, watch a documentary. If you aren't sure where to start, ask a librarian or do a google search. Be as open as you can to what the people in your book or film say about their experience of life. What gifts do they possess? How do they experience blocks to success and fulfillment? What makes them laugh? What stirs anger or anguish? Imagine yourself living a day within their culture in a body like theirs. Pick someone you trust to discuss the content of this imaginative immersion.

2) Write a prayer a day for a week. Or a prayer a week for a month. There are no rules for prayer. Address some words to God. If you write them down, or save them to a device, however, you can re-read them when you finish. You may ask yourself, "Why did I choose to say these words, or express these ideas to God?" If the Spirit moves, share one of your prayers with someone else.

3) If you play a sport or follow an exercise regimen, pay attention to your breathing during a practice, game, or workout. Focus as intently as you can on the mechanics of your breathing; when your mind wanders, gently draw it back to your breath. When the contest or exercise is concluded, give yourself (allow yourself? accept?) some moments to reflect. Try this prompt, "What does breathing do? What is breath for?"

4) Spend 1-3 observant hours in a park; on, beside, or (eventually!) in a body of water; on the Wiouwash Trail; in a forest or tree-filled lot. Record what you see, hear, feel, smell, and maybe taste (your loved ones trust you to use good judgment about the latter!). Compile a thick description of life and activity in that place. Set aside some time a few days later to review your description and remember your experience. Consider what, if anything, God has to do with the natural world...

(Continued on next page)
5) Read a gospel, any of the four: John, Luke, Mark, or Matthew. Read not so much to glean facts about Jesus, as to place yourself in his story. Identify with the characters other than Jesus. Imagine that you are lame and he heals you. Consider that a demon lives with you, and he expels it. Suppose he shows up at school or work, and says, "Follow me." Try to trip him up and trap him. Worry about his safety and sanity. Join the crowd that surrounds him. Guard his tomb. Who are you?

You are blessed, and a blessing. And your life is a gift in which God defeats death. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Happy Easter.

Pastor Dave
Happy Easter and Spring!

The Lord is risen and the tulips are starting to show their faces! It is a beautiful time of the year with the warmer weather and plants once dormant are showing signs of life again. While things are starting to look better as far as the past 13 crazy months I encourage you to use this time of year to grow and blossom. Listen to music that helps you deepen your faith. Learn the histories of many hymns with our Sacred Song History Videos. Be open to new thoughts and ideas, be curious about them, question them, and use them to help you grow your faith. I am looking forward to being part of that journey with our music on Sundays and in the Sacred Songs Videos. Have an incredible April and let's grow together!

Spencer Jones

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

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for worship 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.

April Lectionary

April 4th
Acts 10:34-43 or
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8

April 11th
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18th
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25th
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

CUCCNM is responsible for the Community Table on Tuesday April 20th.

We will again use the Perfect Potluck sign up system. You have the option to bring a hot casserole to serve 5 people instead of sandwiches. The casserole can be put into take away containers on site (containers are provided by Community Table). Please include other take away items as noted on the perfect potluck website.

Link: https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/POHI8671

The Community Table commitment for the rest of the year will be the third Tuesdays of the month on 4/20, 6/15, 8/17, 10/19, and 12/21.
Spiritual Life

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Pastor Dave and our Confirmands will be providing our Maundy Thursday service live on Facebook at 6:30 pm.

JOIN US ON EASTER MORNING
AT 10:15 AM FOR WORSHIP

Live on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/CongregationalUCCNeenahMenasha/

It will be posted to our website later in the day.
https://www.cuccnm.org/category/sermons/

- We will be having special music.
- There will be Communion.

Please have your communion elements ready so that you can share in sacrament together.

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies represent so much in life, but did you know that they also represent Lent? The butterfly is a great symbol of the resurrection. By using the life cycle of caterpillar-to-butterfly, we can gently show that death is a change to a new kind of life and that during Lent we can morph toward lives filled with joy and excitement.

During the season of Lent, we will be collecting homemade butterflies from our congregation. Please make a butterfly of your choosing—this could be a picture you color, a collage, stained glass, a painting, or a coffee filter and clothes pin. The butterflies will capture each person’s or family’s unique character and bring us all into the sanctuary together this Lent and Easter season. If you would like a template to color, please email Melanie at office@cuccnm.org and she will send you one.

Please make sure your name is on the butterfly and drop it off during office hours (9:00-12:00 M-F) or place it anytime in the bin located outside the parking lot door. Butterflies will be collected starting today until Easter, April 4th.

If you would prefer not to make a butterfly, please let Melanie know by email at office@cuccnm.org or call the church office (725-4873) and we will have the youth make one for you.
RUMMAGE SALE

JUNE 11-12

We are planning to this year participate in the Doty Island Rummage Sale. So we will do collection of items starting as soon as you read this! You will need to call the church office and set a time with Melanie for dropping off your items. We will place all items on the stage area in Fellowship Hall. You must enter and leave using the door off the kitchen (closest to Fellowship Hall.) More information to follow on time of the sale...we will need help - so if you are able to help with set up, clean up or the day of the sale, or have any questions - please contact Marilyn Kostrzak (920-680-5237 or email: mkostrzak@aol.com)

APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING
One Great Hour of Sharing
“LET THE LOVE FLOW!”
“The day of God’s hope made real!
The day when nobody is hungry, nobody thirsty!
The Day of God’s Love flowing freely!
Based on Isaiah 49: 8-12

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

From the beginning OGHS has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating communions. Currently, OGHS committee officially comprises eight Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and Church World Service.

One Great Hour of Sharing partners with other organizations to more efficiently benefit the people in need of services or education. Last year you and others at CUCNM contributed $1,802.00. The 50% match from the Good Samaritan part of the Permanent Opportunity Fund was $901. This brought the total to $2,703.00.

Congregational United Church of Christ of Neenah-Menasha was among the top 100 contributors per capita in the national United Church of Christ for 2020. The need continues to increase with the pandemic. Let’s continue to share our good fortune again this year by assisting those less fortunate through OGHS.

Your continued generosity brings hope to those in need. Indicate OGHS on checks or other contributions made through Congregational United Church of Christ of Neenah-Menasha.

For more information including videos of some of the ways this offering changes lives, go to ucc.org/oghs

Thank you for caring and “letting the love flow freely”!

Click on to watch video: OGHS 2021 Let Love Flow - YouTube
Ministry of Faith Development

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April 4th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. Happy Easter!

April 11th: PreK-4th 9:30am; Middle School 11:30am and High School 11:30am

April 18th: PreK-4th 9:30am; Middle School 11:30am and NO HIGH SCHOOL

April 25th: PreK-4th 9:30am; Middle School 11:30am and High School 11:30am

April 25th is the last day of Sunday School for Middle and High School

May 2nd is the last day of Sunday School for PreK-4th

Sunday school will continue to be virtual via Zoom

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 April is Wedding at Cana

5th-8th grade will meet via Zoom at 11:30am. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents and students (if I have their email) Friday prior to class. We are using a new and fun curriculum “Holy Troublemakers and the Unconventionall Saints”

High School will meet twice a month via Zoom at 11:30. A Zoom invite will be sent to parents and students (if I have their email) Friday prior to class. (April 11th & 25th)

VIRTUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

On Easter Sunday there will be a Virtual Easter Egg Hunt available. A link will be found on Facebook as well as emailed out to everyone. Email your answers to Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org a fun prize will be given to the top winner(s).

CONFIRMATION CLASS

April 1st: 7:00 pm Middle School Rm
April 8th: 7:00 pm Church Sanctuary; Mentors will be with us.
April 15th: 7:00 pm Middle School Rm
April 22nd: 5:15pm Zoom
April 29th: 7:00 pm Middle School Room
May 2nd: Confirmation Sunday at 10:15 during worship. Make sure to tune in to see our 6 confirmands share their faith story and affirm their love for Jesus and God.

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.

Service Sunday is May 16th, we are collecting loose change for “Change for Change”. If you or your children would like to donate to this campaign please leave a bag of change on your doorstep and I will collect it for you.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP SILENT AUCTION!

Every year we hold a Silent Auction to help raise funds for scholarships to send kids, parents, grandparents and families to camp. This year, due to Covid, we are not holding a Silent Auction. Please consider sending in a donation to church to help raise funds. You can either send in a check with “Camp Scholarship” in the memo or donate online with the church’s PayPal. Thank You!

Sunday School Teachers are needed for next school year!! We are looking for 1-2 more teachers to co-teach PreK-1st grade and 1-2 teachers to co-teach 2nd-4th grade. If you like hearing the laughter of children and would like to teach God’s love, please talk to Alanna Smith today! ce@cuccnm.org You would only teach 1 Sunday a month with an easy pre-written curriculum. Very little planning needs to be done.
CUCCNM SERVICE SUNDAY IS COMING! MAY 16, 2021

Heavy Rain and Thunderstorms - Date May 23, 2021
Time to emerge from your cocoon and the long covid winter!
Gather your family and friends and come out for a morning of service!

This year we have several options for outdoor and socially distanced service work in our community. It is hoped that through your service work to enhance the sustainability efforts around our community, you will gain an appreciation for the importance of Creation Care (protection of the natural world and conservation of earth’s resources) as one of the main faith tenants of the CUCCNM congregation.

Gather at the Smith Park Pavilion at 9:30 Sharp for a short send-off service.

Service Project options:

- **Card making at the Smith Park pavilion** (for those that have mobility issues). Nature themed homemade cards will be donated to a selected local nursing home to encourage and inspire the faith of residents. *Bring colored pencils and markers and other craft supplies that you have on hand. Card stock and envelopes will be provided.* (Many are welcome)

- **Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah-Menasha - Lawn and landscaping work** will be done to beautify and enhance the environmental sustainability of our property. *Bring rakes, shovels, trowels, gloves and drinking water. Property clean-up and mulch spreading will be the goal with some plantings if possible.* (need 8-10 people, more are welcome)

- **Lake Edge Learning Center** outdoor nature themed playground maintenance and improvements. *Bring shovels, wheel barrel if possible, gloves and drinking water.* (need 4-6 people)

- **COTS Monroe House** - 1312 S. Monroe Street, Appleton, WI 54915 A raised garden bed will be constructed in the back yard of the house to provide the residents a family gardening opportunity and home-grown produce. We will work with the residents on constructing the garden bed. All materials will be provided. *Bring shovels, wheel barrel if possible, gloves and drinking water.* (Need 4-6 people)

- **Menasha Conservancy Garlic Mustard eradication.** This invasive plant is easy to pull and can be collected and served as a salad green, its removal benefits other native plants in the area. Meet at the parking area of Menasha Conservancy for instructions. It is located on the north side of Hwy 114; 0.5 mile east of South Oneida St (hwy10). *Bring gloves, large plastic bags and drinking water.* (Many are welcome!)

- **Doty Island Flower planting** – Plants donated by Watters Nursery will be delivered to the Doty Island planters by May 16th. *Bring trowel, gloves, drinking water and a small bag of potting soil in case it is needed.* (need 4-6 people, more are welcome)

Gather back at the Smith Park Pavilion at Noon for a short wrap-up time of sharing and fellowship and distribution of some goodies!

Historically “Change for Change” has been collected weekly in April for Service Sunday. We have a small budget to work with this year. If you would like to make a contribution to Service Sunday, please drop it off at the church office and make sure it is marked for Service Sunday.

A google doc is linked here : https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSetYyKWTRwikhMROWiuteCpaC7bOFdV2ChJJMbdslppahdYg/viewform?usp=sf_link to sign up for a service project.

Be sure to bring your family and friends and follow all current Covid 19 protocols that may require persons to wear a mask or keep socially distanced (6 feet apart) even during outdoor activities.

**Questions? Contact the church office (920-715-4873) / office@cuccnm.org**
Signa Meyers (signa.meyers@gmail.com) or Stephanie Vrabec (stephvrabec@gmail.com).
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!

We are in the BLACK!
Thank you to everyone who has contributed!
Spiritual Life

“Needlers”
Please join us via Zoom the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Friday of the month at 1:00pm. (April 7th and April 16th) This is for anyone working on a needlework project (knitting, crocheting, etc.) or wanting to learn to knit. Some will be working on Prayer Shawls. All friends and neighbors are welcome. Questions, contact Laurie Kleist. See weekly emails or contact church office for Zoom code.

BEER AND BIBLE
Zoom Beer & the Bible
April 27th 6:00 pm
See weekly emails or contact church office for Zoom code.

SUMMER CAMP
We are all dreaming of sunnier days and freedom to go where we want when we want. This is the perfect time to start thinking about registering for summer camp. Summer camp is not just for the kids, there is family camp, “and Me” camp (parents, grandparents or friends of a little one) and many other camps for youth and adults to choose from! Don’t wait too long to register yourself, your kids or your whole family camps are feeling up fast! Camps will only be at 50% capacity this year to help with social distancing and to keep all the campers and staff safe. Summer is coming quicker than we think and you don’t want to miss out on this great opportunity! Please go to https://ucci.org/ to register for camp. All campers are entitled to receive a scholarship, once you are registered send your receipt to ce@cuccnm.org to apply for the scholarship. If you have any questions about camp feel: free to email Alanna at ce@cuccnm.org. Camp is a great place to make memories and friendships for a lifetime!

CAMP AWESUM
HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP NEWS!
Don’t know what to do this summer and are between the ages of 14-22? Consider joining many of your church buddies for an experience of a lifetime. Spend one week at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in St. Germain, WI assisting families with children on the autism spectrum. We will leave following worship on Sunday, June 13th and return on Saturday, June 19th. Limited space is available so secure your spot today by emailing me and registering online at https://ucci.org. Once you have registered, email me with the receipt to apply for a camp scholarship. Fundraising opportunities are available!
**Spiritual Life**

**LOOKING TO SEE SOME FAMILIAR FACES OR MEET NEW ONES?**
**JOIN US ON SUNDAYS BEFORE WORSHIP TO CATCH UP!**

**NO Coffee Catchup on EASTER Morning.**

**Topic:** Sunday Catch-up with Coffee  
**Time:** Jan 10, 2021 **09:00 AM** Central Time (US and Canada)  
**Every week on Sun,** until May 16, 2021, 19 occurrence(s)  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85336220973

Meeting ID: 853 3622 0973

Call this number if you do not have a computer and you can listen in.  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and use the meeting id # 853 3622 0973

***This link will be the same link to use every week. It will be in the newsletter every week.***

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**THANK YOU NOTES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thank you From Ministry of Stewardship during February Meting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan Jischke - plumbing job</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Stoll - all her dedication to Lake Edge</td>
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<td>Pastor Dave/ Spencer - with continuing to hold worship.</td>
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<td>Melanie Nault - getting everything together for annual meeting.</td>
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<td>Alanna Smith - extra work with Lake Edge</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dear Members of CUCCNM,</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thank you for your support of the Fox Valley Community Table with your continued participation in providing meals and with your generous financial donation. We gratefully acknowledge receiving $2476.50 in December, 2020 and $970.70 in January, 2021. Since the lock down last March we have served nearly 5000 meals, approximately 60 per serving day. Our guests are very appreciative as we are for your generous support.</td>
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<th>Dear friends in Christ</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thank you for your generous support of the united church of Christ as we continue to expand our ministry to communities across the country. Your gifts of $300 to neighbors in need and $600 to one great our sharing were received. Your donation will help us deep in our love for God and serve our neighbors with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. I pray that this is a time for rebirth and hope for you and your love ones. Thank you again for your financial assistance as a united church of Christ continues to build a just world for all.</td>
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<td>May God’s grace always sustain you.</td>
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<td>Sincerely, Reverend Dr. John Dorhauer, General minister and president</td>
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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Coffee" /> Sunday Catch-up w/ Coffee via Zoom 9-10 am Every Sunday</td>
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<td>Zoom code on page 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Service 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>2 Good Friday</td>
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<td>4 EASTER No Coffee Catch up NO Sunday School 10:15 am Worship</td>
<td>5 Church Office closed</td>
<td>6 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
<td>7 1:00 pm Needlers via Zoom</td>
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<td>8 7:00 pm Confirmation : Church with Mentors 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>11 9:30 am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:30am 5th-8th &amp; H.S, S.S.</td>
<td>12 11:30am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>13 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study</td>
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<td>15 7:00 pm Confirmation : Church 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>16 1:00 pm Needlers via Zoom</td>
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<td>7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>18 9:30am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:30am 5th-8th S.S,</td>
<td>19 11:30am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>20 Community Table 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm Finance</td>
<td>21 22 5:15pm Confirmation via Zoom 6:30 pm Ministry Council 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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<td>25 9:30am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:30am 5th-8th &amp; H.S, S.S, Last Day of MS &amp; HS S.S.</td>
<td>26 11:30am Staff Meeting</td>
<td>27 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:00 pm Beer &amp; Bible</td>
<td>28 29 7:00 pm Confirmation : Church 7-8:30 pm Horizon II AA</td>
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join Pastor Dave and Spencer on Sundays at 10:15 am for worship 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.