

February 2021

# GLAD TIDINGS!

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



Congregational United Church of Christ Neenah / Menasha


Two years ago, I was installed as your pastor and teacher. I'm grateful to serve with you! Here are some thoughts on prayer, some in the form of proverbs, in this pandemic winter:

- It is good to pray for other people.
- If you don't know what words to offer, trust the Holy Spirit to prompt you.
- Visualize. It is more than enough to think of a person, to see him or her, to say their names, within the conscious presence of God .
- God doesn't need to be informed of every detail of a person's medical chart, prognosis, or treatment plan. Neither do the people who might be hearing your prayer.
- Even so, if you are speaking or writing in private, say anything and everything you want to God. Ignore your self-censor. Nothing is hidden from God, anyway. It helps us not to hide things from ourselves.
- Run. Paint. Walk the dog. Notice your breathing .
- The phrase "it's all good" is truer of prayer than most other applications.
- Don't limit your prayer for others to those who are, or seem to be, ill. We each and all of us stand in the need of prayer.
- If a particular individual comes to your mind often in prayer, pay attention. The Spirit is speaking.
- Listen to Jesus pray: John 17. If his prayer doesn't speak to you immediately, read it every day for a week. If it still doesn't communicate, release it and let it go.
- If you tell someone you will pray for them, do it immediately before the richness or dryness of your life occupies you and you forget.
- The psalms are your friend, and also your enemy. They contain the whole of life, the breath of God, and enough comfort and challenge to last your whole life long.
- Contemplate God.
- Love the one you're with.
- Explore your faith (and/or doubt) in writing. If you bring or send it to me, I'll respond.
- When praying publicly, don't manipulate or intimidate others, and don't indulge fantasies of your own superiority.

(Continued on next page)

- Don't hide your spirituality under a bushel, either.
- Learn yoga, Tai Chi, piano... Practice
- Exercise your imagination.
- Observe Sabbath.
- When you say something mean in prayer, acknowledge it, own it, turn from it, and ask forgiveness. God forgives.
- If someone critiques your prayer, listen.
- Measure the health of your Church by the number of people who are willing to be vulnerable in prayer .
- Thank somebody.
- Your life is the answer to your prayer.

in time with hope,  
Pastor Dave




**170th Congregational Annual Meeting**  
**February 7th**  
**11:30 am on Zoom**

If you would like to participate you will need to register;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8448661766?pwd=ZUwvc2UwZGp3ZWpHdGcPXTJ0hCz6oDAHvQFOEJCX>

You will receive an email when you are registered. If you do not have a computer you can phone in. Please contact Marilyn Kostrzak to sign up. (920-730-0264)




Long time member  
**Roy Rosenberger**  
passed away  
February 1st. Please  
keep Cheryl Humleker, and  
Roy's family in your prayers.  
Arrangements were not  
available at time of printing.

2/03 Lee Schuff  
2/03 Kristen Meier  
2/06 Henry B.  
2/06 Len Hoehne  
2/07 Robert Diem  
2/09 Don Kleist  
2/09 Betty Curtis  
2/11 Carley K.  
2/11 Paul Swatscheno  
2/12 Maxwell Boehnlein  
2/14 Adam Chaffin  
2/18 Annabeth H.  
2/23 Sammy A.  
2/26 Brandon O- J  
2/28 Dawn Welling



**No February  
Wedding Anniversaries**

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:  
Roy Rosenberger family,  
Mari Beth Diem, Jack Land,  
All family and friend who are dealing with Covid -19 illness,  
Homebound Paul Franke.

# Spiritual Life



Hard to believe we are already in the second month of the new year. I hope you are staying safe and warm. This month we celebrate Black History Month in our Sacred Song Histories by focusing on Spirituals. The history behind some of these pieces is absolutely amazing. It's astounding how such beauty and light can come from a dark time in our history.

As for our virtual services I am looking forward to creating beautiful music you can enjoy in the comfort of your own homes. Thank you for all of your support. Keep singing and being a light!

Spencer Jones



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

## COMMUNITY TABLE LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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.

**February 16th** is our day to service lunch. Each person to make 5 bag lunches. We are using [Perfect Potluck](https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/POHI8671) online to sign up to help make lunches. <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/POHI8671>

Click on the link to sign up or call the church office if you need help in signing up



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](http://www.cuccnm.org).

## February Lectionary

### February 7th

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### February 14th

II Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
II Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

### February 21st

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

### February 28th

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 or  
Mark 9:2-9



## February 15th

Glad Tidings  
Deadline

## Ministry of Service

### FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

#### KIDS KART CLUB



The Kids Kart Club mission is to keep kids in school by providing an exciting and interesting alternative to drugs, gangs, and other negative social pressures. This alternative is the assembly, maintenance and racing of motorized go-karts. Keeping kids in school by providing hands on mechanical training, teamwork, task accomplishment, job satisfaction, competition, sportsmanship, and recreation is the primary goal of the Kids Kart Club. Pete Kardong, a member of our church is the head of Kids Kart Club.



#### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



SM On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join the young people of this congregation and around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It is a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Join Souper Bowl of Caring to help tackle the need for over 14 billion meals in 2021 by donating money online, mailing in money or dropping off canned goods at church. We will have a bin outside the parking lot doors for food collection. To donate online either go to Facebook or follow this link: <https://map.tacklehunger.org/donate/congregationalucc>  
All collections will be donated to the Community Table. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

## Spiritual Life

### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021



This year, we will offer a drive-up imposition of ashes. Pull into a spot at the front of the church during either of two windows: from 12-1 PM, or from 6-7 PM. (You may also personally arrange a time between those windows by texting or calling Pastor Dave at 608-774-0640.)

Besides ashes, each participant will receive a Lenten prayer calendar. Anyone who is old enough to read can use the prayer calendar throughout Lent; or, families can use it together. Please be thinking of your own prayer intentions, and when you arrive we will record them to help guide our congregational prayer throughout Lent's forty days.

Since Lent 2021 occurs in the context of an ugly pandemic that began during Lent 2020, each participant will also receive a comfort-food treat made by our own youth. The treat is seasonally oriented, but it does have sugar in it, so if you are giving up sugar for Lent or don't eat sweets, you may decline or re-gift it!

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

### Beer and the Bible - Bible Study - Discussion Group

You see them listed every week or month, but you may not know what goes on with them. Read on and consider joining in on any or all of these programs.



**Beer and the Bible** (B&TB) is an adult discussion group that meets monthly to discuss current issues or topics related to faith. The topics are chosen by the members and, when possible, sent out ahead of time. **February 16th** will be our next discussion on Zoom. Please see newsletter for login information. There's no need to sign up ahead of time but if you think you'll be attending, let the church office know so we can provide you with advance reading material if available.

### Bible Study



**Bible Study** is an adult lectionary Bible Study program that meets weekly on Tuesdays at 11:00 am on Zoom for right now. We spend time reading and discussing the weekly lectionary scripture readings. Starting in January we will be discussing the Book of Acts. This is a Zoom meeting share by listening or taking part, with or without video. See weekly newsletter for Zoom login information. no matter where you are in your journey with the Bible you are welcome to join.



zoom

**Zoom log in information can be found on weekly emails or by emailing or calling the church office.**

## Ministry of Faith Development

### HEY CAMPERS OF ALL AGES!

Now is the time to start thinking about camp registration. A complete camp schedule and registration online can be found at [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org). Camp is open for campers as young as 4 and families! Registration open March 1<sup>st</sup>. Scholarships are available for all campers. Once your camper is registered, please email me a copy of the registration so I can start the scholarship process. Email Alanna at [ce@cuccnm.org](mailto:ce@cuccnm.org).

### CAMP AWESUM- IT IS TIME TO REGISTER!

There are 4 different weeks for Camp AweSum this year, if you are interested in volunteering your time to help at this camp, please contact Alanna.

Camp AweSum is open to Freshman and up.

Youth will help families with children on the spectrum. Counselors (youth) will support all the children of the families (those on the spectrum and those not on the spectrum) for 3 hours each morning and one evening during the week.

Cost is \$290 for the week, but the experience is priceless! (camp scholarship will pay for half and the kids will fundraise the other half)

For more information about Camp AweSum, please either email or call Alanna at [ce@cuccnm.org](mailto:ce@cuccnm.org) or 920-725-4873

# Ministry of Faith Development

## SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING FEBRUARY

Sunday school will continue to be virtual via Zoom

### Sunday School PreK-12<sup>th</sup> grade

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 see the link below to sign up.

**PreK-4<sup>th</sup> 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 February is The Lord's Prayer

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 and students (if I have their email) Friday prior to class. (February 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>)

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-1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. However, while we are virtual, PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade will meet together on Zoom meetings

**February 7<sup>th</sup>:** PreK-4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am; Middle School and High School 11:00am

**February 14<sup>th</sup>: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>:** PreK-4<sup>th</sup> 9:30am; Middle School and High School 11:30am

**February 28<sup>st</sup>:** ALL Sunday school kids-  
**CAMP SUNDAY!!!!**



## Confirmation Class

### February 4<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Church Sanctuary;  
Mentors will be with us.

### February 11<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Zoom

### February 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Church Lounge

### February 25<sup>th</sup>

5:15pm Zoom



**Youth Group** Youth group is 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 have not filled out the form yet, please do so here:



## 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](mailto:ce@cuccnm.org).

## Sunday School Registration Forms

This year we have gone virtual with our forms. . 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. 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



**Sunday School Teachers are Needed for next school year!!** We are looking for 1-2 more teachers to co-teach PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade and 1-2 teachers to co-teach 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ce@cuccnm.org) You would only teach 1 Sunday a month with an easy pre-written curriculum, very little planning needs to be done.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Barbara Van Gorp & John Dobbins** John and Barbara live on the south side of Neenah and have been married for a little over five years after being “set up” by three friends who were in cahoots with one another. John has three children and Barbara has one. They have a total of five grandchildren, two grand-dogs and one cat.

John was born in Elmhurst, IL but has lived most of his life in Neenah. Barbara was born at Theda Clark and lived all her life here except for 14 years when she and her daughter lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Barbara’s entire 44-year career has been in the insurance industry with the exception of three years when she tried to revive “Gene’s Bake Shop” in downtown Neenah. John and Barbara had been Catholic until a few years ago when they branched out to try a new church in the Evangelical community. Some uneasy feelings began to creep in with the political climate being what it was these past four years, and they sought to find a church that fit their standards and beliefs. Discovering CUCCNM and learning that this congregation really means it when they say they welcome everyone right where they’re at has been a breath of fresh air. Barbara and John attended services outdoors with us towards the end of summer until the weather turned and they have been online, coffee in hand, ever since. They have jumped in with both feet to help us with some community service needs and are looking forward to meeting everyone in person when the time comes.



**Katie and Bryan Engelhardt** first met in Iowa City as graduate students. One memory that stands out is our time at First Mennonite Church where we were able to promote peace during the second Iraq war. From Iowa City, we moved to Worcester, Massachusetts where Bryan worked at the College of the Holy Cross as a professor of Economics, and Katie worked in clinical audiology. We

enjoyed our open and affirming First Baptist Church in Worcester and expanded our family to include **Abram, Graham and William**. After our family grew, we quickly realized we’d like to raise them closer to our Midwest homes and moved to Neenah in 2016 when Bryan started working at UW-Oshkosh. Spiritually our inner lights are fed by a belief in people and hope for the future. Our actions are a key part of our spiritual lives and those actions have often focused on where we are at in life. Katie has also spent a couple years enjoying teaching Sunday School and sharing music with students. Similarly, Bryan has been inspired to help others, and promote justice, in different ways at work. He has enjoyed volunteering in prisons as part of the Alternatives to Violence Project when writing about crime, and he has asked his students to help ex-felons find jobs and teach new immigrants about personal finance. Here in Wisconsin, he is passionate about his analysis on whether the Wisconsin legislature incentivizes District Attorneys to overcharge offenders. He also studies the costs and benefits of some of the Cristine Ann Center’s services to promote independence for women striving to find their freedom. We are excited to join CUCC-NM because we want to live our beliefs not only at work, but within our local community as well. We look forward to finding new paths to share Jesus’s example - an example we often see through the lens of promoting peace and justice .



**Jim Sell** grew up in Neenah after being adopted by Arvin and Dorothy Sell on January 15th, 64 years ago. Jim has two young adult sons, Andrew and Matthew. One interesting note is that Jim lives in the house in which he grew up in.

# 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!



Moderator Moment

Fellow congregants and friends.

As I write this we are approaching the inauguration of a new president. I ask God for help in bringing peace to our nation. I ask that we go forward as one nation under God as we pledge.

I pray for comfort for those affected by COVID in illness or loss of loved ones. I pray that the light at the end of the tunnel comes closer. And I pray for peace for all of you, and may we soon be back together in person.

Blessings to all.

Kathy Mahoney, Moderator

## Accountant's Corner

	December	Year to Date
Giving Income	\$ 20,813	\$ 211,372
Interest + Rents	1,810	19,400
Other Income	-	50
<hr/>		
Total Income	\$ 22,623	\$ 230,822
Expenses	30,037	215,279
<hr/>		
Difference	\$ (7,414)	\$ 15,543



We are still in the **BLACK**  
for the end of the year.  
Thank you to everyone who  
has contributed !

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

**Website: [www.cuccnm.org](http://www.cuccnm.org)**

**Pastor**  
[pastor@cuccnm.org](mailto:pastor@cuccnm.org)

**Church Office**  
[office@cuccnm.org](mailto:office@cuccnm.org)

**Christian Education Director**  
[ce@cuccnm.org](mailto:ce@cuccnm.org)

**Time & Talent Coordinator**  
[volunteers@cuccnm.org](mailto:volunteers@cuccnm.org)

**Wider Church Contacts:**

**[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**  
(United Church of Christ)

**[www.neaucc.org](http://www.neaucc.org)**  
(Northeast Association )

**[www.wcucc.org](http://www.wcucc.org)**  
Wisconsin Conference



# Spiritual Life

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 smart phone 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



**February 16th 6:00 pm**

**Contact Church office for log-in information .**



### "Needlers"

Please join us via Zoom the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Friday of the month at 1:00pm. **(Feb 3rd and Feb 19th)** 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.



### Church Leadership

2020

### Ministry Council

#### Moderator:

Kathy Mahoney

#### Vice Moderator:

Ann Pabst

#### Secretary:

Mary Janness

Accountant: Dave Zernicke

### Ministry of Faith Development

Bridget Balogh

### Interim Ministry of Service:

Stephanie Vrabec

### Ministry of Spiritual Life

Sherri Jischke

### Ministry of Stewardship

Kevin Katzman

### At Large:

Shirl Alix

Dan Jischke

Dave Kufahl

### Church Historian:

Mowry Smith

### Communication Coordinator

Marilyn Kostrzak

### Time and Talent Coordinator:

Clo Shuman

### Personnel Committee

Dan Jischke, Steve Stoll,

Marilyn Kostrzak

### Pastoral Relations Committee

Dan Balogh, Steve Ware,  
Gary Zurbuchen, Kerry Fox

# Spiritual Life

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

zoom



**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)

Jan 17, 2021 09:00 AM through May 16, 2021 09:00 AM

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85336220973>

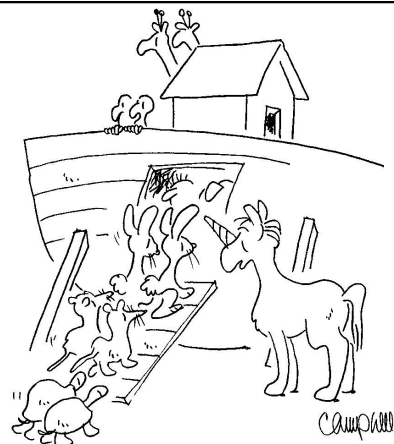
Meeting ID: 853 3622 0973

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

## A LAUGH FOR YOU!



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."





"Be my valentine .... Be my valentine ....  
Be my valentine ...."



"We were on the way out the door before I remembered I needed something for the Valentine party at Sunday school."



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study	<b>3</b> 1:00 pm Needlers via Zoom	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Confirmation via Zoom w/ Mentors 7-8:30pm Horizon II AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA
<b>7</b> 9:30am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:00am 5th-8th & H.S, S.S,  11:30 am Annual Meeting	<b>8</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Confirmation via Zoom  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA
<b>14</b> No Sunday School 10:15 am Worship:  	<b>15</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> Community Table  11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Beer & Bible	<b>17</b> Ash Wed	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Confirmation via Zoom  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Needlers via Zoom	<b>20</b>  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA
<b>21</b> 9:30am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:30am 5th-8th & H.S, S.S,	<b>22</b> 11:30am Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 6:30 pm Finance	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:15pm Confirmation via Zoom 6:30 pm Ministry Council 7-8:30pm Horizon II AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7-8:30pm Horizon II AA
<b>28</b> Camp Sunday  9:30am Pre K- 4th S.S. 10:15 am Worship: 11:30am 5th-8th S.S,			<b>Sunday</b> Catch-up w/ Coffee via Zoom 9-10 am  Every Sunday	<b>Zoom</b> code on page 10		

**Congregational United Church of Christ  
of Neenah / Menasha  
1511 Nicolet Blvd.  
Neenah, Wi 54956  
920-725-4873  
www.cuccnm.org  
office@cuccnm.org**

**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](http://www.cuccnm.org).