

The Ponderings of Pastor Beth

Dear Members and Friends,

When our **Five Practices Team** got together Wed. Feb. 28 for our first official session (although we had met for our initial day-long training Sat. Feb. 3), truth be told, we weren't sure just what to expect. Like the times you have tried something new, we too were a bit curious and cautious not knowing just what it would be like. But by the time we ended our night of talking about the first practice healthy congregations use—**Radical Hospitality**—we were fired up, energized, and relived to have found a resource that could help us move forward into even more of where God is calling us as a church.

Prior to our night together, we had done our “homework” and read the corresponding workbook on Radical Hospitality. When we got together (and after sharing a delicious meal with dessert!), we highlighted what we had read, **raised questions**, offered feedback, and then decided it was time to take a tour of the church. If we were going to take seriously ways to **encourage welcome and hospitality in and around our building**, then we needed to “see with fresh eyes” what guests see when they walk into our church for the first time.



We “**toured**” every entrance wondering what curled up posters and cluttered entrances said about our sense of welcome. We quickly came up with a list of things we wanted to consider, rearrange, replace, or otherwise **freshen up all throughout the building** to create a greater sense of radical hospitality to all who come through our doors.



On Sun. Mar. 18, many of you took the tour with us to see our ideas! Now let the Five Practices Team know which area(s) of the church and which ideas you are most interested in helping become even more welcoming. We desire your feedback, so keep adding comments and names to our **Fellowship Hall display!**

The Five Practices Team has been brainstorming the hospitality ideas, the Board has approved of them, and now it will be up to all of us to live into them as we see fit! Find your ways—large or small—of helping us live into where God is calling us!

Pastor Beth

 (“Friend” me on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com): Beth Abbott)

Who's Serving When in Worship?



April 1

Opening the Church Veronica Shea
Ushers Steve Pantaleo, Kathy Draver,
Frei Family
Liturgist Bunny Scudder
Communion Crew Kaye Povlich
Closing the Church **Need Volunteer**

April 8

Ushers Crystal & Teresia Champagne
Liturgist Connie Draver
Kids' Korner **Need Volunteer**

April 15

Ushers Veronia Shea & Wendy Rendflesh
Liturgist Amber Mason
Fellowship Time **Need Volunteer**

April 22

Ushers **Need Volunteer**
Liturgist **Need Volunteer**
Kids' Korner Hansen's

April 29

Ushers Jodi & Alex Pelczynski
Liturgist Pam Rossi
Kids' Korner Pelczynski

Pancake Brunch Fundraiser

Sunday April 22

Following Worship and Sunday School

*Please leave a freewill offering and enjoy
pancakes, sausages, fruit, juice, and coffee.*



A Holy Week of Worship:

Palm Sunday (Mar. 25 9:30 AM)

*Kids' Palm Procession
Resurrection Biscuits during Sunday School!*

7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship (Mar. 28)

Remember Jesus' Last Supper

7 PM Good Friday Worship (Mar. 29) at First Congregational UCC

Give witness to Jesus' last hours

Easter Sunday (Apr. 1)

8:30 AM Pastry Breakfast & Photo Booth

9 AM Egg Hunt

9:30 AM Easter Worship

(with Communion & Noisy Offering)

Five Practices Team

Session #2: Passionate Worship

Our team will meet **Wed. Mar. 28**

5:30-8 PM with our facilitator Jeanne Mantsch, lay leader at First Congregational UCC in Port Washington. We're looking forward to another powerful night of deeply engaging in conversations about our reading, wondering what might be possible, and discerning where God is calling us!

What's Happening in Worship in April?



Easter Sunday: April 1

John 20:1-18

Join us for this “April Fool!” Easter worship. We’ll celebrate the good news of Jesus’ new life and hear the call to live it out in our own lives. We’ll gather around the communion table & kids will take part in a coloring activity during the sermon.

Second Sunday of Easter: April 8

TBD

Third Sunday of Easter: April 15

Luke 24:36b-48

The disciples were still disbelieving and wondering even after the risen Jesus appeared to them in the flesh. A healthy, robust faith can withstand some disbelief, wonder, and uncertainty. Believers and doubters, questioners and curious minds—let’s gather to worship together a living, sometimes mysterious God!

Earth Day Sunday: April 22

Psalms 23

We’ll use the much-beloved “funeral passage” Psalm 23 which speaks of green pastures and still waters as we celebrate all of God’s creation and see our part as God’s stewards this Earth Day Sunday!

Fifth Sunday of Easter: April 29

John 15:1-8

Jesus says, “I am the vine.” If he’s the vine, then we’re the branches. How are we serving as Jesus’ branches in the world? How are we living out his call to “abide in him” and “becoming his disciples”?

Pastor Beth’s Ministry Highlights from March:

- Our confirmation class, along with our mentors and a parent, went to **Molthen-Bell Funeral Home** for a tour and to talk about funerals and death on Sun. Mar. 11. We do this so that students (and adults) have the chance to learn more about what happens when loved ones die at a time when the event is not happening.
- We served guests who are homeless or low income at **The Gathering** (for the first time at their new location). Nine of us from church served breakfast, offered smiles, and in other ways, helped offer the presence of God’s love.

April’s Confirmation Classes

Sun. Apr. 15

What does **Communion** mean to me?

Sun. Apr. 29

What are **Healthy Relationships?**

(with Mentors)

Romantic Relationships: Healthy Patterns and Recognizing Abuse

Spring Craft/Vendor Fair

Come shop and/or help shop on Sat. Apr. 28
10 AM-2 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Just in time to find that perfect Mother’s Day gift! Invite friends and spread the word!
Raffles & bake sale too!

St. Luke's UCC Board Minutes March 14, 2018

*Present: Rev. Beth Abbott, Brad Uelmen, Amy Wheelock-Brodzik, Veronica Shea
Kathy Immel, Pam Rossi, Kelly Hansen*

Excused: Kaye Povlich The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Beth led an opening prayer. Kelly Hansen made a motion to approve the Jan. Minutes; seconded by Veronica Shea.

Pastor's Report:

- The City checked out the church as a possible polling place for upcoming elections starting in 2019 as an alternative site to Rawson School. Notified in Sept. if we are chosen.
- Holy Week devotionals are available for adults and children.
- Pastor Beth will be off on April 8. Rev. John Helt offer pulpit supply.

Financial Report:

- Pam Rossi made a motion to approve the Jan. and Feb. financial reports; seconded by Kathy Immel.
- January had many bills due especially the quarterly ones. Potbelly fundraiser is down due to the need now to show a voucher but we're grateful for what comes in monthly.

Five Practices:

- Team discussed Radical Hospitality and walked around the church discovering areas needing attention. Will present ideas to the congregation and ask for input and help.

Christian Education:

- Upcoming classes: The Last Supper, Garden/Trial and Resurrection

Music & Worship/Building & Grounds:

- South Milwaukee Police Department did courtesy night check on outside of

building and everything was turned off/locked as it should be.

- Ushers will see a notice "5 bulletins remain" at the bottom of the bulletin pile so they can hand out 1 bulletin/2 people to ensure everyone gets one.

Old Business:

- Annual Meeting was successful overall. Congregation provided good input regarding our financial situation.
- Spring Vendor/Craft Fair is Apr. 28. 26 vendors & 4 crafters paid so far. Some vendors donated items for a raffle. Amy Wheelock-Brodzik will ask the congregation to donate baked goods.

New Business:

- South Milwaukee Police Department is offering a free training on best practices to protect people in the event of an active shooter. Board members and Sunday School Teachers may attend the training likely scheduled in July. Studies show the survival rate increases with greater planning/preparedness and have a responsibility to protect (as best as we are able) all who come to worship.

Anything Else:

- We have a new system to check the grape juice before serving it. We sincerely apologize to anyone who experienced the soured grape juice Mar. 4. It was grape juice though and not wine in the center. When preparing communion, please open only 1 grape juice bottle at a time and consume or take home any remaining juice.

Next meeting: Wed. Apr. 11 6:30 PM. Brad closed the meeting at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Rossi
Recording Secretary

New Usher/Communion Server Duties

Starting May 6, we will divide the duties of Ushers on the first Sundays of the month. Two Ushers will arrive around 9 AM, greet and hand out bulletins, collect offertory, and serve communion. Communion Servers (the other two "on duty" that day) will not need to do any of those duties except serve communion.

We're hoping this increases the amount of people willing and able to help with worship duties. Our Office Administrator Jennifer will be in touch with you to ask or clarify duties. You are welcome to sign up any time to usher/serve communion (see sign up sheet in the narthex).

More Than We Can Imagine

Our special UCC offering on Mar. 11 (along with the Noisy Offering on that day plus in January) resulted in \$500 toward **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**! What a total!

Our collection will transform lives throughout the world by supporting our UCC mission partners in more than 70 countries. Through your generosity, these partners help fund development projects, feed victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, and respond to natural disasters. Thank you for your amazing support!

'Like' Our St. Luke's United Church of Christ Facebook Page!

Find St. Luke's United Church of Christ (see picture with communion cup) and 'check in' when you're worshipping! Join us and invite friends to follow us.

Lenten Guest House Donations

So far you've given over 300 items! Just a reminder: Easter Sunday (Apr. 1) is the final day to share the following highly needed items with our neighbors through Guest House.

body wash for men (*full size bottles*)
body lotion for men (*full size bottles*)
deodorant for men
toilet paper
new men's t-shirts (*sizes S-XXXL*)

Place items in the pink bin in the narthex.
Thank you for your generosity!

Noisy Offering Collection

Our 'soup kettle' Noisy Offering on **Easter** (Apr. 1 instead of the second Sunday) will support **Interfaith Older Adults Program!** Bring an Easter-basket full of coins and small bills to support Seniors in our community live independent lives for as long as possible!



Sharing Sunday: April 15 (third Sunday of each month)

Suggested Items: Toiletries
(*toothbrush/paste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.*)

Your donations will be collected during children's time and shared with our neighbors in greater need through Human Concerns.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Have you had a fall?
Do you have a fear of falling?**

Take control of your life to remain independent in your home by enrolling in a Stepping On workshop. You'll learn strength and balance exercises to reduce your chance of falling. Learn from experts about how medication and vision impact your risk of falls. Also learn about mobility in your community, how to do a home safety assessment, safe footwear and improving your sleep.

Join Us:

Oak Creek City Hall, 8040 S. 6th St.,
Oak Creek
Thursdays, April 12 through May 24
9-11 AM

Cost: \$25 (includes weights and snacks)
To register or receive more information
call (414) 766-795

Availability in our Fellowship Hall

Do you know of an organization, club, kids' program, crafters, etc. who could use our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday and/or Thursday nights? We'd collect a nominal fee from adult groups (to help pay for the lights, heat, etc.), but we would not charge children's groups such as the Scouts, etc. Our Board approves all requests to use the facility. Contact Brad Uelmen or the church office for questions or a recommendation.

An Important Reminder

Due to privacy restrictions, when you or your loved one seeks medical treatment at a hospital, nursing home, etc, you need to call Pastor Beth (920) 207-3889 to have her visit, pray for you, or just be aware.



Free Community Meal
for South Milwaukee
residents seeking or needing
a hot meal & fellowship

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
1111 N. Chicago Ave. South Milwaukee

**The 3rd Thursday of each month:
April 19 5-6:30 PM**

Please enter through the parking lot door
*Sponsored by city religious communities,
civic agencies and private businesses.*

Our Monthly Potbelly's Fundraiser

Our 3rd Tues. of the month fundraiser at
Potbelly's in Oak Creek
(in strip mall between Chick-fil-A & Five
Guys) from 5-8 PM continues
Tues. Apr. 17.

Show a paper voucher (see table in narthex every Sunday prior), our facebook page Potbelly's post from your phone, the voucher posted on our website, or at least mention "St. Luke's." Encourage friends to join us the tasty fundraiser!

It's Time to Think About Camp!

Camp is not just for kids. There are Grandparent & Me, Mom & Me, cooking, and many more themed weekends and weeks scheduled at our two UCC camps (Pilgrim Center near Ripon and Moon Beach between Eagle River and St.

Germain). Camp is rejuvenating and spiritually uplifting. See ucc.org for more info. Please note: Be in touch with Pastor Beth about Association scholarships. Don't let money hold you back!



April Birthdays

Emma Nall	4/2
Nina Rossi	4/2
Ruth Dienberg	4/6
Michele Sodemann	4/7
Crystal Champagne	4/7
Sydney Januchowski	4/7
Bunny Scudder	4/9
Matt Frei	4/9
Lucy Frei	4/11
Linda Ahlhaus	4/13
Mike Parkinson	4/13
Judy Lackner	4/14
Terry Walter II	4/14



April Anniversaries

Erwin & Judy Lackner	4/12
Jerry & Bernice Johnson	4/13

Financial Report for February 2018



Balance as of 1/31/18	\$34.44
Receipts	5,577.51
Transfer in-Housing Allowance	2,500.00
Reimbursement from endowment	512.50
Total Receipts	<u>8,590.01</u>
Expenses for January	\$7,282.62
Balance as of 2/28/18	\$1341.83

Switch to Egiving?

At any time, you can update your scheduled amount or begin automatically withdrawing your offering from your checking or savings account. Fill out an authorization form (pink paper in narthex or stlukesucc.us) and select your monthly withdrawal to be on the 1st or the 15th.

Interfaith South Shore Regional's Trivia Night Fundraiser

Saturday, April 21 Join Interfaith South Shore Regional for an evening of trivia, raffle prizes, and fun! A cash bar will be available for beverages.

Doors open at 6:30 PM and trivia starts at 7:00 PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
(723 Badger Ave., South Milwaukee)

Individual ticket - \$15
Team Table (for up to 10 players) - \$100 before April 13th or \$125 at the door

For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/SSRTriviaNight> or call 414-762-1998. All proceeds directly benefit Interfaith South Shore Regional Neighborhood Outreach Program

Church Contacts:

Pastor Beth's Office Hours:
Tu, Th, F 9 AM – 4 PM
Church: (414) 762-8260
Website: stlukesucc.us
Pastor's Beth's new email:
stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com
Office Administrator Jennifer's email:
stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com