

# The Ponderings of Pastor Beth

Dear Members and Friends,

Advent prepares us for experiencing the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmas. Join us as the kids light the Advent candles each week (during the children's time) and fill your heart with hope and peace along the way. Here's what's in store:

## Advent Hope Begins! December 3

We'll light the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle & highlight **Shepherds** & their role in Jesus' birth story. Unwrapped **White Gifts** will be collected. **Kids attend Sunday School** & rehearse for the Christmas Program after.

## Advent Peace Continues! December 10

As the kids light the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent candle, we'll feature **Angels**, collect **Teddy Bears** (new w/tags on) along with a **Noisy Offering for Human Concerns**. **Kids in Sunday School** will learn more about the story Jesus' birth before doing a final Christmas Program rehearsal.

## Advent Joy is Celebrated! December 17

We'll light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent candle & feature **Mary & Joseph** as the **Children's Christmas Program** proclaims the good news of Jesus' upcoming birth: "God's Promise Came True!" **Milk & cookies** after!

## Jesus is Born! December 24

### 9:30 AM Christmas Eve/4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Just in time to light the last Advent candle (Love), we'll also celebrate **Jesus** & his arrival! It'll be "**Happy Birthday, Jesus!**" with the Christmas story & singing songs! A festive, upbeat worship for all ages!

### 7 PM Christmas Eve

"**Come and behold him!**" Experience the awe-inspiring good news of Jesus' birth. We'll sing cherished Christmas songs, experience the story anew, share **communion** & be sent out with a candlelit **Silent Night**.

## The Celebration Continues! December 31

We'll experience more **Christmas joy** in **Fellowship Hall** as we **share breakfast** & worship less formally!

*Pastor Beth*

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

**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 email: pastor@stlukesucc.us

Office Administrator Jennifer’s email:

stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com

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**Who’s Serving When?**

**December 3**

Opening the Church Mike Mason  
Ushers Mike & Amber Mason  
Liturgist Austin Orosco  
Communion Crew Kaye Povlich & Wendy  
Closing the Church **Need Volunteer**

**December 10**

Ushers Chris & Lynn Proeber  
Liturgist Emma Nall  
Kids’ Korner Hansen’s

**December 17**

Ushers David & Michelle Sodemann  
Liturgist Steve Hansen  
Fellowship Time Christmas Program

**December 24**

Ushers **9:30 AM** Ron & Jill Petrus  
Ushers **7 PM service** Mario & Tanya Brown  
Liturgist Kaye Povlich

**December 31**

Ushers **Need Volunteer**  
Liturgist **Need Volunteer**

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**2018 Pledge Cards can still be turned in!**

Your pledge card is your best guess for your support for our ministries and a great way to keep you/your family accountable for giving. Thank you for your continued generosity!

**Come find your ornaments on our “Family” Christmas trees!**

Last year we invited each household to give up to three ornaments to the church for our Christmas trees in the sanctuary. This year, starting Dec. 3, come find yours! You’ll see all are mainly blue (the color for Advent) or white (the color for Christmas). Remind yourselves of which one(s) you donated and recall the meaning they offer.



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**Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule:**



Sun. Dec. 3 9:30 AM

Advent Begins:

Lighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle

Sun. Dec. 10 9:30 AM

Lighting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle

Sun. Dec. 17 9:30 AM

Lighting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle

Children’s Christmas Program

“God’s Promise Came True!”

**Sun. Dec. 24 9:30 AM Christmas Eve**

*Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle

**7 PM Candlelight & Communion**

**Christmas Eve**

Sun. Dec. 31 9:30 AM

Christmas Worship Celebration

Fellowship Hall

## **November 15th Board Meeting Minutes:**

The board meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Beth led an opening prayer. September minutes were approved.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational is exploring sponsoring to clean 2 miles of road x3/year & asked to do this as a joint project with our church. We'll go forward checking into details.
- Lifeline a mobile health screening company would like to use Fellowship Hall. Date to be finalized, possibly the end of March 2018.
- Advent: nativity pieces will be incorporated into service each week: Shepherds, Angels, Mary and Joseph, Baby Jesus and the Advent candles will be on a lower table in front of the altar for children to do the lighting this year during children's time.

### **Financial Report:**

- A motion to approve the October financial report was made by Kelly Hansen and seconded by Pam Rossi. Motion approved.
- Reviewed snow plowing payments.
- \$1800 withdrawn from parsonage account to pay off line of credit.
- Pledging numbers so far are 39 cards returned, \$1915 monthly and \$461 weekly making a total of \$46,952 which is an increase from last year. More cards to be returned soon.

### **Christian Education Report:**

- Children's Christmas program "God's Promise Came True!" is Dec. 17 with 3 practice days before the program.
- Open House scheduled for Advent postponed to possibly Lent.

- White gift tags available November 19 and gifts are due back December 3.
- Teddy Bear Sunday is December 10.

### **Old Business:**

- Brad will check to see if we can still repair the parking lot this year or if it will have to wait until spring 2018.
- The congregation will need to vote at the Annual meeting regarding the usage of the Endowment fund.

### **New Business:**

- Budget for 2018 reviewed and revised. New budget will be reviewed and finalized in December.
- What about organizing a Holiday Bazaar/Craft Show as church fundraiser? Kelly to look into this.
- Kelly would like to organize a Trunk or Treat for Halloween 2018 to increase community awareness about the church.
- Dental coverage for Pastor Beth will be changed to a family plan in 2018 increasing the cost by \$120.00 a year.
- Joey Hicks will be presenting his Eagle Scout project next meeting.

### **Anything Else:**

- Board to review vision statements from the congregation and decide on 3 visions that can be executed in 2 years. Will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed. Dec. 13, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Brad closed the meeting at 8:08 PM, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Rossi  
Recording Secretary

**Financial Report for  
October 2017**



Balance as of 9/30/17	\$1,635.23
Receipts	8,010.29
Transfer in-Housing Allowance	2,500.00
Credit Line	1,800.00
Total Receipts	<u>12,310.29</u>
Expenses for October	\$13,847.78
Balance as of 10/31/17	\$97.74

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**Pastor Beth's Ministry Highlights  
from November:**

- We celebrated with **Kendall Frei** as she experienced communion for the first time on Sun. Nov. 5! God's blessings to you, Kendall, as you experience the blessings of Jesus' table each time going forward.
- **Stewardship Celebration Sunday** on Nov. 12 gave a chance for all to pledge offerings for 2018 and "Write the Vision" for our church's future!
- Plans are in the works for creating a meaningful **Advent** and a blessed **Christmas** for all!

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**"Blue Christmas" at First Congregational  
UCC (South Milwaukee)**

First Congregational invites you on **Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM** for a reflective worship service. This yearly holiday season is not as joy filled and superlative as the media and commercialism would have us believe. Many people struggle during this time with grief, personal loss and struggle, as well as societal issues. This worship is a time to acknowledge this pain as well as to provide hope. A light reception will follow.  
All are welcome.

**December Confirmation Classes:**

**Sun. Dec. 3**

What are the **Church Seasons?**  
Who is the **Holy Spirit?**

**Sun. Dec. 10**

What is **Worship?** With Mentors

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**The Hat & Mitten Tree**



is available throughout the winter months for donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc. All items will be donated to Human Concerns to support our neighbors in greater need.

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**Fellowship Time**

Sign up to sponsor fellowship the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Kids now share in these snacks, so please offer at least 1 kid-friendly item (applesauce pouches, string cheese, cutie oranges, etc.) Sign up with a friend to make it easier!

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**Noisy Offering Collection**

We'll collect our "Noisy" soup kettle offerings of coins and bills on **Sun. Dec. 10** to support Human Concerns (adding to our Nov. 12 collection of \$56.15! Your giving supports our South Milwaukee neighbors in need with food, clothing, household items, holiday assistance, and referral services.

## Monthly Potbelly's Fundraiser



Eat at Potbelly's in Oak Creek  
(in strip mall between  
Chick-fil-A & Five Guys)

**Tues. Dec. 19 from 5-8 PM**

(and every third Tuesday of the month).

The church gets 25% of the proceeds! No  
voucher & it is open to all in the community,  
so invite friends even if you can't make it.

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### Giving Reminders

Any donations you make to the church are  
tax-deductible! You'll receive a year-end  
giving statement from the church for your  
tax records.

Also, remember your church with any year-  
end distributions and any future financial  
planning (wills, etc.)

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### Umm...Where Did Sharing Sunday Go?

In November and December, we'll pause our  
third Sunday "Sharing Sunday" (*bringing  
featured item such as peanut butter & jelly*)  
because we'll be doing the Harvest Bags in  
November and White Gifts & Teddy Bear  
Sundays in December. Not to worry, Sharing  
Sunday will return Jan. 21!



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month:**

**December 21 5-6:30 PM**

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

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### Parents' Night Out!

This event is open to the congregation and  
the public. It is an opportunity for parents to  
drop off their children ages 6 weeks to 12  
years so they can have time to do whatever  
they need to do...kid free! At least one  
certified teacher and other trusted  
congregation members will be there to  
provide fun activities for the children.

**Fri. December 8 5-8 PM**

**Sat. December 16 1-4 PM**

Any parent that is interested can call or text  
Amy Wheelock-Brodzik at 414-803-8364.



Lynn Proeber	12/2
Kim Lang	12/3
Shirley Stone	12/4
Will Pantaleo	12/7
Kendra Wheelock	12/10
Jeff Brodzik	12/11
Ron Petrus	12/13
Roseanne Januchowski	12/14
Madalynn Fuchs	12/15
Connie Draver	12/18
Tereisa Champagne	12/18
Kelly Hansen	12/19
Bonnie Crissey	12/20
Don Wiegand	12/22
Eric Berlin	12/22
Dona Bautz	12/25
Dennis Parkinson	12/25
Brianna Boucher	12/26
Shane Champagne	12/28

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**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. Medical staff are no longer able to make these contacts.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> or the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**Do You Have an Idea to Share?  
A Question? A Concern?**

Contact a Board Member: Brad Uelmen (President), Amy Wheelock-Brodzik (Vice President), Kaye Povlich (Treasurer), Veronica Shea (Financial Secretary), Pam Rossi (Secretary) Kathy Immel (Building & Grounds), Kelly Hansen (Christian Education)  
Or a Pastoral Relations Committee Member: Janet Mierendorf, Michael Osborne, Ron Petrus, or Jilloyn Sodemann