

# The Ponderings of Pastor Beth

Dear Members and Friends,

Our **Five Practices Team** gathered for Session #2 on Wed. Mar. 28. As we shared dinner together, our topic was “Passionate Worship.” We evaluated our current worship practices and sensed that our worship *is* passionate meaning alive, authentic, fresh, and engaging. We saw the

---

## Passionate Worship is:

**Alive**  
**Authentic**  
**Fresh**  
**Engaging**

*-Passionate Worship workbook*

connection between Radical Hospitality (the theme from our first session) and Passionate Worship. A sense of welcome is conveyed in all we do in an hour of passionate worship.

We liked the way that many people lead worship including children. We liked that some aspects remain the same week to week (typically the format of worship) but that routinely things are different especially in different church seasons (such as the Easter season or Lent). This help us “hear” the scripture in new ways and connect with

God in ways we hadn’t before.

With careful eyes, we looked at our bulletin. We saw that it is comprehensive but not lengthy. It appears guest-friendly and doesn’t include “insider” language or acronyms.

We did sense a need to try some new music. The challenge with music that has a more modern feel is finding songs that fit our theology. Many “praise songs” capture images of God or understandings of Jesus that do not fit our church’s faith understandings. However, the UCC offers the *Sing!* song book so we’ll look into that as well as other sources. Our plan would be to learn 1-2 new songs and see how we respond.

What are your ideas? What do you love or not love as much about our worship? How might we create worship together that is even more passionate?

*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](http://stlukesucc.us)

Pastor’s Beth’s **new** email: [stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com)

Office Administrator Jennifer’s email: [stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com)

---

**Worship changes minds.**  
**Worship opens hearts.**  
**Worship changes behavior.**

*-Passionate Worship workbook*

## Who's Serving When in Worship?

### May 6

Opening the Church	Veronica Shea
Ushers	Hansen's
Communion Servers	<b>Need 2 Volunteers</b>
Liturgist	Stephanie Pischke
Communion Crew	Amber Mason
Closing the Church	Veronica Shea

### May 13 (Mother's Day)

Ushers	Wendy Rendflesh &
Liturgist	Emily Garlie
Kids' Korner	Wendy Rendflesh

### May 20 (Confirmation Sunday)

Ushers	<b>Need 2 Volunteers</b>
Communion Servers	<b>Need 2 Volunteers</b>
Liturgist	Amber Mason
Fellowship Time	<b>Need Volunteer</b>

### May 27

Ushers	<b>Need 2 Volunteers</b>
Liturgist	Margy Harder
Kids' Korner	Amber Mason

\*\*\*\*\*

## What's Happening in Worship in May?

### Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 6

We'll gather around the communion table to nourish our faith journey and listen for God's word to speak to our hearts and minds.

### Ascension Sunday: May 13

#### Luke 24:44-53

It's a "Bring a Friend" Sunday, so we encourage you to bring your Mom, Grandma, or favorite person this Mother's Day as we explore different ways to pray. You'll come home with meaningful ways to rejuvenate your prayer life.

## Pentecost Sunday: May 20

### Acts 2:1-21

As we celebrate the "birthday of the church" and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we will also celebrate Confirmation Day. We'll hear our students share their Statements of Faith which will rekindle our faith lives for sure.

## Trinity Sunday: May 27

### John 3:1-17

Nicodemus has plenty of questions and "asks" for Jesus. Together, we'll see how these "age old" questions are still very much relevant today!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Five Practices Team

#### Session #4: Risk-Taking Mission & Service

Our team will meet on Wed. May 23 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, questioning what might be possible, eating dinner together, and discerning where God is calling us!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Noisy Offering Collection

Our 'Soup Kettle' Noisy Offering on Sun. May 13 (the second Sunday of the month) will support Interfaith Older Adults Program. On Easter, we already collected \$76.78 to support Seniors in our community live independent lives for as long as possible! We'll add to the collection with your coins and bills on the 13<sup>th</sup>!



## St. Luke's UCC Board Minutes April 11, 2018

**Present:** Pastor Beth Abbott, President Brad Uelmen, Vice President Amy Wheelock-Brodzik, Financial Secretary Veronica Shea, Treasurer Kaye Povlich, Recording Secretary Pam Rossi, Christian Ed Facilitator Kelly Hansen **Excused:** Buildings & Grounds/Stewardship Facilitator Kathy Immel

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Beth led an opening prayer. Kelly Hansen made the motion to approve the March meeting minutes seconded; by Kaye Povlich, motion approved.

### Pastor's Report:

- April 21 is the Annual Association meeting. Amy Wheelock- Brodzik will attend with Dee Fuchs.
- May 13 is Mother's Day and also Bring a Friend Sunday. We decided on the Mother's and Father's Day gifts for all women and all men attending on those respective days.
- Fun Day is June 10 and we decided on a Baseball Tailgate Potluck theme.
- Considered holding a summer Sunday worship at Grant Park.
- New idea: Prayer Partners to start in the summer to connect members of the church with each other. It will be on a volunteer basis. You'll submit your contact information and you'll find out your Prayer Partner on June 10!

### Financial Report:

- Pam Rossi made a motion to approve the March financial report; seconded by Amy Wheelock-Brodzik, motion approved.
- Overall we are doing okay. Endowment Fund was down a little. There is a youth account not being used. Account will be closed.

### Five Practices:

- Topic this month was Passionate Worship. The group reviewed the worship program and discovered that we have already incorporated many of the ideas into our service. Some new ideas to try are to incorporate newer music into worship.
- Hospitality ideas will need to be prioritized for completion. "Project managers" need to be assigned. Pam Rossi will be project manager for the kitchen entrance.

### Christian Education Report:

- Sunday School will be learning about Saul, the Woman and the Well and the Disciples in May.

### Old Business:

- Spring Vendor/Craft Fair is April 28. Some of the vendors have donated items for an auction/raffle. Janet Mierendorf will be assisting with this. The congregation will be asked to donate items for a bake sale. Amy Wheelock-Brodzik will help coordinate. Flyers have been sent out to local businesses. Sign will be posted 2 weeks prior to the fair. The church will be cleaned on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### New Business:

- Parking lot needs to be repaired. Brad Uelmen will contact companies to get quotes. After the decision has been made by the Board for which company to use, a special congregational meeting will be scheduled to approve the funds used for the repairs.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tues. May 15 at 6:30 PM at Potbelly's. Brad closed the meeting at 8:10 PM, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Rossi, Recording Secretary

## Pastor Beth's Ministry Highlights from April:

- We had a beautiful Easter together including our Easter pastry breakfast, photo booth, egg hunt, and meaningful worship. The kids loved doing the activities after children's time in worship and then returning for communion. They got to make Holy Week snacks and decorate the "Alleluia" banner!
- We collected an amazing **385** toiletry items for our neighbors through **Guest House!** Thank you for your generosity! We appreciate everyone who boxed up the items after Maundy Thursday and Jeff Brodzik for dropping off the items for us.
- We anticipate a great **Spring Craft/Vendor Fair!** Thank you Kelly Hansen and all the hands that have spearheaded this new fundraiser and community event!

\*\*\*\*\*

### "Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict"

In partnership with South Milwaukee United Against Drug Abuse Coalition, Trinity Lutheran Church will present this 45-minute film on Monday, May 7 at 6 PM.

The South Milwaukee Health Department will hold a community discussion after. This is an opportunity to learn more about the growing prescription drug and heroin problem in our community.  
Feel free to bring friends.

## Prayer Partners

For the summer months, you'll be invited to be a part of what we're calling "**Prayer Partners.**" On or before Sun. June 3, you'll have the chance to submit your contact information, and on **Fun Day (Sun. June 10)**, you'll find out who your Prayer Partner is for the summer!

You and your Prayer Partner will have each other's contact information to share (to the level you are comfortable) whatever prayer requests you have. Throughout the summer, you will be praying for each other. You can check in via text, email, in person on Sunday morning, phone calls, or even find your stamps and send a hand-written card or note! Our goal would be that as you pray for one another, you also get to know another person from the church and our bonds as a church family will grow tighter. Perhaps you'll start as Prayer Partners but end the summer as friends as well!

Watch bulletins and congregational emails for more information mid-May.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Worship & Outdoor/Indoor Clean Up Day!



Following a shortened worship on Sun. June 3, we'll clean up the flower beds, trim the bushes, and otherwise spruce up the lawn for the summer. We'll have many indoor tasks awaiting all ability levels.

Save the Date!

A light lunch to follow.

This would be a great day to move ahead with our Five Practices ideas!

Note: If there are any teens or youth needing service hours, we would happily welcome their participation and sign off for the hours worked. Spread the word!

**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).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Do You Receive Our Weekly Congregational Emails?**

Typically every Friday, Pastor Beth sends out a brief email to the congregation about what to expect on Sunday morning and any announcements. If you'd like to receive the email, let her know:

[stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com). If you haven't yet updated your contact information to that new email address, please do that as well. Tired of the weekly email? Feel free to "unsubscribe" at any point by sending an email. No explanation needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Financial Report for March 2018**



Balance as of 2/28/18	\$1341.83
Receipts	6,240.18
Transfer in-Housing Allowance	2,500.00
Total Receipts	<u>8,740.18</u>
Expenses for March	\$7,874.07
Balance as of 3/31/18	\$2207.94

**National Day of Prayer**



All are invited to be a part of this year's National Day of Prayer at the South Milwaukee City Hall on Thurs. May 3 at 7 PM. For more information please contact Sr. Pastor Robert J. Kieck 414-403-1023, [pastorobertjkieck@gmail.com](mailto:pastorobertjkieck@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Bring a Friend" Sunday: May 13**



We highly encourage everyone to "Bring a Friend" on Sun. May 13 as we celebrate Mother's Day. Would you bring your Mom, Grandma, or favorite person? How about that person who keeps saying they'll come "some day" to check out our church? Cash in that "some day" and bring them!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sharing Sunday: May 20**  
*(third Sunday of each month)*

Suggested Items: Rice & Boxed Potatoes  
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!

\*\*\*\*\*

**'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.

**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  
9:00-11:00 AM

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

\*\*\*\*\*



**South Milwaukee  
Free Community Dinner**

**1111 N. Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee**

Located in First Congregational United  
Church of Christ Building

**3rd Thursday of each month 5:00 to  
6:30pm**



Enter by parking lot door.

\*\*\*\*\*

**May Anniversaries**

Paul & Tisha Hodgins	5/2
Shane & Crystal Champagne	5/3
Kevin & Roseanne Januchowski	5/4
Mario & Tanya Brown	5/11
Kevin & Amanda Kaczmarek	5/19
Tom & Michelle Smith	5/22

**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. May 15.**

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 [ucci.org](http://ucci.org) for more info. Please note: Be in touch with Pastor Beth about Association scholarships. Don't let money hold you back!

\*\*\*\*\*



**May Birthdays**

David Boucher	5/6
Nick Parkinson	5/8
Jennah Smith	5/8
Kegan Hodgins	5/12
Tisha Hodgins	5/16
Turtle Tadeyeske	5/18
Michelle Smith	5/22
Nolan Hodgins	5/22
Gabriel Osborne	5/28
Ryan Immel	5/31

