

# The Ponderings of Pastor Beth

Dear Members and Friends,

We as the Wisconsin Conference will be busy in the coming months preparing host the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod in Milwaukee June 21-25. This is the gathering of the wider United Church of Christ.



Throughout that week, we will worship, conduct business, discuss the intersection of faith and today's important issues, enjoy fellowship together, and be fueled to ***Shine!***—our Synod theme this year. **See the related article to see how you can help us *Shine!* as a volunteer!**

As part of that preparation, the Southeast Association (and the 3 other Associations) will combine Annual Meetings with the Wisconsin Conference. The theme that weekend is related: ***Living the Light.***

Now as we step into Epiphany, we too as a church will be celebrating the ***Shine!*** Jesus offers the world as well as considering again how we are ***Living the Light*** as Jesus' disciples.

So...how are we ***Living the Light?*** How does our church ***Shine!?***

Looking back to December, we certainly did!

- We again provided **Christmas gifts for 18 children** in our community who otherwise might have gone without.
- We gave many, many **teddy bears** and stuffed animals of all sizes/varieties to offer comfort to children through Sojourner Family Peace Center, Hope House, and the Police/Fire Depts. in South Milwaukee.
- We gave \$160 to **Human Concerns** to share with our neighbors in greater need from our November and December Noisy Offerings.

How will we continue to Live the Light of Christ in January? Join us in the opportunities listed throughout the newsletter and, together, we certainly will ***Shine!***

*Pastor Beth*

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

## Who's Serving When in Worship?

### January 6

Opening the Church	Kaye Povlich
Ushers	Kelly Hansen & Kelly Van Dam
Communion Servers	Veronica Shea & Judy Lackner
Communion Crew	Veronica Shea
Liturgist	Erwin Lackner
Closing the Church	Kaye Povlich

### January 13

Ushers	Wendy Rendflesh
Liturgist	Connie Draver
Kids' Korner	Jodi Pelczynski

### January 20

Ushers	Steve Plum & Joan Weller
Liturgist	Veronica Shea
Fellowship Time	Amy Wampole

### January 27

Ushers	Steve Hansen & Jason Van Dam
Liturgist	Brad Uelmen

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## What's Happening in Worship in January?

### January 6 Epiphany Sunday Matthew 2:1-12

Join us as we feast together at the **communion** table, experience the arrival of the **three Wise Ones** and explore all that their visit (& gifts!) offered the newborn baby Jesus. Stay after for our annual **Three Kings Cake!** Will you be the one to find the baby Jesus in your piece and experience God's blessings throughout 2019? After children's time, kids will participate in **First Sunday** activities in Fellowship Hall and rejoin worship for communion.

### January 13 Baptism of Christ Sunday Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

We'll experience the renewing story of Jesus' baptism and collect a **Noisy Offering** for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS).

### January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend John 2:1-11

We'll hear Jesus' first miracle recorded in John's gospel—transforming water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee—and live into the challenge of further becoming **MLK's Beloved Community**. Bring your Sharing Sunday items: pasta and sauce to share with our hungry neighbors.

### January 27 Congregational Annual Meeting 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

"The body [of Christ] does not consist of one member but of many." As we worship then meet as a congregation for our **Congregational Annual Meeting**, we'll be reminded of how integral each member is to the body of Christ.

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## With Deepest Sympathy

Sue Ponik, wife of Jack Ponik, passed away December 21, 2018.

Funeral Service was held on December 28 at Molthen-Bell. God's peace be upon her family now in their time of mourning.

## December 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Rev. Beth Abbott, President Brad Uelmen, Vice President Amy Wheelock-Brodzik, Financial Secretary Veronica Shea, Recording Secretary Pam Rossi, Treasurer Kaye Povlich, Facilitator/Stewardship Kathy Immel

**Excused:** Christian Ed Facilitator Kelly Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Beth led an opening prayer. A motion was made by Amy Wheelock-Brodzik to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes seconded by Kaye Povlich, motion approved.

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

- December 30 worship will be in Fellowship Hall.
- January 9 Epiphany and Three Kings cake.
- In January 2019, General Synod will be looking for volunteers for June 21-25, 2019. More information to follow.

### **Financial Report:**

- A motion to approve the November financial report was made by Amy Wheelock-Brodzik and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.
- A motion to approve the Housing allowance for Pastor Beth was made by Kaye Povlich and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.
- OCWM goal for 2019 needs to be finalized.
- Pledges for 2019 total \$51,792 and we'll put reminders out that we're still accepting them.

- All bills were met this month.
- Line of credit is still open and needs to be paid off.

### **Five Practices:**

- Outdoor lights have been installed to improve security and night lighting.
- Name Tag wall is being painted and will utilized in a new way.
- Meeting will reconvene in January to re-evaluate goals for 2019.

### **Christian Education Report:**

- Christmas program is scheduled for December 23. Pam Rossi to set up refreshments.

### **Music & Worship/Building & Grounds/Stewardship:**

- We will be increasing awareness in community of space available at the church to rent. We'll explore advertising on various websites.
- Explored an idea for a 2019 Children's Christmas Market as a fundraiser and community event.

### **New Business:**

- 2019 Budget was reviewed and finalized. How are we going to address the shortage of funds coming in?

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM. Brad closed the meeting at 11:50 AM, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Rossi  
Recording Secretary

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

- A busy month planning all the meaningful **Advent and Christmas worship services** and visiting our homebound members with **Bunny Scudder** and gifting each with their Christmas bag!
- I was asked to speak at the **Women's Advent Tea** on Sun. Dec. 2 at Christ Church UCC. It was a delight to interact with women of all ages and share a hope-filled "Advent prep" message.
- Every year I look forward to attending the **Advent Retreat** with Rev. Holly Whitcomb at Cedar Valley Retreat Center near West Bend. "Wearing God: Discovering New Images from Everyday Life" was this year's theme which was, as usual, incredibly inspiring.

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**Save the Date!**

**Congregational Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 27 Following Worship**

**Lunch and Child Care Provided**

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**Still Need to Turn in  
Your 2019 Pledge Card?**

Please do so at your earliest convenience!

Drop it in the offertory plate any Sunday,  
mail it in, or bring it to the office.

**A Special Message**

"May your season be filled with friendship,  
laughter and happiness!"

Thank you for allowing us to meet weekly in  
your church hall.

Wednesday Night AA

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**Five Practices Exciting Updates**

We give thanks to **Chris Maguire** as well as  
help from **Joan Weller** in creating our  
fabulous tree mural in the entryway to our  
sanctuary. What a warm, welcoming visual  
that's starting to appear!

We thank **Janet Mierendorf** for providing  
and arranging the beautiful, inviting winter  
display of flowers near both the front, main  
entrance of our building as well as the  
office, west entrance.

We also appreciate **Pam Rossi's** efforts in  
creating new "green" banners for us this past  
fall and always keeping our worship décor  
top notch. What an enhancement to our  
worship each week! She also put on the  
replacement Christmas tree lights that  
**Steve Pantaleo** donated!

There are always more to thank and  
appreciate by name than what our collective  
memory holds, so **"thank you" to everyone**  
who, out of love for our church, gives,  
serves, and readies us for extravagant  
welcome to all who enter our building.

## Free Community Meal



**for South Milwaukee Residents**  
seeking or needing a hot meal and  
fellowship

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

**The 3rd Thursday of each month:  
January 17  
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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## 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. Jan. 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!

## Mission Envelope: Sun. Jan. 20

Consider a "second mile" gift to **Our  
Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**, the  
lifeline of the UCC, when you see your  
"Mission" envelope in your regular giving  
envelopes on Jan. 20. Egive? Please use a  
pew envelope & simply mark it "Mission."

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**Sharing Sunday: Jan. 20**  
*(third Sunday of each month)*

Suggested Items: Pasta/Sauce

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!

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## Financial Report for November 2018



Balance as of 10/31/18	1,559.72
Receipts	9,029.46
Total Receipts	9,029.46
Expenses for November	8,328.23
Balance as of 11/30/18	2,260.95

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## Noisy Offering: Jan. 13!

Keep saving up those 'noisy' coins and bills!  
We'll have our next collection on Sun. Jan.  
13 and it'll start our 2019 special UCC  
offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**  
which supports ministries around the globe!

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## What's Ahead for Sunday School:

- Jan. 13** Joseph
- Jan. 20** Joseph
- Jan. 27** Feeding of the 5000



Thank you so much for the care basket. All the staff loved it, there was so much thought put into all the goodies sent. Many smiles were had at the feelings of appreciation.

Sending warm wishes your way.

God Bless, The Staff at Franciscan Villa

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**‘Like’ Our 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.

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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

**Worship Cancellations**

In the event that we would cancel worship or church events due to unfavorable weather conditions, watch channel 12 (WISN/ABC) or check online (wism.com) for an official announcement.

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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.

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**Church Contacts:**

Pastor Beth’s Office Hours:  
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9 AM – Noon  
Church: (414) 762-8260  
Website: stlukesucc.us

Pastor Beth’s email:  
stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com  
Pastor Beth’s cell (920) 207-3889

Office Administrator Jennifer’s email:  
stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com