

# St. Luke's United Church of Christ

## The Messenger

### October 2020 Newsletter

From the Pastor's desk

Dear Beloveds,

As I reflect and write, there seems no doubt we have officially entered into the season of autumn. Fall is my favorite time of the year with crisp mornings, the shift in daylight and colorful hues in our vegetation. This year feels poignantly different given it seems clear we will be living into and through the COVID-19 pandemic for some time to come. Maybe you -- like me -- thought by this time in the year we would be getting back to a pace and schedule more akin to life before the virus hit. The change in seasons seems to emphasize that we will be learning how to settle into fall and winter in ways that require us to keep ourselves and each other safe and well. At the same time, transitioning into fall is a reminder that there are elements in our lives which are consistent and steady. The sun will rise and set, seasons change, babies will be born and loved ones will die. These patterns of our world are something that unfold no matter what we do or the shape of our daily lives. There is deep comfort and assurance in remembering this. But more than that, at the core of it all is the steadfast presence of our Divine Creator. God's promise to never leave us is revealed every day in the ordinariness of our lives. We experience this simply in the way our lives are moving at a different pace, a slower pace. In some ways, it gives us permission to slow down and pay attention to each other and the glory of our creation. Now more than ever our faith calls on us to -- not just remember -- but to recite and embody God's promises.

The good news of our faith is that we are a resurrection people. As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to practice hope in the face of despair. To be a promise-telling people is to embody and live out:

Abundance in the face of scarcity;

Courage in the face of fear;

Generosity in the face of greed, and

Peaceableness in the face violence.

For our God, "...Is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20) We do not do this work alone. We do it together in community and grounded in God's desire for the flourishing of all creation.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary

## A Morning Offering

I place on the altar of dawn:  
The quiet loyalty of breath,  
The tent of thought where I shelter,  
Waves of desire I am shore to  
And all beauty drawn to the eye.

May my mind come alive today  
To the invisible geography  
That invites me to new frontiers,  
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,  
To risk being disturbed and changed.

May I have the courage today  
To live the life that would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
But do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more.

—John O'Donohue, 'To Bless the Space Between Us'.

## **Prayer Requests**

Prayer is at the heart of our faith. If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office or email Pastor Mary.

## **Celebrate World Communion Sunday with St. Luke's United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

Established in 1936, when the world was deeply fragmented by the conflict that would be later known as World War II, World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) has been an observance to help Christians all over the world affirm their unity in Jesus Christ as it is expressed so beautifully at the Lord's Table. Originating in the Presbyterian Church in 1936, the idea of World Communion Sunday was embraced and promoted by the federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) in 1940. Other denominations began to join in this annual witness to Christian unity, which takes place on the first Sunday in October.

Those Christians who started World Communion Sunday saw the Table of the Lord as a place where the wounds in Christendom - many the result of a brutal war - could begin to find healing. At the Lord's Table, Christians in all nations, of many ethnicities and languages, could remember their kinship in Christ and be encouraged to live more fully as sisters and brothers in God's family. What a remarkable vision!

### ST. LUKE'S UCC BOARD MINUTES September , 2020

#### PRESENT:

Pastor.....Rev. Mary Carlin  
President.....Brad Uelmen  
Financial Secretary.....Veronica Shea  
Recording Secretary..... Pam Rossi  
Facilitator/Stewardship.....Kathy Immel

#### EXCUSED

Vice President.....Amy Wheelock Brodzik  
Treasurer.....Kaye Povlich  
Christian Ed Facilitator.....

The board meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Mary led an opening prayer. A motion was made by Veronica Shea to approve the August Board Meeting Minutes and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Kegan Hodgins Confirmation took place on Sept. 13.
- What are the priorities of the church? Is the priority services at this time? Are there any other issues that are needed at this time? The board will discuss further in October meeting.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

- A motion to approve the August financial report was made by Pam Rossi and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.
- Funds are about the same.
- Some giving is coming in.
- Still getting funds from the endowment.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT:

No current activity.

MUSIC & WORSHIP/BUILDING & GROUNDS/STEWARDSHIP:

No current activity.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Real Estate status- No new interest
- Possible Lease- Adult Day Services of Southeast Wisconsin are very interested and would like to use the church as soon as possible.
- Motion was made by Pam Rossi to approve License agreement with Adult Day Services of Southeast Wisconsin and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Church Secretary position is available. Brad will be posting available position.
- Possible outdoor service in October. Date to be determined.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 6:30pm. Brad closed the meeting at 7:50pm, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Rossi  
Recording Secretary

Financial Report for August 2020	
Balance as of 7/31/20.....	3104.04
Receipts.....	2855.00
Endowment Checks .....	2500.00
Total Receipts.....	5355.00
Expenses for August.....	<u>6560.37</u>
Balance as of 8/31/20	<u><b>1898.67</b></u>

\*If you have an idea to share, a question or concern contact the church office and leave a message, or contact any board member.

Church Contacts: Church Office: (414) 762-8260 Website: stlukesucc.us Pastor Mary's email: stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com Office email: stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com