



## January 2019 Newsletter

Come join us for Worship on Sunday mornings at 9 am and Wednesday's at 5:30 pm;

510 E. Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451

To contact Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, call: 715-351-0450 (cell phone); 715-748-3391 (church office)

Church website: [www.uccmedford.org](http://www.uccmedford.org)

[believe417@gmail.com](mailto:believe417@gmail.com) or [cuccofmedford@gmail.com](mailto:cuccofmedford@gmail.com)

Dear friends,

I have had the privilege of witnessing the Christmas Spirit alive within our Church doors in the past weeks of Advent through the Christmas celebration.

There are those among us who have been moved to give of their time, talents and treasures to benefit the work of the Church: in particular, in...

the ministry of filling our mitten tree and the bags of gifts for the Christmas stocking project.;

the ministry of placing food in in our blessing box

the ministry of giving a needy families food and gifts to make their Christmas happy!

the ministry of sharing coats with the "coats for kids project.

the ministry of bringing goody bags to members who are over 80!

the ministry of decorating and cleaning, providing coffee and treats for our coffee hours

the ministry of music...the forming of our "Christmas Eve Choir,"

along with the musical talents of Dorie, our pianist and Corrie, our soloist.

the ministry of teaching the children the Christmas Story and leading them to enact it.

the ministry of printing the weekly bulletins and extra bulletins.

the ministry of preparing PowerPoint presentations.

the ministry of clearing the snow on the sidewalks to the church buildings.

the ministry of writing Christmas cards.

the ministry of reading and greeting and welcoming.

None of you want great acclaim for what you have done, but, believe me when I say that your gifts have brought a deal of joy to those who have received them. Many thanks!

God is touching our hearts and blessing the givers, as well as the "receivers".

As we turn to the new year, we turn our faces to new challenges, yet unknown ministries and to renewing our commitment to our church. Who will we welcome in this year?

How will we be inspired to serve one another and the community?

With God's help, we will discover the answers,

Thank you for your many kindnesses, cards and gifts!

A happy, healthy new year to all,

Pastor Mary Jo

**COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MINUTES - December 13, 2018**

**OPENING** Randi H. called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and Pastor Mary Jo led a prayer of guidance.

**PRESENT** Randi H., Joyce P., Mike G.-P., Jerry G.-P., Pam O., Pastor Mary Jo, Linda N., Sandy K., Gail P., Anna G., Dawn B.

**ABSENT NONE**

**GUESTS** Scott K., Gloria C., Dan H.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** The minutes from the November 2018 meeting were emailed prior the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. The minutes were accepted without discussion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** The November 2018 Treasurer's Report was emailed prior the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. The report was accepted without discussion.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** The November Pastor's Report was emailed to the Council Members prior the meeting for preview per the Consent Agenda method. The report was accepted without discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FAMILY FUNERAL FLOWERS** The Council discussed the its former decision to purchase \$50 floral arrangements for the funerals of members and members family. Linda N. made a motion to rescind that decision and eliminate the floral gift. Gail P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2019 Budgeting** The Council reviewed worked together to complete a budget for 2019 that will be presented to the congregation at the January Annual Meeting.

**B&G Expense Reallocation** The Council discussed the fact that some General Fund expenses should actually be Building and Grounds expenses (snow plowing, snow shoveling, lawn maintenance, church cleaning, church and parsonage electric and gas). B&G to get together to discuss this suggestion and revise the Constitution to reflect any updates to its mission and responsibilities.

**21st Century Fund** Randi H. to make calls to representatives of 21st Century Fund to attend January 10, 2019 Council Meeting to clarify the sources of money in the fund.

**LETTER OF PASTOR LICENSE RENEWAL** Randi H. to draft letter to request renewal of Pastor's license by January 20, 2019. Joyce P. made a motion to renew annual license. Jerry G.-P. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OCWM** Dawn B. made a motion to send \$500 to OCWM for 2019. Linda N. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**continued**

## GROUP AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Candlelight Guild

The Candlelight Guild Received \$500 from Joyce P and her sister Diane for purchase of a new refrigerator. In November, the Guild donated \$1,000 to repair of our stained glass window and \$200 to the Taylor County Literacy Fund. The Guild is also getting an estimate for the painting of the kitchen walls. And cabinets

**Communications Committee** A Christmas ad in the form of a letter from our congregation was placed in the Shopper and Star News the week of December 10<sup>th</sup> explaining what CUCC is all about and inviting people to our Advent and Christmas Eve Services.

**Christian Ed** THE Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday December 16, 2018.

**Building and Grounds** Mike G-P suggested that \$1,000 goes from Scrip to the Stained Glass Window Fund. It was decided to table the issue until the January 2019 meeting when Mike G-P will distribute a Scrip Report. The cost is estimated at \$4,000, and the repair could begin as soon as March-April 2019, pending Council approval at a later meeting

### OLD BUSINESS

**TRUST COMMITTEE** The Council reviewed and discussed the Trust Committee's letter of recommendation for investment of the Halopka Building and Grounds Trust. Members suggested changes to the explanation of the Forward Bank Charitable Money Market Account recommendation and also suggested that investment options not be limited to Thrivent Financial, but to invite two other investment firms to propose programs as well. Dan H. revised letter and distributed to Council for final approval for Annual Meeting. The revised letter was approved for distribution at the Annual Meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS** Randi Hirt listed the Annual Meeting items that require votes: Election of new Council Members by ballot if more than three; Trust Investment by ballot: Open and Affirming Statement vote to change mission by show of hands; any revision to the Constitution by ballot.

**JANUARY MEETING DATE** The next meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 10, 2018.

**CLOSED SESSION** After reciting the Lord's Prayer with all in attendance, the Council members went into Closed Session at 7:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT** Pam O. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gail P. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Pam O., Recording Secretary



© Barbara H.

The twenty-fourth  
Annual Women's Wild  
Winter Weekends!  
Feb. 21\*-24, 2019  
Feb. 28\*-March 3, 2019  
For women 18 years and older  
[More information click here](#)

The Damascus Project is announcing a new course: **Returning to Sacred Texts and Finding Stories You Can Live In.**

There is no lack of bad biblical interpretation available these days, one consequence of which has been almost a wholesale rejection of the Bible and the Christian tradition it undergirds. But even for those who stand in the tradition and hold the Bible in high regard, reading it can feel intimidating and complicated, and its message distant and maybe even a little bit irrelevant.

**This course will give you the opportunity to:**

Discover what happens in the act of reading and what the implications are for reading the Bible, so that the Bible can become a source of wonder, wisdom, and inspiration for you;

Learn some specific tools to increase your competence and strengthen your confidence in reading and interpreting the Bible; Spark your spiritual imagination so that you might understand and appreciate more deeply the circumstances of your own life by finding your story in the sacred stories of the Bible; Become better equipped to respond to and lead today's changing church by engaging your community's stories with the sacred stories of the Bible.

**Course Details**

**This is an online course that will run from February 4 to April 5, 2019. [Click here to register](#)** online. The Damascus Project is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Conference UCC and the Minnesota Conference UCC.

**About the Instructor:**

Dr. Pamela Shellberg is the Scholar-in-Residence at The BTS Center, crafting programs for imaginatively responding to changes in the church and in life that are grounding in biblical narratives. Pam was the assistant professor of New Testament at Bangor Theological Seminary and also taught at Andover Newton Theological School as the visiting professor of New Testament studies. She is the author of *Cleansed Lepers, Cleansed Hearts: Purity and Healing in Luke-Acts* (Fortress Press, 2015) and has written several articles and discussion guides for *Bearings*. A teacher, speaker, and consultant for lay ministry schools in the UCC and the New England Synod ELCA, she thinks and writes about the metaphors in poetry, art, and music as lenses for bible reading and as tools for interpretation.

For questions or more information, please contact:

Rev. Vicki Wunsch, Director of Leadership Development  
Minnesota Conference UCC  
612-871-0359





## Doctrine of Discovery Study

The voting body at the 2018 Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting voted to enter into a time of discussion and study around the Doctrine of Discovery and our faith, with the purpose being to vote on a resolution to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery at the 2019 annual meeting. The Ho Cak UCC and the Wisconsin Conference Racial Justice Task Force presented this resolution. In order to bring the resolution to the floor for a vote in April 2019, at least 65 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference must engage in discussion or study of this issue and submit this [response form](#) prior to March 31, 2019.

We will gather on Jan, 19 at 930-1 to study with 5 UCC churches. Please read the “Biblical Reflection in advance

[Click here for more information and links to resources](#)

Why use Scrip,  
you may ask?

\*Scrip costs you  
no extra money.

\*Scrip makes it easy  
to live on a budget.

\*Scrip makes a great gift.

\*Scrip profits benefit our Church.

\*We get a percentage of the cost of each Scrip card purchased.

Stop in the Church office. The Scrip “volunteer” will be happy to special order other Scrip on Sunday for you.  
Also Arby’s scrip are up and running!



## PAGE TURNERS

Next book is “Becoming” Club will be meeting at 6:15 pm on January 9, 2019 after Wednesday worship in Pastor’s home. All are welcome! Come as you are!



Get the book on audible [click here](#)

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING IN THE UCC

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

source: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

## CANDLELIGHT GUILD MEETING MINUTES

A big "Thank You" goes out to everyone on the success of the Holiday Fair! Thank you to those who attended the event as a vendor we enjoyed having you. For all the crafts, baked goods and second time around items, we thank you for all your support, \$1439.00 raised. Congratulations to the winners in the Bucket Raffle and thank you for the wonderful prizes donated, \$446.00 raised. Thank you for stopping in to shop and enjoy the lunch \$194.00 raised, which will go to the Taylor County Literacy Program. Mark your calendars for the 2019 Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 2nd.

There are still Terri Lynn nuts a delicious snack or gift, crafts and 2nd time around items for sale in fellowship hall.

The mitten tree is up in fellowship hall for the collection of hats, scarfs, gloves and socks which will warm the hearts of those in need.

The giving tree will have angels hung with Christmas wish lists to help fulfill the dreams of Taylor County children. These will be hung as they are received. We then will have a date for when the packages need to be returned to the church. Please do not wrap these gifts, bring the gifts in with the number marked on each item purchased and the tag attached securely to the bag. If you do not want to shop, hand in your red stocking money to Susie N. and we will use this money to shop for the tags not taken off the tree. We will no longer reimburse you for shopping as this became very confusing.

We will be visiting and distributing goody bags to octogenarian members and friends of our church on December 13th.

The Candlelight Guild passed a motion to place \$1,000.00 into the stain glass window account.

This year the CG will bake cut-out cookies for you on December 15. We will be taking orders for these frost your own cut-out cookies in advance with the order blanks in fellowship hall. The cost will \$5.00 per dozen. These cookies can be picked up on Sunday, December 16th.

The CG will not hold a meeting in the month of December. We invite you to join us in the New Year! Please come!

For the CG, Dawn



## LET US PRAY...

For those with health concerns: friends and family; those anticipating medical testing; those at home recovering from surgery; those traveling; those serving our country here and abroad; leaders of our communities; our President, Medford faith communities, those who lives have been affected by hurricane and fire..



### Prayer

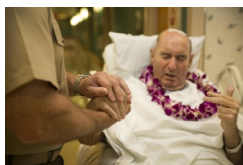
God, grant us the humility to seek sanctuary, the compassion to offer it to others—no matter how different they may be from us, and the faith to know that you are always the source of serenity, courage and wisdom. Amen.

Source: ucc.org

*Happy  
New Year*

Hospitalized? Please let us know.

If you or someone in your family is hospitalized and would like Pastor to visit at Marshfield Medical Center (formerly St. Joseph's) Marshfield, Aspirus Wausau, St Clare's Weston or Medford Hospital, please call the Church office at 715-748-3391.



### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

If any questions should ever arise, please feel free to contact any of our Council members.

President- Randi Hirt (2021)

Vice President- Joyce Peterson (2021)

Recording Secretary- Pam Ouimette (2020)

Financial Sec.- Jerry Goen-Penney (2020)

Treasurer- Linda Neumueller (2019)

Dawn Brink (2019)

Sandy Kummer (2019)

Gail Paulson (2020)

Anna Grube (2021)



### OUR CUCC MISSION:

The mission of this church: we are united in spirit and inspired by God's grace. We welcome all, love all and seek justice for all.



Sponsor a child . . .  
 Plant a tree . . .  
 Rebuild a home . . .  
 Visit a prisoner . . .  
 Be a mentor . . .  
 Teach . . .  
 Serve a meal . . .  
 Bring water to the  
 desert . . . Pray . . .  
 Donate . . .  
 the opportunities are  
 endless. And they're all  
 right here. What part of  
 our world is waiting for  
 you to make a difference



## JANUARY NEWSLETTERS AND BULLETINS

Newsletters: Please sign up  
 Bulletins : Roger and Faith Higgins in dedication  
 to there anniversary  
 Fellowship:  
 Please sign up to read scriptures  
 and host coffee hour.

*Thank  
You*

Community United Church of Christ would like  
 to thank the following for giving poinsettias for  
 Christmas.

The Deckelman family

Mike and Jerry

Jerry and Dawn Brink

Gloria Christenson

Linda and Mike Hraby

Don and Clarice Brink

Mike and Sandy Kummer



*Euphorbia pulcherrima*  
"Poinsettia"

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### JANUARY FINANCES:

As of 12-27-2018  
 Income \$ 5282.50  
 Expenses \$ 4391.46



### HOLY COMMUNION OUTREACH:

If you are unable to partake in Holy Communion  
 during our regular worship service and would like  
 to receive it in your home, hospital, etc., please  
 contact either the Pastor directly at 715-351-0450  
 or call the church office at 715-748-3391



### DIGITAL NEWSLETTER:

You can receive this newsletter by email.  
 If you would like to try the digital  
 option, send an email to:  
[cuccofmedford@gmail.com](mailto:cuccofmedford@gmail.com) and ask  
 to be added to the email newsletter list





**United Church of Christ**

## **GENERAL SYNOD 32**

June 21st - 25th, 2019

[REGISTER NOW \(click here\)](#)

Click link below to watch video:

<https://youtu.be/aow36vyB-No>

**PRESENTED BY**



WISCONSIN CENTER - 400 W Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53203

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 office closed New Years	2 Mike 9-1 Wednesday worship	3 Mike 9-1	4 Office closed	5 Office closed
6 Worship 9am Holy communion	7 Mike 9-1 Deadline for reports	8 Mike 9-1	9Mike 9-1 Wednesday worship 530pm Book club 615pm C.G 6:00	10 Mike 9-1 Council 500pm	11 Office closed	12 Office closed
13 Worship 9am Sunday school	14 Mike 9-1	15 M Mike 9-1	16 Mike 9-1 Wednesday worship 530pm	17 Mike 9-1	18 Office closed	19 Office closed  Doctrine of Discovery 930am to 100pm with potluck
20 Worship 9am Annual meeting	21 Mike 9-1	22 Mike 9-1	23 Mike 9-1 Wednesday worship 530pm	24 Mike 9-1	25 office closed	26 Office closed
27 Worship 9am Sunday	28 Mike 9-1	29 Mike 9-1	30 Mike 9-1 Wednesday worship 530pm communion	31Mike 9-1 Watch Night service 530pm		

Community United Church of Christ  
510 E. Broadway Avenue  
Medford, Wisconsin 54451



**Wherever you are  
on your life's journey,  
you are welcome here!**

**Worship:**

**9 am each Sunday  
and each Wednesday  
at 530 pm**

**\* Holy**

**Communion:  
the first Sunday  
of the month and last  
Wednesday**

**Sunday School: 2nd and 4th  
Sunday**