

**January 15, 2023**  
**The Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Welcome Statement** (Printed on the bulletin insert)

**Silence** ...*a time to breathe...*

**\* Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 23

**Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

*People:* He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

**Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

*People:* I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff  
they comfort me.

**Leader: You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;**

*People:* you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

**• Hymn** *If You but Trust in God to Guide You* (NCH# 410)

**• Morning Prayer**

God of all comfort, who leads us through the valley and restores us in our darkness, take away our fear and replace it with trust. Free us from our anger and replace it with patience. Satisfy us with your sure goodness and make us merciful and grateful so we will indeed be dwelling in your house our whole life long. Amen.

**\* Assurance:** adapted I Corinthians 5:17

“Anyone who is in Christ is a New Creation. The old is finished and gone; everything had been made new.” This is the gospel of God’s grace in which we are redeemed, by which we are made whole and for which we all say:

***Thanks be to God!***

**\* Sung Response** (Words will be on the screen)

**Call to Offering** *Snowy Night* Mary Oliver

**Offertory**

**• Sung Response** (Words will be on the screen)

**Kid’s Time**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading** **Mark 2:21-22**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** **Mark 4:26-29**

**Sermon** *Two roads...*

**Invitation** *Bread of the World, In Mercy Broken* (NCH# 346)

**If you are hungry, or even just curious, come and eat.**

**Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer**

**• Closing Hymn** *Be Not Afraid* (On Screen)

**• Benediction**

**Postlude**

**• Please stand if you are able**

# *Be Kind!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Important!** The Consistory has called for a formal Congregational Meeting to be held following the worship service today. We will be discussing some financial issues that have arisen and begin a longer conversation on the future of First UCC. Please stay and participate.

If you can't be at the meeting in person but can join online, here's the digital link you will need to participate:

Special Meeting First UCC

Sunday, January 15 · 10:00 – 11:00am

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/awi-qzsr-zes>

**Search Committee survey forms** and a basket to receive completed surveys are on a table in the hallway outside the sanctuary . If you haven't already, please pick up a survey form and complete in as quickly as you can. The committee is counting on your help.

**Liturgist:** Tammy Young

**Radio Sponsor:** Rod and Carol Hehenberger in loving memory of Carol's mother, Luella Jensen.

**If you would like to sponsor** a radio broadcast call the church office at 608-643-8387 to check on available dates. Cost is now at \$90.00/week. Your support of this important ministry is much appreciated.

**Volunteers are needed.** Our annual shift assisting with the Food Pantry distribution will be on **January 21 from 9-11 a.m.** We could use as many as 10 volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on a table in the entry. Contact Peggy Ganser with any questions

**The we welcome into our fellowship** Mike and Audrey Gray and their children, and Zach Klessig. During the service you will have a chance to offer a real First Church welcome.

**Mark your calendar** for January 29 when we will have the Rev. Rachel Bauman in the First Church pulpit. Rachel is the new Associate Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC. She will also stay around for an after church conversation on the challenges churches are facing in this changing, post-Covid world.

**Address Changes**—If your phone number, mailing or email address changes please send the new address to the church office so we can keep our records up to date.

**Offering envelopes** are in the mail, we are told, and should be arriving this coming week. Our supplier has had trouble filling orders and that's why they are behind schedule.

### **Church Offering Update:**

Monthly Offering Status:

Monthly Budget: \$ 16,667

December offering: \$ 33,771

Net: \$17,104

Totals for the Year:

Offering budget thru Dec.: \$ 200,000

Offering collected thru Dec.: \$ 181,292

Expenses thru Nov: \$ 199,395

Net: \$ (18,103)

### **First UCC Welcome Statement:**

*“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest”*  
*(Matthew 11:28)*

Reflecting the friendship of God toward all Creation, First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome all persons—of any sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, age, family structure, faith background, ability or economic circumstance. We recognize every person as a child of God, welcome all to worship and serve with us and consider all who come to be a necessary part of this fellowship with all its privileges and responsibilities.