

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Peggy Ganser

Radio Sponsor: James and Karen Wittwer in memory of Carl and Jane Simonson.

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.

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 Envelops: We're still calling and emailing the vendor for information on where our offering envelops are and when they might be delivered. We will deliver them just as soon as they actually arrive.

Mobile Meals Volunteers are needed for the week of March 20th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer this morning. Thanks for helping out.

We will have a very full Lenten season at First Church this year. You will find the schedule for the season in today's bulletin and a longer explanation of what's coming in the February Scoop. On March 1st we will discuss the origin and meaning of Lent, along with some of the important words we associate with the season. On each of the next 4 Wednesdays we will discuss the Passion story (Palm Sunday through Good Friday) through the eyes of one of the 4 Gospel writers—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The soup will be served at 5:30 pm and the conversations begin by (or maybe before) 6:00 pm. And if you can make a good pot of soup or bake a great loaf of bread contact Tammie Huerth or Shirley Lendved to offer your help.

Church Offering Update:

Monthly Offering Status:	
Monthly Budget:	\$
January offering:	<u>\$13,409</u>
Net:	\$

Totals for the Year:	
Offering budget thru Jan:	\$
Offering collected thru Jan:	\$13,409
Expenses thru Jan:	<u>\$15,808</u>
Net:	\$(2,399)

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.



First United Church of Christ

Schedule for the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday - February 22, 6:00 pm

- **Wednesday, March 1st 6:00pm**
- Wednesday, March 8th 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 15th 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 22nd 6:00pm
- Wednesday, March 29th 6:00pm

We will provide a simple meal of soup and bread in the fellowship hall at **5:30 pm**, followed by conversations on topics to be determined, for the five Wednesdays in March. All are Welcome, please join us on this Lenten journey.

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 6:00 pm

Good Friday - April 7, 1:30 pm

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Matthew 5:21-26

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

February 19, 2023

Prelude Music and Bringing in the Light

Greetings and Announcements

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Silence ...a time to breathe...

Call to Worship Adapted from Psalm 119:1-8

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

People: Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

Leader: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

People: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Leader: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

People: I will praise you with an upright heart when I learn your righteous ordinances.

All: I will observe your statutes, do not utterly forsake me.

Hymn This Little Light (NCH #524)

Morning Prayer

Holy Spirit, why do we continue to try to figure things out on our own? We have fears and confusion and frustration that troubles our hearts but originates in our minds. Self-reliance fails us – every time. We feel alone and fearful and discontent. Loving God, lead us out of the wilderness of our minds. Lift up our eyes to you so that we may see that we are not alone. Help us to know that when we let you lead, our lives unfold in wondrous ways and we breathe in your gifts of comfort and serenity. God, your plan for us is simple. Help us to let go of our complicated ideas and follow you with our hearts so that we may be made free, with each beat, to feel the rhythm of your love, your joy, your grace. Your plan for each of us that is more amazing than anything our minds can imagine. Amen

*Assurance:

There is no sin you can confess for which you have not already and long ago been forgiven. This is the gospel for you today-the good news by which we are made whole and for which we say...

Thanks be to God!

Song Response (words will be on the screen)

Call to Offering

Hymn What Gift Can We Bring? (NCH #370)

Offertory

Choir “Lead Us from Death to Life!”

Kid’s Time

1st Scripture Reading **Corinthians 2:1-9**

2nd Scripture Reading **Matthew 5:21-26**

Sermon

Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer

Closing Hymn Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor (NCH #590)

Benediction

Go now in peace with full assurance of God’s grace and the full experience of Jesus’ healing love. Let the Spirit of God make your life a source of healing for those who are broken.

Postlude

Please stand if you are able.