

February 26, 2023
The First Sunday in Lent

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Into Silence *The Lord is my Shepherd...* *Psalm 23*

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

- Call to Worship from Psalm 139

L: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

P: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand (gently) upon me.

P: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

All: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

- **Hymn** *O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go* (NCH# 485 v1&2)

• **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:**

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!

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

Announcements

Call to Offering *I Know that I Have Life...* Wendell Berry

Offertory

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

1st Scripture Reading **Genesis 2:18-23**

2nd Scripture Reading **Genesis 3:1-7**

Sermon *Redeeming Eve*

The Table of Our Lord

Invitation *At This Table*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

- **Closing Hymn** *O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go* (NCH #485 v 3&4)

• **Benediction**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15.12

Postlude

- *Please stand if you are able*

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Rose Kleinert & Emily Fuchs

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.

From the Department of Hard to Believe Things—the offering envelopes have finally arrived and will be available to be picked up very soon.

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 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)

Remember, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held immediately following the worship service next Sunday, March 5. Given everything happening in the life of First Church this year, the

meeting on March 5th will be one of the more important in many years. The Annual Report, copies of the Financial Report and copies of the draft Revised Church Constitution are available in the foyer. Please pick up a copy and read it in preparation for the discussion next Sunday and please, plan on attending so we can hear your feedback and questions.

Mission Possible will once again be having a food stand at the Badger Steam & Gas clubs event on May 5th to 7th, 2023. This is your opportunity to help raise needed funds for our church or another non-profit group of your choice. Please contact Sue Herbrand at 608-370-4686 or 608-544-2413 to sign up to help at this event.

The next mission trip to Biloxi Mississippi is being planned. The dates have been set for June 23 through June 29th, 2024. We have reserved for 15 people to attend. If you or you have a youth (must be 14) would like to consider going, please contact Sue or Tim Herbrand for more information. An informative meeting will be held at a later date this fall.

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.

Genesis 2:18-23

Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.’

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.



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