

March 5, 2023

The Second Sunday in Lent

Greeting

Welcome Statement (Printed on the bulletin insert)

Into Silence *Even though I walk through the valley... Psalm 23*

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

• **Call to Worship** adapted from Psalm 27

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

People: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

Leader: One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

People: to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

Leader: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;

All: Come, let us worship

• **Hymn** *Just As I Am* (NCH# 207)

• **Morning Prayer**

God, our world these days is so dark around the edges—dark sometimes to its core. We feel adrift, like the anchor has let loose. In this uncertainty we choose hope. We choose to trust in your promise to always be with us, to never forsake us, to never leave us alone. Help us to be true to this hope and trust. Strengthen us when we falter. Forgive us when we stray. Rejoice with us in the joy that is ours when we are held safe in your arms. With gratefulness we come to you this morning in Jesus' name. Amen.

* **Assurance:**

Anyone...
Thanks be to God!

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

Announcements

Call to Offering

Offertory

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

The B-I-B-L-E!

Children's Message

1st Scripture Reading Psalm 139:1-12; 17-18

2nd Scripture Reading I John 4:7-8

Sermon *"I come to the end..."*

The Table of Our Lord

Invitation *Remembering* (On Screen)

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

• **Closing Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (NCH# 23)

• **Benediction**

Grace...Love...Fellowship...Now and always...

Postlude

• *Please stand if you are able*

Be Kind!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Scott & Christy Kinnamon

Radio Sponsor this week: Sharon, Kelsey and Owen Diehl in loving memory of Greg Diehl's birthday on March 9th.

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.

We are in need of volunteers for Mobile Meals delivery during the week of March 20th. If you can help out please put your name on the sign up sheet in the foyer. Thank you.

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.

Remember, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held immediately following the worship service this morning. 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. Please plan on attending so we can hear your feedback and questions.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for March: Food items: Individual ritz cracker type packages or similar
Personal items: body wash, bar soap, men's and women's deodorant
Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by everyone. Please drop your donations off in the red tote outside the educational doors during office hours (Monday-Friday 8am–Noon) or inside during Sunday worship. Thanks for your help.

Church Offering Update:

Monthly Offering Status:

Monthly Budget:	\$
February offering:	\$
Net:	\$

Totals for the Year:	
Offering budget thru Feb:	\$
Offering collected thru Feb:	\$25,924
Expenses thru Jan:	<u>\$</u>
Net:	\$

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.

Psalm 139:1-12; 17-18

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.
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.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
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.

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.

I John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another. For love is from God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God *is* love.



First United Church of Christ

Schedule for the Season of Lent

- 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