

March 12, 2023  
**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**Greeting**

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

**Into Silence** *You prepare a table before me...*

**Prelude and Bringing in the Light**

- **Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 103)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless God's holy name.

**(All): Bless the Lord, O my soul  
and do not forget all of God's benefits—**

Leader: who forgives all our iniquity,  
who heals all our diseases,

**(All): who redeems your life from the Pit  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

Leader: God satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**(All) In gratitude, let us worship God.**

- **Hymn** *Here In this Place* (On Screen)

- **Morning Prayer**

God, more gracious than we can imagine and more generous than we deserve, gratitude brings us to worship and fellowship this morning. Some of us have full hearts today and some of us are running on empty. Some of us are safe while others are uncertain what will come next. Some of us are well and some of us have minds or bodies in rebellion against good health. Holy One, who knows our faces and remembers our names, speak, by your Spirit, words of comfort where they are needed and words of correction calling us to do better. This morning open our hearts to listen, our feet to move and our hands to

act for the good of this world you have loved so well and redeemed so fully we pray. Amen.

\* **Assurance:**

*Anyone...*  
***Thanks be to God!***

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

**Announcements**

**Invitation to Offering** *The Place Where We Are Right*  
Yehuda Amichai

**Offertory**

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

**Kids Time**

**Choir Anthem** *Blessed Is He* Mark Johnson

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading** **John 1:14, 16-18**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading** **Luke 7:36-50**

**Sermon** ***"Do you see this woman..."***

**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** *Leaning On the Everlasting Arms* (On Screen)

- **Benediction**

*May the Lord bless you and keep you  
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you  
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
And give you peace.*

**Postlude**

- ***Please stand if you are able***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgists:** Jaime Witwer

**Radio Sponsor this week:** Marcy & Steve Thurwachter, in honor of Sharal Steuber's birthday on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.

**The Sauk Prairie High School GSA** (Gay-Straight Alliance) is asking for our help promoting a T-shirt/Hoodie fund raiser for their program. Check out the display in the foyer and pick up an order form if you's like to order a shirt and show your support for our LGBTQ teens. You can give your completed order form and check to anyone on the ONA Committee or Pastor Brad. Thanks for your help.

**The Child Protective Services** office supports parents and caregivers in keeping kids safe in their homes. They are looking for donations of the following items. If you can help out bring your donation to church and we will see they get delivered: Baby Gates, Door/Window Alarms, Cabinet Locks, Outlet Covers, Baby Monitors, Diapers, Pull-ups, Baby Wipes, Convertible Car Seats, Portable Play Yard/Playpen. For questions or information contact Melanie Sommerfield at: 608-355-4299 [Melanie.Sommerfield@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:Melanie.Sommerfield@saukcountywi.gov). Thank you.

### Church Offering Update:

Monthly Offering Status:

Monthly Budget:	\$ 15,262
February offering:	\$ <u>13,865</u>
Net:	\$ (1,397)

Totals for the Year:

Offering budget thru Feb:	\$ 30,525
Offering collected thru Feb:	\$ 27,487
Expenses thru Feb:	\$ <u>31,566</u>
Net:	\$ (4,079)

### 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 or 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. “No matter who you are, how you identify, who you love, or where you are on life's journey, know that you are loved by God and you are welcome here.”

### **John 1:14,16-18**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### **Luke 7:36-50 (The Message)**

One of the Pharisees asked him over for a meal. He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down at the dinner table. Just then a woman of the village, the town harlot, having learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Oh? Tell me."

"Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver pieces, the other fifty. Neither of them could pay up, and so the banker canceled both debts. Which of the two would be more grateful?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one who was forgiven the most."

"That's right," said Jesus. Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, "Do you see this woman? I came to your home; you provided no water for my feet, but she rained tears on my feet and dried them with her hair. You gave me no greeting, but from the time I arrived she hasn't quit kissing my feet. You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has soothed my feet with perfume. Impressive, isn't it? She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal."

Then he spoke to her: "Your sins have been forgiven."

That set the dinner guests talking behind his back: "Who does he think he is, forgiving sins!"

He ignored them and said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."



## **First United Church of Christ**

### **Schedule for the Season of Lent**

- **Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm**
- **Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm**
- **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 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**