

June 25 2023

"ORDINARY" TIME

Greeting

Welcome Statement *(Printed on the bulletin insert)*

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

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

* **Call to Worship** *Adapted from Psalm 77*

Leader: I cry aloud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear me.
In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;

People: I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord;
I will remember your wonders of old.
I will meditate on all your works
and contemplate your deeds.

All: Your way, O God, is holy.
You are the God who works wonders;
you have displayed your might among the peoples.
With your strong arm you redeemed your people.

* **1st Hymn** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (NCH# 391)

* **Prayer (Unison)**

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 we—our neighbors, our friends and our enemies, will indeed be dwelling in your house our whole life long. Amen.

* **Assurance:** *"...nor anything else in all Creation..."*

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response**

*Breathe on me breath of God; fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love, and do what you would do.*

Announcements

Offering Invitation

Matthew 6:28-30

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you?

Offertory

• **Sung Response** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow...*

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

Open our hearts, Loving God, to receive all you have to give us; and then open our hands to give it all away. Shape us into a generous people. Teach us to live *by* your grace and *for* those you love we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **Genesis 32:9-12**

2nd Scripture Reading **Genesis 32:22-31**

Sermon **"...helplessness that will not let go..."**

Invitation to the Table

If you're hungry, or even just curious, please come and eat.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** *Be Still, My Soul* (NCH#488)

* **Benediction** *Let the peace of God be in your heart...*

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Marcy Thurwachter

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.

The Communion table at this church is open to everybody—whether you believe, want to believe or can't believe as we do you are welcome to your share of Jesus' gift of bread and wine. Whoever you are, whatever brought you here, however you identify, whoever you love, whatever your circumstances, whether you are hungry or just curious, Jesus himself invites you to this table.

Questions? Concerns? Perplexed? Thirsty for some good coffee? Give a call and we'll find a table at a coffee shop where we can talk for a while. Pastor Brad

Our Pride Coffee Sale continues. First Church and John Joseph Coffee are collaborating on a fund raising effort on behalf of community organizations creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ youth. Check out the table in the foyer and buy a bag (or two).

Drink Good, Do Good.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Love God with all your heart. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus

First United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We strive to foster loving and caring relationships in our church and community, and so we welcome and value all people—without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, or faith background. Anyone who covenants with us to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly” in the way of Jesus is invited to share in every aspect of our life together. No matter who you are or where you

are on life's journey, you are welcome here at First United Church of Christ—Sauk City.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for June: *Food items:* Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly. *Personal items:* New or gently used (clean) leggings and sweatpants (size child 6—adult 2XL). 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.

Our Christian Fellowship group will be hosting a coffee and abbreviated pie social on Sunday July 23rd. We would be very grateful for any pies/slices or whipped toppings you would care to donate. If you have any questions please contact any Member of our Christian Fellowship group. Thank you!

Genesis 32:9-12

And Jacob said, ‘O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, “Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good”, I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. Yet you have said, “I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.” ’

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he

struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Please pick up a “For the Love of Creation” card in the foyer this morning to send your personal message to the Environmental Protection Agency. We are participating in a United Church of Christ effort calling on the EPA to set *“the strongest science-based pollution standards as soon as possible.”* Fill out a card and leave it on the table. We will take it from there. Thanks.

