

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Tammy Young

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 the bread and juice at Jesus' table. 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. (608) 669—2926 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.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for July: *Food items:* Individual packages of applesauce. *Personal items:* STURDY backpacks with working zippers. 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 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!

We have a special guest today for a conversation in the Fireside Room following the worship service. Her name is Sarah and she is the mother of a young, transgender child. She has generously offered to tell us her family's story and to answer any questions we may have. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to increase our understanding and show our support for people who far, far too often are neither understood nor supported. The O&A Committee is bringing treats so grab a bite and join in the conversation.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

“Come to me,” Jesus said, “all who are weary...” (Matthew 11:28)

First United Church of Christ—Sauk City is an Open and Affirming congregation. Whoever you are, whatever your story, however you identify, whomever you love, we would value your friendship and welcome you into our community. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome at First United Church of Christ. So come to worship and to be nourished by the bread and wine at the Jesus' table. Stay to serve Sauk City and beyond. We are looking forward to getting acquainted.

In the progress toward religious understanding, one does not go from answer to answer but from question to question. One's questions are answered, not by clear, definitive answers, but by more pertinent and more crucial questions."

Thomas Merton, Opening the Bible

First Scripture Reading:

John 15:9-12

(The words of Jesus) As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Second Scripture Reading:

Acts 1:1-5

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

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.

