

August 13, 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** by Joanna Harader

Leader: Gathered in this place, we are the Body of Christ.

People: The hands and feet, the eyes and ears, the heart and lungs—

Leader: all parts of the whole, participating in the miraculous body.

People: Together we are a body that worships, a body that sings,

Leader: a body that works, a body that rests, a body that rejoices.

All: We are the Body of Christ, gathered in this place, in the wonder of serving and loving God together.

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

• **Morning Prayer (Unison)**

Holy One, we confess: we often are not the people we should be. We are not the church you called us to be. We will never save the world. We will never revive this congregation. This is the truth we confess. But we also confess, Holy God, your love for us and for our world—that in your goodness you forgive our failure; and in your kindness you cover our deficiency. And so we trust that your grace has saved us and your Spirit will revive us. For all of this we are grateful. Amen.

* **Assurance:** *“As the heavens are high above the earth...”*

Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response**

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

Announcements

Offering “Grace is something you can never get but can only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream...”

Frederick Buechner

Offertory

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

We are grateful, Holy God, for the abundance of the earth and the generosity of your grace. Form us as a grace directed people—reflecting your love for the Creation and expressing of your love for our neighbors we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **Deuteronomy 15:7-8**

2nd Scripture Reading **Deuteronomy 15:10-11**

Sermon **Making Space—Being the Church**

Invitation to the Table *Break Now the Bread of Life* (NCH #321)

*Break now the bread of life, Savior to me,
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea...*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** *Gather Us In* (On Screen)

* **Benediction** — Julian of Norwich

“All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well.”

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Scott & Christy Kinnamon

Radio Sponsor: Dean Dahnert, in honor of Brigitta's birthday on August 17.

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 August: *Food items:* Granola Bars. *Personal items:* Markers, folders and glue sticks. 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.

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. This is what “Everyone Is Welcome!” means *to us*: 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 cup at the Jesus' table. Stay to serve Sauk City and beyond. We are looking forward to getting acquainted.

First Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be...

Second Scripture Reading:

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’

The goal of Child Protective Services is to support parents and caregivers in making necessary changes so children are safe and protected in their homes. Below is a wish list of items they need to fulfill their mission.



“Joyful Gifts”

*Children are our hope, our joy, our future.
Every child is a story yet to be told.*

Sauk County CPS Wish List of items frequently needed:

Household safety devices:

- Baby Gates
- Door/Window Alarms
- Cabinet Locks
- Outlet Covers
- Corner Protectors
- Baby Monitors



Diapering Supplies:

- Diapers (Sizes 2 & 3)
- Pull-Ups (Sizes 4 & 5)
- Baby Wipes



Convertible Car Seats
Portable Playard/Playpen

Monetary gifts are accepted

We invite you to fill the bassinet with these now or gently used items.

*This project is in conjunction with
Sauk County Child Protective Services (CPS)*

Thank you for your participation!



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