

August 20, 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

Isaiah 40:9-11

L: Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

P: See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

L: He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

* 1st Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

(NCH #28)

• Morning Prayer (Unison)

Holy One, hold us close when the darkness threatens to overtake us and we are in danger of losing our way. When we forget, as we so often do, who we are and Whose we are, when we harm those we love or those we should love, when we leave undone what we should have done, forgive us. Set us right. Overpower us once more with your abundant grace. Restore us in your boundless kindness. Transform us each day into a people who love the world *as you do*; who love our neighbors *because you do*; who live this way in Jesus name. Amen.

* Assurance: *There is no wrong you can confess...*

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

from Barbara Brown Taylor

“Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails.”

Offertory

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

God of Grace, make us each day more grateful for your generosity, more generous with your gifts and more giving to those in need. Make of us a reflection of your love in this world. Amen

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:4-9

2nd Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

Sermon

I come to the garden...

Invitation to the Table *Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

• **Closing Hymn**

Hymn of Promise

(NCH# 433)

In the bulb there is a flower...

• **Benediction**

“See, the home of God is among mortals...”

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Marcy Thurwachter

Radio Sponsor: Greg & Laurie Kerl in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

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.

Reminder: if you have kids or grandkids you want to enroll in the Sunday school program you can find the enrollment forms on our church website. If you haven't already, please send in your form as soon as you can. Sunday school starts on September 10.

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

We will be enjoying coffee and treats after the worship service today. Grab a cup and something to eat and join in the conversation.

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.

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 new or gently used items.

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

Thank you for your participation!

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:

Genesis 2:4-9

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up... the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Second Scripture Reading:

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.’

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.