

September 3, 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 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into God's presence with singing!

People: Know that the Lord is God!

It is God who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates with thanksgiving,

and God's courts with praise!

Give thanks to God; bless God's name!

All: For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

* **1st Hymn** *Spirit of Gentleness* (NCH #286)

• **Morning Prayer (Unison)**

God—who brings light into our dark places, whose love overcomes our hate, and whose kindness gives hope when we despair, bring us your peace again this morning. Open our eyes anew to the beauty of your Creation, the joy of this fellowship, the loveliness of our neighbors. We have given ourselves to be shaped by your Spirit into the living body of Christ—to become, in all things, the hands and feet and heart of Jesus for this world you have loved so well and redeemed so fully. Now we pray that by this same Spirit you will make it so. Amen

* **Assurance:** *Anyone...*

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 "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent *about things that matter.*"
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Offertory

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

• **Gratitude Prayer (Unison)**

May these gifts bring glory to your name and help to your people—
whoever they are and where ever they are, we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Kid's Time

1st Scripture Reading **Hebrews 11: 1-3**

2nd Scripture Reading **Hebrews 11:8-16**

Sermon *Faith—All the way down*

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** *Great is Your Faithfulness* (NCH #423)

• **Benediction**

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit" is yours now and always, always will be. Amen.

• **Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgists: Tamara Straub

Radio Sponsor:

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 were notified this week that Judy Malone, who was living in Sun Prairie, passed away on August 21 at St Mary's Hospital in Madison. Her sister, Ethel Pellet, asked that we inform the church family of this loss.

From Members in Ministry—if you know someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call, or who would like to receive Communion in their home, please let Debbie Tschudy know. Call her at: (608) 963-4873.

From our Stock the Schools campaign—suggested donations for August: *Food items:* Individual packages of crackers (Goldfish, Ritz, etc). 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.

First UCC Welcome Statement:

"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!

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

First United Church of Christ - Sauk City 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 *as you are* here at First United Church of Christ.

First Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Second Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been

thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated on the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.