

September 10, 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 98

Leader: O sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God's strong hand and holy arm have given him the victory. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

People: Sing praises to God with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Ruler, the Sovereign.

All: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of God, for God is coming to judge the earth.

* **1st Hymn** *To God Compose a Song of Joy* (NCH #36)

• **Morning Prayer (Unison)**

Holy God, in you we live and move and have our being. We confess our trust in you is too easily abandoned; we too easily allow our darkness to blot out your light. Help us, Lord, for we have no help but you. Forgive our narrow vision and our lack of trust in your mercy and kindness. Send your healing Spirit to renew our hearts and minds, so that we might remember our baptism and give a more faithful offering of our lives to you and to the neighbors around us. We ask, as we thank you, in Jesus name. Amen (Oratio pg. 107)

* **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 **The Place Where We Are Right**

From the place *where we are right*
flowers will never grow in the Spring...

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 **Matthew 5:14-16**

This little light of mine...

2nd Scripture Reading **Micah 6:6-8**

Sermon *When all is said and done...*

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

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

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

• **Closing Hymn** *Build a Longer Table* (On Screen)

• **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: Jaime Wittwer

Radio Sponsor: Pat Boehmer, Kristy & Steve Statz along with Ross & Kiana Litscher in memory of husband, Dad, and Grandpa John Boehmer

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

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.

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. Every part of you is precious to God, and all of who you are is welcome here. 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.

First Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Second Scripture Reading:

Micah 6:6-8

‘With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?