

October 1, 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** Psalm 133

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

People: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

* **Hymn** **Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?** NCH #539

* Morning Prayer

God grant us the patience to work together, bring us all together as a family. Let us work together with understanding and compassion in our hearts. Let us not be rude or arrogant towards one another or towards those who share differing views. Let us shine our light and show the way to your heavenly kingdom through our words and actions. Amen.

* **Assurance:** Adapted from Psalm 18

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice. He reached down from on high, he took me; he drew me out of mighty waters. He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me because he delighted in me. The promise of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

For this, we all say out loud...

Thanks be to God!

* Sung Response

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

Announcements

Offering *When Giving Is All We Have* **Alberto Rios**

Offertory

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

* Gratitude Prayer (Unison)

Open our hearts, Loving God, to receive all you have to give us; and then open our hands to give it all away. Shape us into generous people. Teach us to live by your grace and for those you love we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Presentation

Brigitta Brickl

Kid's Time

Brigitta Brickl

1st Scripture Reading

Romans 12:3-18

2nd Scripture Reading

Matthew 12:46-50

Sermon

Rethink Church

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

* **Closing Hymn** **You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore** NCH #173

* Benediction

Romans 15: 5-6

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Now go in peace to serve the Lord!

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Tammy Young

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.

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 me 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 September: *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:

“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.



Kara Root – Rethinking Church (2017) Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX9hTTKua9E>

First Scripture Reading:**Romans 12:3-18**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Second Scripture Reading:**Matthew 12:46-50**

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

When Giving Is All We Have

Alberto Rios

We give because someone gave to us.

We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.

We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,

We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,

Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,

But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,

Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.

Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you

What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.