

November 19, 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 Thom Shuman

Leader: With friends and strangers,
with family and neighbors, we gather.

**People: Come among us, Healing God,
in your unending love.**

Leader: With faith reaching out to touch,
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**People: Come among us, Friend of the broken,
in your compassion make us whole.**

Leader: With word and wonder,
with silence and song, we wait:

**People: Come among us, Holy One. Dry all our
tears, lift us up to follow in your way.**

*** 1st Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You* (NCH #4)

• Prayer (Unison)

We are here, Loving God, carrying with us the things that make us afraid. Ease this burden. Forgive our unwillingness to trust that you will care for your world and for your people. Forgive our reluctance to rest in your arms when our lives are unsettled. Heal the fear that keeps us from you and from each other; that threatens to tear this world apart. By your grace, save us from our times of trial and grant us the rest to be found only in your presence we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** The Promise:** *Anyone who is in Christ has become a New Creation altogether. The old is finished and gone. Everything has become new. This is the gospel by which we are forgiven and made whole, and for which we all say –*

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 Philippians 2: 1-4 (The Message)

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you...then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front...Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead... Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

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

• Gratitude Prayer (Unison)

Holy One, 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 **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

Bridge over Troubled Water
Sam Roberts and Sherri Roberts

2nd Scripture Reading **John 8:7**

Sermon "If you want to be holy, be kind."

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** *O Jesus, I Have Promised* (NCH #493)

*** Benediction** *Grace...Love... Fellowship...Now...Always*

• Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist: Sherri Roberts

Radio Sponsor: Sharal Steuber, in appreciation of the work of the First UCC Members in Ministry.

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.

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.

If you have pets you love, or animals under your care, clear your calendar for Wednesday evening, November 15, and join us for a soup and bread supper followed by a special *Blessing of the Animals* service. Supper will be served at 5:30 in the dining hall in the Education wing. Check your email or our Facebook page for more details.

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.

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. All perplexities allowed. (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 November: *Food items:* Ritz type crackers. *Clothing:* Pads, tampons and panty liners. 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 HELP Project is in full swing for another year. If you have toys to contribute please place them in the bins outside the Education Wing doors on weekdays or in the hall on Sundays. If you have time to contribute, contact Margaret McFarlane at 608-643-6327. Thanks.

The Season of Advent begins on November 26. Christmas Eve day, December 24, is a Sunday this year so there will be no worship service that Sunday Morning. *The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held this year at 5:30 p.m.*



1st Scripture Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2nd Scripture Reading:

John 8:7

When they kept on questioning him, Jesus straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw at her.