

December 10, 2023
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements

Silence ...a time to breathe...

Prelude and Bringing in the Light

• Opening Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Red Hymnal #89)

Call to Worship **Lighting the 3rd Candle of Advent**
The Homar Family

Prayer : Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

178 **Shine On Us**

Shine on us, O God of just-ice; guide our path through
gloom of night; Bear with-in us Wis-dom's glo-ry
Come to us, O Christ the Light.

Offering *Into the Darkest Hour* Madeleine L'Engle

Offertory and Presentation of the White Gifts

• Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (Red Hymnal #356)

Introduction of the Sunday school Program

Margaret McFarlane

Play: *In the Spirit of Love*

Narrator: Ella Logterman

Parade Host: Sam Logterman

Parade Co-Host: Morgan Larson

Christmas Tree: Penny Gray

Present: Briann Brickl

Peanut Butter and Jelly: Henry Homar and Bennett Finley

Birthday Fun: Ella and Emma Lombard

Skateboard Delivery: Evan Roberts

Bell: Vann Ambort

Bakers: Leo and Marlow Gray

Postal Carrier: Raegan Noltner

Star: Anna Lombard

SS Superintendent: Margaret McFarlane

H.S. Students: Sam Logterman and Morgan Larsen

Mary: Emma Lombard

Joseph: Vann Ambort

Baby Jesus: Georgia Gray

Angels: Briann Brickl (Gabriel) and Penny Gray

Shepherds: Henry Homar and Anna Lombard

Wisemen: Reagan Noltner, Bennett Finley and Leo Gray

Animals: Marlow Gray, Ella Lombard and Roy Gray

Readers: Madilyn Noltner and Ella Logterman

• **2nd Carol:** *What Child Is This* (NCH #148 vs 1)

Sunday School Songs

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Joy to the World

Wherever Love Is

***Prayer**

Holy and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season and for the hope we find in the Christ Child. We confess that we often fail to live out this hope. We are easily distracted by our own projects and preparations and we lose focus on the one who is the Source of our hope. Forgive us, God, and restore we pray. Amen.

*** The Promise**

The promise of the season of Advent is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. We are called to keep awake, to be ready for his arrival. So let us lay aside all those things that distract us from faithful watching for God, believing the Good News of the Gospel—that in Jesus we are forgiven and through him we all can say:

Thanks be to God!

- **Closing Hymn** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* (Red Hymnal #105)
- **Benediction**

*May God give you eyes to see in the darkness, ears to hear in the silence and a voice to speak courage in a time of fear. May these eyes see God's love in every neighbor's face, these ears hear God's love in every child's laugh and this voice speak God's peace to all who are afraid. Go into the world in the peace of Advent.
Amen.*

Postlude

Thank you to all who made this year's Christmas Program a reality..... the students; parents; Sunday School and Confirmation staff- Nadene, Kari, Stacey, Katie, Morgan, Sam, Jeanann, Sharon; Music-Denny, Sherri; Costumes-Nadene and SS staff; Sound and Tech-Scott, Evan; Details and office support-Pastor Brad, Rose; Sunday School alumni- Evan, Sam, Morgan, Ella, Madilyn; and the Gray family for sharing Georgia, playing the part of Baby Jesus. Thank you all for sharing your talent, time, and patience! Special thanks to the congregation and guests for being here! May the spirit of love be with you throughout the coming year!

Hugs and Blessings, Margaret



First United Church of Christ—Sauk City

An Open and Affirming Congregation



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy for this year has been adapted from UCC Worship Ways, 2023.

This morning we have the Sunday school Christmas Program. Many thanks to Margaret McFarlane for guiding today's program and to all the kids and parents who are participating.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held this year at 5:30 p.m. This is the perfect time to invite your family and friends to First Church

Radio Sponsor: Lois Pieper in memory of Susan Joy Pieper's birthday on Dec. 12.

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.

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 December: *Food items:* Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly. *Personal Items:* Full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner. 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. **There will be work sessions this week on Monday, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, 10:00 a.m.—noon and Friday 10 a.m. till noon.** If you have time to help H.E.L.P., contact Margaret McFarlane at 608-643-6327. Thanks.

We are ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Fridays and Saturdays through December 23. If you would like to take a shift at either Piggly Wiggly or Hanson's IGA contact the church office or Pastor Brad to get on the schedule. Thanks.

Hearing Aid Devices are available. If you are having trouble hearing during the service and would like to use one please let us know and we will set you up.

Financial Report

Through October, 2023

Income	\$ 14,839
Expense	\$ <u>9,120</u>
Net	\$ 5,719

2023 YTD through October

Income	\$ 135,412
Expense	\$ <u>129,300</u>
Net	6,111



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—whoever you are, however you identify, whomever you love, whatever your story. 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 - Sauk City.

Third Sunday of Advent (Focus: John 1:6–8, 8–11)

Reader 1 (as the 1st 2 blue candles and then the pink candle are lit): We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy.

Reader 2: We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Reader 1: God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

***People :* Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.**

People:

**Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.**

Liturgy adapted from UCC Worship Ways, 2023

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