

First United Church of Christ
504 Washington Ave.
Sauk City, WI 53583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE SCOOP AUGUST 2023

Find us:

- www.ucc-saukcity.org
- firstucesauk.churchtrac.com
- For the Youtube channel type:
“ *First UCC Sauk City Youtube* ” into your search engine
- On Facebook at: First United Church of Christ- Sauk City

*Or if you'd like to sit down with the pastor
and solve the world's problems over a cup of
coffee, give me a call. I'll buy the first cup.
Brad Brookins—608-669-2926 (or drop me an email)*

This Month at First...

August 8th 6:00 pm Christian Fellowship
August 13th Coffee Fellowship
August 15th 6:00 pm Members In Ministry
August 17th 6:00 pm Consistory Meeting

Interim Pastor: Pastor Brad Brookins
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Office phone: 608-643-8387
Office email: office@ucc-saukcity.org
Pastor's Cell phone: 608-669-2926
Email: brad_brookins@ucc-saukcity.org

August 2023 *From the Interim Pastor...*

EVERY

DOG'S STORY Mary Oliver

I have a bed, my very own.

It's just my size.

And sometimes I like to sleep alone
with dreams inside my eyes.

But sometimes dreams are dark and wild and
creepy, and I wake and am afraid, though I don't
know why. But I'm no longer sleepy
and too slowly the hours go by.

So I climb on the bed where the light of the moon
is shining on your face
and I know it will be morning soon.

Everybody needs a safe place.



Beatrice was a 100 and some pound Mastiff/Pyrenees mix who, along with my current dog Ben, protected all the animals on our homestead near Blanchardville. We lost her, at the ripe age of 12, just a couple of years ago. She is pictured here curled up on the bed belonging to my daughter's 10-pound poodle.

The poem alongside the picture is one of my favorites from Mary Oliver's Dog Songs collection. What I love about Oliver's poetry is her skill in turning the ordinary into a deep expression of the extraordinary. She does that here with the closing line, "*Everybody needs a safe place.*"

Being a welcoming church means being a community that creates a "safe place" for people who, often for very good reasons, have never felt safe in a church. This is not as easy as we often think. Printing "Everyone Is Welcome" in your bulletin each week or on your church sign is not enough. Every church in the country *says* they welcome everybody, but far, far too often they are not really telling the truth.

Creating a safe place for everyone requires intentional effort, cooperation, listening to each other, and sometimes stepping out of our comfort zone. It requires, in fact, nothing less than the Fruit of the Spirit, as St Paul describes it in Galatians 5: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and generosity."

Fortunately for the church, this "fruit" is a gift of God's grace. It is abundantly available and able to draw out of us a wide open, generous welcome. A welcome that will be heard *and believed* and will result in changed lives—our own as well those of others who are hoping to find a church home.

This isn't always easy or comfortable. But it is vital. As the book of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

In hope always,

Brad Brookins, Interim Pastor

If you can't be with us in person, you have other options. And we'd love to have you join us any way you can—



View our Live Youtube broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. service. Recordings of past services, can also be seen on our Youtube channel. Type "*First UCC Sauk City Youtube*" into your search engine



We have a live radio broadcast of the worship service every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Tune in to WRPQ Radio—AM 740, FM 99.7, or Live Stream the audio from the WRPQ.com website.

Radio broadcast sponsorship spots are available!

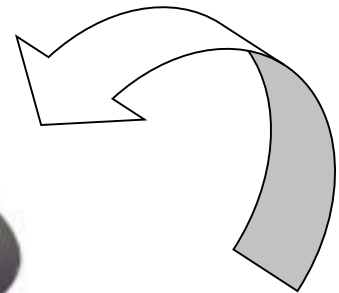
If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory of a loved one or for any other special reason, please contact the church office by phone or email and we will give you the list of available dates. The cost is \$90 a broadcast, keep in mind that you can share a slot with anyone,

HELP US KEEP OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY UP TO DATE!

Please let us know when your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed, or will change, so we do not leave you out of any church mailings.

Mark your calendar...it's our third annual drive though chicken dinner!

When: Sunday, September 10th
Where: First United Church of Christ
Washington/Madison Avenue, Sauk City
Time: 11:00am until sold out
Cost: \$14.00



Dinner includes: ½ chicken, Cole slaw, baked potato, roll, desert bar.
Coming soon - sign-up sheet in the church narthex

Consistory Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2023

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brad

Please welcome Andrew Warner from the Conference (presentation on fund-raising proposal).

Wrap up on 4K Nursery room:

Rental of a third nursery room to 4K Staff has been approved; rental fee will increase to \$700.00 monthly; **2023-2024** lease will be issued to Amanda Moseman in August.

Committee Update:

- **Christian Fellowship:** no meeting in July, next meeting is August 8th @6pm.
- **Financing:** Tammy Young made a motion to approve the recent budget, Barb Sprecher seconded; motion approved.
- **Maintenance:**
 - ❖ Bids for roof repair and overall roof replacement.
 - Tammy Young made a motion to move forward with a bid from Hasheider Roofing, Carrie Finley seconded; motion approved.
 - ❖ Tree removal
 - Looking to get bids for removal of the pine tree between the sanctuary and the parsonage.
 - ❖ Elevator
 - Mark has purchase oil.
 - ❖ Church doors on Madison Street
 - Eric Breunig will be repairing both sets of doors on the Madison Street side of the sanctuary.
 - ❖ Outside painting (window frames)
 - ❖ Parking lot
 - Mark will be looking to fill cracks.
- **Members In Ministry:** Still making calls and visits.
- **ONA:** On July 16th Sarah, Mom of a transgender child, met with a group of church members after service in the Fireside Room; she shared her story and continued journey. Very informative and well attended.
 - ONA will be in the Cow Chip parade.
- **Pastor Search:** Next Meeting on July 31st
- **New Sign:** Carrie - update
- **Stewardship:** No recent meeting
- **Sunday School:** attached

- Upcoming:
 - ❖ (Fund raising – Sub-committee – consistory volunteers (?) once policy is in place Finance/Consistory to meet with all individuals who use church credit cards or involved with fund raising to ensure that all peoples will be following the same process.

New Business –

- AED is expired

Motion to adjourn:

Closing Prayer: Pastor Brad

The Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 17th at 6:00pm** - Church Park.



Christian Education News

What Has Been Happening

- We had a wonderful night out with 13 church members and friends to watch the Sauk Prairie Twins Hometown Baseball game on Friday July 21st . Thank you to everyone who came. It was a great night for a ball game,
- The Church Nursery has moved! It is now located on the top floor of the Education Building. Come check it out! If you have questions see Mrs. Brickl.

Upcoming events

- We hope to have some impromptu activities planned with families and members of the church. They will be announced via Facebook.
- Start of the new program year begins September 10th. Make sure to register soon for Sunday School and Confirmation!
<https://firstuccsauk.churchtrac.com/>

Register Here!



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Christian Fellowship Meeting Minutes

No meeting in July

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 8th at 6 pm** all are welcome!



Members in Ministry ~ Will have a meeting on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00 in the church basement education building. If anyone is interested in this blessed ministry work, you are welcome to attend. If you have any questions please call Debbie at 608-963-4873 or the church office 608-643-8387.

Search Committee Update



To date the Search Committee has received a total of 5 Pastoral Profiles. We have had a chance to review all of them and have had an opportunity to have a conversation with two of the applicants. At the present time we are awaiting more profiles to come in and will keep you posted on our progress.

The Search Committee

Stock the Schools



For the month of August, we will be collecting Granola and Protein bars.

Our Radio Broadcast Sponsors for the month of August are:

August 6th Jane Litscher in memory of her father Lloyd Gruber

August 13th Dean Dahnert in honor of Brigitta's birthday on August 17th

"Always be rejoicing. Give thanks for everything." 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18.



Appreciation Corner



Special thanks to Pastor Brad and Chris Garcia!!!

We were quoted \$2400 to install five windows in the pastor's office. Pastor Brad and Chris volunteered their **time and "talents"** to put the new windows in. How fortunate are we to have such good and faithful servants.

Congratulations to Evan Roberts who was awarded the McFarlane Scholarship. Evan will be attending Madison College in the Fall and majoring in Cyber Security. Congratulations Evan!







Thank you to Christian Fellowship Chair Tamara Straub and the rest of the committee members on a great Fellowship with delicious pies Sunday. Everyone really enjoyed the pies!

If you would like to offer a word of appreciation to anyone, please reach out to the church office; there are many people behind the scenes that do so much for the church – we applaud you.



2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31	1 Lowell Grass Christine Hardtke	2	3	4 Shane Steuber	5	6 Patsy Hering Julie Perry
7	8	9	10 Forrest Hartmann	11 Kylie Baier	12	13 Tom Litscher
14 David McFarlane	15 Kelsey Marquardt	16 Kari Larsen Tyler Jensen	17 Laurie Kerl Brigitta Brickl	18 Beth Huerth Gavin Larsen	19 Evelyn Koenig Sam Sprecher	20
21	22	23 Amanda Moseman	24	25 Mark Pierick	26	27 Peg Heidenreich Lois Polacek
28 Scott Grimes	29	30 Libby Nachreiner	31 Logan Perry Cliff Lawton Peggy Ganser	1	2	3
4	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10