

# Unitarian Universalist Church West – Order of Service – September 17, 2023

“The Gift of Covenant”

Rev. Julie Stoneberg

1. **Prelude** – Prelude in D Major, BWV 850 (J.S. Bach, performed by Ruben)
2. **Welcome** – Barb Holzhauser, Board of Trustees Representative
3. **Introit** – Bright Morning Stars (trad. American, arr. Ruben Piirainen) - Adult Choir
4. **Call to Worship** – Rev. Julie
5. **Chalice Lighting** – “Words of Affirmation” by Lucas Hergert - Barb Holzhauser and Rev. Julie  
*(Please join in reading; if you are joining us at home, you’re invited to kindle a chalice or candle there.)*

Love is the doctrine of this church  
Our faith in each other is its sacrament  
Working for justice and living with compassion is its prayer.  
Reverently we covenant together  
to side with love, to heal and not to harm,  
and to share hope with each other and with the world.

6. **Singing Together - #359** “When We Are Gathered”
7. **Time for All Ages** – RE Teacher Dedication - Dave Cicero, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

**DLRE:** We dedicate these teachers as a crucial part of the nourishment of our children's spiritual growth. You who have chosen to teach our children have the special blessing of being not only part of their religious development, but a loving part of their UUCW memories.

**Teachers:** We recognize the trust you are placing in us. We covenant to respect our children as the individuals they are, to encourage exploration and growth, and to keep them safe.

**Children and Parents:** We appreciate the time, energy, and love that you will be sharing with us this year.

**DLRE:** Do we, the congregants of this liberal religious community, covenant to nurture and support these teachers called to minister to our children, and to acknowledge the great importance of Faith Formation for all ages.

**All:** We covenant with the teachers, the children, and the RE staff and Committee to acknowledge and value the ministry of religious education, to support you to the best of our abilities, and to realize that we are all partners in the growth of all members of this congregation.

8. **Children's Recessional** - “As You Go, May Joy Surround You” written by Piirainen/Lynch

As you go, may joy surround you – As you go, go in peace.  
Know our love is with you always – As you go, as you go.

9. **Joys and Concerns** – Rev. Julie Stoneberg
10. **Sung Meditation - #83** “Winds Be Still”
11. **Reading** - “I Choose You, I am Here” by Emma Merchant - read by Laurie Boddie
12. **Message** - “The Gift of Covenant” - Rev. Julie
13. **Interlude** – Improvisation - Ruben
14. **Offering Words** – Barb Holzauer
15. **Offertory Music** – "Invitation" by Bronisław Kaper - performed by Ruben)
16. **Singing Together - #122** - “Sound Over All Waters”
17. **Celebrating 20 years with Ruben Piirainen**  
“Anniversary Tribute” (written by Karen Engelking and Gina Barton; video by Hayley German Fisher)  
“You’re a Good Man, Ruben P” (music by Clark Gesner; words by Gina Barton)
18. **Closing Words & Chalice Extinguishing** – “May You Be Filled” by Eric Williams - Rev. Julie and Barb Holzauer

***Our Split the Plate partner for September is Good Friend, Inc.***

***How to Give:***

**IN-PERSON:** Loose cash and contributions (checks/cash) labeled “split” will be shared this month’s Split the Plate partner organization.

**ONLINE:** Text “UUCW” to 73256 - OR – go to [uucw.org](http://uucw.org) and click “Donate”

**MAIL:** Mail a Contribution to UU Church West – 13001 W North Ave, Brookfield, WI 53005

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:**

Ushers:  
Greeters: Julieann Gaetano  
Newcomer Table: Lynn Anderson  
Coffee Volunteers:  
Table Decoration: Barb Holzauer