

# *Welcome to Worship!*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 3, 2017

## *The Bible and Homosexuality*

On April 3, 2017, the Administrative Council affirmed the following: “In the spirit of helping people say “Yes” to God and in an effort to reach out to all people in our community, the Reconciling Ministries Team recommends that FUMC Baraboo enter into a Reconciling Process. The purpose of the Reconciling Process is to examine the barriers, walls, prejudices, rejections and judgments that separate us and to attempt to eliminate them so that all people, including our LGBT neighbors, feel safe, welcome, accepted and loved at our church.” As part of the educational process being led by our Reconciling Ministries team, I am offering three sermons on the topic of homosexuality and the Bible. Today’s sermon explores this issue in the context of the holiness code found in the book of Leviticus. The other sermons will be October 1<sup>st</sup> (the story of Sodom and Gomorrah) and February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (on Romans 1:26-27). **Please stay for a time of conversation following worship, to share your thoughts/questions/wonderings in response to the sermon.** ~ Pastor Marianne



## **First United Methodist Church**

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### **Helping People 'Say Yes' to God**

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pastor's Email: [marianne@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:marianne@wisconsinumc.org) Cell: (608) 843-9641

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*Welcome to worship at First UMC Baraboo. Our mission is 'Helping people 'Say Yes' to God. "Do no harm, do all the good you can and stay in love with God" are the three simple rules we seek to live by. As you wait for worship to begin, please sign the pew pad register. If you have a joy or a concern today, please write it on the insert in the pew pad and place it in the offering plate. If you are a first time guest, please provide your contact information so we can let you know about our ministries. Children are always welcome in worship; 'busy bags' are available just outside the door to fellowship hall. Our staffed nursery is available for children infants through age five.*

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*You shall be holy to me; for I the LORD am holy, and I have separated you from the other peoples to be mine.*

*Leviticus 20:26*

*"Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart..." Howard Thurman*

Prelude

Ring of the Bell / Welcome

†Call to Worship (from 1 Peter)

Come to him, a living stone though rejected by mortals yet  
chosen and precious in God' sight.

**Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people,**

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

**Called out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

†Hymn

*"Holy, Holy, Holy"  
The U.M. Hymnal #64  
Verses 1, 2, & 3*

Children's Message

Special Music

*Ellie Kennedy*

Prayer for Holiness of Heart

*The U.M. Hymnal #401*

Prayer Hymn

“Holy, Holy”  
*The Faith We Sing #2039*  
Verses 1, 2, 3 & 4

Readings

Leviticus 18:1-5, 20:26  
Matthew 13:33

Sung Response to the Word

“Holy, Holy, Holy”  
*The Faith We Sing #2007*

Sermon

“The Bible and Homosexuality: The Holiness Code”

*Leviticus 18:22 - You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

†The Peace

*Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love*

Offering

*Special Music – Ellie & Cam Kennedy*

As forgiven and reconciled people, Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

†Offering Response

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

*The U.M. Hymnal #92*

*Verse 6 and Refrain (Communion)*

**For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world so freely given,  
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in  
heaven.**

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.**

†Prayer of Dedication

**We offer these gifts, our song and our very selves, as our sacrifice  
of praise. You alone are holy,  
you alone are worthy. In  
Jesus’ name. Amen.**

~ All are welcome to receive Communion; you do not need to be a member of this church or a member of the United Methodist Church. This is the Lord’s Table; he is the host and we are all his guests. At the direction of the ushers you will be invited to come forward, and you will be given a piece of bread which you can dip in the cup as it is offered to you. Gluten free communion wafers are available upon request. ~

Celebration of Holy Communion

(p. 13-14 of the U.M. Hymnal)

- Great Thanksgiving
- Words of Institution
- Prayer for the Holy Spirit

“The Holy City” (Stephen Adams)

Jerry Bullard, organ

Announcements

†Hymn

“God Be with You till We Meet Again”

*The U.M. Hymnal #672*

*Verses 1 & 2*

†Benediction

†Postlude

*Please join in conversation after worship*

† = *Please rise if you are able*

**SERVING YOU TODAY...**

- Pastor .....Marianne Cotter
- Liturgist ..... Judy Ellington
- Church Opener .....Alice Schellenberger
- Greeter(s)..... Rajean Bender
- Usher(s).....Chris Kuter / Tim O’Keefe
- A/V Powerpoint & Booth ..... Mike Hanson & Alice Schellenberger
- Worship Music ..... Barb Kell

*Thank you to Ellie & Cam Kennedy, & Jerry Bullard for providing special music!*