

Welcome to Worship!

September 24, 2017



Sanctifying Grace

Through what Wesley called God's 'sanctifying grace,' we can continue to grow. In fact, Wesley affirmed, we're to press on, with God's help, in the path of sanctification, the gift of Christian perfection. The goal of the sanctified life is to be perfected in love, to experience the pure love of God and others, a holiness of heart and life, a total death to sin. We're not there yet; but by God's grace, as we United Methodists say, "we're going on to perfection!"

~George Koehler



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 Cell: (608) 843-9641

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. First time guests are invited to fill out a visitor card in the pew and place it in the offering plate. 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 thru age five.

"Have you faith in Christ? Are you going on to perfection? Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?"

*(from Wesley's Historic Questions,
asked of those being ordained in the Methodist tradition)*

Prelude / Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

†Call to Worship

In my Father's house, there are many rooms;

We can explore these rooms to our heart's content, in this life and the next!

This is none other than the house of God;

This is the gate of heaven!

By God's grace we enter the house of religion. Here, the only necessary work is loving:

Growing in love for God and our neighbors, more and more, our whole lives long!

†Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

The U.M. Hymnal #384

Verses 1, 2 & 4

†Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Introduction to Hymn Sing – Sanctifying Grace

Reflection & Hymn "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
The U.M. Hymnal #418
Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture Genesis 32:22-32

Special Music "Come O Thou Traveler Unknown"
Rex & Charlene Flygt, Vocals & Piano

Psalm Prayer (based on Psalm 63) (unison)

We praise you with joy, loving God, for your grace is better than life itself. You have sustained us through the darkness, and you bless us with life in this new day. In the shadow of your wings, we sing for joy and bless you holy name. Amen!

Reading from the Christian Scripture Philippians 3:8-16

Reflection & †Hymn (please rise) "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"
The U.M. Hymnal #402
Verses 1 & 2

Reflection & Hymn "I Need Thee Every Hour"
The U.M. Hymnal #397

Unison Prayer Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Joys & Concerns with Spoken Prayer

After you share a joy or concern, you are invited to add "God of healing" or "God of celebration" or use other appropriate wording and then the congregation will respond, "Hear our prayer!"

The Lord's Prayer *The U.M. Hymnal #895*

Invitation to the Offering

Offering

†Offering Response *The U.M. Hymnal #95*

†Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Almighty and merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our

gratitude by giving up ourselves to your service, and joyfully surrendering to your will in all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

†Hymn

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”
The U.M. Hymnal #402
Verses 3 & 4

†Sending Forth – “Going on to Perfection”

We will continue to trust in God, and “say yes” to God in the ways we can;

We’ll press on towards the goal.

Walk in the CROP walk, help out where we can, show kindness to others, be fully present to the people at work...

We’ll press on toward the goal.

Try to be a better Christian, reach out to new neighbors, care for creation, give to hungry children...

We’ll press on toward the goal.

Work to be the best parents we can be, share our resources, treat others as we’d like to be treated, be peacemakers...

We’ll press on toward the goal!

Bend the knee, share the gift of music, step out of our comfort zone to go where we are called, offer a listening ear to others...

We’ll press on toward the goal!

By God’s grace, we will press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God.

‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ Amen!

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Pastor Marianne Cotter
Liturgist Ann Renn
Church Opener Alice Schellenberger
Greeter(s) Gladys Orton
Usher(s) The Shrakes
A/V Powerpoint & Booth Mike Hanson & Mike Pullen
Worship Music Bruce Rasmussen