

Welcome to Worship!

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2017



Receiving Adoption

Adoption stakes a claim in an effort to restore wholeness. Today we celebrate that God has adopted us, setting a place for us at the Christmas banquet. We also remember that those seated around us will be of God's choosing rather than our own.



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. If you are a first time guest, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew racks. If you have a joy or concern today, fill out one of the cards provided and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. 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.

Prelude

Bruce Rasmussen, Worship Musician

Ringing of the Bell / Welcome

†Call to Worship

Let us sing praise to the God of all creation.

Let us sing Praise to the Spirit who gives life to all.

Let us sing praise to Jesus Christ, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

That everything and everyone in all creation might be reunited with God through Christ. We sing with the faithful of all ages, tongues, and races!

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†Hymn

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
The U.M. Hymnal #220*

†Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Special Music

*Rex Flygt, vocals
Charlene Flygt, piano*

Prayer before the Scriptures are Read

Faithful God, we rejoice that you have sent your promised Christ. And yet, O God, we confess that we are still not ready for Christ's coming; we are reluctant to live as if the whole earth were your domain. We know the story – the shepherds, the angels, the magi – but we don't fully understand what it means. Awaken us to your Spirit, let Christ's birth make a difference in our lives, and grant us your peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Scripture Readings

Luke 2: 22 – 40
Galatians 4: 4 – 7

†Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
The U.M. Hymnal #221

Sermon

“Receiving Adoption”

Offering

†Offering Response

“Glory to God in the Highest”
The Faith We Sing #2276

†Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, you provide the sun for our energy resources, the earth for our material resources, and the Spirit to guide us on the path of stewardship. We pray that this offering will address the brokenness we have brought into creation and ask for your blessing as we dedicate our resources to your will. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

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!”

Spoken Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The U.M. Hymnal #895

Announcements

†Hymn

“Joy to the World”
The U.M. Hymnal #246
Verses 1, 2, & 4

†Closing Words

Receive and claim your adoption into God’s family.
May the joy of Christmas inspire and sustain us in 2018.
Go and serve the Lord.
Amen.

†Postlude

† = *Please rise if you are able*

SERVING YOU TODAY...

Guest Pastor.....	Bill Dow
Liturgist	Charlene Flygt
Church Opener	Judy Ellington
Greeter(s).....	Molly Stewart
Usher(s).....	Richard & Gladys Orton
A/V Powerpoint & Booth	Mike Hanson & Mike Pullen
Worship Music	Bruce Rasmussen

Thank you to Rex Flygt and Charlene Flygt for today’s special music!

Today we welcome Bill Dow as our guest preacher. Bill is a retired licensed local pastor who served the Wisconsin Conference for 13 years. He completed his five-year course of study at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. His previous work was in manufacturing and industrial education. Bill is married to Ruby who currently serves as Wisconsin Conference vice-president of the United Methodist Women. They live in a log home by the Wisconsin River that has been under construction for about 24 years now.