

Banning United Methodist Church

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

GATHERING

SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP

Cathy Mauge

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS

Marilyn Casey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Casey

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Doug

WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Cathy Mauge

†CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather to pray.

P: We gather to praise.

L: May our prayers extend beyond ourselves.

P: May our praise rise to the heavens.

L: May our lives be salty with love.

P: May our prayers be reflections of peace.

Marilyn Casey

†OPENING HYMN

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

UMH #430

†OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, inspire us to be faithful to one another. Open our hearts to meet the needs in our midst and in the broader world. Open our minds to notice the beauty and gift of Your creation. Open our mouths to sing your blessings joyfully and gratefully. Open our lives to welcome the stranger, seek the lost, and create peace in a troubled world. Amen.

Marilyn Casey

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 NRSV

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” ³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” ⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” ⁶Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. ⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” ¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

²⁰Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, ²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

UMH #474

GOSPEL READING

Pastor Doug

Mark 9:38-50 NRSV

³⁸John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

SERMON "Wisdom is the Power of Community" Pastor Doug

PRAYERS Pastor Doug

CHILDREN IN PRAYER (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS Marilyn Casey

MASON JAR MINISTRIES

OFFERTORY Cathy Mauge

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Marilyn Casey
As you have blessed us, gracious God, bless the gifts we return to You now. May our tithes and offerings bless Your world with love and salt Your world with peace. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

†**CLOSING HYMN** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†**BENEDICTION** Pastor Doug

Our help is in the name of God,

Maker of heaven and earth.

Our help leads us forth

to bring peace and love to the planet.

Our help goes with us,

To protect us and to guide our way,

Amen.

POSTLUDE Cathy Mauge