



Sunday, November 17, 2019

First Congregational United Church of Christ

131 6th Avenue (at Broadway), Baraboo, Wisconsin

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(see note for RSVP for afternoon Session)

Featured: Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale

9 AM, Adult Study Class: Finding a Pleasure-Centered Faith

The Western Christian Church has a history of being suspicious of pleasure even limiting and repressing it for two millennia! Yet, science tells us that there are great benefits to enjoying pleasure, intimacy, and touch. So, as Christians how shall we get beyond the "unholy trinity" of guilt, fear, and shame that has been proclaimed by the church? Answer: Turn to our Bibles to study pleasure...and then live it! (in Jesus' name, of course.)

Beverly shares: "Some of Rev. Bev's pleasures are growing flowers, playing with mosaic tiles, singing at the piano, talking to her 4 year old grandson, and sitting in her hot tub."

10:15 AM: Worship

Beverly will be joining us in worship and preaching.

2 PM-4 PM: Christianity: The Problem & the Solution for Sexual Dis-ease

Refreshments will be served. And the Packers have a "bye" week!

For planning purposes an RSVP is requested: revdefcub@charter.net or fstuccbboo@dwave.net by November 10, 2019.

Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale has co-authored a book to assist professionals help their clients and students heal from their sexual wounds, traumas and general discomfort with sexuality that has its basis in Christian teaching and religious beliefs. The book, *Advancing Sexual Health for the Christian Client: Data and Dogma*, is an unusual partnership between the two disciplines of sexology and theology. The book, published by Routledge this year, and authored by a licensed social worker and counselor and a pastor documents the ways in which religious teachings often cause or contribute to problems but also how Christian teaching can provide an avenue for healing.

The reason Dr. Dale, an ordained clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Founder and Chair of the *Incarnation Institute for Sex & Faith* and Rachel Keller, a licensed social worker and counselor specializing in trauma, wrote the book is that they realized professionals are often reluctant to challenge religious beliefs. "We were hearing anecdotally how they are rarely equipped to use religious language with their clients." Dale said. The antipathy of the Western Christian Church authors acknowledge that the source of anti-sex, anti-body, anti-woman, and anti-diversity has a longstanding history, most widely recognized today as the Purity Movement and Abstinence-Only Until Marriage teaching. Dale and Keller note the sexual fall-out of the framework of the traditional Church: promotion of sexual ignorance, suspicion of pleasure, and the idea of sexual scarcity. By offering faith-friendly insights and spiritual discernment models, as well as Christian Meditations on the Body, they believe the sexual problems, in its specific religious and cultural teachings, can be healed.

"There is no reason why someone has to choose between either sexual healing or their faith, especially if the professionals are equipped to have the conversation." Dale said.

About the book

Advancing Sexual Health for the Christian Client is an essential toolkit for professionals working at the intersection of Christian belief and sexual health. In this book, Beverly Dale and Rachel Keller deconstruct potentially harmful Christian beliefs around sexuality to support clients stuck in sexual guilt, shame and fear.

"Here is the perfect resource for sex therapists. And it is equally perfect for anyone who can grasp ideas that may have harmed them but understood differently may now bring healing. Goals are specific; definitions are clear; necessary contrasts are sharply drawn; fascinating case studies illustrate the more theoretical information. The Bible and Christian faith are honored; and healthy sexual pleasure is equally honored. This is a book to be treasured by therapists, their clients, and curious readers as well."

-Dr. Virginia R. Mollenkott, author of *Sensuous Spirituality*, *Omnigender* and *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?*

Biography of Beverly Dale

The Reverend Beverly Dale grew up as the daughter of a tenant farmer in Moultrie County, IL. Upon graduating from high school she married and raised two children deferring her education until later. In 1982 she received a BS in sociology with a specialization in sexuality and minor in psychology followed by an MS in sociology specializing in marriage and the family in 1983 from Illinois State University in Normal IL. Her thesis was "Exposure to Religion and the Sexual Double Standard." She then pursued her Master of Divinity (1985) and Doctor of Ministry (1988) at Chicago Theological Seminary. Her doctoral work was focused on pastoral counseling and reviving small churches and entitled "Celebrating the Present Congregational Story as a Means to Small Church Renewal". She was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has served as the pastor of Colfax Christian Church in Colfax, Illinois from 1983-1989 and is currently serving as a clergy-in-residence at the United Christian Church of Levittown.

She has been the chief administrator of two organizations; Volunteer Services in Iroquois County in Illinois that provided a variety of social services to the elderly from 1974-1980, and from 1989-2010 at the Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania, a progressive social justice ecumenical ministry. It was also during her time at the University that her writing and performing became more central to her career. In 2006 she wrote, directed and performed in her one woman show "An Irreverent Journey from Eggbeaters to Vibrators" that included poetry, storytelling and original music. This show debuted at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival in 2006 and has since then been performed in San Francisco, Wilmington Delaware while parts of the performance have been performed in Chicago and at a variety of churches and local venues for sexuality-oriented workshops.

She has a YouTube series titled Sex is Good designed to prompt personal reflection and group discussion on a variety of sexual topics. In addition, her publication, *Advancing Sexual Health for the Christian Client: Data & Dogma* co-authored with sexologist and therapist, Rachel Keller, published by Routledge Publications (2019) is an important resource and provides tools for professional sex therapists, sex educators and pastoral counselors to help address intimacy concerns of clients and parishioners who are struggling with sex-negative Christian beliefs. Beverly lives in Philadelphia with her partner and in her spare time enjoys flower gardening and expanding her culinary skills as well as plotting to shift the culture and the Church away from the toxicity of body objectification and sexual repression to a more pleasure-centered, women-friendly, joy-filled world.