



First Family

We welcome all people... are guided by the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus... are inspired to participate as faithful disciples of Christ.

November 2014

Coppertop Craft & Bake Sale

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First United
Methodist Church

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Grace, Goodness, Beauty

On Thursday evening, October 23, I was invited to watch and then offer some "theological response" to the play *Grace*, performed at Theatre Zuccone.

The play was about a married couple who could be described as evangelical, conservative, perhaps fundamentalist Christians, their neighbor who had suffered a terrible tragedy which included the Holocaust.

Spoiler alert – the play begins and ends with the death of all the characters, shot by the husband in the couple. Doesn't sound like there is much grace at all in the play, does it?

What the author of the play, a man who had studied theology in seminary, may have had in mind was asking about where grace can be found in a world where we witness terrible tragedy and inhumanity, and even petty behavior in our closest relationships. That was an important part of my theological response to the play—that there were moments of grace.

Of course, that opens up the question, "What is grace?", a question representing the local Free Thinkers group, which is grounded in atheism.

The heart of my view of grace is derived from the writing of theologian Bernard Meland. In his book *Fallible Forms and Symbols*, Meland writes:

... can carry us beyond the meanings of our own making, and alert

Okay, so this is not the way we usually talk day to day, but what Meland is getting at is that there is, in our lives, goodness that we had nothing to do with creating, beauty that touches us that is simply there – given.

continued next page

Our First Family

Deaths: Bill Wolden on

Hospitalizations: Mable Ridgewell, Faye Topliff

Baptism: Johnson, son of Kelly and Steven

Birth: and Stacy Carolan, Rochester

Grandparents are Bill and Cindy

In the red; how's your pledge? on the books and a year-end members who are behind on pledges to catch up.

Those who pledged for Imagine No Malaria also should since that campaign closes Dec 31.

You can light the church:

We keep the light burning on the Skyline, and you can week of church lighting from Sunday through Saturday

Donors can designate half of such as CHUM, Second Harvest, or Harbor House, or to a church program such as music, parish

You can make your gift in memory, honor, or appreciation of a person or group.

First Family

First United Methodist Church

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fumcduluth.com

Fall Read: Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*

Our Church Council would like to read Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*.

The book discusses the Resurrection, the largest United Methodist church in the United States.

The book invites honest conversation about the Bible, with the goal of helping people rediscover its power to shape our lives and deepen our relationship with God.

Pastor David will preach two sermons in November based on some of the themes of the book.

We hope that it will be widely discussed in the church.

In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Hamilton begins with an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it?

From there, Hamilton considers the real questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike:

- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to “keep silent in the church”?
- Is Jesus the only way to salvation?
- How does God view the Book of Revelation?

In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes, leading readers to hear God speak through the life-changing and life-giving.

Those who ordered books may pick them up in the church.

Grace, Goodness, Beauty, *continued*

The play *Grace* suggests that even in our brutal world, there are moments of goodness and beauty, of grace. The play plays with the question of the source of such goodness and beauty. Could it be God, or is it merely some unnamable “something”?

source of grace, goodness, and beauty is God. What is as important for me, however, is not simply identifying the source of grace; it is taking time to recognize it.

When I recognize grace, when I pay more attention to it, I am

Thanksgiving is a season for paying more attention to the grace of goodness and beauty in our lives and in our world. We need not ignore all the horror, terror and tragedy of the world to also see grace, beauty and goodness.

whatever else it may mean, has to take into account all the horror, terror, and inhumanity in the world. There is plenty of it, but there is also beauty and goodness, grace and tenderness. We are recipients of it, even when we did not create it.

For that we can be grateful. Knowing that, perhaps we can create a little more grace, goodness and beauty in the world. We can live more graciously.

Take some time this Thanksgiving to pay more attention to grace, more grace, goodness, and beauty in the world. I think it's what followers of Jesus are called to do.

David

and guide to those who seek to read the Bible intelligently and with spiritual insight, Hamilton walks readers through the pitfalls of fundamentalism and dry scholarship, opening up both the Bible's profound humanity and its wisdom for living.” —Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity for the Rest of Us*

Charge Conference

The Council will meet together as a Charge Conference to approve pastoral compensation for the meeting will immediately follow the charge conference.

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Thank you to all who helped at the best ever fall roast beef dinner. hailstorm dinner.

even had one guest stay and help set tables for the guests that were waiting. We had fewer volunteers than last fall—30 less—so the

Here are the results by the numbers:

	S	#	Volunteers
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The leftovers fed delighted guests at the Harbor Houses in

Thank you for your time, energy, and prayers to support FUMC
 Blessings and thank you,
 Cindy Hedlund

This month in children's, Ye a b e f k l j d k

During November, Discovery will focus on different parts of the birth narrative in scripture and the various characters – angels on Nov 2, shepherds on " «² ša'Y! šqul k-j-ša'Y h-š-«^a " «² ša'Y

Children and youth will also prepare for their annual Christmas worship service, to be

On Nov 30, you can prepare This family ministry workshop will offer ideas and time to make advent wreaths, Christmas cards, and ornaments. Plan to

Devotional materials for home will be available for free.

Ala Carte

was held on a Thursday night. This follows 80 years of having the dinner on a Wednesday. pies were completely gone. Based on pie servings, the planning team calculated that The previous record at Chester per pound over last spring at containers for the meal and the piece of pie increased costs by our environment, God's creation.

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MaryAnne Korsch, lay leader

Methodist Church took a bold step together toward claiming a future with hope by voting to conduct a feasibility study to assess strategic spiritually, numerically, and in community impact.

within our reach. To this end, a congregational development that need renewal. FUMC's Church Council is prayerfully considering November council meeting.

In addition to church pledges, it's possible that individual

**Carol M. Donahue
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announced**

The Carol M. Donahue Music
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year, with awards ranging from
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scholarships from FUMC were
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Hintzman, voice & piano.

Musicians from FUMC
receiving second-year
scholarship were Riley
Hinnenkamp, piano, Parker
Hinnenkamp, organ, Hans
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Hicks, piano & voice.

Scholarship recipients from
the community were Wyatt
Okstad, piano, Caitlin Olsen,
cello, and Thanael Certa-Werner.

These students will be
introduced to the congregation
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provide music during a "soup
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Social Hall following worship.
This lunch, prepared by Paul
Sapyta, will precede the church's
annual conference.

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will be received to cover costs
and provide funds to continue
the Carol M. Donahue Music
Scholarship Fund.

In other music scholarship
fundraising events, red velvet
cake will be served during after-
worship coffee on November
30 while musicians play, and
scones, cookies, and crafts will
be available for sale following
the 3 pm handbell concert on
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**November 2
All Saints Sunday**

This Sunday, November 2, we will remember with gratitude those
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Our Fall Stewardship Campaign is underway. You will soon
receive a letter from Pastor David about the life of our congregation,
how we are

Joining hands

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Doing the work of God

Together

Please prayerfully consider your giving to the work we do
together as First United Methodist Church. We are asking for people
to return their pledge cards on Sunday, November 23. Thank you.

Ruby's Pantry

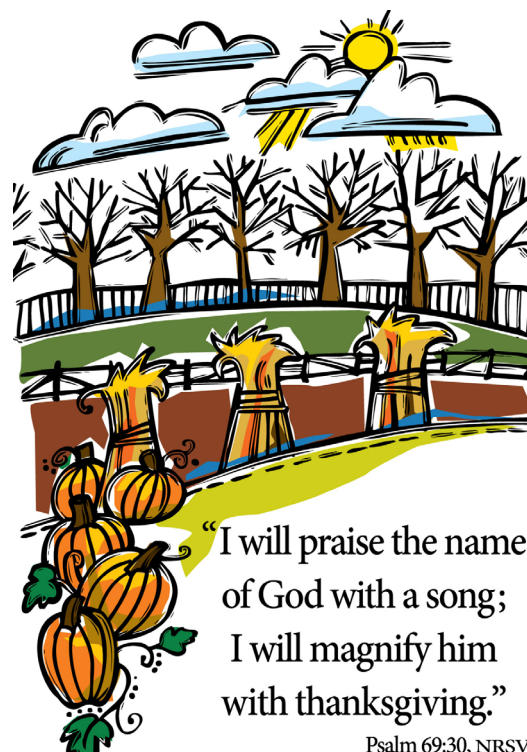
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Ruby's Pantry becomes even more important. This month's
distribution will be Thursday, November 20. Volunteers are needed
to greet our guests, prepare food for distribution, and share the
food with them. You may volunteer anytime between 3 pm. and 8
pm, and can come for as little as an hour to help out. Ruby's Pantry
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rubyspantrycoppertop.

Thanksgiving

Interfaith Worship

' j` ®Ÿe This year's
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Worship Service, a
wonderful annual tradition
in our community, will be at
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at Pilgrim Congregational
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Offering: This year's
special Thanksgiving
offering will be shared
equally between the work
of First United Methodist
Church and the development
of the Steve O'Neil
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“I will praise the name
of God with a song;
I will magnify him
with thanksgiving.”

Coppertop Craft and Bake Sale

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Thank you for all your donations and help in years past. Working for local mission work.

Here are some ways anyone can help:

~ «ašoj > ššj ÝĤ«Ý for the Gourmet and Bakery Room. Snack or chocolate chips.

~ «ašoj > - for the luncheon. Cartons of pop may be dropped off in the church kitchen, labeled “Craft Sale.”

~ «ašoj > ««Šs for the book sale. Bring them to the church library, zines, or old encyclopedias.

~ «ašoj > os marked “UMW Craft Sale.”

Finally, mark your calendar and come to the bazaar on Saturday.

This is a great hands-on ministry of our church. Plan to be a part of this long and successful tradition.

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Nominations Committee ... «aÝšµ

Faith and Film: On Sunday evening, November 23, we will meet at 6:30 in the Movie Room on the lower level of the building to view *Nebraska*. Funny, tender, warm-hearted and heart breaking, *Nebraska* is a story about aging, family, and love. It is rated R.

First and Ten! ... «Š Making Sense of the Bible.

We are also scheduled to serve a Wednesday evening meal on ... open to all men.

Shiny Paper collection for recycling continues in November. Our ... those who have helped.

Thanks, too, to all of you who have saved your paper and brought it to the church. Keep up the good work.

Proceeds from the shiny paper fundraiser are being used for Imagine No Malaria until the end of the year. We hope to make one ...

Lennon-Berini Scholarship reminder

(...) for college students of First United Methodist Church, is presented annually in December.

The application form is now at fumcduluth.com, the church website. It must be completed at the church website.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to fully complete the application form, including recommendations and transcripts.

In addition to being members of FUMC, candidates must have completed two years of college and be pursuing a people-centered career.

Scholarships will be awarded during the worship service on December 28.

November Quick Look

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- 4: ... šµ
Please take time to vote
- 8: Coppertop Craft & Bake Sale
- 13: Harbor House ‘Making a ...
- 11: Church Council, Charge Conference
- 18: ...)!
- 20: Ruby’s Pantry
- 23: Faith and Film, *Nebraska*, 6:30 pm
- 25: Interfaith Thanksgiving ...
- 30: ...



First United Methodist Church

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Weekly Our regular schedule

Sundays

- 9:00am Faith Forum - FSL
- 9:00am Discovery & Exploration - LL
- 9:50am Prayer Team - TBC
- 10:00am Worship - S
- Wee Wonder - 105
- 3:30pm T'ai Chi - LSH we

Mondays

- Noon Gamblers Anonymous - St
- 7:00pm Whole Birth Yoga - TBC

Tuesdays

- 8:00am Men's Study Group - FSL
- 6:00pm Gamblers Anonymous - St

Wednesdays

- 4:45pm 5 Guys - BR
- 5:15pm Ringtones - BR
- 5:15pm JAM - EL
- 5:45pm Supper - LSH se
- 6:00pm Tapestry - S
- 6:30pm Cast In Bronze - BR
- 6:30pm Youth Group - CW, 112
- 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir - EL
- 7:40pm Class Ring - BR

Thursdays

- 9:00am Faithfully Fit - EL
- 9:00am Zumba - LSH we
- 6:00pm T'ai Chi - LSH we (CW 11/20)

Fridays

- 9:00am Alcoholics Anonymous - TBC

Saturdays

- 9:00am T'ai Chi - LSH we (St 11/8)

Day by Day Monthly & one-time

Monday, November 3

- 9:00am Rachel Circle Pickles - K
- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL
- 6:00pm Worship Committee - St

Wednesday, November 5

- 9:30am UMW Board Meeting - Lib

Saturday, November 8

- 9:00am Coppertop Craft & Bake Sale
- 9:00am Community (Reiki) Healing

Monday, November 10

- 6:00pm SPRC - Lib
- 7:00pm First & Ten - St
- 7:00pm Priscilla Circle - FSL

Tuesday, November 11

- 2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL
- 7:00pm Charge Conference, Church Council - FSL

Wednesday, November 12

- 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - FSL

Thursday, November 13

- 1:00pm Deborah Circle - FSL

Monday, November 17

- 10:00am Rachel Circle - FSL

Wednesday, November 19

- 9:30am Naomi Circle - FSL

Thursday, November 20

- 4:00pm Ruby's Pantry - LSH, S

Sunday, November 23

- 6:30pm Faith & Film - Movie Rm

Monday, November 24

- 5:00pm Trustees - FSL
- 5:30pm Ruby's Committee - Lib

Tuesday, November 25

- 2:30pm Loud, Laughing Ladies - FSL

Sunday, November 30

- 9:00am Advent Workshop - EL

