



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 is about 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 has 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 homosexuality?
- Is the Book of Revelation a prophecy?

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”?

The 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, 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 Church 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.

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 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

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Here are the results by the numbers:

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The leftovers fed delighted guests at the Harbor Houses in ' ± j R R / « « Y - o s - z j a o o « + ž ' ~ R R o p o e f

Thank you for your time, energy, and prayers to support FUMC

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 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 š a Y ! š R i k - j - d š a Y i ± - « a " « ² š a Y .

Children and youth will also prepare for their annual Christmas worship service, to be d j Y ° d Y j š R « a ~ j o e .

On Nov 30, you can prepare μ k ± R © Y μ R š Y z j a ° š ° d j . š © ° Y z j a ° R š ° Y Y μ + « R - d k - . This family ministry workshop will offer ideas and time to make advent wreaths, Christmas cards, and ornaments. Plan to f j ° c j - - μ .

Devotional materials for home will be available for free.

Ala Carte

/ « R o d j Y o o Y j ° d j Y Y a j R was held on a Thursday night. This follows 80 years of having the dinner on a Wednesday.

° - « R o d j Y o o Y j š - pies were completely gone. Based on pie servings, the planning team calculated that

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j « C - « - š j o s R μ « ± ° containers for the meal and the piece of pie increased costs by š « ± ° > ± ° z j R > j ° j R R R our environment, God's creation.

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MaryAnne Korsch, lay leader

I a ° d j ! Y a j - « š ° a a ± š ° « a C R a o p « C o d j) a Y j Y Methodist Church took a bold step together toward claiming a future with hope by voting to conduct a feasibility study to assess strategic š a Y Y š a o s - š a - R o R ° z « Y Y o e - ± R - j - - s R Y f a j z o e ± R o e j - š a Y R z Y S Y f j Y Y f o e a f R f s ° Y a - Y ° d j Y - ± j - ° o « f R z .
 spiritually, numerically, and in community impact.

(d j C š - Y Y Y μ - ± Y μ R z j š j Y o d s - ± o e š - R k j o e z š - Y Y j j Y within our reach. To this end, a congregational development Y Y Y o Y j & š o e & a j z & k Y e z š - š ± a o e j Y s ° d j ° a a ± š ° « a C R a o p d j Y Y ! š μ « C

i š o e o e a f R f s ° Y a Y « ± R ° a a ± š ° « a C R a o p z Y - d s z j š a . « - r « R ± a Y μ « © š S j š Y š a o s - j Y f j Y - ± - r « R « C o d Y Y - r « R š a o ° z « R (d j - j - j Y f j - z Y > j - š Y « z j R š Y j μ š R - j R Y š a Y z Y > j ± j Y j o e ± Y j μ « - s R a j z o e ± R o e j - š a Y R z Y S Y j o e a f R f s ° Y a - that need renewal. FUMC's Church Council is prayerfully considering « ± R o e a o Y ± Y a o ° o d j j R R š a Y z Y Y š Y j Y Y o e Y a š ° d j .
 November council meeting.

In addition to church pledges, it's possible that individual © j © j j © Y o z š a o o « - š R Y Y š o j Y š a o s μ Y ° d j & š o e & a j z & k Y e z Y Y a I C μ ± d s z j - ± j - Y a - š « ± ° d Y z « R « R z « ± Y S j © « R Y R R s Y a - j š j - j j š s - « R š z Y « R ! š R i a a j Ž « R o e



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

