



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

Saturday, Nov. 8
9am-2:30pm

- More than 60 area crafters
- Bakery and gourmet foods
- Used book sale
- Nam Ly's egg rolls
- Sloppy Joe lunch
- Parking at Mn/DOT with shuttle service

Proceeds benefit local and world-wide mission projects



**First United
Methodist Church**

230 E. Skyline Parkway
Duluth, MN 55811
www.fumcduluth.com

Sponsored by FUMC United Methodist Women



Our First Family

Deaths: Bill Wolden on October 26, 2014; Lois Erickson on October 8, 2014

Hospitalizations: Mable Ridgewell, Faye Topliff

Baptism: Brady Augustus Johnson, son of Kelly and Steven Johnson, on October 19, 2014

Birth: Amelia "Millie" Jeanne Carolan, daughter of Lauren and Stacy Carolan, Rochester NY, on September 25, 2014. Grandparents are Bill and Cindy Alexander.

In the red; how's your pledge? With a \$50,000 deficit on the books and a year-end deficit very possible, we need members who are behind on pledges to catch up.

Those who pledged for Imagine No Malaria also should work to finish their pledges, since that campaign closes Dec 31.

You can light the church: We keep the light burning on the Skyline, and you can help support that symbol. A minimum of \$40 sponsors a week of church lighting from Sunday through Saturday

Donors can designate half of their gift (\$20) to a local charity such as CHUM, Second Harvest, or Harbor House, or to a church program such as music, parish nurse, or the building fund.

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

Pastor's Pen

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 death of his fiancé, and a building exterminator who had experienced 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 I explored with a few people after the play, including someone 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:

The nexus of our relationships is not projected, it is given. We do not create these relationships; we experience them, being given with existence. And from this matrix come resources of grace that can carry us beyond the meanings of our own making, and alert us to goodness that is not our own willing or defining. (151)

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

First Family

First United Methodist Church

230 E Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811
218/727-5021 info@fumcduluth.com

Pastor: Dr. David A. Bard

Next First Family deadline: **Nov 21**

Submit to connect@fumcduluth.com



fumcduluth.com

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

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

Adam is the pastor of Church of 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*, Adam Hamilton invites us into 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? And, Is the Bible ever wrong?

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

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- 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 homosexual people?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

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

Those who ordered books may pick them up in the church office after Nov 3.

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"?

As a Christian, a follower of Jesus, I believe that the ultimate 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 filled with gratitude. I am also moved to live more graciously.

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.

Another theological response I had to the play was that faith, 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. Enveloped by this, determine to create some more grace, goodness, and beauty in the world. I think it's what followers of Jesus are called to do.

Grace and Peace As We Journey Together,
David

“Acting as friend 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

At 7 pm Tuesday, November 11, the First UMC Church Council will meet together as a Charge Conference to approve pastoral compensation for 2015. The Council's November meeting will immediately follow the charge conference.

Faith Forum

What book has made a significant impact on your life? That's the question under consideration in this fall's Faith Forum, which meets at 9 am Sundays in the Fireside Lounge. Here is the schedule for the next few weeks:

2: Anita Zager on *Man's Search for Meaning*, Victor Frankl's story of surviving a Nazi concentration camp and its lessons for therapy and life.

9: Shelley Gruskin on *My Beloved World*, Sonia Sotomayer's life story from immigrant child in the South Bronx to Supreme Court justice.

16: Virg Boehland on Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, exploring the relationship between science and faith.

23: Steve Hansen on *His World Was Ours to Share* by Willert Zahl, a former pastor of Chester Park UMC.

30: Elizabeth Nelson on *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. In this novel a boy learns to grow and achieve in spite of difficult obstacles.

Behind on your pledge?

The church financial statements are showing a \$50,000 deficit at this point in the fiscal year and we are facing a year-end budget deficit.

All taxes are paid for 2014. Apportionment checks and some benevolences are being held. We are still feeling effects of last winter's high building and maintenance costs and lower rental revenues.

If you are behind on your pledge, this would be a good time to catch up.

'The need is now' for CHUM gift registry to furnish Steve O'Neil Apartments

The Steve O'Neil Apartments are under construction and will provide housing for fifty families who have otherwise experienced homelessness. **The plan is for the first families to move into their apartments in December.** To furnish these apartments, a gift registry has been established.

The registry is designed in the manner of a wedding or shower gift registry, where anyone can access the website to select and purchase a gift. Individuals or groups could furnish entire rooms or apartments, or purchase lamps, tables, beds, flatware, and the like.

You can also contribute to the on-going costs of construction.

Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this important and significant community effort. **The need is significant and the need is immediate.** You'll find the registry link at chumduluth.org.

Diabetes resources, blood drive

Linda Wiig, parish nurse

November is National Diabetes Month. Many Americans find themselves with a number of health factors that can predispose them to Type II diabetes. Factors can include an unhealthy diet, high cholesterol levels, inactivity, high blood pressure, and high blood sugar levels. If caught early, these factors can be mitigated by changing your lifestyle.

It's easier to make lifestyle changes one step at a time, over months and years. Think of each small step as one piece of your effort to change your habits. Making changes one step at a time gives you the best chance to reach and stay at a healthy weight and prevent Type II diabetes. The good news is that making just a few small changes can have a big impact on your weight and health. Go to the American Diabetes Association website for great information.

Coming up December 2 from 3 to 6 pm is the next blood drive! You will find a sign-up sheet in the office and after church in the Narthex. We had a wonderful response last time, so let's do it again! Thank you to all who are able and willing to save lives in this way.

Peace to all! Remember, World Kindness Day is November 13.

**RANDOM ACTS
OF KINDNESS**

DO NOT LET KINDNESS AND TRUTH LEAVE YOU;
BIND THEM AROUND YOUR NECK, WRITE THEM
ON THE TABLET OF YOUR HEART.
PROVERBS 3:3

Record profit, meals served for fall roast beef dinner

Thank you to all who helped at the best ever fall roast beef dinner. We served a record number of guests, 100 more than at last spring's hailstorm dinner.

The servers started out all organized with specific tables to serve—then BAM, everyone pitched in to help at all of the tables. We 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 dinner night was like running a marathon in record time. Everyone did it, survived it, and will never forget it. Great job, runners!

The three dishwashers win the prize for doing ALL of the dinner dishes! They called themselves the Dream Team, and the name was a perfect fit. Thank you.

Here are the results by the numbers:

	<u>Profit</u>	<u># served</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
Fall 2014	\$4,773.09	750	109
Spring 2014	\$3,958.71	650	130
Fall 2013	\$4,662.26	692	140

The leftovers fed delighted guests at the Harbor Houses in Superior. Food scraps went to WLSSD for recycling.

Thank you for your time, energy, and prayers to support FUMC ministries through this history-making dinner. We rocked it!

Blessings and thank you,

Cindy Hedlund

This month in children's, family ministries

During November, Discovery will focus on different parts of the birth narrative in scripture and the various characters – angels on Nov 2, shepherds on Nov 9, and Mary, Joseph and Jesus on Nov 16 and 23.

Children and youth will also prepare for their annual Christmas worship service, to be held this year on Dec 7.

On Nov 30, you can prepare your family for advent at the 9 am Advent Creativity Workshop. This family ministry workshop will offer ideas and time to make advent wreaths, Christmas cards, and ornaments. Plan to get messy!

Devotional materials for home will be available for free.

Ala Carte

- For the first time, the dinner was held on a Thursday night. This follows 80 years of having the dinner on a Wednesday.
- Also for the first time, all 100 pies were completely gone. Based on pie servings, the planning team calculated that 750 dinners were served in 2 ½ hours. As Cindy Hedlund noted, that's "better than McDonalds!" The previous record at Chester Park was 700 meals.
- The price of beef was up \$1.11 per pound over last spring at \$5.05 versus \$3.94 per pound.
- Compostable carry-out containers for the meal and the piece of pie increased costs by about \$140 but were better for our environment, God's creation.

Reach • Renew • Rejoice Initiative

MaryAnne Korsch, lay leader

In 2013, the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church took a bold step together toward claiming a future with hope by voting to conduct a feasibility study to assess strategic and financial plans for two distinct purposes: starting new churches, and revitalizing existing congregations in their quest to grow spiritually, numerically, and in community impact.

The feasibility study revealed that such a project was indeed within our reach. To this end, a congregational development initiative, Reach • Renew • Rejoice, was launched at the Annual Conference held in May of 2014.

Each congregation in our Annual Conference will have an opportunity to make a financial pledge in support of this important work. These pledges will be paid over a five-year period and will be used exclusively to start new churches and revitalize congregations that need renewal. FUMC's Church Council is prayerfully considering our contribution to this effort, and will finalize its decision at the November council meeting.

In addition to church pledges, it's possible that individual members might want to participate financially in the Reach • Renew • Rejoice vision. If you have questions about this work or would like more information, please see Pastor David or MaryAnne Korsch.

Carol M. Donahue Scholarship winners announced

The Carol M. Donahue Music Scholarship awarded \$1450 this year, with awards ranging from \$150 to \$200 per individual.

Receiving first-year scholarships from FUMC were Ben Hintzman, piano, and Elise Hintzman, voice & piano.

Musicians from FUMC receiving second-year scholarship were Riley Hinnenkamp, piano, Parker Hinnenkamp, organ, Hans Arvidson Hicks, trumpet & piano, and Sannah Arvidson 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 on January 18, when they will provide music during a “soup and such” lunch in Lakeview Social Hall following worship. This lunch, prepared by Paul Sapyta, will precede the church’s annual conference.

Everyone is invited to attend. A free-will offering 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 December 7.

November 2 All Saints Sunday

This Sunday, November 2, we will remember with gratitude those from our congregation who died in the year since last All Saints Day. This is a time of tender joy and remembering for us all.

Fall Stewardship Drive

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

Weaving our songs

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

With the holidays just around the corner, food received through 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 Coppertop is now on Facebook. Like the page at facebook.com/rubyspantrycoppertop.

Thanksgiving

Interfaith Worship Service: This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service, a wonderful annual tradition in our community, will be at 7pm Tuesday, November 25, at Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC).

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 Apartments.



Psalm 69:30, NRSV

Coppertop Craft and Bake Sale

9am - 2:30pm Saturday, November 8

Thank you for all your donations and help in years past. Working together again, let's make this another great day! All proceeds of this United Methodist Women (UMW) event go to world, national, and local mission work.

Here are some ways anyone can help:

- **Donate baked goods** for the Gourmet and Bakery Room. Snack mixes, candy, and preserves are also popular. Please, no machine-made bread. If you don't bake, consider donating flour, sugar, butter, or chocolate chips.
- **Donate pop** for the luncheon. Cartons of pop may be dropped off in the church kitchen, labeled "Craft Sale."
- **Donate books** for the book sale. Bring them to the church library by November 4, marked "UMW Sale." Please, no textbooks, magazines, or old encyclopedias.
- **Donate cash.** Bring or mail your donation to the church office marked "UMW Craft Sale."

Finally, mark your calendar and come to the bazaar on Saturday, November 8, 9am - 2:30pm.

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

Notes for November

Nominations Committee will next meet at 6 pm Monday evening, December 1, in the Fireside Lounge.

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 the film *Nebraska*. Funny, tender, warm-hearted and heart breaking, *Nebraska* is a story about aging, family, and love. It is rated R.

First and Ten Men's Group will meet on November 10 and 24. We will be working our way through Adam Hamilton's book *Making Sense of the Bible*.

We are also scheduled to serve a Wednesday evening meal on November 12. First and Ten, a group for discussion and service, is open to all men.

Shiny Paper collection for recycling continues in November. Our Finance Committee has been coordinating this project; thanks to all 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 more delivery in 2014 and are about a quarter of the way there.

Lennon-Berini Scholarship reminder

This scholarship, exclusively for college students of First United Methodist Church, is presented annually in December. Each scholarship presented this year will be for \$1500.

The application form is now available in the church office and at fumcduluth.com, the church website. It must be completed and returned to the church office no later than 3 pm December 1.

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

2: All Saints Day, Communion

4: Election Day.

Please take time to vote

8: Coppertop Craft & Bake Sale

13: Harbor House 'Making a Difference' Event

11: Church Council, Charge Conference

18: CHUM Assembly, Asbury UMC, 6:30-8:15

20: Ruby's Pantry

23: Faith and Film, *Nebraska*, 6:30 pm

25: Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship, 7 pm Pilgrim UCC

30: Beginning of Advent



First United Methodist Church

First Family (USPS 349-210) is published monthly by First United Methodist Church, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth MN 55811-2799. Periodicals postage is paid at Duluth MN 55806.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to First Family, 230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth MN 55811-2799.

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

