

PEOPLE'S SPEAKS

A weekly newsletter brought to you by People's United Church of Christ

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PEOPLE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**Worship Sundays @ 10a.m.—People's UCC worships at Studio 6
6 Broadway N, Fargo, ND**

Our purpose is to present the most humane, spiritual, moral, communal model of life for a world in chaos around us—to be an island of care and cohesion in the midst of all the movement.

- Joan Chittister

In his recent book, *The Great Spiritual Migration*, Brian McLaren writes that we should understand our churches to be a “studio of love.” When I first heard those words shared by our Moderator, Richard, I had to smile. We were gathered for People's UCC annual meeting. Our current location is Studio 6, the education space of Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre. Since then, we refer to our worship place as the Studio of Love.

It is a reminder to us to practice the Great Commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Hopefully, that the Studio of Love is the place where we can be open with each other, a safe place to be vulnerable. A place where we will support each other and that we will be there for anyone who enters that sacred space.

I also hope that the Studio of Love will empower us to go out and “present the most humane, spiritual, moral, communal model of life.” This is the place that you can bring your most authentic self and not worry about hiding behind a mask. Where children will be nurtured and allowed to be themselves. Where people are allowed to express themselves, to explore every facet of their spiritual lives. Where families come in all configurations. Where family is who we are, and there is always one more chair that can be pulled up to the table.

We have a place ready for you. Come and find your purpose at People's United Church of Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Grace

Church Council Meeting

Wed, January 16 at 6pm

Main Library, Fargo

Council Meetings are open for



Combined UCC Adult Education in January and February

Last year Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran Pastor, spoke at Concordia. She was scheduled to speak about the reformation, but instead her talk was the introduction to her new book, *Shameless*. Many of us UCC folk who attended left feeling a hunger to hear more from her work on taking shame out of church. Her book comes out January 29th and it will form the basis of our combined UCC adult education for January and February.

In her book Nadia "unleashes her critical eye, her sharp pen, and her vulnerable soul on the caustic, fear-riddled, and religiously inspired messages about sex that have fed our shame...This is a journey of holy resistance. Along the way, as antidotes to shame, heresy, and all-too-familiar injustice, Bolz-Weber dispenses grace, freedom, and courage. She shares stories, poetry, and scripture, cultivating resilient hope and audacious love rooted in good news." (publisher's description)

To prepare us for our reading and conversations about this book, we will have three sessions of combined adult education based on the UCC adult sexuality curriculum, "Our Whole Lives."

January 17th 6:30-8:00pm *Sexuality and Values*

Hosted by People's UCC, Rev. Grace Murray, leader

Location: TBA

January 24th 6:30-8:00pm *Sexuality and Spirituality*

Hosted by First Congregational UCC Fargo, Rev. Dr. Kevin Cassidy-Maloney, leader

Location: First Congregational UCC Fargo

January 29th 6:30-8:30pm *Further Discussions on Sexuality and our Faith*

Hosted by First Congregational UCC Moorhead, Rev. Michelle Webber, leader

Location: First Congregational UCC Moorhead

Shameless will be released on January 29th. You can order your copy of the book through Zandbroz. They will be hosting our book discussions, which will take place on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm, February 12th, 19th, and 26th.

Each of the six sessions can stand alone, but you will get the most out of the series by attending all of them.



Got a question? Need to talk confidentially with Pastor Grace?

Email me at pastor@peoplesucc.com or call or text 701-630-9776. I look forward to listening to you.

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