

CALENDAR

<u>Sunday,</u> 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	<u>October 9th</u> Morning Worship Coffee and doughnuts in FH Morning Worship Trustee Meeting Concert With a Cause
<u>Monday,</u> 7:00 p.m.	<u>October 10th</u> Church Office Closed UMW, Sandy Rockman
<u>Tuesday,</u> 12:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<u>October 11th</u> Brown Bag Study on Grace UMM-FH
<u>Wednesday,</u> 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<u>October 12th</u> Children's Choirs Prayers & Squares, Rm 107 Wednesday Night Supper Adult Program, B2B Kids, UMYF Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<u>Thursday,</u> 4:30 p.m.	<u>October 13th</u> Lucia Rehearsal
<u>Friday,</u> 9:00-12:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	<u>October 14th</u> Homeschool Music Classes Choir Retreat through Sunday
<u>Sunday,</u> 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<u>October 16th</u> Morning Worship Coffee and doughnuts in FH Morning Worship Lucia Rehearsal
<u>Monday,</u> 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<u>October 17th</u> Kindermusik Prayer Group Shake Your Soul, Choir Room
<u>Tuesday,</u> 12:00 p.m.	<u>October 18th</u> Brown Bag Study on Grace
<u>Wednesday,</u> 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<u>October 19th</u> Children's Choirs Prayers & Squares, Rm 107 Wednesday Night Supper Adult Program, B2B Kids, UMYF Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<u>Friday,</u> 9:00-12:00 p.m.	<u>October 21st</u> Homeschool Music Classes

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October 9 — October 21, 2016

From The Pastor:

It seems to me...

Dr. Nesbit Dasher is teaching from Adam Hamilton's book *Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves and other things the Bible doesn't say*. I recommend the book and the class; it meets on Sundays at 1:00 in case you are interested in joining the discussion.

One of the reasons I like the book so well is that it encourages us to think. We as Methodists are people who are called to engage in critical (that's used as a good word) thinking. We do not ask people to check their brain at the door before coming into worship or any class. We recognize that scripture has to be interpreted and that sometimes our understandings of particular passages will contradict. When we read the Bible, it is good to have a sense of the whole book and to consider the life and teachings of Jesus as well as the scholar's understandings from the past.

If we don't work to study and understand the scriptures, our faith can be Uninformed - even shallow. It can become only "half-truth," and it can be used to hurt people. People can take a passage from the Bible to support all kinds of things. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a verse in Proverbs, and it has been used as an excuse to abuse children.

Hamilton's book begins with the "half truth" we have often heard people say, "Everything happens for a reason," and in many ways it contributes to the notion that all the things that happen in this world are God's will. Is everything that happens God's will? Hamilton gives the example of the 2- year- old who unzips her mother's purse in a grocery cart in Walmart, finds her gun and, thinking it's a toy, pulls the trigger. To say all things happen because it's God's will is an injustice to God. Is it God's will for a child to grow up

without a mother and carrying the emotional trauma of killing her own mother? When we throw around words carelessly like "Well it's God's will," we may be hurting people because they perceive God is against them. God does not give cancer to people. Would you ever desire for your child to have cancer? No, of course not, nor would God.

A few weeks back I had a visit with Dr. Jay Dennis. In our conversation we got talking about theology. He said whenever we answer a question about theology, we should say, "Well, it all depends..."

Continued on next page...

