



UUFL Weekly Newsletter

Sunday, September 13, 10:45 AM

Program: "Plans B - Z"



We will be hearing the Rev. Lavanhar speak on Plans B - Z. Carol will be leading this program and discussion. Log into our virtual Zoom service to understand just what Plans B - Z are.

Zoom Sunday Service Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8780546386?pwd=dIFMVHNRSDcwS1N0TE5aazlUWnVadz09>

Carol's Words of Wisdom Collection:

"We wonder about truth, about the whats and whys and whithers of life.



Wondering is very important, but it should bear the fruits of faith and thoughts, and it should turn our faces to whatever is coming down the winds of time and circumstance.

We must:

Be curious; seek new perspectives and ways of understanding our world.

Pay attention to the challenges of our own day.

Explore how our values and traditions call us to respond to actions."

Rev. Angus H. MacLean (from UU World - Spring of 2020)

Governing Board Meeting:

Sunday, September 13th at 2:00 pm via Zoom link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8780546386?pwd=dIFMVHNRSDcwS1N0TE5aazlUWnVadz09>

UUFL Financial Support:



Those of you who wish to contribute financially can mail your contributions to:
UUFL P O Box 3451 Longview, TX 75606. If you would like to contribute electronically, contact Tammy. 1021der@gmail.com

Our Favorite Story Teller (Angels and Demons and Sex, Oh, My)

Let's talk about angels, demons, and how Jerry and I will spend this lovely day.



We've found the 5th season of *Lucifer* on Netflix, and I'm as happy as a cat with a saucer of cream that can be refilled seven times, or maybe fifteen - I understand there's a sixth season awaiting us after this fifth one. I love this TV series. It's a spin-off from a DC Comic series, so I probably can't claim it as great literature, and it may not even be a great scholarship, but I can enjoy it. When I was a kid, I would have loved it as a comic book, and Mother would have worried that I was filling my head with nonsense, and possibly with stuff that contradicted what a good Methodist girl should know. Well, yeah, on the first hand, it's sexy. Welsh actor Tom Ellis is Lucifer Morningstar, the Devil Himself, living in Los Angeles, the City of Angels, nursing his grudge against God, whom he calls Dad of course, and leading a wonderful life as a magical sidekick to Chloe, who is a movie star turned LAPD detective. Besides my love of magic, there's my love of sexy people, and Tom Ellis is one of those. There's plenty of clever plotting to keep Jerry and me both entertained. Lucifer and Chloe solve a murder in each episode. And the series has gorgeous women, our favorite being Mazekeen, who is a demon. She's in love with Chloe and fond of Lucifer, and her magical powers are mostly of the demon warrior variety. Besides this, she loves Chloe's daughter, Trixie, who is an impishly charming child. For me, it's fun watching Trixie grow up through the series. In the first season, she was a lisping pre-schooler, and now she's a pre-teen. Always she's precocious, and a wonderful side-kick for Mazekeen. So again, I'm looking forward to a super day. Oh, and did I mention that Lucifer plays the piano and sings? Frosting on my cake. Tom Ellis has told us in interviews that the singing is his own, but that someone else is actually playing the piano. Lucifer's exactly the kind of musician I wish I were, somebody who can sit down at the keyboard and riff and roar his way through some glorious music. Good looks, talent, humor, and charm – what a guy!

So here I am facing a day with six or seven hours of magic in it. Who could ask for anything more? And it's even impious magic, the very best kind. It comes close enough to religious teachings to provide a real kick – we viewers can enjoy knowing that there are both Catholics and Protestants who are probably wishing this series hadn't ever come into being. Lucifer has a huge grudge against “Dear Old Dad,” who is, of course, the Judeo-Christian God. Well, what kid wouldn't resent a father who's thrown him out of Heaven and sentenced him to an eternity presiding over Hell? I should ask Mother Google whether religious leaders have tried to persuade their followers to avoid this series. It's full of sexy people, some of whom get to act super-sexy right there on the screen in our living rooms, and it pokes some pretty good fun at Bible teachings. It also raised, at least for me, the question of why we so love magic that we'll suspend disbelief at the drop of a hat, or in this case the drop of a feather from an angelic wing, or now and then a diabolical wing. You see, Lucifer and his

gentler angel brother, Amenadiel, both sprout huge and glorious wings now and then. Yeah, those wings just pop out through their beautifully tailored clothes at the most wonderful moments, with giant wingspans, much wider than the characters are tall. Lucifer began the series with big white angel wings, but somewhere along the way, he traded them for big dark leathery wings of a diabolic sort. Great fun – and when the wings are about to sprout, his eyes glow red, and then the skin of his face is somehow stripped away to reveal a devilish grimace that seems to have skin-free facial muscles. And speaking of muscles, his always-splendid physique is revealed with a text-book set of muscles sans skin, all in red and black. And Chloe, who is, of course, struggling not to reveal her love for Lucifer, has had to come to grips with the realization that her beloved sidekick is really the Devil Himself. Wow, those diabolical reveals are some exciting scenes!

So here we are with everything a good TV series can possibly stuff into its hour-long episodes. Sex, violence, beautiful people, music – and did I mention the dancing? - fear, humor, and best of all, some well-aimed pokes at religion. And Oh, yeah, good always triumphs over evil. Lucifer is a major force for good, all while living a life of debauchery with unlimited wealth, a steady stream of gorgeous women who wear hardly any clothing, and wonderful magical powers. What's not to love? And meanwhile, this is our fifth year for Lucifer and Chloe to struggle not to become lovers. Now that's some seriously repressed sexuality, one of the best kinds of TV sex. We watch knowing that the two will surely end up in bed this season, and always, somehow, Chloe continues to remain chaste, struggling to appear unaware of how sexy Lucifer is, often annoyed with him and his childish enjoyment of their perilous lives as crime-fighters. This is gonna be a terrific day. And then there'll be a sixth season waiting for us. Oh, boy, oh-boy, oh-boy.

I started writing this morning planning to poke my fingers into the matter of our human love of the idea of magic, so let's take a look at that aspect of Lucifer's appeal. It's my notion that humans have always wished we had some magic. We're fairly small creatures with no shells, no claws, very ordinary teeth, and only a moderate ability to run. We're in the middle of the predator-prey spectrum, preying on creatures smaller and weaker than we are and at the same time having to find ways to ward off the larger critters who would happily have us for dinner. This has led us to develop some pretty fancy techniques for protecting and for nourishing ourselves and our kind. We've become the baddest cats on the planet, and at the same time, our big brains lack the ability to forget about our vulnerability so that we can rest between chases. We have to keep protecting ourselves from those bigger and better-armed creatures who would devour us and use our bones as toothpicks, and we've even become our own worst enemies. We seem to be incapable of lasting peace with each other, making war after war. What horribly messy creatures we humans are. And what serious fear we live with.

In order to live with all the peril that pervades our lives, we've developed religions. All over the globe people have dreamt up gods and goddesses, angels, and yes, demons, and invested them with magical powers. Our supernatural creations have all the powers we wish we ourselves could have. And we're supposed to believe that these pantheons of magical creatures are as real as our next-door neighbors. Parents teach their children to believe, getting into the children's heads before they develop any critical judgment, any ability to say, "Hmmm, I don't really believe that there's a Heaven above the clouds. I saw on TV that we're sending manned rockets to the moon, and unmanned rockets to other planets." I remember how upset my children's paternal grandmother, Mae Dewey, was over the televised First Walk on the Moon. Her words were, "God never meant for us to walk on His moon. He's bound to punish us for that." But walk we did, or one man did, and that walk was televised all over the world. We can still watch it, right here in our living rooms, on our ubiquitous television screens. Parents whose thinking is like Mae Dewey's have probably forbidden their children to watch Lucifer. After all, it makes fun of Judeo-Christian beliefs, and when a priest gets into the script, he's almost always a villain. How can we keep our children steeped in a literal belief in all that the Bible says when television shows us a sexy and lovable devil mooning over a beautiful detective while enjoying a life of unbridled sensuality with mortals and demons alike? Eve, the original woman of the Judeo-Christian teachings, drops in now and then, and she's a gorgeously sexy little dingbat who has wonderful sex with Lucifer, whom she adores. That's not the way I was taught in Sunday School, but it sure is fun.

Yup, Jerry, and I will enjoy a wonderful day watching Lucifer and his cast of dozens. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

(Note: This was written before I had seen any of the 5th season of Lucifer. I'm sure that before terribly long I'll feel compelled to update you on all the changes that happened over the hiatus preceding this season. Things are definitely heating up in Lucifer's City of Angels.)

(And another note: I should have started this with a warning that it is not for the faint of heart, the True Believer, or anyone annoyed with silliness. But by now you've probably realized that Your Humble Servant is frequently silly and not, in any traditional sense, a true believer.)

(Third note: Yes, I know Lilith preceded Eve as Adam's consort—I wonder if they'll bring her into the series. ..)

Sherry K.

P.R. Committee:

Barbara McDaniel and Carol West are developing an on-site service for the 20th. of September, at the UUFL Fellowship, beginning at 10:45 AM.

If we could get a response on how many people are interested in attending the on-site service at the Fellowship, it would help with establishing the COVID 19 protocols. Please let Barbara McDaniel know by email, phone, text, or messenger and include how you want to be contacted.

Barbara's contact info barbaramcd@hotmail.com

903-720-2957

UU humor:

A UU walks into a fabric store and asks the clerk for 9 yards of material. The clerk says "What are you going to make?" and the UU says "I'm making a nightgown for myself as a present for my husband." The clerk says "But 9 yards is way too much material for a nightgown." The UU says "I know, but my husband would rather seek than find."

2020 Election:

Gregg and surrounding counties are looking for Election poll workers for the November general election. This could be a way for you to contribute some time and energy.