



...a monthly newsletter publication of the Lewiston First Methodist Church

Pastor's Path - Observation tells the Story

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

While we were driving through Yellowstone National Park on our recent vacation, I noticed a couple of animals in the river that was flowing next to us. My first thought was they were deer, which probably wouldn't have been reason enough to find a place to pull over, stop the car and drag out all of my camera gear, but the river added an extra element of interest and it became worthwhile, so we stopped.

Crossing the road, I decided to ease down the bank on my side to shoot across the river. I had grabbed my long lens to bring the subjects up close as possible. Before sitting down on the far edge of the river I squeezed off a couple of quick shots just to make sure I got something in case the animals got spooked and decided to run off-but they did not. So I settled in to really watch and to compose more careful photographs.



As I continued to watch and compose through my viewfinder, something didn't seem quite right with the deer. The first thing I noticed was the shape of the head, it wasn't like any deer I had ever seen and the shape of the body was off a bit as well. Then I noticed these animals had spots, like a fawn would have,

but these were full grown deer; they were too big to have spots. In those first few seconds of observation all these thoughts raced through my head until I soon realized these were not deer, but rather baby elk. "That explains the size, the shape of the head and the odd, lanky body" I thought to myself..."but if these are baby elk, where is the momma?"

A slight panic surrounded my next thought; I didn't want the mother elk to be on my side of the river and perceive me to be a threat to her young-those types of encounters usually end badly for the human. About that time the mother elk began descending the hillside on the other side of the river to join her family in a cool drink. I was a bit relieved to see her-and I know she saw me, but she didn't seem bothered by my position.

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The Messenger
August 2015

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- AUGUST 4 - SPRC MEETING - 6:30PM
- AUGUST 11 - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5PM
- AUGUST 13 - SALVATION ARMY DINNER - 3PM
- AUGUST 15 - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 9AM
- AUGUST 20 - WORSHIP COMMISSION - 5:30PM
- AUGUST 20 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

- BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:30AM
- WORSHIP - 10:30AM
- COFFEE SHOP - 11:30AM
- YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY - 4PM
- DISCIPLESHIP GROUP - 6:30PM

MONDAYS

- PREACHER'S PUB - 10AM
(WESLEY ROOM)

TUESDAYS

- BIBLE DISCUSSION - 10AM

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The LFUMC Messenger

Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2015

In Attendance: Chuck Cram, Cottie Hood, Deb Snyder, Lois Chesnut, Rhonda Edens, Kathy Bostrom, Liz Chavez, Meuriel Nystrom, Susie Paulson & Barb Maple

Opening/Devotional: Cottie opened meeting with devotions from Ephesians & a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unavailable

Pastor's Report: Chuck presented a powerpoint on "Revitalizing LFUMC: A Ten Year Plan" (copies available in the church office). Liz Chavez moved and Meuriel Nystrom seconded motion that Church Council approve the recommendation of the Revitalization Ten Year Plan to the Bishop and Cabinet, for their approval as per the Book of Discipline's requirements.

Community Communications Committee Report: The website and welcome kits are about ready.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Treasurer- Rhonda reported a checkbook balance of \$717.86 - See attached. An anonymous donor has purchased accompaniment, Hymnal Plus (The Magic Box)

SPR: Liz Chavez, chair, reported on the July meeting:

- Crafting a policy statement reflecting what would be the protocol when, and if, an employee chose not to use their reimbursement from Lewiston First United Methodist Church for their personal use. Liz Chavez will draft language which will be discussed at the SPR meeting in August.
- Memorandums of Agreements for new employees Laureen Trail and Arrie Vogel will be written, given to the pastor for review and presented to the Committee at the meeting in August. Continuing MOA's for current employees will be updated, reviewed and signed in August.
- A situation arose when the Nursery Attendant was unable to fill a Sunday and the message didn't get delivered in a timely manner - in consultation with Kathy Ross, Nursery Attendant and the SPR liaison, Bill Schrupp, a list of contacts was crafted that allowed for flexibility for a number of SPR members who agreed to be contacted to fill the position if the Nursery Attendant was unavailable on any given Sunday. The list was shared with the Nursery Attendant, Pastor, and SPR Committee members.
- Larry Nystrom has been working on filling music/accompanists for the summer and into the fall when choir resumes. Several young people who are accomplished musician were suggested. Pastor also told the Committee that a donor has come forward with an offer to purchase an electronic musical device, SPR approved the receipt of this generous gift. Pastor will pursue ordering and delivery of "The Magic Box."
- Liaison members are: Nursery - Bill Schrupp; Custodian - Patty Mills; Communications Coordinator - Donna Weaver; Music Director - Cottie Hood; Bell Director - Patty Mills; Pastor - Liz Chavez; Member at Large-Lay Leader - Rita Mills; No concerns from any of the SPR liaison committee members.

Church Financial Update - July 2015

Expenses:	<u>Paid</u>
Staff Pay Checks:	<u>Paid</u>
Utilities:	<u>Paid</u>
Common Ministries:	<u>Not Paid</u>
Pastor Pay 1st Check:	<u>Paid</u>
Pastor Benefits:	<u>Paid</u>
Pastor Pay 2nd Check:	<u>Not Paid</u>

End Month:	
Unpaid Bills:	\$ <u>6,000</u>
Check Book Balance:	\$ <u>50.00</u>
Investment Balance	\$ <u>10,000</u>
Memorial Balance	\$ <u>6,257.36</u>

June/July - Common
Ministries \$ Not Paid

Church Financial Update - 2015

Budget:	
Staff Pay Checks:	\$ <u>1,500</u>
Utilities:	\$ <u>2,000</u>
Common Ministries:	\$ <u>2,000</u>
Pastor Pay 1st Check:	\$ <u>2,000</u>
Pastor Benefits:	\$ <u>1,500</u>
Pastor Pay 2nd Check:	\$ <u>2,000</u>

Summary:
Weekly Expenses - Total \$ 2,540

Note: This is a simplified budget that does not include any unusual expenses or repair bills.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2015

SPR: Continued

- The Pastor's office/study has new furniture thanks to the Inland District office, Steve Johnson and Bob Morton for his donation of gas, time and a vehicle.
- Pastor will be away on vacation the first two Sundays in July - pulpit supply is in place, Chuck will advise SPR on his plans for the end of August.
- She will talk to the trustee chair about the weekly cleaning which Donna Weaver does in the nursery.

Trustees: Replacing the nursery carpet is at the top of the "to do" list, a new refrigerator has been purchased for the parsonage & will be delivered in a few days.

UMW: No report.

Worship: Meuriel Nystrom, Chair, reported that they worked on evaluation of summer worship services. Special music has been performed each Sunday. Lauren Trail will accompany Wednesday choir practice and play on the first and second Sundays.

Old Business: None

New Business: Plans are being made to recognize Patricia Butts for her decades of service as the M&M Program Director. Deb Snyder and the LFUMC children are in charge of the recognition which will happen in the next month or two.

4K for Cancer Bicyclists visit will be July 27th. Hosted dinner is at 6; program on "Why We Ride" is at 7. Deb Snyder will chair the Pumpkin Patch, expected to begin on October 11.

Joys: Visionary Council Chair and Pastor.

Prayers: David Nystrom, Laurie Herndon.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck.

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Maple

Secretary



FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

We have some exciting changes coming with Family Promise. After meeting with Steve Thomas, Family Promise Director, and Shirley Dobyns from our partner Nazarene Church, we've decided to change a few things with the weekly schedule. Beginning in September, we will merge the dinner and evening host slot so we just have two slots to fill each day. The dinner host will start at 5:15 and end at 7:30 when the overnight hosts come in and stay until 7 AM. The FUMC will fill the slots for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and the Nazarene Church will do the rest of the week. Another big change is coming - we are actively recruiting for a FUMC Family Promise coordinator. We've agreed that the coordinator will only commit to two years and that two year commitment for Sue Driskill comes up after the September hosting week. The new schedule will hopefully make things easier to fill all the slots for our new coordinator. Anyone interested should either contact Gayla Ballantyne or Sue Driskill.

Family Promise is an interfaith organization committed to helping families achieve lasting independence by providing shelter, meals and support. Volunteers give a few hours four times a year to make a huge difference in the lives of so many. We will be scheduling a training for Family Promise Volunteers sometime in the near future. It will be held at the church immediately after services with a day to be announced. We thank those who have given their time to fix meals or spend the night over the past years.



4K FOR CANCER RIDERS ARRIVE

On the evening of Monday, July 27, 29 bicyclists arrived at Lewiston First UMC. They had left from Baltimore, Maryland on their bicycles 58 days ago and arrived in Lewiston after the longest day of their journey, 124 miles.

As the riders arrived in several groups between 5 and 6 PM, preparations were being made to feed the group with a pot-luck style meal provided by LFUMC. "It has been a long time since we have had a home-cooked meal" one of the riders commented. Another said as he arrived, "I can smell the food from way out here, and it smells fantastic!"

After all the riders arrived dinner was served and the conversations and stories shared around the many dinner tables in Fellowship Hall were rich. On this particular riding day the story of interest seemed to be about a goose that would chase the riders; apparently the goose had a perceived threat against a nest or little ones (or both) and let the riders know! A number of the riders found the experience a little funny, while others were not amused-the goose caused at least one crash and the road rash that was a result looked a little painful.

After everyone ate their fill, the group gathered in the sanctuary to hear the personal stories of "why we ride" from each of the 29 riders. They introduced themselves, explained how they first learned of the 4K for Cancer ride and then shared a little about who in their lives they were riding to honor. Each rider had to raise a minimum of \$4500 to participate in the ride; there are four different cross-the-nation rides happening this summer that will raise a little over \$1 million for cancer research through this organization.

Early Tuesday morning the group left for Walla-Walla and eventually will ride through Tillamook and then down the Oregon coast into Portland.

This is one of two support vans that follow the riders and help with carrying gear and emergency bike repairs, etc.



Pastor's Path - (continued)

Some nice photographs resulted, and with time, everything eventually made sense and all my questions were answered. It was through quiet observation that all the pieces began to come together and a full understanding of this situation came with it.

While we were on vacation the actual one-year anniversary of being appointed here to Lewiston First UMC passed by, so I am telling this story as a reflection of this past year. A lot of time has been spent just observing and waiting for the full story to be revealed. There is probably much more to be found out, but after this first year of watching and waiting, the time has come to really begin to move forward.

At our most recent Church Council meeting a recommendation was made for us to seek approval from the Conference and Cabinet to pursue some creative leveraging of non-liquid assets for the purpose of church revitalization. This type of funding is allowable through a special provision in the Book of Discipline and with the approval of the Bishop and the rest of the Cabinet.



A written document is being prepared which will fully detail some of the plans and ideas around church revitalization, how some of the funds might be spent and the goals and results of the plans will all be included. This document will be presented to the Cabinet in September and then come back to Church Council for further approval and specific plans on how to proceed.

This is an exciting time for our church; while I fully understand that slight panic which surrounds something new, much like the panic I felt when I wasn't certain where momma elk was, please be assured that in due time, I believe, all things shall be well.

Watch this space; wonderful, exciting and important opportunities lay ahead for us as a congregation. Observation time has come to a close and the time for movement is upon us. Our path forward is before us and is full of promise; we have taken that all important first step on our path to revitalization and long-term sustainability. It is so exciting to see what God will do next!

Peace,
Chuck



2nd Annual Pumpkin Patch

Coming Soon!

October 11th- Halloween

Committee Sign ups in the
Fellowship Hall

Talk to Deb Snyder for more info
djsnyder83501@gmail.com | (509) 295-6461



August 29th
6pm.

Join the Tweeners' at Carl & Susie
Paulson's house for an
Ice Cream Social.

Carl & Susie will be supplying the ice
cream, just bring along your
favorite toppings to share.

Come, have some ice cream, and
enjoy time spent with all your
friends from Lewiston First UMC.



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Church Office Hours for 2015
Monday - Friday
10am-2:00pm

We welcome you to Lewiston First United Methodist Church! Our church is always open to all the children of God in all our wondrous diversity.

Our Services are lively, informative, thought provoking and relevant to the challenges of living in the 21st Century. It is our view the warmth of the Spirit will be evident every time we gather for worship, Bible discussion or a small group Discipleship gathering. We hope the love of the Divine will bring you comfort and serenity in our sometimes stressful and chaotic lives. Thank you for taking a minute to look over this newsletter and we hope to see you again in the near future, so you can *share our view!*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

August Birthdays

03 - Leonard Ellis
05 - Becky Riendeau
05 - Wilma Greene
08 - Taylor Forge
11 - Chuck Cram
14 - Linda Dodel

14 - Mabel Schneider
14 - Kiera Chesnut
18 - Laryn Stoddard
21 - Kay Walker
23 - Betty Pardue
24 - Gayla Ballantyne

25 - Eva Mathewson
25 - Leonard O'Brien
27 - Susie Paulson
31 - Jim Walker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU FROM LFUMC!

The
Memorial
Fund
needs your help!

If you are looking
for a place to donate
please consider
giving to the
memorial fund.
Contact Rita Mills
with any questions.

NEWSLETTER MAILING!

Returning to bulk mailing to send the newsletter to home addressees is being evaluated. In the meantime, if you know of anyone who is unable to get to worship on Sunday or does not have an email address, please let Arrie know and she will put a copy in the mail.

August Service Schedule

Greeters:

02 - Fred & Donna Weaver
09 - Connie Alford & Betty Pardue
16 - Larry & Gayla Ballantyne
23 - Liz Chavez & Frankie Anderson
30 - Leonard & Barbara O'Brien

Ushers:

02 - Bill Dugger & Ed Statham
09 - Lois Woelfel & Dave Walker
16 - Larry Ballantyne & John Stalter
23 - The Forge Family
30 - Patty Mills & Bob Morton

Liturgists:

02 - Rita Mills
09 - Bob Morton
16 - Patty Mills
23 -
30 -

Counters:

02 - Sue Driskill & Cottie Hood
09 - Larry Ballantyne & Larry Butts
16 - Becky Riendeau & Barbara O'Brien
23 - Larry Nystrom & Fred Weaver
30 - Lois Woelfel & Carl Paulson

Accompanists:

02 - Lauren Trail
09 - Lauren Trail
16 - Karen Andrews
23 - Lauren Trail
30 - Karen Andrews

Coffee Shop:

02 - Potluck
09 -
16 -
23 -
30 -