

Pastor's Path

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

Just in case you hadn't noticed – Christmas is coming. Don't panic, it happens every year and it happens whether or not we think we are ready. Time is relentless like that; it passes without judgment of fast or slow, ready or not ready, good or bad-it just marches on. Unbelievable as it may sound; we should take great comfort in that fact.

I believe we are a part of a creative and wonderful universe. Very few things happen by accident; rather they are part of the universal laws of nature which offer consistency, harmony, balance and predictability to our lives. Have you ever considered the fact that the universe is so predictable that we were able to build a space craft, send it to the moon, (or rather send it to the place where the moon would be in 3 days) and time the landing on the moon to within a fraction of a second? We did. The laws of the universe can be counted upon to always be true; and it doesn't really matter if we believe them to be true, they still exist and continue to function, even in our unbelief. Have you recently commented to anyone: "I can't believe it's Christmas time already"? Did your unbelief stop the clock and give you more time? I didn't think so.

For some time now, I have been trying to learn to bring more awareness to my everyday life-to pay attention to how my thoughts and emotions shape my experience of the world. This helps me to live more deeply, to live with intention and to remind me of a fundamental truth; we shape our experience of the world by what we think of the world.

This isn't an intellectual argument for me-it is hard to prove through science or reason. But we can prove it to be true through experience. Our experience of shaping our world by our thoughts and emotions can teach us that this law operates with the same predictability and reliability as the rest of the universe. It is a law that cannot be broken, altered, stopped or changed; it just is-whether you believe it or not.

All this is just to say that if we believe ourselves to be too busy this time of year, if we continually tell ourselves how behind we are and how

much we have to do, if we are an emotional wreck because of holiday stress; guess how we will experience and shape our world? In many ways we create our own reality.

Experiment with this idea this holiday season. Be calm, enjoy the preparation; know that your attitude and self-talk will impact how you experience this Christmas season. Have you ever caught yourself uttering the words; "sometimes I just hate Christmas"? Guess what? If you create that thought



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The Messenger

December 2015

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- DEC 8 - SPRC MEETING - 6:30PM
- DEC 2 - WORSHIP COMMITTEE - 5:30PM
- DEC 8 - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5PM
- DEC 9 - SALVATION ARMY DINNER - 3PM
- DEC 10 - TRUSTEE'S MEETING - 6PM
- DEC 17 - UMW - 10AM
- DEC 17 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM
- DEC 19 - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 9AM

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

- BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:30AM
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:15AM
- CHOIR WARM-UP - 9:30AM
- WORSHIP - 10:30AM
- COFFEE SHOP - 11:30AM
- YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY - 12PM
- DISCIPLESHIP GROUP - 6:30PM

MONDAYS

- PREACHER'S PUB - 10AM
(WESLEY ROOM) - CANCELED ALL MONTH

TUESDAYS

- BIBLE DISCUSSION - 10AM

Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

In Attendance: Chuck Cram, Rita Mills, Sue Driskill, Deb Snyder, Robbin Stewart, Cottie Hood, Monte Boardman, Larry Ballantyne, Herb Hobbs, Carl Paulson

Meeting was opened with prayer by Cottie.

Pastor's Report: Funding for Phase One is being pursued thru Potlatch1 Federal Credit Union. Monet is visiting various churches' welcome centers. Re: Heidi - she has an appointment in Spokane on Monday and will have more surgery on Dec. 4. The video and sound system are working

Committee Reports:

Trustees: by Larry. Monte and Larry are getting bids for the \$35,000 of the 1st Phase. Need to prioritize tasks proposed. Smoke detectors have been checked.

Finance/Treasurer- No Report

SPR: was made by Chuck for Liz Chavez. Since Alan has resigned as custodian, the firm, Snake River Janitorial, has been hired. They clean 3 days a week for only slightly more then what we were paying for 4 hours, once a week.

UMW: No Report

Worship: Meuriel's report made via Cottie. The committee's meeting has been changed to the 1st Wednesday of each month. Pat Schrupp is working on Advent & Christmas decorations. Any and all feedback is welcomed. Positive feedback has been received on the variety of music and on the visuals Chuck uses. No communion in December. To prepare for new and unaffiliated visitors, training is anticipated for ushers and greeters.

Lay Leader: No Report

Old Business: Pumpkin Patch gross sales were \$5,996; net sales were \$1,849.31; expenses were \$691.66, leaving a net of \$1,157.65. The overall chair and committee chairs have met and recommended we do the Patch again in 2016.

New Business: Motion made to allow Memorials Committee to use the churches EIN # at Potlatch 1FCU (Deb/Monte). Motion passed.

Next Meeting: December 17 at 7pm. Meeting closed with prayer by Chuck.

Acting Secretary, Deb Snyder



Thank you!
from the Statham's



Everyone,

We might say something like "the dust is starting to settle" on the stuff moved with us to our new home ... but all y'all are too savvy to be fooled by any claim we really have everything put away. We are getting closer to that goal. What jumps out as really important, however, is the memory in our hearts and minds of the strange kind of "fun" shared way back on the 21st-22nd-23rd of last month in the environs of Clarkston Heights. We sincerely hope you too enjoyed at least part of the activity organized by Becky and worked by so many. When the best estimators on the planet fell short on how big a truck was needed, the folks who thought they'd downsized with a safety margin were also stunned by the left overs. Special thanks for "out of area operations" made by Jim, Cottie, and Chuck. Oh my gosh, so much for the U-Haul ad that claims a 26 foot truck will carry a four bedroom home (we had 3 bedrooms).

We are very pleased to hear that the Pumpkin Patch was a way bigger success this year. The kind and generous efforts supplied to get us off to our new base of operations to fight the good fight for our health and longevity will never be forgotten. "Think and Let Think" people came together for a giving cause. It was a wonder to behold. Thanksgiving will be celebrated by us this year with special thoughts of each of you.

With fond memories, we'll do our best to be in touch.

Love and Peace,

Ed and Marylene Statham

5TH ANNUAL HARVEST FEST AND CHILI COOK-OFF

We had a large crowd enjoying the food and the fun at the HarvestFest. The thirteen chilies were all delicious with many tasters. Judges awarded 1st place to Jeri Turner and 2nd place to Jim Hood for their chili entries. Peoples choice awards went to Pat Schrupp 1st place and Patty Mills 2nd. Mary Jacobs was the lucky winner of the beautiful baby quilt contributed by Barbara O'Brien for the raffle.

We thank each of you for making a chili, contributing an item for the auctions, entertaining, helping with the chili tasting and serving the meal, selling tickets, helping with the dollar auction and most of all for coming and supporting this project.

Sue Stutzman	Suzie Paulson
Gayla Ballantyne	Barbara Maple
Sally Davies	Mary McNish
Becky Riendeau	

Pastor's Path - (continued)

and emotion in your mind, it will determine your actual experience of the event.

Try this instead; try thinking or saying to yourself or others-"isn't this a great time of year? We have so many opportunities to experience the season; we will never get to them all. Because I can't do everything, I'm going to make sure I enjoy what I can do."

Put the experience to the test and see what happens.

I believe in our power of intention and consciousness and discovery and synchronicity. I am inspired by the potential of a creative mind at play in a creative universe. I believe there is latent, untouched and underutilized power in our sub-conscious mind; and we can use our minds to shape our world and shape our experience. For me, that is the dance of the Spirit; it is the Divine connection; it is the joy and mystery of God revealed to us each and every Christmas season.

It is the Word made flesh. It is glad tidings of great joy. It is the Spirit of the Season. As you think, so shall you be!

Have a wonderful season of preparation and may the day of birth we celebrate be a birth of new beginnings and new awareness for this season and all the seasons to come.

Merry Christmas.

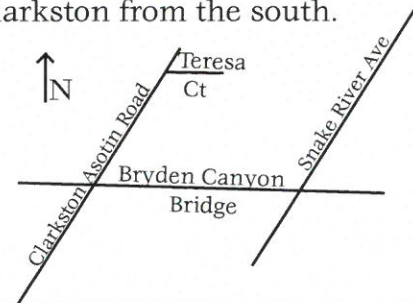
Chuck
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Tweeners

Our annual Tweeners Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 13th at the home of John Stalter starting at 4PM. Everyone is to bring a finger food or snack item to share. (we'll be just grazing instead of having a sit down dinner) We will also have a white elephant gift exchange. This is lots of fun and some gifts pop up every year. Everyone is welcome to attend. If anyone wants a ride call Susie Paulson (743-8639) or John Stalter (758-2203)

This is a casual for fun get together. Hope to see you all there.

John Stalter lives at 433 Teresa Court in Clarkston. You get there by traveling on the Clarkston-Asotin road towards Clarkston. Turn toward the river on Teresa Court just as you enter Clarkston from the south.



DOGS FOR THE DEAF

Thanks to all who have contributed their aluminum cans to the Dogs for the Deaf program. To date this year we have contributed \$163 from can sales and another \$89 from Found Money to this worthy mission of training rescue dogs to assist people with hearing loss. Your interest has been most appreciated. Monte Boardman has offered to take over this program. Please continue to support

Monte. - Larry Butts

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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!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 - Colleen Mahoney
01 - Mary McNish
05 - Aidin Mills
07 - Boyd Founds

12 - Kailey Druffel
14 - Donna Weaver
18 - Jane Harvey
19 - Madi Stoddard

21 - John Butts
21 - Marylene Statham
22 - David Walker
26 - Gary Chesnut



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU FROM LFUMC!

REMINDER!

The food bank still needs your donations this holiday season. Save a trip and bring your donations to the church and leave them in the shopping cart in the Narthex and we will take them down to the food bank.

Amen!
COMING SOON!
Lets Eat!

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.

December Service Schedule

Greeters:

06 - Pat Heimgartner & Frankie Anderson
13 - Mary Jacobs & Doris Ann Winchell
20 - Wilma Greene & Karen Smith
27 - Barbara & Leonard O'Brien

Liturgists:

06 - Jim Stutzman
13 - Susie Paulson
20 - Colleen Mahoney
27 - Rita Mills

Accompanists:

06 - Laureen Trail
13 -
20 - Laureen Trail
27 -

Ushers:

06 - Billy Wilson & David Walker
13 - Larry Dean & David Walker
20 - Chesnut Family
27 - Lois Woelfel & Carl Paulson

Counters:

06 - Carl Paulson & Donna Weaver
13 - Sue Driskill & Larry Nystrom
20 - Monte Boardman & Stan McNish
27 - Larry Ballantyne & Leonard O'Brien

Coffee Shop:

06 - Potluck
13 -
20 - Pat Heimgartner
27 -