

The LFUMC Messenger

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

Pastor's Path

"Finding Perspective"
By: Rev. Chuck Cram

A few weeks ago I received a very disturbing text and picture from my daughter-in-law that lives in Denver. The text was succinct; it simply said that it looked like their patio cover didn't like the recent spring snowstorm that had covered Denver in 3 feet of sloppy, wet, spring snow. The picture showed the newly installed patio cover on the ground covered in snow. For a minute, I was in shock; was what I was looking at really what I was looking at? I couldn't believe my eyes.

Last summer we had traveled to Denver with a car full of tools and I had been the chief architect, planner, designer and construction supervisor as we built a new deck and patio cover for my youngest son and his wife. Now the collapsed patio cover lay in a heap of twisted frame members covered in 36 inches of snow. I felt terrible.

It has taken over a month for me to actually feel better about what happened; but with that perspective has come some valuable lessons. For one, I recognize how fragile the ego is and how attached a person can become to a particular outcome. My attachment was that I wanted our kids to enjoy that deck and patio cover for years to come. I wanted them to have parties and BBQ's and all sorts of gatherings under that patio cover, and in a way, I think I wanted them to remember me when they did.

The emotions of attachment I was feeling fueled my ego and the false sense of self I had attached myself to. I discovered that while my heart may be aching, it's critical to identify and let go of the addictive thinking of attachment to outcome. Implicit in attachment to a particular outcome is the egotistical thought that we know what is right and how to get there. So while our prayers and actions may

June 2016

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:30am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Shop - 11:30am
- Youth Group Bible Study - 12pm

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Regular Monthly Meetings

SPRC: 1st Tuesday - 6:30pm -

Liz Chavez

Worship Committee: 1st Wednesday -
4:00pm - Meurial Nystrom

Salvation Army Dinner: 2nd
Wednesday - 3:00pm

*Trustees: 2nd Thursday - 6:00pm -
Monte Boardman

*UMW - 3rd Wednesday - 10:00am -
Mary McNish & Kathy Bostrom

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Saturday -
9:00am - Main Street Grill

Church Council: 4th Thursday -
7:00pm - Cottie Hood

*Not Meeting Until Fall

REVITALIZATION STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee has been convened to recommend priorities among the many projects and tasks called for in the Revitalization Plan for Lewiston First UMC and to develop the plans and coordination for the work involved. The members of this committee, listed below, were selected from the working committees of the church and from the congregation at large. This representation is important to promote clear communication about and transparency in the work involved.

Steering committee members will be visiting with the congregation to get input, feedback, and guidance about the work before us. We want you to bring your questions and suggestions to us so that ideas and information are easily shared. The committee is meeting as needed during these early stages of launching this work, but a more regular meeting schedule may be needed later on and can be communicated to the congregation at that time.

The work before us all is challenging, exciting, and sometimes daunting. We ask for your feedback, your questions, and your prayers for guidance as we work to make the revitalization plan a reality.

Committee Members: Donna Weaver, Sue Driskill, Larry & Gayla Ballantyne, Monte Boardman, Vanessa Stedman, Pat Schrupp, Bob Morton, Cottie Hood and Chuck Cram.

Olene Teel has written a letter to the congregation which is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

COMING UP

JUNE 24-26 MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 2016 PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HAVE ANY QUESTION OR COMMENTS PERTAINING TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
LEAVE THEM AT THE OFFICE AND WE WILL PASS THEM ON.

Home of Hope Suitcase Collection

On April 21, 2016 members of Lewiston First United Methodist Women heard about the success and needs of Homes of Hope which provides support for foster children and foster families in our valley. Shawn McCracken, the coordinator, spoke to the group about the needs and rewards of being involved in Homes of Hope. It was suggested that our church family might be interested in participating with UMW in collecting new, wheeled, child sized (carry on size) luggage for the children to store their personal possessions/clothes in when they are in foster care. Please consider helping with this project and bring the suitcases to the church anytime, just look for the collection container and sign "Homes of Hope",

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

In Attendance: Larry Ballantyne, Monte Boardman, Rhonda Edens, Chuck Cram, Cottie Hood, Lois Chesnut, Kathy Bostrom, Liz Chavez, Meuriel Nystrom

Opening Devotions & Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Council Chair Cottie Hood opened with excerpts from and led a discussion on how First UMC appears in the community as well as the concept of "ASK" - ask, seek, know. Council then broke into small groups and discussed with each other the kinds of outreach in which our congregation is involved in the community and whether it resonates with the others who are like minded and would seek us out in worship. Pastor Chuck remarked that he is rarely at a meeting, event or agency gathering in our community where there aren't one or more First UMC members present.

It was suggested that reading of the of the January 2016 Council minutes be dispensed with since the contents were out of date.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Treasurer: Rhonda Edens presented a spread sheet detailing income and expenses, noting that we have paid our apportionments and have funds in reserve. There were questions regarding individual income and expenditure amounts, Liz Chavez moved and Lois Chesnut seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report - motion passed.

Revitalization Plan Steering Committee

Chuck described the make up of the steering and the reason for creating this committee (to have all areas and demographics of our congregation represented in the process of revitalization). The first meeting was on April 25, 2016 where there was discussion of the scope of the projects as well as funding for each component of the revitalization. The steering committee will create a list for project completion, prioritize the list of projects, allocate funding, and create a time for project completion after May 5, 2016

SPR: Liz Chavez reported that Trustees and SPR under the direction of Monte Boardman will conduct the annual Parsonage inspection. Cottie Hood and Bob Morton will participate as members of SPR. Cottie Hood will coordinate with Pastor Chuck and Heidi regarding a date for the inspection. Liz noted that SPR discussed Amy Baker-Stout's direction and coordination of the 4th Sunday service which includes working with Pastor Chuck as well as with those working the sound system. Liz and Chuck will meet with Amy to discuss the details. Liz reported on all the liaison/employee of the church with no issues or problems.

Trustees

Monte Boardman contacted the sprinkler system company regarding the large amount of water we pay for and how the system is contributing to that usage. He reminded everyone about the fire extinguisher us class which will be announced at a later date, he gave an outline of the tree trimming that has been done which is on going as well as having the stumps and roots drilled out front the front circles. Monte is also taking point on the sale of the two lots the church is selling on Broadview Drive which are located on the north east side of the driveway into the church parking lot. He reported there have been quite a number, over 25, hits on the sale site on the Internet and from the Realtors. Monte noted that Judy Higgins, who came highly recommended, is working with us on the sale of the lots.

United Methodist Women

Kathy Bostrom discussed the last program presented at UMW - Home of Hope and the efforts to gather children sized suitcases for children in foster care as a way of having a place to keep their own possessions when in foster care and to take with them wherever they go. There will be a collection box and sign in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship: Meuriel Nystrom reported on the questions that the Worship Committee is asking regarding being open and welcoming to first time attendees of our church about how new people are welcomed, the order of the service, explanation of the various elements of the service, how they might become active, and then being open, supportive and loving in our response to questions.

Lay Leader: Rita Mills reported on former church members who have medical needs or are ill, as well as her schedule for the next six weeks when she will be traveling.

Pastor's Report: Chuck and Heidi Cram want to purchase the smaller lot, which the church is selling, that lots is on the southeast corner of Broadview. He had prepared and "Offer to Purchase" document. Liz Chavez moved and Meuriel Nystrom seconded that we accept the "Offer to Purchase" document - discussion followed regarding the plat of the lots, the services that are already present on the lot, the footprint for the actual house, preliminary house plans and whether there should be interest charged on the funding piece of the purchase. There was agreement that no interest would be charged using the Habitat for Humanity model which utilizes the "sweat equity" of the family which will live in the house.

Chuck outlined his vacation time as well as pulpit supply for May 22 and 29. Chuck may go to General Conference in Portland in May as well as Annual Conference in Puyallup on June 23, with possible need for pulpit supply June 17th.

Chuck also relayed to the Council that he has been asked to join the Conference Communication Committee, which will involve some travel for conference committee meetings.

Membership: Lois Chesnut reported that she is working on keeping our membership roll current.

Old Business: None

New Business: Larry Ballantyne moved and Monte Boardman seconded that we move \$5,000 which was given as a Gift in Memory to First UMC, into the annuity fund. Some discussion followed, motion carried.

Joys, Petitions, Concerns: Milt Fritzee, Katie Gage, Ed Statham, Heidi Cram, Kay Rusche, Diane Wright, Barb Maple

Respectfully submitted, Liz Chavez

June Service Schedule

Greeters:

05 -
12 -
19 -
26 -

Liturgists:

05 - Kathy Bostrom
12 -
19 -
26 - Patty Mills

Accompanists:

05 -
12 -
19 -
26 -

Ushers:

05 - Herb Hobbs & Charlie Baker
12 - Jim Bostrom & Bob Stitton
19 - Donna Weaver & Larry Dean
26 - Carl Paulson & Mary McNish

Counters:

05 - Fred Weaver & Larry Ballantyne
12 - Larry Ballantyne & Carl Paulson
19 - Larry Nystrom & Carl Paulson
26 - Monte Boardman & Lois Chesnut

Coffee Shop:

05 - Potluck
12 - Karen Smith
19 - Robbin Stewart & Deb Snyder
26 - Mei Chu Eggleston

Summer Lawn Mowing Schedule

06 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson
13 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva

04 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson
11 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva

01 - Robbin Stewart & Carl Paulson
08 - Jim Hood & Dave Silva
15 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne

June

20 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
27 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp

July

18 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
25 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp

August

22 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp
29 - Robbin Stewart & Bill Schrupp

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4:00P	2	3	4
5	6	7 SPR MEETING 6:30P LCEOP- FACILITY RENTAL 10AM-12P	8 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00A
19	20	21	22	23 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Finance Update

May 2016

Expenses:	Paid
Staff Pay Checks:	Paid
Utilities:	Paid
Common Ministries:	Paid
Pastor Pay 1st Check:	Paid
Pastor Benefits:	Paid
Pastor Pay 2nd Check:	Paid

End Month:
Unpaid Bills: \$ _____
Check Book Balance: \$ 12,090

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 SPR MEETING 6:30P	6 WORSHIP COMMITTEE 4:00P BOOK STUDY - 7:00P	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	14	15	16 MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00A
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P	29	30
31 FAMILY PROMISE START						

Expected Monthly 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.

Thank You Corner

The 2015 M&M's (Mighty Miracles) selected Meals on Wheels for their Found Money Project.

Thanks to your generosity, \$50. was raised and presented to M-on-W.

God Bless you all for supporting the M&M projects in the past several years.

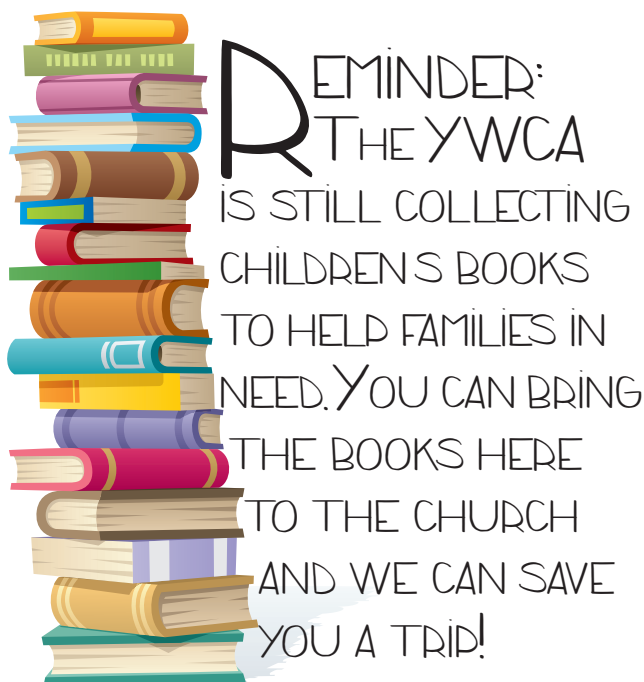
We wish to thank everyone that setup, worked, prepared food, cleaned up or supported the United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale in April!! We had a very successful event. The general rummage sale netted \$2,414.44, jewelry was \$146.20 and cookies brought in \$471.50, giving us a grand total of \$3032.14. What a great job and many, many thanks!!

Sally Davies (filling in for Barb Maple)

Doris Ann Winschell

The church office would like to thank Frankie Anderson for all her service to the church as Greeter Scheduler. It has been such a blessing to get to work with Frankie.

We would also like to thank Kathy Bostrom for volunteering to take over for Frankie. Thank you Kathy!



all be lined up to provide something great for someone else, we need to leave room for the Spirit to work. And perhaps the outcome will be greater than we planned. When we live life surrendered to what is, in full acceptance of what is, letting go of our attachments and our egos, only then can we experience fully the work of the Divine Spirit in our lives.

The first glimmers of perspective came early in this process. I recognized immediately that we could be thankful for many things about this catastrophe; no one was hurt, no pets were hurt, nothing of real value was under the patio when it collapsed. Thank God.

At first I was critical of myself because of the flawed design of the structure; I should have been able to anticipate a spring snowstorm, after all, I had lived in Denver long enough to see what they are like. With a little perspective and the release of the attachment to my desired outcome, I can see that if I had designed things differently, it is possible there may have been damage to the house itself. As it was, just the cover collapsed without any structural damage to the actual house.

During the weeks that have passed since the accident the insurance coverage has proven to be sufficient. There are now more options available than we may have previously thought. It seems the eventual outcome may in fact be greater and in many ways superior to what I had originally planned.

This is not to say that I believe God caused a patio to collapse to bring about a greater good.

What I am trying to say is that things are not always what they seem; what we perceive to be bad or good is often clouded by our own egos, our own attachment to being right, or our attachment to a particular outcome. When we become present in the now, letting go of our past and resisting the temptation to attempt control of the future, we can move toward complete acceptance of what is. Only through that acceptance can we truly embrace all the possibilities that lie before us and alleviate so much of our self-imposed suffering.

With the ego in check I can freely experiment even at the risk of being wrong. I can say what I think and believe to be true, but I can also get out of the way and allow something new because being wrong is no longer the worst thing that can happen. With this enlightened attitude of ego submission the world becomes a laboratory and every action is an experiment or perhaps even an adventure. We are constantly learning and being wrong is often part of that experience. But without the investment of ego, being wrong is simply another lesson and opportunity for growth.

It's clear I still have lots of growing to do and lessons to learn. At times it feels painful and there is a temptation for self-pity and playing a victim role. But once again, with the ego in check, it also becomes clear that it isn't about you.

And that is the greatest lesson of all.

Peace,

Chuck

PASTOR'S PATH - (CONTINUED)

Birthdays

June

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 03 - Eva Bringman | 09 - Sally Butts | 20 - Brett Mills | 24 - Arrie Vogel |
| 04 - Kim Brown | 11 - Marian Combellick | 20 - Evelyn Jordan | 30 - Kathleen Ross |
| 04 - Tammy Ledgerwood | 13 - Wanda Thompson | 22 - Pat Schrupp | 30 - Nancy Follett |
| 05 - Mary Jo Fursteneau | 17 - Barbara O'Brien | 23 - Laurie Herndon | |

July

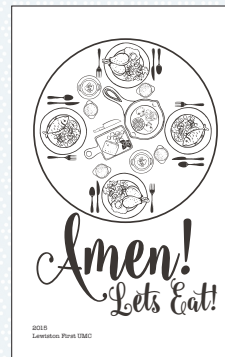
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|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 02 - Robbin Stewart | 06 - Sally Davies | 19 - Jan Sullivan | 23 - Bill Dugger |
| 04 - Bob Sitton | 08 - Camille Lame | 21 - Heidi Cram | 28 - Barb Maple |
| 05 - Bob Morton | 13 - Jim Stutzman | 21 - Sheila Hewett | 28 - Kathy Forge |
| 06 - Juanita Langley | 18 - John Stalter | 21 - Meuriel Nystrom | |

August

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 05 - Becky Riendeau | 14 - Linda Dodel | 24 - Gayla Ballantyne | 31 - Jim Walker |
| 05 - Wilma Greene | 14 - Kiera Chesnut | 25 - Eva Mathewson | |
| 08 - Taylor Forge | 18 - Laryn Stoddard | 25 - Leonard O'Brien | |
| 11 - Chuck Cram | 21 - Kay Walker | 27 - Susie Paulson | |

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.



There are still "Amen! Let's Eat!" cookbooks for sale in the office. They are the perfect gift for birthdays, weddings or bridal showers! Just \$20!

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!*

Church Office Hours

Current
10:00am - 2:00pm
Spring 2016
Starting May 2016
8:00am - 12:00pm

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