



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

Pastor's Path - Pet Peeves

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

I guess we all have our pet peeves. In spite of what the New Testament teaches us about judging others, there are still times when I personally struggle a little bit not to judge certain things which I find just ridiculous. Loud motorcycles are one of those things. I can hardly control myself when Heidi and I are in a conversation while walking along the levee trail next to Snake River Avenue when some motorcyclist roars by; the noise is so intense that it interrupts the conversation, leaves our ears about to bleed and makes our insides shake. My response is almost always the same; "why is that legal?" I ask, "it is rude and obnoxious".

My son tells me that a motorcycle that is loud is safer. I take exception to that argument as well; most of the noise happens long after the motorcycle is past, not as it approaches when you truly need the safety. Further, I rode a motorcycle in Denver traffic for a number of years and it was about as loud as a sewing machine; I considered it my responsibility to recognize that I was almost invisible in certain situations, which I did, and never had so much as even a close call.

When the short-piped roaring contraption whizzes by vibrating everything that is not nailed down, I often think it must be an immature teenager or very young adult who has not yet learned the wisdom of silence. Then I notice the rider is at least as old as I am, and I'm left a little bewildered. Don't get me wrong, I like motorcycles, I always have; but the loud ones?-well there isn't a river deep enough...

It is probably bad form to admit my shortcomings in such a public way, but I mention my attitude (which I'm working on) about loud motorcycles for a reason. That reason is because I feel the same way about loud Christians.

Oh, no-now I am really in deep weeds. Not only do the teachings of Jesus tell us not to judge others, but it also tells us to let our lights shine, and go ye into all the world and put our lamp on the lamp stand and not under a bushel and so on. In spite of those teachings, which are open to interpretation I might add, my conclusion about loud motorcycles and loud Christians tends to be the same; rude and obnoxious.

That doesn't mean we should not share the Good News or that no one should ever ride a motorcycle; it just means that how you say something is just as important as what you say. I believe in low-pressure, subtle approaches that appeal to a person's sense of reason and sense of compassion when it comes to sharing the Good News; I prefer to speak softly the language of love instead of shouting fear from the rooftops.

Over the next few months you will begin to see the evidence of this position as we begin to move forward with the



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SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- **MAY 5** - SPRC MEETING - 6:30PM
- **MAY 12** - TRUSTEE MEETING - 5:30PM
- **MAY 12** - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5PM
- **MAY 13** - SALVATION ARMY DINNER - 3PM
- **MAY 16** - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 9AM
- **MAY 21** - UMW/CIRCLE OF SPIRIT - 10AM
- **MAY 28** - WORSHIP COMMISSION - 6PM
- **MAY 28** - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

- BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:30AM
- ADULT EDUCATION - 9:15AM
- CHOIR REHEARSAL - 9:30AM
- WORSHIP - 10:30AM
- COFFEE SHOP - 11:30AM
- YOUTH GROUP BIBLE STUDY - 4PM
- DISCIPLESHIP GROUP - 6:30PM

MONDAYS

- PREACHER'S PUB - 10AM
(RED LION HOTEL -MERIWETHER'S)

TUESDAYS

- BIBLE DISCUSSION - 10AM

WEDNESDAYS

- DISCIPLESHIP GROUP - 11AM
- CHOIR REHEARSAL - 7PM

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The LFMUC Messenger

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2015

In Attendance: Cottie Hood, Larry Ballantyne, Carl Paulson, Gary Chesnut, Rita Mills, Rhonda Edens, Chuck Cram, Heidi Cram, Patty Mills, Susie Paulson

Opening Devotional: Isaiah 43:18-19

Minutes: approved as printed

Pastor's Report: Chuck Cram presented the findings and recommendations of the communications committee including: Visitors' Packet, free gift of coffee, pads of ads and web-site development.

Larry Ballantyne moved and Carl Paulson seconded that we pay \$100 per month for pad of ads in the tribune for 12 months. Start date TBA. Motion carried.

Rita Mills moved and Rhonda Edens seconded to authorize the development of 100 custom printed pocket folders, to include a pound of free coffee; not to exceed \$250 Motion carried.

Rita Mills moved and Susie Paulson seconded that the memorials committee be asked to purchase a commercial coffee maker and three (3) accompanying carafes; purchase price not to exceed \$450. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance/Treasurer- Rhonda Edens presented "Church Financial Update"(attached) which will be issued monthly in the newsletter. Currently we owe \$1062.87 plus the pastor's paycheck for the second half of April.

Susie Paulson reported that VInco will accept credit cards for a \$50 one-time setup fee plus 2.75% and \$0.45 per transaction.

Chuck suggested we could use a square reader. Susie Paulson will research this.

Carl Paulson reported his findings about line of credit with Twin River and Banner Banks.

Trustees: Larry Ballantyne has installed carpet in the bell cabinet. Trustees and Chuck will paint the outside of the parsonage with ten gallons of paint donated by the Habitat ReStore.

SPRC: On going monitoring and evaluation of the new Communications Coordinator - Arrie Vogel. It was generally thought that her work is a marked improvement both in effort and content. Arrie's liaison, Donna Weaver, contacts and checks in with both Arrie and Chuck on a regular basis.

A new MOA will be in place for the new Communications Coordinator soon.

There was some confusion regarding coverage for the Nurser on Easter Sunday, the liaison for this position has been contacted and a more efficient communication protocol will be in place shortly. Our Nursery employee, barring illness, is only gone 4 times new system on communication will be beneficial for both the employee and SPRC.

Worship: Sue Stutzman has resigned as chair.

New Business: Patty Mills reported the youth groups will lead valley wide youth groups scavenger hunt, which collect items for Food Banks.

Joys: Chesnut's grandson Chris is visiting; we had enough money to pay our April bills.

Prayers: Herb Hobbs & Connie Alford.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck.

Respectfully Submitted
Barb Maple
Secretary

Pastor's Path - (continued)

marketing and promotion of our church and sharing the Good News in the process. One item which will be available soon is a new Visitor's packet which first time visitors will receive. It is low key and low pressure, but packed with good information. It is also very well done, professional in style and content and demonstrates the excellence we strive for as a church.



We will also be looking to expand the number of our current volunteers who serve as greeters to include others who will staff a "Welcome Center" where these visitor packets will be available. Our low volume approach will also be evident in a few newspaper ads which will begin running soon encouraging people to visit. With short, simple and concise messages we will communicate to the LC Valley a little about who we are and what they might expect to experience if they choose to visit a worship service. These efforts will not transform all of our challenges into victories overnight, but they are a step in the right direction and a plan for our future.



One other piece of this effort which will also be coming shortly is a new web site. Redesigned, expanded with new information, new pictures and loads of information this new web site is set to launch later this month. (we hope) You will certainly hear about it when it goes "live" and we are confident it will become an integral part of our overall marketing profile.

The products of which I speak that are coming are the result of hard work and input from our newly formed Community Connections Committee; to those members I extend my personal thanks and would encourage everyone to do the same. If you are interested in what we might do in the future and what else we have up our sleeve, feel free to join us- the committee is always open to new members and new ideas.

May you find peace from all things loud in the days to come,
Chuck

Church Financial Update - April 2015

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

End Month:	
Unpaid Bills:	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Check Book Balance:	\$ <u>873.27</u>
Investment Balance	\$ _____
Memorial Balance	\$ _____

Church Financial Update - 2015

Budget:	
Staff Pay Checks:	\$ <u>1500</u>
Utilities:	\$ <u>2000</u>
Common Ministries:	\$ <u>2000</u>
Pastor Pay 1st Check:	\$ <u>2000</u>
Pastor Benefits:	\$ <u>1500</u>
Pastor Pay 2nd Check:	\$ <u>2000</u>

Summary:
Weekly Expenses - Total \$ 2540

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



Congratulations!
kailey mae druffel
will graduate from
clarkston high school
May 30, 2015 7:30pm
LCSC Activity Center



Before Kailey's graduation ceremony
please join us to celebrate
her accomplishments
May 30 from 1 to 4pm
2380 3rd Avenue, Clarkston, WA.
Good food and visiting
kailey is wsu bound!

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Church Office Hours for 2015
Monday - Friday
10am-12pm & 12:30pm-2:30pm

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!

May Birthdays

02 - Megan Ralstin
04 - Alyssa Ralstin
05 - Greg Gilliam
07 - Pat Heimgartner

08 - Dorinda Gilliam
10 - Cottie Hood
10 - Fred Willet

18 - Troy Stoddard
22 - Rahel Butts
30 - Heath Hewett

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.

2015 Summer Camps

The 2015 TwinLow Summer Camp Schedule is on the bulletin board in the narthax. You can also find the same information and sign up for summer camp at twinlow.org or pnwcamps.org.

May Service Schedule

Greeters:

03 - Boyd & Rosemary Founders
10 - Barbara & Leonard O'Brien
17 - Fred & Donna Weaver
24 - Troy & Lisa Stoddard
31 - Irene Roth & Mei Chu Eggleston

Liturgists:

03 - Kathy Bostrom
10 - Mary McNish
17 - Susie Paulson
24 - Rita Mills
31 - Doug Crook

Accompanists:

03 - Laureen Trail
10 - Laureen Trail
17 -
24 - Laureen Trail
31 -

Ushers:

03 - Carl & Susie Paulson
10 - Ed Statham & Herb Hobbs
17 - Larry Ballantyne & Brett Sitton
24 - Lois Woelfel & Dave Walker
31 - Larry Butts & Larry Dean

Counters:

03 - Fred Weaver & Larry Ballantyne
10 - Stan McNish & Ed Statham
17 - Donna Weaver & Lois Chesnut
24 - Lois Woelfel & Becky Riendeau
31 - Larry Nystrom & Sue Driskill

Coffee Shop:

03 - Taco Potluck
10 -
17 -
24 - The Butts Family
31 -