

The LFUMC Messenger



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

Pastor's Path

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

As a young boy I grew up traveling during the summer months. Both my parents were educators, and so we had the summers free for the most part. We had a small travel trailer and usually drove a station wagon of some kind—"the rig" – as my dad used to call it, provided both transportation and housing for many a road trip across this great land of ours.

National Parks were always a favorite destination, as were all points west from Iowa. Colorado, Oregon and California were favorite states, as we had family in each location, and we would hop-scootch our way across the miles and see as much as we could in-between. At every stop, every National Park, every local point of interest; there was one constant – my dad was usually taking a picture (a slide) of the group, of the rig or of the scenery.

It wasn't long before I became interested in what he was doing and how he was doing it. Every once in a great while my dad would allow me to actually take a picture with his camera—it was always a great treat and I was always anxious to see the results. As you can see from the photo of our recent trip this summer to the Grand Tetons, the nut hasn't fallen far from the tree; this is our "rig" in front of the majestic Tetons.



After the vacations and the slides were returned from the processing lab, the family would gather one evening in the living room and we would "show slides." You can't imagine the feeling of pride that would come over me when a slide that I had taken, with my dad's camera, was shown on the screen. "I took that one!" I would exclaim – I'm not sure if everyone believed me or not, no one could seem to remember exactly when I had taken a slide – but I remembered and I recognized each and every one.

I have never given up my love for photography – although it has changed over the years. There was a time that I was convinced I needed to make a living in photography in order to be happy. I worked for a time as a sports editor for a local paper – shooting pictures like crazy – but eventually deciding that the job involved far too many hours for far too little pay. Later I worked for an advertising agency and had access to photo equipment beyond my wildest imaginations; but again, the time demands and the time

Volume 2, Issue 10
The Messenger
October 2015

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- OCT 6 - SPRC MEETING - 6:30PM
- OCT 8 - TRUSTEE'S MEETING - 6PM
- OCT 11 - PUMPKIN TRUCK UNLOAD - 8AM
- OCT 12 - START OF PUMPKIN PATCH
- OCT 13 - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5PM
- OCT 14 - SALVATION ARMY DINNER - 3PM
- OCT 12 - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 9AM
- OCT 15 - CIRCLE OF SPIRIT/UMW - 10AM
- OCT 22 - WORSHIP COMMISSION - 5:30PM
- OCT 22 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM
- NOV 6 - 6TH ANNUAL HARVEST FEST & CHILI COOK-OFF - 5:30PM

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAYS

- BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:30AM
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:15AM
- CHOIR WARM-UP - 9:30AM (1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS)
- 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

WEDNESDAYS

- CHOIR PRACTICE - 7PM

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5th Annual Harvest Fest and Chili Cook-off

It's that time again! Please mark your calendar for Friday, November 6TH! You won't want to miss our 5th Annual Harvest Fest and Chili Cook-off. The evening will begin at 5:30 when the doors open for chili tasting and voting. Also at that time you can browse the Silent and Dollar Auction items. We will be selling tickets for a wonderful raffle item and entertainment will be provided before dinner. Dinner serving will begin at 6PM and will include chili, baked potato with all the toppings, a green salad and warm apple crisp with ice cream to top it off.

After dinner is served the Dollar Auction will begin. It's lots of fast paced fun for everyone. We will also be drawing for the raffle item, awarding the high bids on the silent auction and announcing the chili cook-off winners. We promise you a great evening!

We Need Your Help! Here are some ways you can get involved: Enter a pot of chili. Entry forms are available at the church and must be turned in by Sunday, Nov. 1st. Your pot of chili must be at the church between 3PM and 5PM on Friday, Nov. 6th.

Donate items for the auctions. Some suggestions might be homemade items, baskets of special things, needlework, or something you have purchased to donate or very gently used items. We appreciate nice quality items. The Dollar Auction will be limited to 20 items and the remaining items will be in the Silent Auction. Auction items must be at the church by Sunday, Nov. 1st. If you plan to bring something baked please tell Sally or Barbara.

Lend us a hand. We need help with set up and take down, clean up, dinner servers and helpers, ticket sales and of course your presence at the Harvest Fest/Chili Cook-off!

If you have questions or would like to offer your help, please contact:

Sue Stutzman
Susie Paulson
Gayla Ballantyne

Barbara Maple
Sally Davies
Mary McNish

What Can I Do?

This past Sunday you and I were asked to extend a personal effort into a program intended to provide access for people seeking to explore their spiritual side. In other words, "invite someone to church" – someone who you know that may fall into the "spiritual but not religious" category. The measure of success will be if more people get truly involved. We all know at least one other person who in spite of their knowledge of science and history plus all those life experiences still leaves a void of understanding of life and a spirituality yet to be explored. You may even hear someone say they are spiritual but not religious.

The program is designed to reach out to the many in the LC Valley who are forever turned off by the words church, religion, or anything that sounds like it. So what can you do?

First, DON'T invite them to join you at CHURCH! Instead, tell them your most interesting HOBBY is you are part of a SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION GROUP. The group practices a rule – WE THINK... AND LET THINK. The group leader (code word for Pastor Chuck) always seems to have fresh, mind-expanding ideas at each get together. The group attendees each get to digest, talk and ask questions about the subject. All enjoy listening to at least most of what others, who are also exploring, have to say. Everybody gets to be right- so there's no judgment of one position over another or right and wrong answers. It's fun!

SO, what you can do is work at identifying one or two people you know that might not be offended by you telling them what your favorite hobby is. Then, commit to telling them about your "WE THINK AND LET THINK" Club this month (before Halloween!). Chuck will count shiny new faces on Sunday and Monday mornings (Preacher's Pub) plus Thursday evenings (book study) and ... well, we know there's always room for expansion and a further, we will be meeting the needs of others who did not know such a place as ours existed. You can't be "spiritual but not religious" without a spiritual journey, and we offer a very unique space to begin that spiritual journey. We should be proud of what we have and shout it from the rooftops... even if we have to shout it in code at first to get people interested!

With God's Grace,
Ed and Marylene Statham

Church Financial Update - September 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>Paid</u>

End Month:	
Unpaid Bills:	\$ <u>665.55</u>
Check Book Balance:	\$ <u>854.50</u>
Investment Balance	\$ <u>10,000</u>
Memorial Balance	\$ <u>6,000</u>

Unpaid Apportionments: Common
Ministries: July, Aug, Sept \$ 8,000

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.

Pastor's Path - (continued)

spent away from home didn't seem to be worth it in the end. I considered self-employment and stock photography, but the internet and digital images began to change that market significantly. As marketing manager for an electronics firm in Dallas I worked in the studio with photographers and shared in some of the photo work, but again over time, the demands of the job seemed to outweigh the rewards. Even though I held a BFA in photography, I remember thinking one day that perhaps I needed to learn how to let go of the idea that photography needed to be the driving force of my chosen vocation. Perhaps I could choose something else; something that seemed completely non-related.

I entered seminary in 1996-letting go of the idea I needed to "work" in the photographic industry or related fields. It wasn't long before I began to realize that through letting go, I had secured the future of photography in my life. I now incorporate visuals and photography in many ways as part of my ministry; something I could not see in the beginning. It is possible, in fact likely, that my photography has found a greater voice in ministry than at any other time in my vocational past.

This was also the time when digital photography was beginning to really come into its own, and I was still shooting film. The early digital cameras were slow and awkward and I wasn't all that computer savvy so the whole idea scared me a little bit. I was as afraid to let go of film and make the switch to digital; there were too many questions, too many new things and far too much to learn. I saw in myself that I was as reluctant to let go of film as I was to let go of photography as a vocation in the first place. Today, I shoot 100% digital and have never been happier with the equipment and the results.

Last Sunday I distributed a document that begins to outline a plan forward for the revitalization of Lewiston First United Methodist. Next Sunday we will be looking at all the ways it is possible for us to "let go" of things and make our lives better in the process.

As we analyze and reflect on our conversations and our efforts as a group we may find that to create our futures, we may need to "let go" of a few things we have always thought we needed. After we let go, it is possible those same things may re-surface in new ways as we move forward in ministry with one another, and to the Valley at large. It takes courage to let go. I know - I've been there. But I have also seen the results.

Creating a sustainable future is going to move us into the great expanse of the unknown and learning to let go will become an important part of that process. I hope we have the courage to secure our future; we certainly have a good start; to quote Jonathan Livingston Seagull; "Break the chains of your thought, and you break the chains of your body, too..." Because our sustainable future involves flying higher and farther and faster, we must break the chains of thought and let go.

Come fly with me.

Peace, Chuck

2015 LEWISTON FIRST UMC COOKBOOK ALL CHURCH COOKBOOK COMING

A Cookbook Committee has formed with the goal of publishing a cookbook made up of recipes from Lewiston First UMC members and friends.

Please share your best and most favorite recipes for inclusion in this cookbook. You may enter as many recipes as you would like. Please be sure to check them over for accuracy. We are also planning to include old recipes from some of the great Methodist cooks from the past or recipes that have been passed down from your own mother, grandmother etc. We also invite you to include with your recipe any helpful hints or interesting information about your recipe.

Get them to us by email or a handwritten copy is also fine. The deadline for receiving recipes is November 1st but we would like them as soon as possible.

We hope to have the cookbook completed and ready for sale early in December. Our email addresses are below for your convenience in emailing recipes to one of us, or you can give them to us at church or leave them in the church office for us. Thank you very much.

Mary McNish mcnishsm@aol.com

Sally Davies daviesds@cableone.net

Sue Driskill sjdriskill@gmail.com

Gayla Ballantyne larrygayla@cableone.net

Dogs for the Deaf

Please remember to bring your aluminum cans to the church and put in the lower parking lot container. Every can brings in money to provide a dog to help someone who cannot hear; a doorbell, an approaching car, a stove timer, water running, etc.

Everything that most of us take for granted!

FOUND MONEY

Pick up any money that you find anywhere and put in the jar in the narthex. This year the money goes to Meals on Wheels! There are people in our church who deliver to MOW and they can tell you what a rewarding service this is to people who cannot get out to the store, or cook anymore, or are disabled.

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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!

October Birthdays

01 - Kent Bostrom
02 - Rhonda Edens
03 - Alan Helm
11 - Boyd Harrison

11 - Billie Wensman
17 - Joe Ingram
18 - Billy Wilson

25 - Larry Dean
28 - Linda Ellis
31 - Lois Chesnut

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU FROM LFUMC!

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

A Coordinator from Lewiston First UMC for the Family Promise program is needed. If you would like more information please talk to Sue Driskill 208-669-0597 or Gayla Ballantyne 208-798-4871.
Outreach Committee

Family Promise Dinner & Dessert

AUCTION will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at 6PM in the Red Lion Seaport Room. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased from Liz Chavez or Sue Driskill.

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.

October Service Schedule

Greeters:

04 - Fred & Donna Weaver
11 - Leonard & Barbara O'Brien
18 - Irene Roth & Wilma Greene
25 - Mary Jacobs & Frankie Anderson

Liturgists:

04 - Bob Morton
11 - Donna Weaver
18 - Patty Mills
25 - Colleen Mahoney

Accompanists:

04 - Lauren Trail
11 -
18 - Lauren Trail
25 -

Ushers:

04 - Herb Hobbs & Bill Dugger
11 - Donna Weaver & Bob Morton
18 - Stan & Mary McNish
25 - David Walker & Jim Bostrom

Counters:

04 -
11 -
18 -
25 -

Coffee Shop:

04 - Potluck
11 -
15 - Colleen Mahoney & Barb Maple
25 -