



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

## Pastor's Path - Perspective is Everything

By: Rev. Chuck Cram

There is a must-see feature in Yellowstone National Park called the Grand Prismatic geothermal pool. On our most recent vacation trip, Heidi and I had the opportunity to visit this geologic wonder-I must say, it is magnificent. But only from a certain perspective.

Here's the deal. If you stop along the highway at the entrance to the Grand Prismatic and follow the boardwalk out to the pool, it is a rewarding experience. You get a sense of the size of the pool, and you can get a glimpse of the color every so often as the steam is whisked away by a slight breeze. You can observe the pool in sections only because



*This is the perspective of the Grand Prismatic from the trail; you get a sense of size and color, but it lacks the power of the whole.*

you are so close to the pool itself. The Grand Prismatic has a deep aqua-blue center and as the water gets shallow toward the edges of the pool, the color of the water turns to a more turquoise and then the entire pool has a ring of bacteria growth that is a rust color and the combination is serious beauty. But it is difficult to see the entire pool. You have to have the right perspective; and the correct perspective is not available from the boardwalk where about 98% of the visitors attempt to see the pool. It can't be done. In other words, if you want to truly see the Grand Prismatic geothermal pool, you have to hike and climb and scramble around on the mountainside a little bit – but the climb is worth it!

I mention this because United Methodist Communications is in the midst of a marketing campaign called "ReThink Church" which mirrors much of what we are trying to accomplish with our own campaign. RETHINK CHURCH helps local churches reach "seekers," the 42% of adults who aren't currently active or committed to church, but searching to give their lives deeper meaning. These people want to be a part of making the world a better place for all people. RETHINK CHURCH helps them see our church as a relevant place for that to happen.



**97%**  
WANT THEIR  
LIFE TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE



**71%**  
ARE SEARCHING  
FOR MEANING  
& PURPOSE



**66%**  
HAVE A  
PASSION FOR  
SOCIAL JUSTICE

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The Messenger  
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### SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

- SEPT 1 - SPRC MEETING - 6:30PM
- SEPT 3 - EXECUTIVE UMW - 10AM
- SEPT 8 - COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5PM
- SEPT 9 - SUSANNA CIRCLES - 10AM
- SEPT 9 - SALVATION ARMY DINNER - 3PM
- SEPT 10 - TRUSTEE'S MEETING - 6PM
- SEPT 12 - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 9AM
- SEPT 12 - EMMAUS COMMUNITY SPONSORED ULTREYA POTLUCK - 5:30PM
- SEPT 17 - CIRCLE OF SPIRIT - 10AM
- SEPT 24 - WORSHIP COMMISSION - 5:30PM
- SEPT 24 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - 7PM

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

#### SUNDAYS

- BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL 8:30AM
- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:15AM
- 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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# The LFUMC Messenger

## Lewiston First Choir Needs You

Do you like to sing? Do you like to make a joyful noise? We'd love to have you in our choir! We don't hold auditions, Your willingness to sing is the only requirement. We need those who are willing to come and learn some anthems and help praise God in song on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to be part of a wonderful group and have lots of fun, come on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. We practice in the sanctuary. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 2nd at 7pm. See you there.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pumpkin Patch

Help us spread the word...



Follow us on Facebook - Lewiston First UMC  
Sign up and share our event!



Go to the website ([www.LewistonFirstUMC.org](http://www.LewistonFirstUMC.org)) and find:

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Class & Activities Listings  
(e.g., Story Time, Centerpiece class, Gourd Painting class and more!)



Check out the south wall of the Fellowship Hall for more information.



We need your help unloading the Pumpkin Truck invite your friends and family to help!

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Lunch at 11:30am and unloading to follow.

## Church Financial Update - July 2015

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

End Month:

Unpaid Bills:	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Check Book Balance:	\$ <u>2817.58</u>
Investment Balance	\$ <u>10,000</u>
Memorial Balance	\$ <u>6,257.36</u>

Bill payment has been delayed due to low funds and Rhonda being on vacation

## 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	\$ <u>2,540</u>
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Note: This is a simplified budget that does not include any unusual expenses or repair bills.

## ANNOUNCING FALL BOOK STUDY

The Book:

Christianity After Religion  
Diana Butler Bass offers a fresh interpretation of the "spiritual but not religious" trend and shares a hope-filled vision for a renewed faith that stays true to the real message of Jesus

The Schedule:

Thursday's at 7pm  
at the Parsonage  
September 17 - November 12



**CHANGE  
THE WORLD**

Put your beliefs into action and get involved.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

**RETHINKCHURCH®**

The challenge for us is to “rethink church” from a new perspective. Those of us who have been attached to the church and involved in the church for several decades have trouble viewing the church from a new perspective. For example, the other day I asked a question of a group gathering in what ways might we be hindering the comfort level of visitors without even realizing it. I offered as an example the passing of the collection plate. Everyone is used to this idea that has attended church on a regular basis, but for a first time visitor, it could be intimidating or even embarrassing.

After my one example, no one could come up with any other ideas on ways we may be unintentionally not very welcoming. This told me how difficult it is to leave the comfort of our current perspective and hike, scramble, climb and work to leave that perspective behind and gain the benefit

of a new perspective—just like the Grand Prismatic. But this must be done.

Research indicates our target group of people we hope to attract to our worship service on Sunday mornings is very suspicious of institutions, tradition and structure. They are much more likely to join a

cause than an organization, have a passion for social justice, they use technology and are media savvy and they have far fewer hours available for volunteer work than people did two or three generations ago. They listen to contemporary music, communicate via text and e-mail almost exclusively, have a broad world perspective and tend to have a higher than average education level. These are things we should keep in mind as we plan on ways to become more welcoming to our visitors. But in order to truly “see” what needs to be done or what needs to change, it requires us to climb out of our comfort zone and look at the church from a new perspective.

When Heidi and I sought to find a new perspective to view the Grand Prismatic, it wasn't easy. The trail was steep; there were loose rocks and dead trees to climb over; there were even signs warning us to stay on the trail. Had we not been motivated by a powerful desire to truly “see” the Grand Prismatic, it would have been very easy to just remain in the safety of our comfort zone.

In the months to come there will be things which may challenge your sense of comfort, there may be things with which you disagree, there may even be things which cause you to question if we are going in the right direction. When you experience these feelings, I ask for you to mentally climb out of your comfort zone and try to “ReThink Church” from a new perspective. When you do and when you can begin to “see” for the very first time, the climb will have been worth it.

Go in peace, Chuck



*The Grand Prismatic from a new perspective that is a little “off the beaten path” and perhaps harder to reach than staying on the boardwalk; notice all the visitors on the walk.*

## TEAM PORTLAND SUMMER 2015 *FIND A WAY*

Hello!

Thank you so much for your kindness and hospitality. Team Portland could not have biked across the country without generous hosts like your church. We truly appreciate it and we are so grateful you allowed us to continue on mission in Idaho

Thanks,  
Team PDX

1906 Broadview Drive  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501

Phone: (208) 743-2971  
Pastor Chuck Cram,  
Text or Talk: (509) 780-1636  
E-mail: [chuckcram@gmx.com](mailto:chuckcram@gmx.com)  
[lewistonfirstumc.org](http://lewistonfirstumc.org)



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!

### September Birthdays

05 - Marguerite Sitton  
05 - Mary Jacobs  
12 - Dennis Riendeau

12 - Patty Mills  
16 - Sharon Ripley  
18 - Ralph Mathewson

20 - Alianna Cash  
20 - Doris Ann Winschell  
24 - Monte Boardman

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU FROM LFUMC!**

Dear Chuck & Church Members,

Thank you for helping get Kyle to church camp, he had a lot of fun. He met a lot of new people and is staying in touch through technology, of course. Kyle is truly a water kid and he's been in a better mood since he got his week at camp. We appreciate all you and Birdie did to get Kyle to camp. Thank you - more than you know.



Love,  
Billie & Kyle



## 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.

### September Service Schedule

#### Greeters:

06 - Rita Mills & Pat Heimgartner  
13 - Leonard & Barbara O'Brien  
20 - Mark Jacobs & Frankie Anderson  
27 - Colleen Mahoney & Barb Maple

#### Liturgists:

06 - Doug Crook  
13 - Susie Paulson  
20 - Kathy Bostrom  
27 - Robbin Stewart

#### Accompanists:

06 - Lauren Trail  
13 - Lauren Trail  
20 -  
27 -

#### Ushers:

06 - Bill & Pat Schrupp  
13 - The Chesnut Family  
20 - Larry Ballantyne & Billy Wilson  
27 - Carl Palson & Larry Dean

#### Counters:

06 - Barbara O'Brien & Patty Mills  
13 - Stan McNish & Carl Paulson  
20 - Larry Ballantyne & Lois Woelfel  
27 - Donna Weaver & Monte Boardman

#### Coffee Shop:

06 -  
13 - Potluck  
20 -  
27 -