

# M The Lewiston First UMC essenger

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

## Pastor's Path "What Do I Tell My Friends" By: Rev. Chuck Cram

I'm about to begin my fourth year of ministry here at Lewiston First UMC. It still seems like we are just beginning in some ways, and in other areas I feel like great progress has been made. In all that time, however, I have not addressed a topic which has now become even more prominent within the United Methodist Church. That topic is the church's position on homosexuality.

In an article the length that a newsletter demands, I cannot offer a truly comprehensive discussion of the topic. I can, even if brief, give you some observations that I think may be helpful if you find yourself in a discussion, perhaps with friends about the topic.

The first things you should know is the UMC is currently deeply and bitterly divided on this subject. The Book of Discipline states that "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching"; those of us on the progressive end of the spectrum strongly disagree with that statement. There has been an effort to remove this language from the discipline for decades; to date the effort has been unsuccessful. Attempts have been made to compromise the position to one which simply states that Christians disagree on the subject, but those also have failed to date.

As a result of this language clergy and lay alike have been ostracized and prohibited from full inclusion in our church because of their sexual orientation. In response to this oppression,

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## June 2017

### Weekly Events

#### Sundays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:30am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Shop - 11:30am

#### Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

### Regular Monthly Meetings

SPRC: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday - 6:30pm -  
Liz Chavez

Worship Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday -  
4:00pm -

Salvation Army Dinner: 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday - 3:00pm

\*Trustees: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday - 6:00pm -  
Monte Boardman

\*UMW - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - 10:00am -  
Mary McNish & Kathy Bostrom

Men's Breakfast: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday -  
9:00am - Main Street Grill

Church Council: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday -  
7:00pm - Cottie Hood

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the Pacific Northwest Conference last year passed a "resolution of non-compliance" with regard to the language and rules in the Discipline on issues of sexual orientation. Recently, the Western Jurisdiction elected the first openly gay Bishop, Karen Oliveto, who is now serving in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Of course there are challenges underway to declare her election as a violation of church law, etc.

With regard to the issue itself, there are a couple of observations I think are important for us to recognize. First of all, homosexuality is not a choice. Approximately 11% of the population has an orientation other than the majority of heterosexuals and this percentage runs across race, geography, culture and gender. It is also consistent in many other mammal species other than human beings, most notably, primates. This is science and not lifestyle choices.

Also I think it is important for us to understand the question currently facing the United Methodist Church is not one of lifestyle, science or homosexuality; the question is really Biblical interpretation. Those who oppose a more progressive position on this particular topic only cite scripture as an argument. There are no other arguments. There are not any studies that indicate homosexual behavior leads to or causes any kind of other deviant behaviors; quite the opposite is true. The vast majority of sexual abuse crimes are committed by heterosexual oriented men and women.

With regard to Biblical interpretation, the scriptures most often quoted are found in the Old Testament, predominantly in Leviticus. Other prohibitions found right along with these scriptures have not been followed at all; some have been ignored for centuries. What to eat, what to wear, what to plant in a field, how to wash, how to observe the Sabbath and a host of other laws of the ancient Judaic code have all been ignored with the exception of homosexuality. The passages about homosexuality should not carry any more significance than those which state we cannot eat certain types of meat or wear two types of cloth.

In the New Testament, only Paul comments on the topic. Jesus is silent on the subject. The references to certain behavior in the Pauline letters is actually about the abuse of young boys in the Roman temples by older, male adults. The Greek word used in these descriptions is "pedernasty" with which our English word pedophile shares a common root.

Scripturally, none of the passages actually reference a committed, loving relationship between two members of the same gender. The cultural influences of the times when scripture was written would prohibit such an understanding; and we need to understand that as well.

One last point on interpretation of scripture. In an obscure chapter in Deuteronomy (21) beginning with verse 18, we can find these instructions:

<sup>18</sup>If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father and mother, who does not heed them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup>then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his town at the gate of that place. <sup>20</sup>They shall say to the elders of his town, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard." <sup>21</sup>Then all the men of the town shall stone him to death. So you shall purge the evil from your midst; and all Israel will hear, and be afraid.

Why this set of instructions does not carry the same weight or importance as those in Leviticus which address human sexuality no one has been able to adequately answer in my opinion.

There is much more information available on this topic and if you are interested I have several books which anyone may borrow. My hope with this article is to offer some reasonable responses and perspectives that often get overshadowed by the emotion, passion and virulence that creeps into these discussions. At the very least it is food for thought.

Peace,  
Chuck

## Tuesday Bible Study

The bible study group that meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 is currently reading through the Old Testament, on the way to the New. One of us reads every word aloud as the rest follow in their Bibles. We alternate between disbelief at how barbaric and warlike the human leaders are, to how thunderous and angry our God is—at least on these pages. And sometimes we laugh at what passes for pious or religious thinking. We are about done with Isaiah, moving toward Jeremiah. Our room is next to the kitchen (important for our coffee and cookie imbibing) and we welcome new participants. Come study with us and be the only kid on your block to have read Jeremiah and Ezekiel in their entirety.

Together with their families

Deborah Jo  
Snyder &  
Robbin  
Nicholas  
Stewart

invite you to join in their reception  
of their love and marriage

Sunday, June 25, 2017  
11:30 am after 10:30 am services

Lewiston First United Methodist Church  
1906 Broadview Drive  
Lewiston, Idaho



no gifts please



REMINDER:  
THE YWCA  
IS STILL COLLECTING  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
TO HELP FAMILIES IN  
NEED. YOU CAN BRING  
THE BOOKS HERE  
TO THE CHURCH  
AND WE CAN SAVE  
YOU A TRIP!

## SUMMER FOOD BANK DONATIONS

As summer break is just around the corner, the needs  
of the food bank are changing, with kids out of school  
there is a need of easy to cook food, such as:

Cereal

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Mac & Cheese

Bread

Deli Meat & Cheese

Applesauce

Fresh Produce

If you wish to donate things that are not shelf stable,  
please take items down to the food bank located at  
124 New 6th St, in Downtown Lewiston.





Coming July 17, 2017

If you remember last year, we hosted a cross-country bicycle group that stopped in Lewiston that were riding to raise funds for cancer research, this year we will hosting another, similar, group of students based out of the University of Illinois.

The Illini 4000 is a registered student organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Every summer, for the past 10 years, the Illini sends a group of students on a cross-country bike ride to raise awareness of cancer and to raise funds for cancer research and patient support services.

In 2016, they donated \$70,000 to the American Cancer Society, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, B+ Foundation, and Camp Kesame Illinois (an organization that provides a free summer camp for children whose parent have been affected by cancer).

The Portraits Project is a collection of narratives, also know as Portraits, that illustrate how cancer affects people across America. While riding across the country, the Illini 4000 Bike America Team interviews cancer patients, survivors and caretakers from all walks of life. We believe that everyone has a story to tell, from the truck driver in New York City to the farmer in Wyoming.

The purpose of this project is to illustrate cancer's influence on American life, and how individuals respond to cancer according to their religious beliefs, location and socioeconomic status. Portraits are compiled in various media forms including video, photography, written word, and slide-show. Since 2007, Illini 4000 riders have recorded over a hundred stories, which are currently being processed and uploaded onto [portraitsproject.org](http://portraitsproject.org).

### Stayover Information

Arrival: July, 17, 2017 at approximately 3pm

Departure: July 18, 2017 at approximately 7:30pm

27 student riders, 15 male & 12 female.

We will be hosting a dinner for them and they will spend the night here at the church.

### Portraits Project Presentation

As part of their mission to raise awareness of cancer, the 2017 Illini 4000 Bike America Team would like to offer our community an informational presentation about the Illini 4000 and share the unique narratives from the Portrait Project. The would also like to interview and learn about the cancer connection in our community, for the Portrait Project.

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>				June			
				03 - Eva Bringman	13 - Wanda Thompson	20 - Evelyn Jordan	24 - Arrie Vogel
				05 - Mary Jo Furseteneau	17 - Barbara O'Brien	22 - Pat Schrupp	30 - Nancy Follett
				11 - Marian Combellick	20 - Brett Mills	23 - Laurie Herndon	
				July			
				02 - Robbin Stewart	06 - Sally Davies	21 - Sheila Hewett	28 - Kathy Forge
				04 - Bob Sitton	13 - Jim Stutzman	21 - Meuriel Nystrom	
				05 - Bob Morton	18 - John Stalter	23 - Bill Dugger	
				August			
				03 - Leonard Ellis	11 - Chuck Cram	21 - Kay Walker	27 - Susie Paulson
				05 - Becky Riendeau	14 - Linda Dodel	24 - Gayla Ballantyne	31 - Jim Walker
				05 - Wilma Green	14 - Kiera Chesnut	25 - Eva Mathewson	
				08 - Taylor Forge	18 - Laryn Stoddard	25 - Leonard O'Brien	

# Revitalization Committee

Meeting Notes from May 18, 2017

Attending: Sally Davies, Bob Morton, Gayla B., Larry B., Monte B., Cottie and Jim Hood, Chuck and Heidi Cram

Call Meeting to order. Opening prayer by Chuck

Read and approve last month's minutes.

Job Assignments for June.

- Larry B. to investigate materials for a new matching service cart for FH food service area.
- Sally and Gayla will find some service counter backsplash tile samples.
- Carl will bring in coffee cup samples.
- Jim Hood will contact a door shop for a bid on replacement of the west door behind the organ.
- Jim Hood contact Mikes Heating to add the south spigot replacement to our plumbing bill.
- Monte and Arrie and Chuck will submit sketches of the cabinetry needed in the secretary's office.
- Monte will get a new bid on the parking lot lights from Cooks to include the north side lights.
- Sally will go microwave shopping for a small oven for the FH food service area.

## Old Business

- The group voted on the FH chair samples and the non-upholstered plastic chair will purchased. 120 chairs will cost \$2998.80. \$24.99 ea. Motion to purchase made by Larry and seconded by Monte. Motion passed.
- Gayla brought pictures of a bistro table sample. The group approved of the purchase of two tables and four chairs from Model Home Furnishings at a cost of \$560.
- Motion to purchase by Larry and seconded by Monte. Motion passed.
- Table cloth research by Sally and Gayla took them to Cross Point church. They found these folks using a very nice linen that is easily washable and surprisingly inexpensive. Round clothes were \$3.57 and the rectangle ones were \$6.88.
- Colors between the two shapes are not the same.
- Chuck showed three samples for north FH wall mural that had a scripture and a mountainous background that blends with the view out the north windows. Alteration ideas were noted and revised samples will be presented. All agreed on the themes and initial offering.
- Old table and chair sales.....Tables are being snapped up by congregation members for \$10 each. Chairs will be sold hopefully by online sales when the new ones arrive.

## New Business

- Back splash for the audio cabinet will be the typical 4" with formica finish.
- Formica for the food service area is ordered and will arrive about the 25th of May.
- Placement for the small cross and flame was discussed. It may end up on the FH south wall.
- FH service area shelving over the sink area was discussed. A sketch by Sally showed three shelves of different heights. Details on the shelving will be forth coming. A place for the microwave will be included.
- Parking lot lights bid needs to include the north side as well. Group was pleased with the cost and Avista rebate. ROI (return on investment) is expected to be three years.
- The Wesley room audio update was completed with left over audio donation monies from the Sanctuary. A new monitor and DVD player were purchased and installed.
- Revitalization monies installed room darkening shades.
- Fellowship Hall sound system is complete by reusing items no longer used in the sanctuary. One new mixer was needed to replace an outdated one.
- Sally organized the Welcome Area cabinet with baskets.

The next meeting is June 22 at 3pm.

Minutes by Monte B.

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2017

**In Attendance:** Deb Snyder, Liz Chavez, Chuck Cram, Monte Boardman, Kathy Bostrom, Cottie Hood, Carl Paulson, Susie Paulson

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Cottie.

**Finance Committee:** Treasurer Report was distributed and discussed. Because clarification is needed, the report was received with questions about the following accounts/Categories:

- Sunday School income & Expenses are vague.
- Montessori School YTD figures (\$1,000) not matching the \$625/month rent.
- Reimbursable expenses of \$681.88 when Chuck hasn't turned anything in.
- Office Equipment Maintenance YTD Balance: 42% gone in 3 mos.
- Internet Service annual budget of only \$100 but \$181.82 already spent.
- Nothing in Apportionments

**Revitalization Committee:** report by Chuck: 22 tables are here. Chairs are still being decided with more samples coming. Designcraft has delivered the cabinets and set them. Formica counter tops will be selected soon. The old tables and chairs will be sold and maybe put on Craig's List.

**SPR:** Liz reported that two people who are contemplating a call to be part of that committee will attend the next meeting.

**Trustees:** Monte reported that Trustees approved spending up to \$1,500 to remodel the parsonage upstairs bathroom to get rid of the mold; they discussed buying a defibrillator and having a CPR training (maybe done by Travis Mikelbust of Clarkston Fire Department) for the congregation and perhaps opening it to the public; they discussed reviewing the rental policy for Fellowship Hall now that renovations have been done. Council was reminded that location signage for the First Aid Kit needs to be done and the Kit needs to be checked regularly to be sure its contents are up to date.

**UMW:** Kathy said that Community Action made a presentation at the last meeting with 13 people in attendance.

**Worship:** Palm Sunday service was well received. 110 people attended Easter worship. Inland District Rocks and Ripples training on April 29 is focusing on worship.

**Pastor's Report:** SPR and Trustees have endorsed keeping the same rental fees for the next 2 years for Montessori School in exchange for free tuition for Arrie's 2 girls as a non-monetary employee benefit. Motion made by Deb and seconded by Kathy to approve this Addendum to the Montessori agreement to take effect now. Motion Passed. The Welcome Center training will be on May 13th from 9:00 to noon. Chuck will be gone for Annual Conference which is in mid-June. He will be at a family reunion the 1st week of July and in Denver the last week of July and the first week of August. His Clarkston house sold.

**New Business:** New opportunities are in the planning for "Living Our Faith" groups. Cottie challenged us to lead by example and asked that each Council member pick one of the 6 new interest groups to explore and to invite another person too.

Chuck closed with prayer

Notes by Monte

**Next Meeting : May 25th**

## Beyond Sunday Morning Worship: Living our faith Monday through Saturday

It's one thing to have our faith and beliefs, and quite another to put those into action as Jesus calls us to do. Some of us limit our participation in conversations or events because we don't feel "qualified" to speak out or take action. Some of us are eager to learn ways to make our participation more effective. Some of us just want to feel less distressed and more hopeful about the world around us. We wonder "What does it really mean to be a follower of Jesus, especially in today's world?"; "How can I be part of the Light to a world that seems always angry and hateful?" or "Being a Christian is not as easy as it used to be!"

Planning is underway to form small groups to provide opportunities to support our growth as disciples in today's world. If you're interested in joining a small group to explore a topic listed below, we'd like to hear from you; please phone or email Arrie in the office (743-2971; office@lewistonfirstumc.org) by mid September. Talk to Cottie Hood about more details. A first meeting date and time will be communicated later. Final meeting details will be set by the group members.

- Being a More Active Peacemaker
- Exploring Faith in Action: outreach to our community
- Participating in Small Groups: when we talk and when we listen: our impact on a group
- Finding Common Ground: ways we as the church can lead a return to civility in society
- Speaking Out: participating in conversations that transform
- Current Hot Topic Discussions: alleviating hunger, fair housing, caring for creation, restorative justice, immigration, climate change

If there is another topic you would be interested in other than what is listed, please let us know.

## June Service Schedule

### **Greeters:**

04 - Barbara & Leonard O'Brien  
11 - Mary Jacobs & Wilma Greene  
18 - Lois Woelfel & Sally Davies  
25 - Jim & Kathy Bostrom

### **Ushers:**

04 - Herb Hobbs & Charlie Baker  
11 - Jim Bostrom & Bob Sitton  
18 - Donna Weaver & Larry Dean  
25 - Lois Chesnut & Kay Walker

### **Liturgists:**

04 - Doug Crook  
11 - Liz Chavez  
18 - Patty Mills  
25 - Deb Snyder

### **Counters:**

04 - Carl Paulson & Barbara O'Brien  
11 -  
18 -  
25 -

### **Accompanists:**

04 - Laureen Trail  
11 - Anna Geidl  
18 - Laureen Trail  
25 - Hymnal Plus

### **Coffee Shop:**

04 - Potluck Sunday  
11 - The Boardman's  
18 - Herb Hobbs & Jim Bostrom  
25 - Robbin Stewart & Deb Snyder

## Summer Lawn Mowing Schedule

### June

05 - Carl Paulson & Robbin Stewart  
11 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne  
18 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp  
25 - Jim Hood & David Silva

### July

03 - Carl Paulson & Robbin Stewart  
10 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne  
17 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp  
24 - Jim Hood & David Silva  
31 - Carl Paulson & Robbin Stewart

### August

07 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne  
14 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp  
21 - Jim Hood & David Silva  
28 - Carl Paulson & Robbin Stewart



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

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

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

Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 12:00pm

Office  
1906 Broadview Drive  
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(208) 743-2971  
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