

M The Lewiston First UMC essenger

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

Pastor's Path

"Welcoming Training"
By: Rev. Chuck Cram

On Saturday, May 13, we will be having a welcoming training session here at the church. Being a welcoming church may seem like common sense, but there are a number of specific things we can do to increase the level of comfort for a first-time visitor. When you visit a church for the first time, there is normally a lot of anxiety that comes along for the ride. This is particularly true if you haven't been to a church in a long time. (Like maybe since you were a kid)

Research has shown that churches who strive to be welcoming and focus on the concept of relieving some of that anxiety have a better chance of having visitors return for a second, third and fourth visit. It takes some time before someone becomes very comfortable. Those churches who ignore the welcoming aspects tend to be shrinking rather than growing, have trouble attracting visitors and almost certainly have trouble having visitors return.

We have already taken many steps to increase the comfort level of our visitors. Much of the remodeling that has taken place has been designed to accomplish this. Having a space that "feels" comfortable is a key ingredient in relieving the new visitor anxiety. But the space is only the beginning. Once they come through the door, the things that happen next are critically important. That is why we need training.

If you have ever been an usher, a greeter, a counter, hosted coffee fellowship, a liturgist or are simply interested in this training,

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April 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: 1st Tuesday - 6:30pm -
Liz Chavez

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

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

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we invite you to attend. The training will begin Saturday morning, May 13, at 9AM. We will meet as a large group for about 15 minutes to distribute materials and become familiar with the agenda, goals and concepts. Then we will break into 3 smaller groups to help facilitate better communication, answer questions and allow people to have more personal attention.

After we break into small groups there will be three training "stations" where you will receive some specific instruction as it relates to that station. The first station will be in the Narthex (lobby) of the sanctuary. This is where the new Welcome Center has been constructed and the new "giving kiosk" will be installed. You will learn the benefits of a welcome center, what information is good to receive and give to visitors and you will learn how the "giving kiosk" works and why it is important.

A second station will be in the new service area of Fellowship Hall where a sink, dishwasher, kitchen cabinets and counters are soon to be installed. Here you will learn how to make coffee, where things are to be stored, and what the expectations are when you choose to host a coffee shop fellowship. You will learn about our transition away from paper and plastic to real coffee mugs and service ware and why that is important. You will also learn about the many ways to create an environment around the coffee time that is perhaps more relaxed and welcoming than what we have been doing in the past.

The last station will be located in Wesley Hall (across from the kitchen) and here you will learn more about the research behind certain welcoming concepts, who our target market is and how we have been trying to reach them. You will visit our web site and Facebook page and learn how these marketing efforts have already impacted our visitor traffic and how we can improve on those numbers. You will learn about how we can "boost" a Facebook posting and increase the number of people who view the post ten or twenty fold for just a few dollars.

Your instructors at these three stations will be Arrie Vogel at the Welcome Center, Susie Paulson at the coffee service area and Chuck Cram in Wesley Hall. If you have any questions about the training feel free to contact the church office or visit with any of the instructors who can answer your questions.

The training will begin at 9AM on Saturday, May 13th and we will be dismissed by noon. Plan to attend this important event in the life of our church!

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.

SPR Ministry

SPR stands for Staff Parish Relations—this is the Ministry Team that hires, works with, performs yearly performance reviews, advocates and communicates with our hired personnel. This Ministry Team meets on a monthly basis, or as needed to address issues/ on going supervision/ needs of those who are paid personnel so that a small concern doesn't become a larger issue. This Ministry Team also meets to liaison with personnel in support of the work they are performing and to strengthen the bond between personnel/ the congregation and the Pastor. As with the other Ministry Teams at Lewiston First we strive to be open and available to congregation concerns/questions with a quick, though thoughtful and correct, answer. Currently the members of the SPR Ministry Team are Liz Chavez-Chair, Rita Mills-Lay Leader, Cottie Hood-Church Council Chair, Bob Morton, and Pastor Chuck. If you have questions or would like to visit about anything that may be relevant to SPR please take some time to visit with one of the members of the SPR Ministry Team.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Chair Cottie Hood. Followed by sharing about individual Lenten Sacrifices.

In Attendance: Cottie Hood, Pastor Chuck Cram, Kathy Bostrom, Deb Snyder, Lois Chesnut, Carl Paulson.

Minutes from the previous meeting were unavailable.

Finance Committee: Treasurer Report from Sue Driskill is attached. Details regarding the following expenses will be available by the next Council Meeting: Pumpkin Patch \$420.44; Revitalization Project \$3,235; no payroll amount listed for Arrie.

Revitalization Committee: the second lot has been sold to Dr. Craig Ambrosen for \$38,000. Meant after fees of \$35,166 has been deposited in the Line of Credit account at P1FCU. A motion was made by Deb and seconded by Carl that we try an electronic-giving station for a year with the monthly cost of \$29 to be added to the budget. Motion passed.

SPR: No Report

Trustees: No Report

UMW: Kathy reported that the rummage sale is set for April 7 & 8. UMW will be providing the meal for the Lenten service at our church on March 5, as well as for those who are participating in the Bell Choir workshop at our church in late March.

Worship: No Report.

Pastor's Report: Chuck reported that he will be on vacation from March 7 - March 18. Steve Thomas from Family Promise will preach in his absence on March 12. Discussion was held about adding a mission statement to the list of our congregation's values which were identified at the Feb 12 meeting with D.S. Gregg Sealey: perhaps in a brochure or on a wall poster.

Membership: Lois reported these changes in membership: Olene Teel has died; new members as of Feb. 5 are Michelle Stedman, Deb Snyder, and Robbin Stewart.

Old Business: Training for a newly formed Welcome Committee will be held on April 1 from 9:00-11:45am. Questions & Answer groups re: Simple Governance & Church Revitalization program will be held on Mar. 22 from 2:00-3:30 and from 7:00-8:30; On Mar. 23 from 10:00-11:30; on Mar. 27 from 2:00-3:30 and on April 2 following the monthly potluck.

There was no new business.

Prayer concerns for Gary Chesnut who is still at St. Joseph Hospital. Pastor chuck closed the meeting with prayer.

Notes taken by Deb Snyder

Jan. 2017 Treasurers Report attached.

Happy Birthday!

May

02 - Megan Ralstin	07 - Pat Heimgartner	10 - Fred Willet
04 - Alyssa Ralstin	08 - Dorianda Gilliam	18 - Troy Stoddard
05 - Greg Gilliam	10 - Cottie Hood	30 - Heath Hewett

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	
06 - Juanita Langley	21 - Heidi Cram	28 - Barb Maple	

Revitalization Committee

Meeting Notes from March 22, 2017

In Attendance: Bob Morton, Carl Paulson, Chuck Cram, Pat Schrupp, Sally Davies, Jim Hood, Cottie Hood, Larry Ballantyne, Gayla Ballantyne.

Base Trim: The Committee agreed that the 5" MDF Colonial Style base trim will be painted the same colors as the walls, (teal & gray)

Chairs: Several styles were considered, including the one Sally brought from Home Depot. Important factors to consider for the 125 chairs needed are: weight; style; cost; store-ability slide-ability and food & beverage sustainability. Gayla will bring 2 chairs for folks to try out on Sunday. Motion made (Pat), seconded (Jim) and passed to purchase 6 chairs from Home Depot [like the one Sally brought]. Jim will pick them up from Home Depot and bring them on Sunday.

Tables: Motion was made (Pat), seconded (Larry) and passed to order six 5' round tables and fifteen 6' rectangular tables in light gray from Costco to be drop-shipped to LFUMC. Chuck will place the order.

Cabinets: Samples were looked at and bids discussed from 2 cabinet makers. Design Craft's bid was \$2,500 for cabinets + \$450 for delivery & installation + \$800 for laminate top. Funke's bid was \$3,903 (including delivery & installation) + \$1,078 for laminate top. It was moved (Sally), seconded (Bob) and passed that we purchase 2 lower wall cabinets, 1 sink-front cabinet and 2 cabinets for the island, all in hickory with melamine interior and ready for counter-tops to be installed from Design Craft to discuss the specifics. It was moved (Jim), seconded (Bob) and passed to purchase a hickory cabinet for the sound system in the Fellowship Hall from Design Craft for \$300. Chuck and Jim (& other volunteers?) will install the Formica tops on all the cabinets. It was moved (Larry), seconded (Pat) & passed to purchase a dishwasher for no more than \$600.

Welcome Center: The "Welcome Center/Come as you are" logo was selected via online voting. It was moved (Jim), seconded (Sally) and passed to spend \$300 for the installation.

Notes submitted by Cottie.

Revitalization Committee

Meeting Notes from April 13, 2017

In Attendance: Carl Paulson, Larry Ballantyne, Heidi Cram, Chuck Cram, Cottie Hood, Sally Davies, Gayla Ballantyne.

Minutes of the March meeting were read aloud by Chuck.

Thanks was expressed to Larry Ballantyne and Jim Hood for completing the baseboard in Fellowship Hall. The group agreed that crown molding isn't needed.

More sample chairs will be here at the next meeting. The group agreed to try using the blue chairs with arms rather than purchasing new ones.

The tables were delivered on April 10. Twenty-two rectangular table (rather than the fifteen originally intended as they were only available in a twenty-two pack) were purchased for \$1,649.99 including a moving cart. Four Round tables (rather than the six originally intended as they were only available in a four pack) were purchased for \$538.99. Total price, including tax was \$2,320.32. Discussion was held about how/where to sell the old tables. Chuck will check out potential best sites.

Carl said that installation of the cabinets is scheduled for mid-May.

The Welcome Center graphics have been installed. The electronic-giving kiosk is here and will be put into operation after the Welcome Center Training, which is scheduled for May 13.

Corralling clutter continues to be a challenge though the church. Discussion was held about storing the items needed by the ushers inside the rolling name-tag station. Use of power point for announcements was discussed.

Discussion was held on discontinuing use of disposable paper cups once the dishwasher is installed in the Fellowship Hall. Carl will check on using high grade plastic cups like the ones at Life Care. Inexpensive ceramic cups which could be imprinted with the LFUMC & our cross/flame logo are available from several sources. Information sheets with different sizes and colors of mugs was distributed & most favored sizes/designs were noted.

Information about or actual samples of tablecloths and runners, 2 Bistro tables and a Scriptural graphic design (to be placed on the wall between the north windows) will be discussed at the next meeting.

Notes taken by Cottie

Next meeting: May 18 at 3:00pm

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 May 8. 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

2017 Annual Rummage Sale

For all those wonderful folks who helped with the rummage sale by doing publicity, setting up, working the sales, baking cookies, bringing rummage, putting things back in order in the fellowship hall and supporting the sale - a huge thank you to all!!

Sally Davies
& United Methodist Women



Summer Lawn Mowing Schedule

May

01 - Jim Hood & David Silva
08 - Carl Paulson & Robbin Stewart
15 - Troy Stoddard & Larry Ballantyne
22 - Monte Boardman & Bill Schrupp
29 - Jim Hood & David Silva

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

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

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	

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

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