

M The Lewiston First UMC essenger

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

Pastor's Path "The Path of a Pumpkin" By: Rev. Chuck Cram

Who knew?

When we started the Pumpkin Patch four years ago there were many it seemed who were not quite certain of what we had gotten ourselves into. Some may still feel that way, but I think our confidence is growing.

It struck me the other day as we were organizing the clean-up efforts of just how many lives are impacted because of our Pumpkin Patch. Even if in just small ways, the Pumpkin Patch makes a difference in thousands of lives.

If you will travel with me for just a few moments and follow the path of one of our pumpkins I think you will begin to see what a fantastic outreach the Pumpkin Patch has begun.

It all begins in New Mexico on a Native American reservation. Unemployment is high and many people are looking for work or have to work multiple part-time jobs in order to get by. Sometime in the spring, I'm guessing maybe March, the call goes out for laborers to begin to prep the fields for planting of thousands of pumpkins. This work opportunity is a blessing for those involved.

The work continues through the growing season with care for the pumpkins, irrigation, and weed control and eventually harvest time is upon us. Now the work really begins as the trucks line up in lines that sometimes stretch for a mile or more waiting to be loaded with pumpkins. The trucks are headed for destinations that crisscross the entire United States. We get pumpkins here in

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November 2017

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:30am
- Choir - 9:00am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Shop - 11:30am

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Regular Monthly Meetings

SPRC: 2nd Tuesday - 3:30pm -
Liz Chavez

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

Salvation Army Dinner: 2nd
Wednesday - 3:00pm

Trustees: 2nd Thursday - 6:00pm -
Monte Boardman

Finance Committee: 3rd Wednesday
- 10:00am - Susan Driskill

UMW - 3rd Thursday - 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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the northwest, there are patches in the northeast, there are patches down south; the pumpkins literally travel to every corner of these United States.

While the pumpkins are enroute to their respective destinations a driver is employed, the truck is purchasing fuel and the driver has to eat. There is an economic impact of the pumpkin distribution that may not be obvious to the casual observer. But it does exist.

When our pumpkins arrive it is a grand day! The community turns out as well as a few hearty volunteers from our own church. Most notably the athletic teams of LCSC show up to help with the unloading. It is a different mix each year, but women's basketball and tennis teams, baseball and golf and everything in-between have shown up over the years. This adds to our church's exposure in the community, it adds to the college experience of the athletes and it enriches the lives of everyone involved.

Then we begin to sell pumpkins. The experience for the young family visiting the Pumpkin Patch is something that needs to be witnessed to be believed. There is something intangible about a lawn full of pumpkins that allows kids to experience pure joy. You can see it in their faces, you can hear it in the screams of delight as they race from one end of the patch to the other; there is a palpable energy of enthusiasm that permeates the area when kids are present. You can't begin to put a monetary value on this kind of experience. But I do know this; the parents of those children are exposed to a facet of our church that they did not know even existed. And a door that once was shut tight may be cracked open slightly because they visited the Pumpkin Patch. The assumptions about church might be reevaluated because of the Pumpkin Patch experience; they might even come back!

Once the money is collected and counted a good sized percentage of our sales goes back to the Pumpkin Patch organization for all that they do. What we keep (this year 33%) we pass on to UMCOR which benefits and impacts even more people. At this point the impact of the Pumpkin Patch isn't limited to just the United States, because the funds travel around the world and help in disaster affected regions of our entire planet.

In spite of all the pumpkins we sell, we still have some left over on November 1st after the Pumpkin Patch is officially closed. This year, we gave some of the left over pumpkins to local 4-H chapters that used the pumpkins to help feed their animals. We also gave truckloads of pumpkins to a worthy LCSC event that used the pumpkins to make pumpkin bread to be donated to the LCSC and local food banks. This, of course, impacts more lives right here in the LC Valley.

When you volunteer to help with the Pumpkin Patch, you are helping touch the lives of literally thousands of people and are playing a part in a significant economic endeavor that enriches the lives of many others. Thank you Pumpkin Patch volunteers. Your participation makes this event possible. If you didn't have the chance to get involved this year, make plans now to participate next year. You'll be glad you did!

Who knew the path of a pumpkin could touch the lives of so many?

Peace,
Chuck

ANNOUNCING A NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Starting November 30 we will be starting a study of the Parallel {synoptic} gospels. Pastor Chuck often refers to the Synoptic Gospels, and they are Matthew, Mark & Luke. They are called synoptic because they are similar to each other and they tell many of the same stories. When you compare the stories side-by-side it can be very interesting. For example, which gospel tells each story in what way and how do they differ and why are they different.

We hope to have this class start at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 30, and continue until we have worked through all three Gospels. I hope you find it as interesting as I do how the stories build on each other.

This study will be led by our new member Mary Fordyce. Mary has a master of theological studies degree from Perkins school of Theology at Southern Methodist University. She is a native of Idaho having been born and raised in Pocatello. She is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. Mary is eager to become an active member of our church.

If you have questions or are interested but this time will not work for you Please call Mary (509) 876-6497 or the Church office and we will try to meet the needs of the members who are interested.

November Service Schedule

Greeters:

05 - Heidi Cram & Sherri Kole
12 - Joanie Zinn & Virginia Farrell
19 - Kay Walker & Bob Morton
26 - Deb Snyder & Robbin Stewart

Ushers:

05 - Carl & Susie Paulson
12 - Leonard O'Brien & Kay Walker
19 - John Ehrenreich & Bob Morton
26 - Lois Woelfel & Jim Bostrom

Liturgists:

05 - Patty Mills
12 - Jim Stutzman
19 - Kathy Bostrom
26 - Bob Morton

Counters:

05 - Larry Ballantyne & Monte Boardman
12 - Stan McNish & Carl Paulson
19 - Kathy Bostrom & Jim Hood
26 - Cottie Hood & Patty Mills

Accompanists:

05 - Kris Haynal
12 - Kris Haynal
19 - Kris Haynal
26 - Kris Haynal

Coffee Shop:

05 - Potluck
12 - Mary McNish
19 -
26 -

Happy Birthday!

01 - Lisa Stoddard
01 - Todd Hewett
03 - Stan McNish

06 - Barbara Dunaway
07 - Ray Heimgartner
09 - Tom Dechert

11 - Sue Stutzman
15 - Deb Snyder-Stewart
17 - Kyle Wensman

18 - Michelle Stedman
27 - Don Lawrence
28 - Liz Chavez

November

01 - Colleen Mahoney
01 - Mary McNish
03 - Aidin Weber

07 - Boyd Founds
12 - Kailey Druffel
14 - Donna Weaver

19 - Madi Stoddard
21 - Marylene Statham
22 - David Walker

26 - Gary Chesnut

December

01 - Zoey Vogel
02 - Arabella Bringman
03 - Jill Ralstin

06 - Lary Nystrom
11 - Kendall Forge
13 - Susan Mahan

15 - Herb Hobbs
17 - Carley Lawrence
21 - Steve Combellick

26 - Frankie Anderson
28 - Doris Olin
30 - Rita Mills

January



HELP US DECORATE FOR

Christmas!

November 29th at 10:00 am
For more information, please
contact Pat Schrupp



Third Quarter Finance Report

Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2017
General Fund

	Year to Date	Budget	% of Budget
Beginning Budget Balance	\$12,016.69	\$8,000.00	

Income

Tithes and Offerings	\$103,881.43	\$133,500.00	78%
Facility Use-Montessori	\$3,735.00	\$6,500.00	57%
Facility Use-General	\$685.00	\$600.00	
Transfer from Investments	\$8,500.00		
Cookbook Sales	\$20.00	\$-	
Sunday School/Education	\$133.49	\$-	
Misc Income	\$578.92	\$1,000.00	58%
Pumpkin Patch		\$7,000.00	

Total Income	\$117,533.84	\$156,600.00	75%
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Expenses

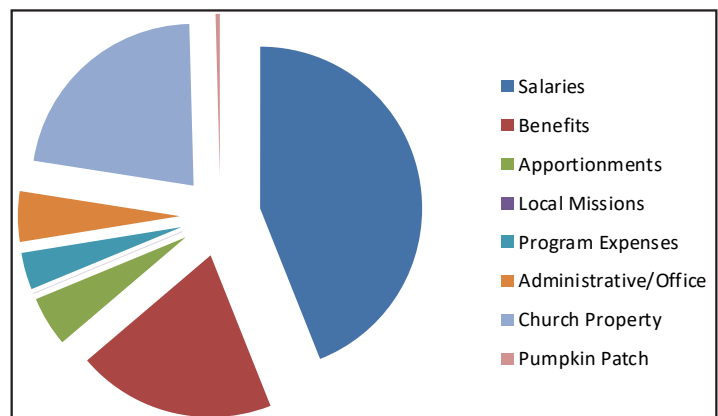
Salaries	\$48,548.76	\$72,100.00	67%
Benefits	\$21,855.07	\$26,700.00	82%
Apportionments	\$5,493.17	\$18,000.00	31%
Local Missions	\$-	\$250.00	0%
Program Expenses	\$4,095.85	\$5,950.00	69%
Administrative/Office	\$5,543.15	\$6,200.00	89%
Church Property	\$24,402.60	\$22,900.00	107%
Pumpkin Patch	\$465.65	\$4,500.00	10%
Transfer to PIFCU	\$5,000.00		
Transfer to Investments	\$1,525.00		

Total Expenses	\$116,929.25	\$156,600.00	75%
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Ending Cash Balance-General Fund	\$12,621.28
\$8,000.00	

Wespath Investments	\$10,324.31
Memorial Fund	\$5,384.54

Salaries	\$ 48,548.76
Benefits	\$ 21,855.07
Apportionments	\$ 5,493.17
Local Missions	\$ -
Program Expenses	\$ 4,095.85
Administrative/Office	\$ 5,543.15
Church Property	\$ 24,402.60
Pumpkin Patch	\$ 465.65



GLOBAL MIGRATION

Every minute, an average of 20 people worldwide flee their homes because of war, famine and persecution. To prayerfully remember the plight of migrants, Global Migration Sunday has been set for December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. On this date, all United Methodist churches are asked to gather an offering dedicated to responding to human suffering caused by migration.

"The facts are staggering," said Thomas Kemper, chief executive, General Board of Global Ministries. "There are more than 65.6 million displaced people in the world today, more than at any time since World War II."

The millions of migrants include children and their families fleeing to escape violence and extortion activities associated with criminal and gang organizations, economic hardship and poverty, forced displacement, and a distrust of local government. In most instances, the journey is treacherous as people traverse continents and the world. Thousands have died while crossing oceans and seas in ill-equipped boats; disease and starvation kill others. Those who make it to a new place are not guaranteed that they can stay and many are turned back.

"In desperation, millions are leaving their homes in an attempt to escape deplorable situations," said Bishop Bruce Ough, president of the Council of Bishops. "Throughout its history, The United Methodist Church has been concerned for migrants. Christ calls us to stand with those who are vulnerable, who have unmet needs, such as safety, food, clothing and shelter, and who are in search of better lives." "Migration involves challenges, injustices, and hazards but can also be a blessing." "The church has a responsibility to respond to the physical and emotional needs of the displaced, and it can recognize and utilize the value of mobility."

Providing hospitality to migrants, he said, "is something the prophets called us to do; it's something Christ called us to do."



Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

Attending: Kathy Bostrom, Sue Driskill, Deb Snyder, Chuck Cram, Cottie Hood, Liz Chavez, Lois Chestnut, Monte Boardman

Meeting was opened with prayer by Cottie.

Old Business

Pumpkin Patch Sign up lists for workers are in the hallway. Pumpkins arrive and get unloaded on Sat Oct 14 at 11am. Coffee and donuts at 10:30am. We are using social media to recruit help and contacting the college for teams of kids for help. We'll be getting 50% of a 40' truck this year. We're contacting PIFCU to see if they might advertise on their reader boards for us. We discussed the fees we are charging the grade school kids that attend on field trips. We offer three price ranges. Free for a 30 minute , \$3 for a visit with a story and a gift, \$4 for a story and a snack and a gift pumpkin.

Family Promise We discussed creating a group of folks to recruit people to contact folks to provide meals and stay overnight at the Nazarene church where the meetings are held. We will have a Ministry fair on Oct 8th to explain the needs for Family Promise and other ministries we support.

New Business

Celebration Sunday Rita Mills is organizing the celebration to highlight the accomplishments of the Revitalization Committee over the past year. A very limited number of our folks will be asked to work the celebration so that we can all celebrate together. The Circles Group will instead be washers, waiters and cooks. The menu includes spiral cut ham, green beans, a potato, and pumpkin pie.

Finance Committee Sue Driskill has agreed to chair the finance committee and Arrie has agreed to be the secretary. Sue will serve also as the church treasurer. Bob Morton and Cottie looked at the achieves to determine the policies of the past. The committee will meet once a month before Church Council meetings. We reviewed the reports Sue brought and determined which ones the Council needed to have. Liz moved for acceptance and Sue seconded to accept the new financial reports. The motion passed.

Membership Lois presented updated membership lists for review and critique. We have lost five members to death or relocation and have had five new members join.

Staff Parish Relations Applications for a AV tech were collected till 9/15. Liz moved and Lois seconded that Kyle Wensman be hired for the job starting at \$8 per hr retroactive to September. The motion passed. All liaisons reported they had talked to their respective employees. Bob Morton agreed to be the liaison for the AV tech. Chuck reported that he and Kris Haynal have completed the fall worship services.

UMW Kathy reported at there is a difficulty in filling the chair position. After discussion it was resolved that volunteers will chair the meetings on a two month basis and rotate the job through the membership to ease the burden.

Trustees Habitat for Humanity wants to use the Fellowship Hall for a chair auction. We are determining whether to offer reduced prices for the rental fees. We talked to Deranleaus about the poor washing action of the parsonage washing machine. They said the washers of 8 years ago were government mandated to use less water and therefore didn't need agitators resulting in poor performance. A generous benefactor has stepped in to donate monies for the purchase of a new one. Chuck talked to Kris about the needs for an organ retuning and she has a list of problems for the tuner. Worship Chuck reported the committee continues to evolve and enhance our experience.

Lay Leader no report

Prayers and Thoughts Hurricanes, Jim Bostrom, Sues sons friend, Dean Diffin, in Kamiah with pancreatic cancer, Judy Tutchter.

Coming Events

The Planning Group for Fall Festival met recently and the decision was made to not hold Fall Festival/Chili Cook-off this year.

In its place we are planning the following events:

Sunday – December 10, 2017 – Holiday Bake Sale

We need your wonderful treats to sell: Cookies, Candies, Cakes, Pies, Cinnamon Rolls and Dinner Rolls, Munchies and anything else you like to make for the holidays. Methodists do have the reputation for being fantastic cooks. Of course, we will also need Buyers, so bring your sweet tooth and your money! Thanks for your support.

Sunday – January 28, 2018 - Soup and Bread Sunday

We will be serving lunch featuring homemade soups and breads after church .

Free Will Offerings will be taken at the above two events.

Friday – May 4, 2018 – Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

This will be held in the evening and will include Mexican Food and Beverages, Auctions, Music and whatever other fun stuff we can come up with.

Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate with good food and good fun.

REVITALIZATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

There are two projects which the revitalization committee is taking a look at working on over the next year or so, but before the committee gets too far into planning the projects we wanted some input from the congregation. Project number one involves the exterior sign along Broadview Drive. It is in need of repair and upgrades so we are looking for ideas about design or features. Should the sign be lighted? What information should be on the sign? Should there be a place for a changeable message? How big should the sign be? Any input, suggestions or even sketches of ideas would be beneficial to the committee.

Project number two is the stained glass alcove area in the sanctuary. The concrete frame around the glass pieces is beginning to fail allowing moisture and leaks to come into the building. This problem is more severe in the winter as moisture seeps in and then freezes breaking the frame further because of the expanding ice. The existing pattern of colored glass probably cannot be saved, but the actual glass pieces could be. They could be arranged in a new window, or we could remove the entire structure and simply cover it up with new material inside and out. Again, any input about design, or preferences would be appreciated. Any type of sketch or drawing helps the committee to visualize what a finished product might look like.

Suggestions or drawings may be dropped off in the office, given to Pastor Chuck, Monte Boardman or any other member of the revitalization committee. Thanks!



There are still "Amen! Let's Eat!" cookbooks for sale in the office. They are the perfect gift for birthdays, weddings or bridal showers! Just \$20!



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!

Faith & Fellowship

Everyone is welcome when the Faith & Fellowship Adult Sunday School Class resumes.

Join us at 9:15am Sunday Mornings for a cup of coffee and lively discussion. We will be continuing with "Living the Questions" Study, that explores many of the questions some have about the Bible and church doctrine while investigating ways to deepen faith and spur Christian action.

There are no right or wrong questions or answers and discussion is easy in this group of friendly and affirming fellow learning Christians.

Starting September 10th at 9:15am in the Wesley Room. Hot Coffee will be waiting for you. See you then!

Susie Paulson



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	BRIDGING FAITH & FILM 6:30P 2	3	4
5	6	7	SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P 8	TRUSTEES MEETING 4:00P 9	10	11
12	13	SPR MEETING 3:30P 14	15	UMW MEETING 10:30A 16 BRIDGING FAITH & FILM - 6:30P	17	18
19	20	FINANCE COMMITTEE 10A 21	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING 22	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING 23	OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING 24	25
26	27	28	DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS 10A 29	CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P 30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE 10	11	SPR MEETING 3:30P 12	SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P 13	TRUSTEES MEETING 4:00P 14	15	16
17	18	19	FINANCE COMMITTEE 10A 20	UMW MEETING 10:30A 21	22	23
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 6P 24	25	26	27	CHURCH COUNCIL 7:00P 28	29	30
31	OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS					

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
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
(208) 743-2971
office@lewistonfirstumc.org
lewistonfirstumc.org

Pastor Chuck Cram
(509) 780-1636
chuckcram@gmx.com

 Lewiston First United Methodist Church