

Messenger

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

Pastor's Path

"Sometimes you just have to get lucky"
By: Rev. Chuck Cram

For several years Heidi and I were in Oakridge, Oregon serving the United Methodist Church there. Oakridge is a small town about 40 miles southeast of Eugene. To get there you exit on Highway 58 from Interstate 5 heading south out of Eugene. Right before you get to Oakridge, on the outskirts of town, there is a bit of a hidden waterfall. I was there one afternoon because my brother and family were visiting and I wanted to show them this waterfall. It was raining, sort of, but I brought my camera along anyway; I had already photographed the falls a couple of times, but I brought the camera in spite of that.

There is a small turnout on highway 58 near these this falls, (eastbound only) and once you park there, it is necessary to scramble up the rocks a ways to get the full impact. But it is a gorgeous place. While we were there the clouds started to lift a little and the fog rolled back enough for us to see; then something remarkable happened! The sun actually came out! Which was great – but what was even better was the sunlight began to stream through the fog and create great shafts of light.

It was during this time that I shot this picture. I was so intent on the shafts of light that I did not notice the make shift cross that

September 2018

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Choir - 8:45am
- Adult Sunday School - 9:15am
- Bell Choir Rehearsal 9:30am
- Worship - 10:30am
- Coffee Fellowship - 11:30am

Monday

- Delving Deeper - 10:00am

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Regular Monthly Meetings

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

Worship Committee: 1st Tuesday -
10:00am -

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

Trustees: 2nd Thursday - 4:00pm -
Monte Boardman

Revitalization: 2nd Thursday - 3:00pm

Finance Committee: 3rd Tuesday
- 9:30am - Susan Driskill

UMW - 3rd Thursday - 1:30pm -
Liz Chavez & Deb Snyder

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Saturday -
9:00am - Main Street Grill

Church Council: 4th Thursday -
3:00pm - Cottie Hood

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was formed by the one downed tree suspended by another upright tree until I reviewed the pictures on my computer. I called Heidi over – shouting–“you gotta see this!” Sometimes, you just have to get lucky.

There is a word for these kinds of events. The word is serendipity. The actual dictionary definition reads something like this; “the ability to discover things by accident” or “to find things not sought”. Whatever the definition, the photo has a certain serendipitous quality to it, I must admit. I would like to say I planned the whole thing, but I didn't. Even so, it is still a great shot.

I have noticed over the years that this isn't the first time I have gotten a good photograph sort of by accident. But in order to get them at all, it is necessary to always be shooting pictures – even if you have photographed a place before, I always photograph it again. You never know what might crop up. The world and the light and the weather are always changing – and if you are not prepared, or stuck in a rut and think you have photographed a subject already – then you will miss the opportunity. The way I see it, if you are not taking pictures, nothing serendipitous can happen.

I feel the same way about a worship service. You may have noticed I like to change the order and move things around a little bit. I also experiment with visuals or movie clips; sometimes I play songs – sometimes there isn't anything visual or audible – but it usually is not the same as it was last week. I believe the more elements we introduce into worship, the more things we try and the more relaxed we are, the better our chances for serendipity. This is one of the reasons why I avoid things that we can learn by rote, or memorize or just say without really thinking; if you are only half way involved the chances of serendipity go way down. I know some of you miss these elements of the worship service, and I wanted to let you know what my thinking is around these ideas.

On the other hand, if the worship service offers some kind of new and fresh experience almost every week, I believe, the chances for a serendipitous event go way up! So watch out – the next worship service just may reach you or touch you in ways that are completely unexpected and unplanned. I certainly hope so.

Serendipitously,
Chuck



Happy Birthday!

September

- 05 - Marguerite Sitton
- 05 - Mary Jacobs
- 12 - Dennis Riendeau
- 12 - Patty Mills
- 16 - Sharon Ripley
- 18 - Ralph Mathewson
- 20 - Alianna Cash
- 20 - Doris Ann Winchell
- 24 - Monte Boardman

October

- 01 - Kent Bostrom
- 02 - Rhonda Edens
- 03 - Allan Helm
- 11 - Billie Wensman
- 17 - Joe Ingram
- 18 - Billy Wilson
- 25 - Larry Dean
- 28 - Linda Ellis
- 31 - Lois Chesnut

November

- 01 - Lisa Stoddard
- 01 - Todd Hewett
- 03 - Stan McNish
- 07 - Ray Heimgartner
- 09 - Tom Dechert
- 11 - Sue Stutzman
- 15 - Deb Snyder
- 17 - Kyle Wensman
- 18 - Michelle Stedman
- 27 - Don Lawrence
- 28 - Liz Chavez

December

- 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

Church Council Minutes

July 26, 2018

Present: Cottie Hood, Chuck Cram, Liz Chavez, Lois Chesnut, Gary Chesnut, Larry Ballantyne, Monte Boardman, Kathy Bostrom, Sally Davies, Gayla Ballantyne, Sue Driskill, Deb Snyder, Carl Paulson, Mary Fordyce.

The meeting was opened with scripture from Chuck that was in keeping with us. Cottie opened with prayer.

SPR report: made by Liz. All the liaison reports are ok. Committee is looking at a fill-in (answering phones) when Arrie is absent. Kris has a 5-year plan in place. She has a full plate with a children's bell choir. The committee is considering whether we need as much janitorial service as we have now. Trustees report by Monte. He is still waiting for a 2nd bid on the siding. There are spots on the carpet throughout the church that need attention.

Finance report made Sue. We're struggling financially because giving is down from 2017 by \$20,000. We currently owe a total of \$16,000, including 2 big bills of \$3,000 for fire & liability insurance which is due by Sept. 30 and \$7,168.14 to cover past due costs for Chuck's health benefits. Some money will be saved because Revitalization has voted to cut back on advertising. Liz shared that other churches are suffering with less income due to the age of their congregations; young folks come for short periods but don't stay. We only paid part of our Common Ministry Apportionments in 2017 and we've paid nothing this year. It's too late for this year but next year we may apply for a reduction in Apportionments.

Ideas discussed

- Cutting back on janitorial service or doing away with it and use a rotating cleaning schedule like the mowing schedule. Gayla volunteered to organize people to share the cleaning if we do that.
- Offering the church building to other churches that have no building.
- Developing a marketing committee to advertise who we are and what we have.
- Sponsoring events like the bake sale and apple crisp Sunday. Deb and Susie Paulson are planning a luau on Aug. 18 and it could be a fundraiser. The Pumpkin Patch will begin Oct. 14.
- Going to a half-time pastor.
- Combining our congregation with another United Methodist congregation.
- Renting our building more; maybe have an open house to show folks what we have.
- Cutting back on watering.
- Renting the parsonage out when Chuck moves into his new house.

Sue moved and Liz seconded a motion to use the Line of Credit not to exceed \$20,000 to get our bills current. Deb moved and Mary seconded an amendment to the motion that it would include forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to bring expenses and the budget in line before January 2019. Motion passed as amended. Motion made by Mary and seconded by Liz to have the Ad-Hoc Committee headed by Chuck and to set August 9 as the date to have the Committee in place. Motion passed.

Chuck closed us with prayer.

Note taker,
Monte Boardman

September Service Schedule

Greeters:

02 - Jim & Kathy Bostrom
09 - Leonard & Barbara O'Brien
16 - The Harriman Family & Rita Mills
23 - Pat Heimgartner & Jeri Turner
30 - Mei Chu Eggleston & Karen Smith

Ushers:

02 - Stan & Mary McNish
09 - Leonard O'Brien & Herb Hobbs
16 - Larry Ballantyne & John Ehrenreich
23 - Carl Paulson & Larry Dean
30 - Dave Silva & Jim Hood

Liturgists:

02 - Susie Paulson
19 - Kathy Bostrom
16 - Bob Morton
23 -
30 -

Counters:

02 - Carl Paulson & Lois Woelfel
09 - Monte Boardman & Cottie Hood
16 - Jim Hood & Sherri Kole
23 - Kathy Bostrom & Barbara O'Brien
30 - Larry Ballantyne & Stan McNish

Coffee Shop:

02 - Potluck
09 - Susie Paulson
16 - Juanita Langley & Doris Ann Winchell
23 - Mary McNish & Mei Chu Eggleston
30 -

NEWSFLASH!

If you've not yet sent in your Survey, it's not too late. Everyone's ideas, opinions, concerns and suggestions are important. Please share yours. Final results will be put together after September 20. Let Arrie know if you need another copy.

Hymn of the Month

Twice a year the church has new beginnings, the first Sunday in January and the first Sunday after Labor Day. SO it seems good and proper that we start something new! in consultation with Pastor Chuck we came up with "Hymn of the Month." Using Choir, organ preludes, offertories, and bells a new hymn will be introduced, then last Sunday of the month the congregation will sing it.

In addition, there will be a hymn story blurb in the bulletin.

This month our hymn is "O Worship the King"
Stay Tuned!

SERMON VIDEOS

Have you missed a sermon because you were out of town and wanted to catch up on the sermon you missed?

You can now watch all our sermons online, just go to our website and under sermons, click on "Watch List", listed there are sermons from the last 8 months and we update them weekly. So next time you are out of town you can catch up on what you missed.

Need help finding them? Let Arrie know and she can send a link to your email.

IN FOCUS: MIGRATION

Dear Friends,

I recently had someone say to me, "Migration? I didn't know UMCOR was into that." But we've been in this business a long time.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief was formed in 1940 in large part to assist the refugees and displaced persons created by World War II. Even after UMCOR stopped resettling refugees, we supported Church World Service in its refugee resettlement work and CWS is now UMCOR's recommended refugee resettlement agency. And more recently, since early in the Syrian War, UMCOR has partnered with organizations in countries throughout the region to assist refugees and displaced persons to the tune of well over \$5 million.

UMCOR is called to alleviate suffering. Almost all people who migrate to reunite with families, to escape the results of climate change, to flee conflict, or to fulfill a dream of a better life, suffer in various ways at one time or another during migration.

UMCOR works with organizations that ensure the four rights of migrants:

- the right to stay,
- the right to safe passage,
- the right to welcome and
- the right to return

We are developing programs that will help people stay safely in violent countries, and we are working with National Justice for Our Neighbors to provide low-cost legal assistance to poor migrants in the U.S. We have given food to people as they traveled by freight train through Mexico and we have furnished clean clothes and rest after they have been released from detention along the U.S.-Mexico border. We have welcomed refugees to Germany through specialized language training and peer-to-peer support. We are assisting migrants from Venezuela and Argentina. And, we are removing mines and booby traps from homes in Iraq so people can return home safely.

Furthermore, because UMCOR is not only charged to alleviate suffering, but also to "be the conscience of The United Methodist Church" in a world of suffering, we join with the other United Methodist general agencies in encouraging churches to speak out against injustice and policies that are downright "unneighborly." We support churches that offer sanctuary to those threatened unjustly by deportation, and we encourage congregations to work for restoring the refugee resettlement program.

UMCOR built its name on refugees, and now it is time, perhaps more than ever, for UMCOR to name the refugees and all migrants as people who are in desperate need of God's grace. But that grace needs your heart, hands, voices and resources to become real and tangible for these vulnerable people.

Finally, I believe that the church will be transformed by this so-called migration crisis – not by filling the pews with migrants, but by changing the hearts and minds of the people in the church. However, the church will only be transformed if it lets itself be transformed. By engaging in bold acts of mercy, we will welcome a stranger and be transformed into the church that God has called us to be.

Jack Amick

Thank you

I wanted to further extend my deepest thanks to you and the community of people at First United Methodist Church. Your donations made a significant contribution towards my ability to travel to Norway. I was thoroughly delighted at the opportunity to offer music in your service and was even more delighted to see and speak with such a lovely congregation and pastor. I will certainly let you know when I'm in town! Love and blessings,
Thomas Pearson

Thank You from the family of Kay Walker

People of First UMC,

Thank you so much to everyone who loved and supported my mom over the years. She loved you all. Also thank you for the food and flowers and all your work in making my mom's reception so beautiful and wonderful
Love,
Kristi, Amy, Jim & Family

Invitation from PNW Bishop Elaine Stanovsky:

"CrossOver: A Year-Long Quest"

United Methodists and friends in the PNW are invited - and encouraged - to join a year-long devotional study beginning with Advent 2018. In *We Make the Road by Walking*, Brian McLaren introduces us afresh to the principles of Christian faith and Bible teachings. Each week, in 3-4 pages, he invites us to revisit Biblical principles and our lives of faith. A blog will be created to go alongside the study with reflections and prayers by our Conference leaders, as well as a place for comments and conversation. Although individuals can do this study on their own, hopefully many of you will form small groups to engage in this study together. It's an opportunity to renew our faith for the challenges we face in our lives, the Church, the nation and the world.
Watch for details to come!



**Every Child
Deserves a Safe
Place to Live**



**Put Feet to Your Faith!
Sign up today to help
serve during our
Family Promise Host Week!**

Our next week to host:
September 16-Sept 22
Still needed:
Dinner Hosts and Overnight Hosts



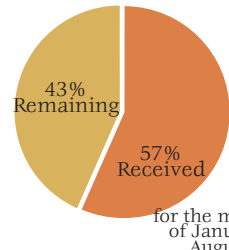
Financial SnapShot

In order to balance the FUMC budget, we need to bring in approximately \$12,500 a month or \$3,125 a week. In order to keep everyone informed, the Finance Committee will be updating this information each week and at the end of each month.

August Monthly Goal



Annual Goal



Total Needed for Siding Project: \$20,000.00

Total Raised for Siding Project: \$1210.00

Total Raised for Gazebo Project: \$2,452

LAWN MOWING SUMMER SCHEDULE

9/03 - Carl P. & Robbin S.
9/08 - Jim H. & David S.
9/17 - Troy S. & Larry B.
9/24 - Monte B. & Bill S.

10/01 - Carl P. & Robbin S.
10/08 - Jim H. & David S.
10/15 - Troy S. & Larry B.
10/22 - Monte B. & Bill S.
10/29 - Carl P. & Robbin S.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 JUBILEE ACADEMY BACK IN SESSION	5	6 REVITALIZATION MEETING - 3:00P TRUSTEES MEETING 4:00P	7	8
9	10	11 SPR MEETING 3:00P	12 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	13 FINANCE COMMITTEE 9:30A	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 CHURCH COUNCIL 3:00P	28	29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2 WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING - 10A	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 SPR MEETING 3:30P	10 SALVATION ARMY DINNER 3:00P	11 REVITALIZATION MEETING - 3:00P TRUSTEES MEETING 4:00P	12	13
14 PUMPKIN UNLOADING	15 BEGINNING OF PUMPKIN PATCH	16	17	18 FINANCE COMMITTEE 9:30A	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 CHURCH COUNCIL 3:00P	26	27
28	29	30	31 END OF PUMPKIN PATCH			

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
9:00am - 1:00pm

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