

M The Lewiston First UMC Messenger

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

Pastor's Path "The Promise of Resurrection" By: Rev. Cody Stauffer

One of the central ideas of Christianity is the theme of death and resurrection. For millennia now, followers of Christ have followed the path of Jesus to the cross, we remember the incredible suffering and pain he walked through, and then we rejoice when we get to Easter Sunday, the day that puts a whole new spin on what death means.

On that day, we take a different look at what death means. No longer something to be feared, we now recognize it as a step on the way. Not one that should be downplayed or overlooked; suffering and grief and pain are all real and intense. But we have a different framework for looking at it now. It's as if we took off one set of glasses that gave us one distorted view, and now we see it all more clearly now.

Resurrection means that death is not the final word; but it is a necessary one. And this isn't just true about the end of our lives. No, because of the resurrection we now see metaphorical death differently as well. Here's what I mean: in life, there are times that we all face that FEEL like death. Times we lose a job, or maybe we are in the process of losing a friendship because of misunderstanding or even just lack of contact. Maybe in the middle of a terrible fight with someone we love. Those moments

April 2019

Weekly Events

Sundays

- Handbell Choir - 8:00am
- Worship - 9:00am
- Coffee Fellowship - 10:00am
- Adult Sunday School - 10:30am

Tuesdays

- Bible Discussion - 10am

Thursdays

- Choir Practice - 6:30am

Regular Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

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

Finance Committee: 3rd Wednesday
- 9:30am - Bob Morton

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

Church Council: 4th Wednesday -
3:30pm - Cottie Hood

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General Conference 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly happened in St. Louis at the special called session of General Conference (GC)?

General Conference delegates came to St. Louis and experienced the same forces that have played out on the plenary floor of our General Conference for decades. Basically, the General Conference (our UMC version of “Congress”) passed legislation supporting what is known as the Traditional Plan, as well as one of the disaffiliation (allowing churches to leave) plans, but the Traditional Plan has been referred to the Judicial Council (basically the “Supreme Court” for The UMC) because much of the plan has been previously ruled unconstitutional and is fundamentally un-Methodist. While awaiting that official ruling, which would delete unconstitutional legislation or unconstitutional portions, we continue in ministry.

What does it mean for us?

We know that the actions of General Conference were deeply hurtful for many of us, but none more than our LGBTQIA siblings. We continue to walk with each other and care for one another as we await the dust settling after General Conference.

Some facts that might ease the pain are that fully two-thirds of US delegates and over 80% of our bishops supported the One Church Plan. Although it was an imperfect plan, it would have been a better result than the Traditional Plan for those that hold a centrist or progressive theological stance. Ultimately, we assume that the enhanced punishments that are currently part of the Traditional Plan will be deemed unconstitutional. If this happens, those in the Western Jurisdiction that have provided an inclusive witness to God’s grace will continue to be the church in the same way without fear of reprisals.

Where do we go from here?

In the short term we don’t expect immediate radical changes in our region; however, in the medium and long term, we are NOT advocating for a status quo. We are grateful for the witness of the Western Jurisdiction in living out many of the values of the Simple Church Plan and the One Church Plan for some time now, and we are not changing. That being said, it is not enough for us to keep ourselves safe

and we are now really concerned about how we might extend that safety to others around the UMC connection. We must work to stop the harm being done to our siblings elsewhere (clergy, laity, and congregations).

Many in the rest of the United States are looking to the Western Jurisdiction to lead and we intend to do that. We are working on a specific plan and generative conversations are happening that may very well emerge as a “new thing” (Isaiah 42:9). Whether that is within The UMC or in a new expression of Methodism is yet to be determined, but we value the good work the larger structure and General Agencies of The UMC have been doing.

When will everything start to take effect? What decisions need to be made when?

Most of the provisions adopted will take effect January 1, 2020, but some were to take place at the close of this special session. We are still investigating the things that took place and should have more clarity soon. Please see the preceding answer for our encouragement to not take to heart any of the language or provisions of the Traditional Plan.

What does it mean for our Boards of Ordained Ministry as they just completed or prepare for interviews?

We don’t believe it should affect the ordination process in our conference at all. We encourage all of our Conference Boards and Agencies to continue doing our good work to help God’s realm come into being.

What does it mean for potential ordinands who question whether they want to be ordained in this “Traditional Plan” church?

We would encourage candidates and potential ordinands to continue their ordination process in The United Methodist Church. For many years ordinands have disagreed with some of the language in The Book of Discipline and yet they became a part of The UMC anyway. Even if you disagree, yet are willing to work on changing the denomination, we would encourage you to join us in this work.

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Lewiston First UMC Council minutes

March 28, 2019

In Attendance: Cody Stauffer, Cottie Hood, Liz Chavez, Donna Weaver, Lois Chesnut, Bob Morton, Lois Woelfel, Kathy Bostrom.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Cottie. Liz moved to accept the minutes as printed. Bob seconded. Motion passed.

Finance: The new Finance Chair Bob Morton presented the following information on the parsonage rental: it has been rented and we should receive about \$2,000 on April 10th, 2019. The Treasurer's Report, 2019 budget and other financial information was given to Council members. Discussion was held about Vanco fees; this service has been canceled. Liz moved and Bob seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's/Financial Report. Motion passed.

SPR: Liz reviewed the February SPR notes with the addition that Arrie is providing information on suggested requirements for hiring a new Secretary/Finance person in the fall.

Trustees: The printed Trustees report from Carl Paulson was handed out – see attached.

UMW: Liz gave the UMW report of meetings on March 17, April 17 and May 19. A salad luncheon is being planned; Orchards UMW and Clarkston UMW may be invited.

Worship: none

Lay Leader: none

Old Business:

Pumpkin Patch: Deb Snyder-Stewart presented information to the Clarkston UMC. There's a possibility of working with Wilson Banner Ranch. Cody will get more information. Discussion was held about ants in the church. Bob Morton will contact Paramount Pest for an estimate and work with Cottie and Cody to set a plan.

New Business: none

Pastor's Report: Cody gave information on calls, visits, etc. We will host the Lenten series on April 7 from 4:00 until 6:00. Susie Paulson will coordinate the food. On April 7 we will also host the Table Talks 3.0 with D.S. Gregg Seeley presiding. Cottie will check with Deb about UMW providing the snacks. Cody will take a required class at Claremont in California.

Cody gave the web site address for the Table Talks RSVP: greaternw.org/table-talks

Cody closed the meeting with a prayer, focused especially on Steve Mills, Doug Langley, Juanita Langley, Dave Silva and Darlene Larson.

Note taker,
Liz Chavez

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the actual process from this point on? For Judicial Council review? For implementation? Etc.

We believe the Judicial Council will offer its ruling on the Traditional Plan in May. As far as the implementation of this plan, we don't expect it to be implemented in our conference in any way. The provisions of the disaffiliation plan however are still unclear, so we aren't able to answer clearly at this time. Stay tuned.

What about our church property? What if a local church wants to leave the denomination?

The first step in any conversation like this would be for the pastor and church leadership to contact their district superintendent and engage in conversation.

There was one petition passed at General Conference that deals with disaffiliation. At this time, our best understanding is that it would require a two-thirds vote at an all-church conference as well as a two-thirds vote at annual conference. There was a lack of clarity about when it would be implemented and which provisions need to be satisfied before this can happen.

We are continuing to investigate and find details that will help churches and district superintendents that are engaging in this conversation. This legislation may also end up being referred to the Judicial Council, so we will likely wait until their ruling before proceeding too far down that path.

Finance Committee Minutes

March 20, 2019

Attendance: Lois Woelfel, Liz Chavez, Cody Stauffer, Cottie Hood, Bob Morton, Sue Driskill & Arrie Vogel

Cody opened the meeting with prayer

Liz moved that we set aside the printed agenda and that we move the electing of the new finance chair to the beginning of the meeting, rather than the end of the meeting. Lois seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Liz moved to nominated Bob Morton as the 2019 Finance Chair, Cottie seconded the motion and the motion passed

Budget - Liz brought forward a change to the budget on line 5.80.100, Custodial Service, SPR is changing services and the annual budget amount will go from \$7,500 to \$4,800, with that chance we will also be taking over purchasing janitorial supplies, which will the budget amount will change from \$0 to \$2,700, to make the budget balance. Finance will take this information and recommendation to Church Council for final approval.

Sue moved to accept the budget, with changes made, for the 2019 year. Liz seconded the motion, and the motion carried with no further discussion.

Stewardship Committee - After talking about how Clarkston UMC handles annual stewardship drives, the finance committee has asked Cody if he would be willing to chair a stewardship committee that will put together a stewardship drive that would take place in the fall. Cody will talk to members of the congregation to see who would be willing to serve on this committee.

Treasurers Report - Liz moved to accept the treasurers report as presented, Cottie seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Parsonage Rental - Carl Paulson joined the Finance Comm mtg to let the finance committee know some of the information regarding the rental of the parsonage, which is being managed by Pro Property Management, who have listed the house for \$1,550 a month and they will keep 10% of the profit from the rental, we we can expect \$1,395 per month on that rental.

Bills for January & April - Liz moved that we approve the bills as presented, Cottie seconded and the motion passed.

Old Business:

Clarkston UMC Shared Treasurer - Glen Kenloch originally offered to be the treasurer in both UMC churches, he has since withdrawn that offer.

Communications Coordinator - Arrie suggested filling her position with two separate people fill her position, one at 15hrs a week as a secretary and one at 5hrs a week to do the accounting, or to hire a secretary and have an accounting firm or lone accountant who is bonded take over the finances. Several members offered to talk to accountants they knew to see if that would be a possibility. Reports will be brought back to the April meeting.

April Meeting April 16 at 9:30a

April Service Schedule

Greeters:

07 - Heidi Cram & Lois Woelfel
14 -
21 -
28 -

Ushers:

07 - Jim Hood & Bill Schrupp
14 - John Ehrenreich &
Vanessa Stedman
21 - Leonard O'Brien &
Lois Woelfel
28 - Stan & Mary McNish

Liturgists:

07 - Liz Chavez
14 - Colleen Mahoney
21 -
28 -

Counters:

07 - Lois Woelfel & Carl Paulson
14 - Kathy Bostrom &
|Donna Weaver
21 - Leonard O'Brien &
Larry Ballantyne
28 - Jim Hood & Lois Chesnut

Happy Birthday!

April

- 02 - Irene Roth
- 04 - Melody Boardman
- 04 - Rick Tousley
- 05 - Millie Ingram
- 07 - Jim Bostrom
- 09 - Carl Paulson
- 11 - George Follett
- 16 - Kathy Bostrom
- 22 - Steve Forge
- 24 - Audrey Harriman
- 30 - Kathy Walker

May

- 02 - Megan Ralstin
- 04 - Alyssa Ralstin
- 07 - Pat Heimgartner
- 08 - Dorianda Gilliam
- 10 - Cottie Hood
- 10 - Fred Willet
- 14 - Sharon Pinson
- 14 - Amy Stout

June

- 06 - Jeanne Fordyce
- 10 - Paula Harriman
- 11 - Marian Combellick
- 13 - Cheryl Tousley
- 13 - Wanda Thompson
- 17 - Barbara O'Brien
- 20 - Brett Mills
- 20 - Evelyn Jordan
- 22 - Pat Schrupp
- 23 - Laurie Herndon
- 24 - Arrie Vogel
- 30 - Nancy Follett

July

- 01 - Lena Stedman
- 02 - Robbin Stewart
- 04 - Bob Sitton
- 05 - Bob Morton
- 06 - Sally Davies
- 13 - Jim Stutzman
- 18 - John Stalter
- 19 - Jan Sullivan
- 21 - Heidi Cram
- 23 - Bill Dugger
- 28 - Kathy Forge

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are full of anguish and suffering, much like Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane. We just want it to be over! And then, inevitably, something happens that signifies the death of this whole thing, whatever it is—the job is over, the friend says it's over, or in the middle of a fight, someone must admit they are wrong. All of that can feel like a death.

And we can't rush past that. We must sit with that for a time. And who knows how long? But there is a promise in it all now. Because of resurrection.

The United Methodist Church is in such a period. It's unclear where everything is going to go. In the wake of the General Conference decision, it feels uncertain. It feels like maybe a death might be on the horizon-- the loss of a UNITED denomination. Maybe it feels a bit like we are going through one right now.

This April 7th, we are invited to attend another round of Table Talks. This is an opportunity to learn about what happened at General Conference, and what has been happening in the weeks that have followed. It is an opportunity to share your concerns and frustrations, or for that matter your hope for what might lie ahead.

And what DOES lie ahead? I wish I had answers for you-- I wish I could peek ahead and see the future and assure you all with some kind of certainty. BUT, the only thing I know for certain is that God's work doesn't stop because we are experiencing change or a death. In fact, what we know is that when is when God does what God does best--

Resurrection.

To learn more about the Table Talks and what to expect-- and to sign up for our area's event on April 7th at 2 P.M.-- please go to <http://greaternw.org/table-talks>.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cody Stauffer

Members in the Tribune

GEORGE BROWN JR. of Lewiston scored his 19th 300 game during Singles Classic action at Lancer Lanes in Clarkston. The 56-year-old retired fire chief has been bowling for 44 years. His perfect score came on lanes 3 and 4.

Choir Rehearsal Times

New Choir Times
Handbell Choir - Sunday 8am
Chancel Choir - Thursday 6:30pm



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!

PASTOR'S PATH - (CONTINUED)

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

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19	20	21	22	23 CHURCH COUNCIL 3:30P	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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
Mon - Fri | 9:00am - 1:00pm
Summer Hours
(June-August)
Mon-Fri | 8:00a - 12:00p

Office
1906 Broadview Drive
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
(208) 743-2971
office@lewistonfirstumc.org
lewistonfirstumc.org

Pastor Cody Stauffer
(208) 440-3399
staucody72@gmail.com



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Methodist Church