

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian July 2022 Edition

**The mission of the United Methodist Church is to  
make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**



### *Mark's Remarks...*

Our church has an active and vital prayer shawl ministry. Below is an article that Carol Goodrich sent me. It is entitled, "Close Knit." Enjoy.

The light clicks on in the United Methodist Church basement. The coffee is made. The old women sit in a large semi-circle, positioned on folding chairs. Their hair is stark white, leaning a little more toward the blue side. And they knit. They knit for hours. They are making shawls. Prayer shawls.

Take Marie. Marie is the one wearing the T-shirt that says, "Life is Good." She received her first prayer shawl when her husband was dying. The shawl is fire-engine red. A stranger gave it to her. Marie was in the hospital corridor, weeping, when a woman sat next to Marie, unannounced, and said, "Here. God bless you."

"The lady said it was a prayer shawl," said Marie. "I didn't even know what that was." The mysterious woman told Marie that she had spent several hours knitting this garment, praying over with every stitch. Marie used the shawl daily. It went everywhere with her. It was with her on the day of her husband's funeral. It lay beside her at night, when she couldn't sleep because her bed was empty. She carries it with her all over. And now she knits shawls, too.

"I can knit one in about eight hours," Marie said between needle strokes. "I give them to whomever God tells me to. Doesn't matter who it is. Could be a little boy, could be an old man."

Another woman adds, "I have given away over two hundred since I started making them." Others chime in to say similar things. Between members of group, they estimate they have given away at least a thousand shawls. Maybe more.

You might not know this, but there are throngs of prayer shawl clubs and needlecraft ministries around the United States. Not just a few. Millions. More than you or I can possibly imagine.

In Eudora, Kansas, for example, each Tuesday, six ordinary women get together in a Lutheran church. They knit for two hours. They tell stories. They pray for each other. They pass their shawls along to anyone they feel drawn to. "I've given my shawls to kids who came from nasty divorces," one woman said. "And I've given them to people whose dogs died."

In Jacksonville, Florida, Madison Lee knits shawls with her Methodist church. She remembers when she got her first shawl. "My grandma had just died, I had just left her house and had gone to my youth group because I needed to take my mind off things. While I was there, a man came up to me. He was holding a Ziploc bag full of some type of fleece material. When he handed it to me it had a prayer on the front, and as I read the prayer I got a sense of comfort. Right then the whole youth group prayed with me and tears ran down my face. I felt as though the prayer shawl had some type of superpower within it."

Sylvia, in Ohio, knits in a prayer shawl group a few times each month. She received her first prayer shawl 28 years ago when the doctor told her she was dying. "I did not know if I was going to make it, but then along comes this little act of goodwill, and I knew. I just knew it would be okay." She beat breast cancer. Twice. Maybe it was the shawl that brought the miracle. Maybe it wasn't. It doesn't matter either way. Because the point is, it happened.

You might be wondering how you can get a shawl of your own. I asked one of the old women about that. She chuckled between stitches. "Just pray for one. You'd be surprised what happens. It'll find you. And that's a promise."

**Pastor Mark**

## July Sermon and Scripture Schedule

<b>July 3 ~</b>	Scripture: 1 Peter 2:13-16	Sermon Title: <i>'The Tightrope of Freedom'</i>
<b>July 10 ~</b>	Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:17-18	Sermon Title: <i>'Whose Money is It?'</i>
<b>July 17 ~</b>	Scripture: Matthew 6:21-24	Sermon Title: <i>'A Choice in Service'</i>
<b>July 24 ~</b>	Scripture: Luke 16:1-12	Sermon Title: <i>'Be Shrewd With Your Money'</i>
<b>July 31 ~</b>	Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-10	Sermon Title: <i>'Contentment With What You Have'</i>



### **Worship News**

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-chairpersons

### **Summer Worship**

The 8:00 worship service will continue to be held at LIBERTY PARK for the remainder of the summer due to construction at Evergreen Park. (Note: The construction planned for Liberty Park has been postponed until 2023.) Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoors. \*\*\* In case of rain, the service will be held in the church.

The 10:30 worship service is held in the church sanctuary.

### **Music Notes for our July worship services from Michelle Mishlove**

- July 3 Chancel Choir at Liberty Park 8:00 AM service (*Let Freedom Ring*)
- July 10 Special music
- July 17 Chancel Choir in the sanctuary 10:30 AM (*How Can I Keep From Singing?*)
- July 24 Praise Team at 10:30 AM service
- July 28 Praise Team at LYFT 6:00 PM service in the Fellowship Hall
- July 31 Chancel Choir at 10:30 AM service

\*\*\*Prayer Request: Several of our Chancel Choir members will be traveling to Epworth Forest Choir School at Taylor University this month. Please pray for their safety in travel and a refreshing time of music and fellowship!

### **Our altar décor reflects the church seasons and celebrations**

Have you noticed that the cloths on the altar, pulpit & lectern in the church sanctuary are now green? These cloths are called paraments and are changed by the altar steward according to the church calendar to enhance our worship experience. The green color of the paraments we will be using for the next few months represents growth. We use different colors during Advent (blue) and Lent (purple). We also use white, representing Christ, for Christmas and Easter, and for weddings. Red paraments are used just once a year on Pentecost Sunday in June, when we celebrate the Holy Spirit.

We have a colorful set of paraments that we occasionally use. These were brought back from an African mission trip by Mary Lu DeLong, a beloved former church member now deceased. During Rev. Rick Jones time of pastoring in Lowell, several of the parament sets we are now using were purchased through generous memorial gifts. The paraments being replaced were not thrown away, they were passed on to a church in need.

We have a set of red velvet cloths (pictured to the right). They appear to be handmade. Does anyone know their story? Please let us know.

It is good to know our history. It is good to know how our monetary gifts can be put to work and can impact our worship experiences for years to come.





LYFT (Live Your Faith Today) is our Thursday evening worship service. We start at 5:30 pm with dinner and go right into worship at 6 pm. Worship includes music, a lay speaker or Pastor Mark speaking, prayer and ends with communion. LYFT is a casual worship service where we look forward each week to food, fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend!



**Love Neighbor, Love God  
Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**

The Indiana Annual Conference gathered in person for the first time since the pandemic at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion on June 9-11, 2022

**PLENARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- The 2023 budget was adopted
- 21 churches were acknowledged for their many years of changing lives, though they disbanded in the last year.
- 29 churches were approved for disaffiliation.
- Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright was endorsed for episcopal service.
- The Missional Offering collected \$102,373.72. Approximately 4,000 pounds of school kits were collected (which is estimated to be around 2,000 completed kits).

**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2 children were baptized.
- 58 retirees were honored for their 1,282 years of combined service.
- 8 persons were ordained as elders.
- 2 persons were commissioned for ministry as elders.

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

The Conference honored the lives of 46 clergy and 27 spouses who have joined the Church Triumphant in the last year.

**EPISCOPAL ADDRESS**

Bishop Trimble shared an impassioned Episcopal Address entitled “Walking in Grace.” Bishop challenged attendees to Love God, Love Neighbor, referring to the 2022 Annual Conference theme. “If I abide in him, I ought to walk as Christ walked,” he said. “Walking in grace, I have learned that I never have to walk alone.”

**2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

We are planning to meet in person June 8-10, 2023.



**A Successful Story – Finance Committee**  
Final Totals Are In for Save Your Sole and Generosity Tree!

A great big thank you to all who donated shoes and/or money. The final amount deposited to the Good Samaritan Fund from these fundraisers is \$6501.20 (\$5634 from the Generosity Tree and \$867.20 from the shoes). A special thank you to Tom Sufana who filled 62 bags with 25 pairs of shoes in each bag. We owe him hand sanitizer! Also, thanks to Don Bales, Dave Bauman, and Rick Bachman for their help in loading the truck.

A very special thank you to Kathy Nelson for her research and initiative to bring these ministries to the congregation for love and support.

We will repeat the Generosity Tree next May. God bless you all for your help in assisting people in need in the Lowell community.

# MINISTRY IN ACTION



By Trudy Corning

Summer is finally here and it is hot!

Be mindful when outside to take precautions to avoid heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

### ***Tips to stay cool:***

- Exercise and plan outside activities early in the day, before it gets too hot, or after sunset
- Manage the intensity of activities and take breaks
- Stay Hydrated! Make sure to drink plenty of fluids while outside avoiding caffeinated drinks as caffeine can actually dehydrate.. Also, if on a fluid restriction from a medical professional, seek medical advice prior to participating in high intensity outdoor activities on humid days.
- Put a cool cloth or ice pack on your neck, armpits or groin
- Wear loose fitting, lightweight, light colored clothes
- Wear sunscreen and reapply frequently
- Spray yourself with cool water
- Move into the shade or to an air conditioned building or car
- Do not leave children or pets in a car
- Take a cool shower or bath
- Pay attention to warnings about high temperatures and avoid being outside on days you know will be extremely hot
- Know the symptoms of heat related illness and take immediate action.

Enjoy the warmth of our Son and stay healthy!



## **News from the OUTREACH Committee**

**JULY CANCELLATION:** Young At Heart Senior Bingo will **NOT** take place in July. We are taking the month off, but will resume Bingo on August 23.

### **FREE COMMUNITY EVENT IN AUGUST:**

Our church will host **“Music in the Park” on Friday, August 19** on the west side of our building. We will invite the Lowell community to bring their lawn chairs and join us for music by the Lemmon Brothers Band from 6:00-8:00 PM in the park (Olde Town Square). Food trucks will be available on Library Drive starting at 5:00 PM.



***SAVE THE DATE for this evening of music, food & fellowship!***

## 2022 Vacation Bible School

By Amy Manier, Education Chairperson

June 20-24 was a great week at 'Monumental' VBS!



Each evening 30 kids, plus 30 volunteers, filled the sanctuary to celebrate God's greatness. Each day the kids learned about Joseph's life in Bible Adventure, created science gizmos in Imagination Station, played games outside, and ate desert-themed snacks at the Oasis Tastes station. The kids were introduced to mission projects and collected \$141 that will be given to Native American reservations to provide school supplies. They also collected items to be distributed locally by our church's Household Pantry. What a huge difference the kids have made in these communities with their generosity!



**Thank you so much to the congregation for your prayers, donations, and support before and during VBS!**



### Youth Group

In June Youth Group met up for an afternoon at Buckley Homestead. We did a scavenger hunt that led us on a hike through the park. Of course we ate, and we also played wiffle ball.



Our next event is going to be at Lemon Lake County Park (6322 W 133<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Crown Point) on Sunday, July 17 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We will meet near the concession area/playground along the main road at the top of the hill. Please RSVP to Shara Oman (219-669-1749) or Amy Manier (219-712-6157) by July 15 so we can plan the food. We have been having a great time with this group of kids and pray that it will continue to grow. Please let the youth in your life know about Youth Group and our next event at Lemon Lake.



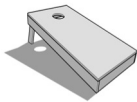
## Lowell Church Mouse

I'm the church mouse. I see all that goes on in the church and I love to gossip about it. Of course being a Christian mouse, I only say positive things.

How's a mouse to keep from getting stepped on with all these children running around? It's VBS week and there are adult helpers and youth helpers and children everywhere. I never realized how many people it takes to run a VBS. Registration desk workers, teachers, games, snacks, music, decorations, guides, imagination station, sound—I'm sure I've forgotten some task. Amy Manier and Kathy Stoner have put hours and hours into planning and organizing everything.

On Father's Day our UMW put together cookie bags for each male at both services. There are some awfully nice ladies in the UMW. On that same day Lynn Bochart brought the Church Lady to both services to do an announcement. She is so creative and funny in that roll. Also, the fire alarm went off during the 10:30 service. Right during the Pastor's sermon too! Everybody had to evacuate. The Fire Department was here until around noon. The air conditioning dripped water on a fire sensor. Of course the Trustees are already working on fixing it.

Be careful when you do good work for the church. I'm watching and just waiting to share that gossip.



We're taking the summer off from Cornhole. We'll let you practice and get your arms in shape for an August or September comeback. Get ready ladies, the men are going to be looking to keep their winning streak going.

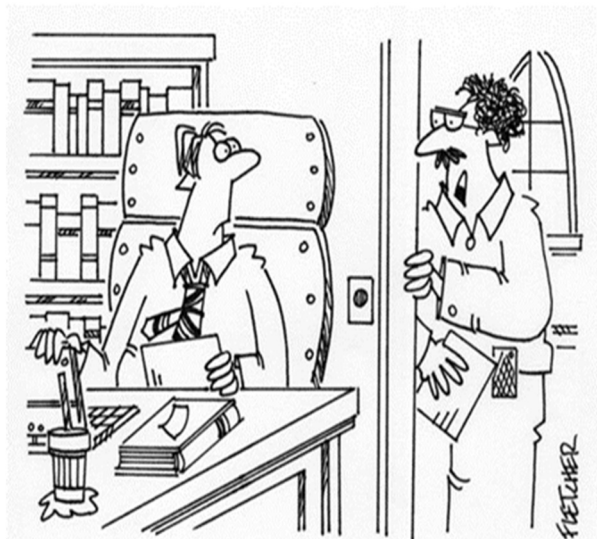


### **Pastor's Comic Corner**

In case you haven't noticed, I love humor.  
Below are comics that I've come across. Enjoy and smile! Pastor Mark



"He's checkin' for cell phones."



"I need the audio recordings of sessions 3...7...9...and 13 of your sermon series on sporadic church attendance."

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8 a.m. (at Liberty Park) and 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), *Sunday School 9:15: F.O.M. (301)*, **Monday/Tuesday - A/A** 12 p.m. (303) **Wednesday - A/A** - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), Al/Anon - 8 p.m. (library) **Thursday - Dulcimers** 10 am (303), *LYFT Dinner* 5:30 p.m./Worship 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Chancel Choir 7pm (sanct.) **Saturday - A/A** 11 a.m. (303)

# July 2022

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**Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

					1	2
3	4 <b>Independence Day/Office Closed</b>	5 <b>Office Closed</b>	6 <b>UMW Executive Meeting 4:30 pm (lib)</b>	7 <b>LYFT ~ 5:30pm</b>	8	9
10	11	12 <b>Lay Leaders 10 am</b>	13 <b>Trustee Meeting 6pm (bsmt)</b> <b>Education Meeting 7pm (301)</b>	14 <b>LYFT ~ 5:30 pm</b>	15	16
17 <b>Youth Group @ Lemon Lake 4pm</b>	18	19 <b>Household Pantry 9-12 or 5-6 (curbside)</b>	20 <b>Worship Meeting 6pm (301)</b>	21 <b>Tele-Christian Articles Due</b> <b>LYFT ~ 5:30 pm</b>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 <b>LYFT ~ 5:30 pm</b>	29	30
31						