

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian June 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...



I had my article done for the newsletter, and then last night I saw the news of the Texas school shooting. I can't fathom the pain of Uvalde, Texas this morning. Nineteen children at Robb Elementary School were killed. Two teachers, Eva Mireles & Irma Garcia, were also killed. The murderer was an 18 year old who appears to have dropped out of the local high school. What do we do with this situation? How do we make sense of it? How do we make it better?

We could scream about our political views. "We need more gun laws." "We need to arm more people so they could stop these situations." I've heard both calls since this senseless tragedy. Will any political opinion help the people of Uvalde? Of course not.

What is the Christian view of these tragedies? Our call is to pray for these families. We must realize that some of the families won't appreciate our prayers. They are hurt in the deepest possible way. Some will place blame with God for not protecting their child. This anger can spill over to all Christians. That is all right though. We are called to love and help these families however we can. Whether we receive appreciation or anger, the call remains.

Where was God? He was walking the halls and classrooms of Robb Elementary. He was cradling the dead and injured. This event occurred because there is evil in this world. Should we then blame Satan? No. SR (the initials of the shooter, I don't believe his name should be mentioned. He should not become infamous.) pulled the trigger. He made evil choices. SR is fully responsible for what happened. We do need to add a caveat to this. No one could possibly perform this level of evil without being mentally ill. He started his day shooting and critically injuring his grandmother. Just to do that one act would require one to not be mentally tracking correctly let alone to shoot children.

It's a sad day in our country. God is with us. His comfort is available. *"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."* Psalm 147:3

Pastor Mark

June Sermon and Scripture Schedule

June 5 ~	Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:1-9	Sermon Title: 'The Cynicism in Faith'
June 12 ~	Scripture: Job 10:1-7	Sermon Title: 'Job's Complaint'
June 19 ~	Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4	Sermon Title: 'Father Abraham'
June 26 ~	Scripture: II Thessalonians	Sermon Title: 'End Times are Coming'



Worship News

Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning, Co-chairs

Join us in worship each Sunday! The **8:00 Park Service begins June 5.... see the change below.** Two of the Sundays in June will offer special celebrations.

June 5 is Pentecost Sunday We encourage everyone to WEAR **RED** as we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles and living within us today!

June 19 is Father's Day Be sure to join us at worship as we celebrate fathers. We will recognize the dads, give them all a treat and have special treats for a few dads. The service will revolve around dad!



Summer Park Service News As always, our 8:00 am service will move outside for the months of June, July and August. However, this summer we will NOT be starting out at Evergreen Park.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE:

Due to the current utility work that is causing a reduction of parking spaces at Evergreen Park, **we will begin our 8:00 park service on June 5 at LIBERTY PARK.** Use the parking lot on Washington Street. We will gather near the shelter on the south side of Liberty Park. Dress is casual. Bring your lawn chair and join us in God's outdoor cathedral! ****In case of rain the service will meet at the church.**



We will continue our 10:30 worship service in the church sanctuary.



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. Dinner right now is a 'brown bag' dinner which usually consists of a sandwich or salad with chips, fruit and dessert. 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!



DID YOU KNOW?

New 2022 Directories are available in the Narthex. Pastor Mark and Kim have devoted much time and effort to updating our church family contact information. Be sure to pick up a copy for your family.



Music Notes by Michelle Mishlove

Congratulations to the members of Godsbells (led by Patrice Martin) for another successful season. The handbell choir will be taking the summer months off as usual. Chancel Choir will be meeting and singing regularly throughout the summer. You can hear them on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Here is the music schedule for June:

June 5 Chancel Choir at 8:00 AM Liberty Park

June 19 Chancel Choir at 10:30 AM Sanctuary

June 12 Praise Team at 10:30 AM June

23 Chancel Choir is OFF (due to VBS)

June 16 Praise Team at LYFT 6:00 PM

June 26 All God's Children // VBS Sunday

***** Special Thanks to David Schoon who is organizing our Favorite Hymns once again. Remember to vote early and often!!**



Finance Report

Our committees continue to stretch their time and their talents to examine, to explore, and to implement new possibilities that could help our budget navigate reduction of the 2022 budget deficit. We are pleased to share a couple recent successes.

- The Trustees announced that they were successful in a recent review of the church insurance policies. There will be a future savings of \$2,288.00 with an additional savings of \$180.00 on pest control to be added.
- The Generosity Tree ministry at the time of this writing, has netted \$5,357.00. The Shoes for Soles has netted a sum of \$850.00. These two totals will be set aside to fund the Good Samaritan Fund. This generous giving will allow the previously designated Good Samaritan budget line item of \$6,000.00 to be used to cover other church expenses. The success of this ministry could reduce our current 2022 budget deficit of approximately \$14, 200.00 down to \$8,200.00. We want to share that the DeMotte and Hebron churches joined us in the collection of shoes
- We are also pleased to share with our congregation the current "pledged" totals. At this point of the year (one third of the way through the budget year), the General Giving pledged units have given an offering of 35%. (we should be at 33%). The Capital Fund pledged giving is also at a 35% level (should be at 33%).

The Stewardship team led by Rick Bachman is pleased to announce that there will be a special "Stewardship Sunday dedicated totally to the message of Stewardship, celebrating the opportunity to share our gifts in God's good works.

We are seeking committee participation. We ask for your commitment to share what good ministries have taken place under your committee's guidance. Please accept this opportunity to share the good works by submitting your committee's involvement in doing ministry/missions. Submit information to the church office by June 4. The information could be in the form of a video message or a brief statement. We would like to share this information on Stewardship Sunday.



News about our Newsletter

Our newsletter has been named the Tele-Christian since around the mid '70s. Before that time it was called the Methodist Messenger. You have heard that our church has a Shift Team. They are looking at ways to improve how we are doing ministry and passing those suggestions to the appropriate group in the church. Since we are looking at heading in new directions and improving on what we are doing, the Ad. Council has considered the Shift Team's suggestion concerning our Tele-Christian. The Ad. Council thinks it could be time for a facelift for our newsletter.

We will be having a contest this summer to rename the Tele-Christian with the suggested new names coming from all of you, our church family. The first vote will take place in July to select the favorites from all the names you have suggested. (One option on the ballot will be to leave it the Tele-Christian.) A second vote in August will determine the name. A box is located in the Narthex to collect all of your ideas. The deadline for submitting your ideas for a new name for our newsletter is **July 3**. Put on your creative "thinking caps" and come up with some names. You may submit more than one idea.



Shifting and Re-Connecting

So, what is SHIFT? What is the objective of your SHIFT team? These are two questions that have frequently been asked by many in our church family the past couple of months. SHIFT was designed to take a look at how our congregation engages in all the discipleship activities within our church. SHIFT seeks to observe current relationships in and out of the church. How do WE, our church family, build and rebuild current church relationships to make each person's church experience, stronger and more magnified in their daily walk with our Lord?

A Christian relationship is a connection between our Lord, the people in the church and their discipleship outside the church walls.

At no time does SHIFT intend to dictate change, only to identify where better connections are possible and, in doing so, make recommendations on how ALL our church family can participate in building better relationships.

SHIFT seeks to create open and honest communications; suggest ways to respect and appreciate our walk with the Lord together; identify how we, our church family, can become aware of our commitment to be supportive of ALL.

The change will be the opportunity to embrace ALL in discussions; to engage ALL in implementing ideas/suggestions from many sources; and to seek to connect ALL to what we can do better to build God's house into a place where we are passionate about our daily walk with Jesus!



Hear ye! Hear ye!

Before we start our worship services on Sundays, a few minutes are taken to offer announcements about upcoming events or missions. We do this to supplement the Tele Christian and emails we have sent out. It is important to communicate in multiple ways, but we do not want to distract from, or delay, our purpose for being together on Sunday – which is to WORSHIP GOD!

To organize & limit our announcements, **Wednesday** has been set as the deadline to submit announcements to the office. Whether you wish to make a 'special announcement' on Sunday morning or would like the liturgist to read an announcement, you must let Kim know on or before Wednesday. This allows time for the liturgists and AV techs to be informed and prepared. Thank you for cooperating with this procedure.



*Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

Our blessing board offers a visual reminder of God's grace. It is a place for us to express gratitude. We will refresh the board and await post-its of your summer blessings. The board is easily accessible in the Narthex. When we consider the joy, hope, love, and goodness God showers upon us, it should not surprise us to find the board overflowing with post-its before fall. Be sure to post your blessings!



You're invited

JOIN US FOR
MICHAEL VAN WIJK'S GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, June 18 1-4 PM
@ DeMotte UMC
227 N Halleck Street
DeMotte, IN
mevanwijk@hotmail.com

MINISTRY IN ACTION



2022 Vacation Bible School
June 20 – 24
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Planning for Vacation Bible School is in full swing. Getting everything ready for the big week is a 'Monumental' task. We need your help through prayers, volunteers, and donations. Please check out the information on the table in the church Narthex. If you would like to volunteer your time during the week VBS, please list your name on the sign-up sheet. There are donation forms on the same table in the Narthex. Take a look to see if there is anything you are willing to purchase or let us borrow. Finally, please spread the word about this 'Monumental' Vacation Bible School week with all children (age 4 through 5th grade) you know. We can't wait to 'celebrate God's greatness' with the children of our church and community. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Manier, 219-712-6157, or the church office.



Youth Group

We have been having a great time at Youth Group the past two months.

This month we worked on two no-sew blankets to donate to the UMW mission project. We also played soccer and wiffle ball in the park next to the church. The weather cooperated and we had a great time. We even got Pastor Mark in on the fun as the wiffle ball pitcher!

Our next event is going to be at Buckley Homestead (3606 Belshaw Rd) on Sunday, June 12 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. We will be going on a scavenger hunt to explore the park. Meet in the Visitor Center Parking lot (located on Hendricks St) at 4:00. We hope to see you there and remember to invite your friends!



Prayer Blanket Ministry

Trudy Corning, Congregational Care

Do you crochet? Knit? Sew? Can you make a tie blanket?

The Prayer Blanket Ministry needs your help! We are in need of lap blankets approximately 3 feet x 4 feet.

The Prayer Blanket Ministry gives blankets to those in need of comfort and prayers due to physical, emotional and spiritual hardship. The blankets are donated and are prayed over by our faith community. Last year this ministry gave approximately 25 blankets to persons needing to feel the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father.

If you feel led to be a part of this ministry, new donated blankets can be placed in the red bin outside the church office door. Please contact Trudy Corning, Amy Nichols or the church office with any questions.



YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS BINGO

On Tuesday, June 28 we will have our next Young At Heart Seniors BINGO. We'll meet at 1 pm and have dessert together and then play BINGO. Prizes will be provided. All who are available at this time are welcome. Bring a friend and be ready to have some fun and fellowship together.



CHURCH OUTING 'IN'

Unfortunately, our June outing to Nappanee has been cancelled. We did not get enough signed up to get the group rate and justify the need for a bus. We will replace that outing with one that is in the church (but still going 'out', so I guess it should be called an 'Inning'). Let me explain. David Schoon will take us on a tour via travelogue of Indiana. It is entitled, "A Hoosier Pilgrimage from Vincennes to Indianapolis." This is David's most requested travelogue.

The 'Inning' will be on **Wednesday, June 8**. We'll start at noon in the basement with a lunch from Dee's Corner. You can choose between a chicken salad sandwich, deli wrap, or a deli sub sandwich and a choice of potato salad or pasta salad, chips and dessert and a drink. The cost of the lunch will be \$10. **We need reservations by June 1** so we can order the lunch and, of course, we need your choices for lunch. Our program will be on the third floor in the Wings Classroom. The elevator will save you the stairs.



The Nurse Is In By Trudy Corning

The Nurse Is In the first Sunday of each month to check your blood pressure reading. Something new this summer starting in June: The nurse will be available at a picnic table after the 8am service in the park and then in the church office prior to the start of 10:30 worship!

Why check your blood pressure?

It is a tool used to help identify if a person is at risk for heart disease or stroke. It's important to get an accurate blood pressure reading so that you and your health care provider have a clearer picture of your potential health risk. Checking your blood pressure reading also ensures, if you are prescribed blood pressure medication, that the medicine is effective. High blood pressure can damage your arteries by making them less elastic, which decreases the flow of blood and oxygen to your heart.

Look for the nurse the first Sunday of each month and have your Blood Pressure checked!

If you are a nurse and would like to participate in this ministry, contact Trudy Corning at 219-613-1787 or the church office.



WELL DONE, CHURCH FAMILY!

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Good Samaritan Fund through the Generosity Tree. Our current total is \$5566! You are truly a giving congregation. Remember that donations can be given throughout the year, but the Generosity Tree will continue every May so start planning for next year! In addition, we currently have 60 bags of shoes which amounts to approximately \$600 plus a generous donation of \$250 for a total of \$850. This amounts to a grand total of **\$6416** between the two fundraisers. Thank you so much for your help in maintaining the Good Samaritan Fund to help those in need in our community.



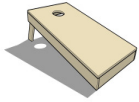
Lowell Church Mouse

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.

Dave Bauman, Rick Bachman and Mike Hayden have been doing a lot of work around the church. The old planter in front of the church was falling apart. It is now empty of dirt and disassembled. The parts are being cleaned and will be reassembled stronger.

Kathy Stoner and Amy Manier are working hard on VBS. Kathy Taylor has started making great decorations for the week. Don DeFrance took some beautiful pictures at Easter. Kathy Nelson organized the shoe fundraiser and the Generosity Tree. These raised over \$6,000 for the Good Samaritan Fund. Tom Sufana did the organizing and bagging of the shoes (60 bags!) It almost seems like we need to print the membership list in this space. So many people are doing so many good things for the church. I can't see it all!

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



Men's Cornhole Tournament

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

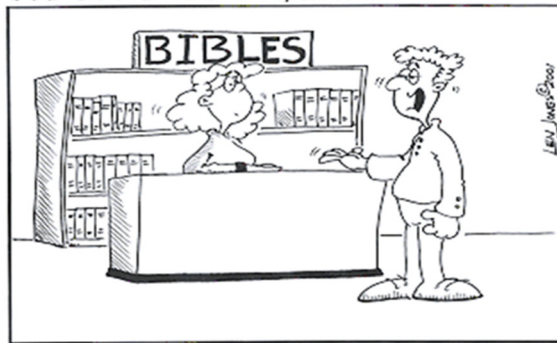
Salt and Light by Jonny Hawkins



"She never tithes, but she always gives her two cents' worth."

© 2017 Jonny Hawkins

ALTAR EGO by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."



Contact for Pastor Mark

You are welcome to contact Pastor Mark whenever you have a need. He especially wants to know if you are in the hospital or have another emergency need. His home phone is 219-696-0569. Cell phone is: 765-337-6013. Email is: revberg@rocketmail.com.

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)

June 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 UMW Exec. Meeting 4:30pm (library)	2 VBS Decorations 1-5pm (300)	3 Working Together Circle 1:30pm (library)	4
5 8 am Park Service Starts (@ Liberty Park) The Nurse is In	6 Tri-Kappa 6pm (basement)	7 Trustees Meeting 6pm (bsmt) VBS Decorations 1-5 pm (300)	8 <i>Young at Heart</i> Seniors Lunch and Travelogue 12pm VBS Volunteer Meeting 6pm (300)	9 Annual Conference Starts	10	11
12 Youth Group @ Buckley Homestead 4pm	13 Susanna Wesley Circle Pot-Luck @ Kathy Gold- man's 12pm Shift Work Ses- sion 4pm (304)	14 VBS Set-Up 1-5pm (300)	15	16 VBS Set-Up 1-5pm (300)	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 VBS 6-8 pm	21 *Tele-Christian Articles Due Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside) VBS 6-8 pm	22 VBS 6-8 pm	23 VBS 6-8 pm **No LYFT Service Tonight	24 VBS 6-8 pm	25
26	27	28 Senior Bingo 1pm	29	30		