

# The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

## Tele-Christian December 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...*

Don't you hate to wait? We wait in lines all the time. At the doctor, at the store, at the amusement park, it seems we spend way too long waiting. But that is what Advent is all about. We're waiting for a King. I read a reflection by David Bennett that I would like to share with you.

"You think we have it rough? How about waiting thousands of years, not for something minor like groceries, but for the king whose eternal reign would end the oppression of the world? What do we think about thousands of people hoping and praying fervently for something miraculous to happen, while successive generations are born and pass away, without a hint of fulfillment? I am speaking here of the ancient Hebrew patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, who waited expectantly for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah expresses this hope: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD (Isaiah 2:2-5, RSV).

Then, hundreds of years later, born in Bethlehem, a small town in the Roman Empire, their hope is finally realized. But there is a twist, because Jesus is not the earthly warrior-king many expected. And even after waiting, the final realization of the Messiah's eternal reign is still yet to be seen. It is coming in the future, when the baby born in Bethlehem returns in power to judge the living and the dead. All of this makes our own waiting seem pretty insignificant. Somehow waiting five extra minutes for a dried-out bun and a tiny piece of meat from a fast-food restaurant seems pretty trivial.

During the Advent season we symbolically participate in the waiting of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, as we await Christ's final and glorious return. Through prayer, worship, Communion, and the symbols of Advent, we groan with Isaiah for a day when weapons will be turned into agricultural instruments. We cry out with Zechariah, rejoicing that the dawn from on high is breaking upon us. We pray with the likes of Adam, Job, Hannah, Solomon, Micah, and millions of others, named and unnamed, many whose expectations of the future kingdom may have been hazy, yet who still yearned for something more complete and more "real" than what they knew."

Are you ready to wait this Advent? Will you turn your heart to await the coming reign of Christ, or will your focus be the wait at the mall, the wait for Christmas dinner to cook, the wait for family to arrive....?



### **Children's Christmas Program**

The children will be putting on a Christmas program this year on Sunday, December 11 at the 10:30 am worship service. You may wonder when the practices will happen. The title of this year's program is, "The Totally Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant: A Better Story." It was written by me and shows what happens when you try to improve the Bible. The first practice will be the presentation! Come on the 11<sup>th</sup> for an unpolished fun pageant! We need all of the children of the church and even your grandchildren who don't come here to be here that day.

**Pastor Mark**

# A LIFE OF WORSHIP

## December Sermon and Scripture Schedule

<b>December 4</b> ~	Scripture: II Thessalonians 3:16	Sermon Title: 'The Present of Peace'
<b>December 11</b> ~	Scripture: Romans 15:13	Sermon Title: 'The Present of Joy'
<b>December 18</b> ~	Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-19	Sermon Title: 'The Present of Love'
<b>December 25</b> ~	Scripture: John 3:16	Sermon Title: 'The Present of Jesus'



### Worship News

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-chairs

Advent is upon us! Our church has many opportunities for meaningful worship and to celebrate the birth of Christ! This advent season we will discover the *Presents of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*

**December 2** Hanging of the Greens: Meet at 1:30 pm to decorate our church for the season of Advent.

**December 4** Second Sunday of Advent: Communion

**December 11** Third Sunday of Advent: "The Totally Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant" at 10:30

**December 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent: Choir Cantata "A Song is Born" at 10:30

**December 24** Christmas Eve: There will be two Christmas Eve Services.

At 7 pm we'll have a family-oriented service. It will have an extended children's story, special music, the Christmas story, favorite carols, and a candlelight ending as we sing Silent Night.

At 11:00 pm we'll have a candlelight Communion service. There will be special music, carols, scriptures, Communion together, and lighting candles and singing Silent Night.

**December 25** Christmas Day: **ONE service at 9:30** Come as you are and celebrate the Present of Jesus.

*Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with your church family this Advent!*

### Music Notes from Michelle Mishlove

Thursday, Dec. 1 Praise Team at LYFT 6:00 PM service

Sunday, Dec. 4 Chancel Choir at 8:00 AM **Tapestry of Joyful Carols medley & The King is Coming Soon**

Sunday, Dec. 11 Godsbells **The First Noel** at 10:30 AM

\*\*\*Chancel Choir Open Rehearsals\*\*\*

*If any members of the congregation are unable to attend on Cantata Sunday, they are welcome to listen during any choir rehearsals in December. Chancel Choir will meet as usual to practice on December 1, 8 and 15 at 7 pm in the sanctuary.*

### Christmas Cantata 2022

Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 AM our Chancel Choir will present  
**"A Song is Born: A Cantata for Christmas"** by Douglas Nolan.

Chancel Choir director: Michelle Mishlove

Narrators: Al Martin & Patrice Martin



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!



Poinsettias will be available again this year for the congregation to purchase 'in honor of', 'in memory of' and to the Glory of God. Envelopes will be available to order poinsettias in the Sunday bulletin December 4 & 11 or contact the church office before Monday, Dec. 12. The cost is \$10 each.



### CHRISTMAS EVE YARD SIGN

If you still have your Christmas Eve Service yard sign please make sure to display it in your yard.



### GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

As we have in the past, the church will have the Scrip Gift Card program for this holiday season. This program is a fund-raiser; as the church receives a percentage of the value of each gift card purchased. We will be placing two orders for gift cards. An order form is attached to the newsletter and will also be available in the church Narthex and in the worship bulletins on December 4 and 11. Payment is due with the order form. All paid orders must be in the office by 10 a.m. on either Monday, December 5 or Monday, December 12. Gift cards are usually available to be picked up in the office 3-4 days following the order date. The office will contact anyone who ordered and let them know their cards are in. If you have questions please call Kim in the church office.



### The Nurse is In: Meet Our Nurses



Hi, I'm Lauren. I'm a registered nurse and have worked at Community Hospital for the past seven years and the duration of my nursing career, other than a short three month stay in Oregon at the end of last year. As many of you know, my mom is a nurse and I have gladly followed in her footsteps. I am married to my husband, Matt and we have a sweet pup named Holly. We often walk around town, so you may see us! In addition to our frequent walks, I enjoy traveling (preferably somewhere with a beach), sewing and working in my flowers. I'm hoping to start a garden next year. I'll add it to the honey do list.



Hi my name is Trudy Corning. I have been raised in our church including baptized, confirmed and married at FUMC, Lowell. Gary and I have been married for almost 35 years and we raised our three children at First church. Lauren has followed in my footsteps and is also a nurse, Garrett farms and Robert is a Lowell police officer. And as some of you know, I also have two granddaughters, Ruby and Allison; they will have a baby brother arriving this spring. I have been a nurse for over 30 years working at St Anthony Hospital, Hospice care and most recently, for the past 10+ years, in an oncology doctor's office located in Crown Point.

I love spending time with Gary and our family including vacationing together. I also enjoy gardening, growing vegetables, flowers and especially pumpkins of all sorts of shapes, sizes and colors. Blue pumpkins are my favorite; however, I've never met a pumpkin I didn't like. You may have seen me downtown with my pumpkins at The Farmers Daughter! I serve on the Worship and Congregational Care committees and attend the 8am service.



## A Moment of Gratitude The Finance Team

Another year is coming to a close, and as we embark on a new year, we, your Finance Committee and stewardship team, wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how much we appreciate your faithful giving to the ministry of the Lowell First United Methodist Church

We recognize that you have gifted our church family generously and willingly from your own resources. Without these gifts, we wouldn't be able to carry out the mission and the various ministries. We are THANKFUL for it.

It is gifts like yours that continues to enable us to function as a healthy and vibrant church. We desire to continue to reach out into our community with love and concern, but most importantly sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

We "Told Our Story" throughout the 2022 year; we shared our ministry with the people of our community; and we prayed for God's guidance and God's wisdom. To whom should we lift? For whom should we share our talents and gifts? How should we open our minds, our hearts and our souls?

On Monday November 28<sup>th</sup> the Ad Council unanimously approved the 2023 budget as submitted from Finance. Although on paper the final budget falls a "little short" of a positive balance, we are significantly better than we were in 2022.

"Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart, and King David also rejoiced greatly." — 1 Chronicles 29:9



The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child international mission project. You filled 25 shoeboxes: 4 for 2-4 year olds, 12 for 5-9 year olds, and 9 for 10-14 year olds. Thank you for reaching out to bring surprises and joy to children around the world. Also, another big thank you to all who were able to take a Clothesline Tag. The needy children of Lowell are certain to be blessed this Christmas season because of you.



From Congregational Care, Trudy Corning

Thank you to all who supported the fall college box ministry thru donations, sponsorship, encouraging notes and prayers. Special thanks also to those who helped stuff and prepare the college boxes for shipping! Our church mailed overflowing boxes to 6 students! Please continue to pray for this ministry and the students receiving the boxes as they complete their fall semester and finish finals.

The students receiving the boxes:

Hailey Adcock, Evansville IN    Caleb Bernard, Cedar Lake IN    Keeley Bernard, Tuskegee AL  
Brooke Hayden, Stillwater OK    AJ Laux, Cape Girardeau MO    Hannah Madura, Bloomington IN



Thanks to all who made the Veteran's Day luncheon so special. The food was great, the group serving and the ones we ate with so friendly. As always Peggy had entertainment above and beyond. We picked up two pictures our resident photographer had taken and, considering the subjects, they were good, too. Thanks so much.

Sincerely, Don and Paula Tilton



Thank you all for your hard work setting up, serving and tearing down of the tables, chairs, food and all event needs for the Mommy's Haven open house. We are so blessed to have a community that is so generous and willing to give you time and energy to help our organization succeed. Also, thank you so much for the use of your tables and chairs as well as the church for storage of items needed for the on-line auction for Mommy's Haven. Thank you for the use of the room upstairs to store our items for the auction and items for pick-up. What a blessing to have a no cost space that was so convenient. We are so grateful for your support.

Lauren Mauk  
Mommy's Haven

## Education Opportunity

The F.R.I.E.N.D.S Sunday Class has begun a four-week Advent Study titled: "Faithful - Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph" authored by Adam Hamilton.

The study began on Sunday November 27 at 9:15 in room 304. All participants will journey together toward a greater understanding of Joseph, the man God chose to be the earthly father of Jesus Christ. From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the Nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. His courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity. Join us any Sunday and share in Joseph's influence.



## **News about our Children and Youth**

by Amy Manier

Join us on Sunday, December 11 at the 10:30 am worship service to watch The Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant performed by the children and youth from our congregation. The movie night planned for Friday, December 9 has been postponed until January or February. More information to come later.

The youth met in November and enjoyed an early Thanksgiving dinner (with non-thanksgiving food of lasagna). We also made birthday cards to be used by congregational care for milestone birthdays.

The youth will meet again on Sunday, December 11 and plan to go Christmas caroling in the Lowell community.



## **Trustees Report 11-20-2022**

By Dave Bauman

The church elevator passed the annual Pressure-Relief Valve and No-Load Test conducted by Otis Elevator Company. This test is required by the Indiana Homeland Security before a Lift/Operation Permit can be issued. The church elevator has been issued its Operating permit.

Dan and Laura Eller are making arrangements to have the church carpeting cleaned over Christmas break by "Americlean" Carpet Cleaning.

Dennis Olson was elected the new Chairman of the Trustees for 2023. Dennis has been a trustee for many years and we know he will do an excellent job.

The rental house refrigerator door seal broke and was in need of replacement. The cost for the new seal for the old refrigerator was excessive and it was decided to replace the refrigerator with a new one. Kirk McQuiston found a new GE refrigerator at Nason's for \$700 plus 59.00 delivery. Well done Kirk!



*United Woman in Faith invite you to their*

*Cookie Walk Saturday, Dec. 3*

*3:00-6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall*

*Cookies \$6.00/pound Hot Chocolate \$1.00*

Proceeds will fund Crock Pot Cooking Classes for Lowell middle school students in 2023.



## 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.

I don't normally talk about future events, but as a gossipy church mouse have you heard the latest? Michelle Mishlove is stepping down as the Chancel Choir director at the end of December. I have loved to see her work since I've been residing in the building. She is always so kind and professional. Her work is always first class. I, for one, am going to miss her. (Although she'll still be with the Praise Band.) She even recruited her replacement, Bobby Sue Whaley. The Chancel Choir will continue to have quality leadership, but be sure to thank Michelle in the coming month.

This is the season of the year where the Mission Committee doesn't get a chance to rest. They jumped right from the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes to the Christmas Clothesline for local school children. Thank you Mission Committee for your good work!

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



### 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



Note: Young at Heart Sr. Bingo will take the busy December month off. See you all in January!

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday - Worship** ~ 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), *Sunday School 9:15*: WINGS (300), F.O.M. (301), Youth (303), FRIENDS (304) Children (basement) **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), Godsbells 4:30 pm, *LYFT* Dinner 5:30 p.m./Worship 6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall) Chancel Choir 7pm (sanct.) **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

# December 2022

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Hanging of the Greens (decorate the church) 1:30pm  Set-Up for Cookie Walk (afternoon)	3  UWF Cookie Walk (F.H.) 3pm-6pm
4  Tri-Kappa Wreath pick-up 1-3pm	5	6	7  Working Together Circle 11:30pm (@ McVeys)  UWF Exec. Meeting 4:30pm (library)	8	9	10  Fellowship Hall rented/2pm
11  Children's Un-rehearsed Play @ 10:30 service  Youth Group 4pm	12  Susanna Wesley Pot-Luck 12pm	13	14	15	16	17
18  Christmas Cantata (10:30 service)	19	20  Household Pantry 9-12 & 5-6 (curbside)	21  <b>**Tele-Christian Articles are Due</b>	22  No LYFT/ Christmas Break	23  Office Closed Half Day	24  Christmas Eve 7pm service 11pm service
25  <b>Christmas Day 9:30 service</b>	26  Office Closed	27	28	29  No LYFT/ Christmas Break	30  Office Closed Half Day	31  New Year's Eve

## THE FAMILY ALTAR

**Are you remembering the church with your prayers?**

*Pray for those persons who are/were in the hospital:*

**Lewis Childress, Anna Losiniecki, Dean Moes, Sharon Sanders, Linda Wirick**

*Pray for people living in care facilities:*

Brentwood Assisted Living (Hobart): **Carol Cantwell**  
(1420 St. Mary's Circle, Hobart, Indiana 46342)

Cedar Creek Health Facility:  
**John Little, Lillian McLellan, Lois Mitchell, Wayne Wietbrock, Marie Woolfolk**  
(18275 S Burr Street, Lowell, Indiana 46356)

Colonial Nursing Center: **Linda Wirick**  
(110 Indiana Ave., Crown Point, IN 46307)

Clarendale Senior Housing (Schererville): **Maryrose Lynch**  
(7770 Burr Street, Schererville, Indiana 46375)

Cumberland Point Health Campus: **Gisela Peterson**  
(1051 Cumberland Ave., W. Lafayette, IN 47906 rm. 419)

Park Place Nursing: **Ellen Miller-Bowers**  
(Park Place Nursing, 10820 Park Pl., St. John, 46373)

*Pray for those receiving treatment:*

**Bob Bernotus, Lewis Childress, Charlie Haberlin, Sue Metz, Linda Snell**

*Pray for those recovering from illness/surgery/procedures:*

**Henry Grugal, Mark Lindemer, Carolyn Savich, McKenna Smith**

*Pray for those with long term health concerns:*

**Don DeVine, Henry Grugel, Charlie Haberlin, Guy Hendricks, Jim Kirk, Diane Kowalisyn,  
Mark Lindemer, Sally Mijares, Dean Moes, Bill Newlin, Kim Newlin, Gisela Peterson,  
Ellen Rosengard, McKenna Smith, Tony Sodo, Piper Spry, Tom Streeter,  
Sandy Villa, John Westerfield, Kathy Wheeler, Kate Yelkich**

*Pray for our military and their families serving in the Armed Forces all over the world:*

**Ben Eller, Kyle Eller, Jared Haberlin, Tyler Harber, Cody Pate,  
Troy Pate, Josh Kuiper, Daniel Sutton, Phebe Zambeto**

*Pray for Pastor Mark and all of our church staff.*

*Please pray for our Community and our National leaders.*

**Global Prayer Concerns for December:**

4 & 11 ~ Holiday Travelers

18 & 25 ~ Peace on Earth

**Please pray for the family of:**

**Emily Streeter** who passed away on November 1.

**Gary James**, Bev Collom's brother in law, who passed away on November 19.

**Olivia Rineheart** who passed away on November 24.

**Sam Wilson** who passed away on November 25.

### Hospital Visits

As a reminder, if you or one of your family members is hospitalized and wish to be prayed for and to receive visitation, **please notify the church office and/or instruct the hospital specifically to call the church office.** Otherwise – we do not know that you are in the hospital! We don't want anyone to be missed! If you wish your hospitalization to be known only by those who do visitation, your confidentiality will be secure as well.



**Tele-Christian Deadline**

Tele-Christian articles are always due on the 21st of the month.  
Please send articles for the January issue by **December 21**  
as an e-mail attachment **to both:**

Kim McGinley at [umcfriends@sbcglobal.net](mailto:umcfriends@sbcglobal.net) and  
Bev Kussy at [kussy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kussy@sbcglobal.net).



**December Birthdays:**

2 ~ Lyle Patchett 4 ~ Jeanette Cappadora 6 ~ Don Favors, Sherri Kuiper, Lily Oman  
8 ~ Michelle Mishlove 10 ~ Tom Sufana 13 ~ Mark Lindemer 16 ~ Mary Kustron  
19 ~ Nancy Scaggs 21 ~ Gary Wallace, Natalie Manier 22 ~ Sophia Madura  
23 ~ Audrey Madura 25 ~ Donna Goodrich 30 ~ Pat Beier



Look who's celebrating a Milestone Birthday!  
(\*We are designating 75, 80, 85, 90 and up as milestones)  
Send a card to wish them well!

**\*\*No Milestone Birthdays this Month:**

**December Anniversaries:**

6 ~ John and Kim Westerfield  
17 ~ Charlie and Lynne Haberlin, Jean and Dennis Sutton  
23 ~ Isidro and Tali Rodriguez  
28 ~ Dave and Donna Bauman, Dennis and Carol Olson



**Church Information**

Phone: 219-696-9219 FAX: 219-696-9220  
Visit our web page: [www.lowellumc.org](http://www.lowellumc.org)  
e-mail: [umcfriends@sbcglobal.net](mailto:umcfriends@sbcglobal.net)  
Facebook: Lowell First United Methodist Church



**Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request that you would like to be put out on the e-mail prayer chain,  
please call or e-mail:

Beth Bales 219-775-0916 [balesbd75@comast.net](mailto:balesbd75@comast.net)  
Kathy Nelson 219-789-5941 [nelson.kathy.g@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.kathy.g@gmail.com).



**Monthly Income**

Monthly income needed: \$24,780  
Monthly income for November: \$17,729

*First United Methodist Church  
520 E. Commercial Avenue  
Lowell, IN 46356*



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