

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian May 2023 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 found a list of what makes a godly mother. As we approach Mother's Day reflect on how you are doing as a godly mother and appreciate your own mother as she was able to take on these traits.

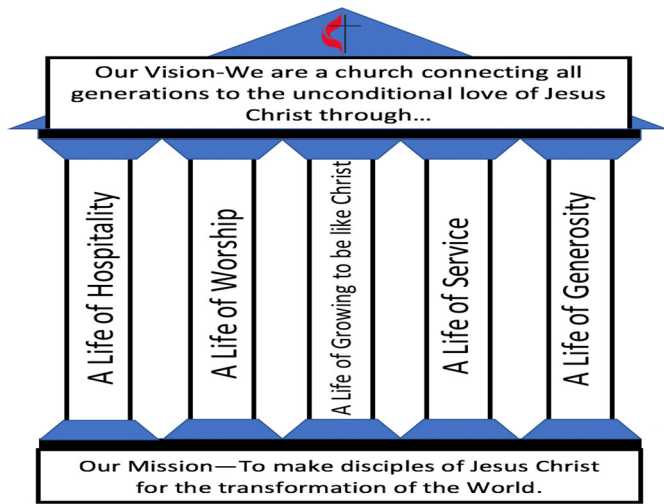
1. A godly mother seeks Biblical knowledge
2. A godly mother fears the Lord
3. A godly mother trusts in God
4. A godly mother cultivates a joyful spirit
5. A godly mother willingly does the work God has set before her
6. A godly mother keeps a pure heart
7. A godly mother is content with what she has
8. A godly mother builds up her house
9. A godly mother is a wise steward of her home, time, and resources
10. A godly mother is a disciple-maker
11. A godly mother cheerfully serves her family as unto God
12. A godly mother lives with unswerving integrity
13. A godly mother prays for her children
14. A godly mother trains her children in the way they should go
15. A godly mother practices patience and kindness
16. A godly mother lives with Christ-like selflessness
17. A godly mother partners with God in raising and training her children
18. A godly mother seeks godly counsel

Pastor Mark



May Sermon and Scripture Schedule

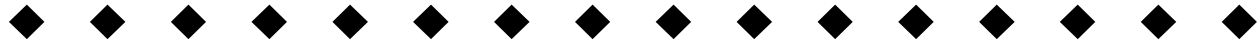
May 7 ~	Scripture: John 14:8-14	Sermon Title: 'Seeing the Father'
May 14 ~	Scripture: John 19:25-27	Sermon Title: 'Taking Care of Mom'
May 21 ~	Scripture: Luke 24:44-53	Sermon Title: 'The Ascension'
May 28 ~	Scripture: Acts 2:14-21	Sermon Title: 'Pentecost—The Last Days'



This image represents our church. It is built on the Mission to make disciples for Jesus, sheltered by a Vision of unconditional love for all, and supported by five Pillars of Discipleship: HOSPITALITY, WORSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, SERVICE, and GENEROSITY.



Look for this small image of a pillar throughout this newsletter. A small pillar image means the article relates to one of our Pillars of Discipleship. It means the article tells you how we are moving toward achieving our Mission and working at keeping our church relevant and alive for future generations.



Worship News

Trudy Corning & Linda Hayden, Co-Chairs

We pray you had a very meaningful Lenten season, Holy Week and GREAT Easter Celebration!
As Pastor Mark reminded us during worship after Easter -- We are Easter people! Praise the Lord!!

During the month of May, we will continue to celebrate:

May 14 ~ Mother's Day The ladies of the church will be honored and receive a special gift.

May 21 ~ Graduation Sunday We will celebrate and honor those graduating from high school, college and trade schools.

May 28 ~ Memorial Day We will remember those who have served our country.
Pentecost Sunday Wear red!



Summer Park Service

Summer Worship in the Park will begin **June 4 at 8am!** During the months of June, July, August and Labor Day Weekend, we will worship at **LIBERTY PARK at 8 am.** Bring a lawn chair and enjoy worship in God's green cathedral! We will also continue to worship each Sunday in the church sanctuary at 10:30 am throughout the summer.



LYFT is Getting MESSY



Messy Church is a new phenomenon that started in England. It is a way to stress intergenerational interaction in the midst of worship. It is a very informal, relaxed service focusing on keeping the interest of children and including a meal. Through multiple activities all ages interact and do things together.

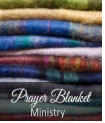
Our LYFT service is going to be transformed into Messy Church on the fourth Thursday of each month. Our next Messy Church will be Thursday May 25 in the basement. We'll have dinner at 5:30. At 6 pm we'll have activities for all ages to interact together, and Communion time. Invite friends and especially the children and youth in your life.



Congregational Care

Prayer Blanket Ministry:

Thank you to those who have donated fleece to the Prayer Blanket Ministry! If anyone is interested in making a tie fleece blanket for the Prayer Blanket Ministry from the donated fleece, please contact Trudy Corning or the church office.



College Box Ministry:

Thank you to all who have supported the College Box Ministry through prayer, encouraging notes and donations. The students will receive their college finals box the last week of April and first week of May. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the students receiving the boxes.

The recipients this spring are:

Hailey Adcock, Caleb Bernard, Keeley Bernard, Brooke Hayden, AJ Laux & Hannah Madura

Martha's Coffee House:

May 28 will be the last Sunday morning time of fellowship in the library this spring. Martha's Coffee House will not be offered during the summer. It will resume in September after Labor Day.



The Nurse is IN:

During the summer months the nurse will be available to check blood pressure only before the 10:30 service. BP check will not be available at the park service.



United Women in Faith News

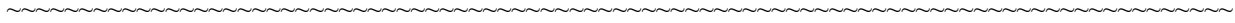
United Women in Faith have started to have more activities. A Human Trafficking Forum took place on March 28. Guest speaker Barb Lis spoke about her work with an Indiana group and law enforcement including the FBI. We had visitors from Chesterton, Crown Point, Valparaiso, Demotte, and others. Many people were asking how they could help. They found they had taken that first step by learning about the subject.

On April 17 we had about fifty guests from Hammond, Demotte, Merrillville, Crown Point, and our church for our UFW Birthday Party. We had a great speaker, Carrie Ward. She has been an overseas teacher for 25 years. She shared great information concerning Jordan, Israel, and Greece and Biblical areas she had traveled. We also had a hymn sing along led by Sandy Hurst and Patrice Martin. It was a good party.

Looking ahead: The Susanna Wesley Circle will be hosting a speaker on recycling on Monday, June 12 at 1:00. Angela Goodson, from Solid Waste Management, will be the speaker. Everyone is invited to attend. In July, UWF will be collecting school supplies. The supplies will be donated to local schools. All donations will be welcome.

Peace be with you.

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, President



Susanna Wesley Circle Supports Local Mommy's Haven

Pictured are some of the members of Susanna Wesley Circle after presenting Lauren Mauk, the director of Mommy's Haven of Lowell, with a check to help support the maternity house. Mommy's Haven provides a safe and loving environment for pregnant women in need. Life skills training is provided for up to a year if needed. For more information go to MommysHaven.org.



The Good Samaritan Fund
Kathy Nelson

“Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” 2 Corinthians 9:11. New Living Translation.



From May 7 through May 14 the *Generosity Tree* will be displayed in the Narthex. The envelopes on the *Generosity Tree* will be labeled \$1 to \$100. Take an envelope, complete the label, and insert the dollar amount on the label (or more). Seal and return the envelope to Kathy Nelson or to Kim in the office, or place it in the offering plate. On the envelope label there will be space to make note of a person who has been a true blessing in your life - whether it be in honor or in memory of. That list of blessings will be in the May 28 bulletin.

All monies collected through the *Generosity Tree* will go to the Good Samaritan Fund, which assists people with expenses like rent, utility bills and gasoline for their vehicle.



A Big Buddy Bag Thank You
From the Missions Committee



The Missions Committee is excited to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your generous donations to the Buddy Bag program. Your unwavering support has allowed us to make a significant impact in our community and provide much-needed assistance to children in need. It has shown the power of our congregation when we come together to help others.

We collected 151 Buddy Bags, a cart load of food, and \$1260 for serving students in South Lake County who are facing food insecurity. These Buddy Bags contain nutritious food items that help bridge the gap during weekends and extended breaks when children may not have access to regular school meals. Your generosity has helped ensure that these children will have enough to eat and that their hunger will be alleviated during challenging times.

Your compassion and generosity have truly made a difference in the lives of these children and their families. Your willingness to give and support the Buddy Bag program reflects the spirit of compassion and kindness that we strive to embody as a church community.

For those unable to attend, the photos below show the bags filling the front of the sanctuary ready to be blessed on Sunday, April 16. Bonnie Meyer, President of the Board of Community Help Network, Inc., was present to accept our check and talk about the Buddy Bag program, which was inspired by our former pastor, Jeff Newton. Members of the congregation placed their hands on the bags while Pastor Mark gave the blessing. The bags were joyfully received at the warehouse the following day.

The Missions Committee is grateful for your helping in fulfilling our mission of serving our community and spreading God's love. Once again, thank you!





Children's News: Another Successful EGG-Stravaganza!

On April 1 the fellowship hall was full with 49 kids, 33 parents/guardians, and 10 volunteers for the Easter EGG-Stravaganza. The fun-filled event started with serving lunch to all. The kids were then divided into groups to participate in Easter relay games and to paint wooden crosses. Each group also visited the sanctuary to hear the Easter story. What a blessing to share with all the families that attended! It was a joy to once again see all this fun and excitement within the walls of our building. THANK YOU to all who supported this event through prayer, donations, and volunteering. It was greatly appreciated.



Save the Date

2023 Vacation Bible School
June 19 – 23 6:00 – 8:00 pm

We are excited to begin planning Vacation Bible School for this summer. It will be a 'Stellar' week shining Jesus' light to the children of our church and community. We look forward to sharing more about this year's theme with you all in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please start spreading the word about this 'Stellar' VBS week. **More information coming soon!**

We are so grateful that our congregation has always supported Vacation Bible School through prayer, donations, and lots of volunteers. Be on the lookout in the church Narthex for volunteer sign-up sheets and donation opportunities. If you have any questions, please call Amy Manier, 219-712-6157, or the church office.



Youth News: Summer Schedule



Although the weather did not allow for the youth to go to the Shrine of Christ of Passion on Sunday, April 16, we still had a great time together. We spent the afternoon playing games. We had a competitive and energetic cornhole tournament with five teams: 'Rockin Piglets', 'Swifties', 'Robo Bears', 'Slayers', and 'Cows'. Ultimately, the 'Rockin Piglets' were the champions! Cornhole was followed by an exciting game of Sardines. The kiddos found great hiding places on the 3rd floor and much to our surprise could be quiet while they waited to be were found.

Youth group will continue monthly through the summer. All kids going into 6th grade through 12th grade are welcome to come and bring friends along. See the list of activities we have planned and spread the word to the youth you know.

Sunday, May 21 at noon at Church

End of School Cookout and Outdoor Games (Frisbee, relay games, bags, whiffle ball)

Sunday, June 11 at 1:00 pm at Wildfire Acres – 17607 Marshall St, Lowell

Equestrian (Horse) Day and Cookout

Sunday, July 30 at 1:00 pm

Mini Golf with Prizes to beat Pastor Mark

Sunday, August 27 at 1:00 pm at Lemon Lake Park – 6322 W 133rd Ave, Crown Point

Back to School Bash



Calling all Graduates!!

We will be celebrating high school and college graduates during worship on Sunday, May 21. Please let us know if you have a graduate in your family that you would like to have recognized. We want to celebrate this accomplishment with you. Call the church office to add your graduates name to the list.

In addition, we will have the end of the year recognition of the "SonShine Express" children's Sunday School participants at the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 21.

Our Young at Heart Senior group will meet for refreshments, fellowship and a **program on Wednesday, May 10 at 1:00 pm** the Fellowship Hall (basement). Our program will be a talk by Master Gardener, Susan Radovich. Her topic will be "Herbs of the Bible". We will take up a collection to give to the Master Gardener program. Invite a friend and come for a fun and informative time together.

Young at Heart Sr. **Bingo will meet on Tuesday, May 23 at 1 pm** in the church basement. We'll have desert together and then play bingo (without charge). 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.

The community is invited to all Young at Heart Senior activities. Help us spread the word. Inform your friends and neighbors about our monthly activities and encourage them to join us.

Looking ahead: In June the Young at Heart program will be an animal program by Erin's Farm.



Lowell Is Having a Sweet Stroll

Lowell's Chamber of Commerce is having a new downtown event called *The Sweet Stroll*. People can walk through the downtown on Saturday, May 6 from 12-2 and play games at various businesses. Candy will be given as prizes.

Our church will be participating. We'll have the bean bag toss boards set up outside of our west side by Olde Towne Square. We'll have candy and candy decorations and offer our restrooms. Swing by for the fun!



FYI...COLLEGE STUDENTS

FYI...TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

FYI...H.S. SENIORS

Lowell First United Methodist Church has student loans available through the Clara Pixley Trust. Clara Pixley, one of our own Lowell Methodists, set up a trust in her will back in the 1940's to loan money to students to go to college or trade school. Loans can be \$3,000 per year with a maximum of \$10,000 per student. You or your parents must be a member of our church. If you are interested, please contact Terry Donovan, Kirk McQuiston, or Lynn Bochart for details.



It's time to think about saving taxes for 2023!

Are you over 70 ½? And Do you have a traditional IRA?

You can do non-taxable distributions from your IRA, save federal and state income taxes and contribute to your church...ALL at the same time!!!

There are specific guidelines to follow, so talk to your tax preparer/accountant and/or your investment counselor.

Ask these questions:

- What is my RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)?
- How can I gift my RMD and/or more to my church?
- How can I send monthly tax-free withdrawals to my church?
- How does it save federal and state income taxes?
- How can I prepare for my 2023 taxes?

Hope you have a blessed 2023 with reduced taxes!

Lynn Bochart, Church Treasurer



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.

151 Buddy Bags were filled. How does a church our size fill so many bags for the students of southern Lake County? I saw you carrying them in. We filled so many because so many different people saw the vision to meet a need. Laura Eller did a great job sharing that vision with us, and of course you all responded above what we dreamed.

The United Women in Faith (UWF) had a successful Birthday Party event on April 17. There were so many ladies from other churches here as well as our own. They did some very impressive last minute scrambling to get a program when Peggy Hendricks became ill. You can't keep this group down.

Didn't the sanctuary look beautiful for Easter? All the flowers and everything else just looked so inviting.

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



The FRIENDS adult discussion class is presently doing a video study by Max Lucado called, "You Were Made for this Moment." It is the story of Esther from the Old Testament. If you are feeling weary from life's challenges and feeling like the world is spinning out of control, the book of Esther brings welcome news that God hasn't forgotten you, and He will give you courage for challenging times. The FRIENDS group meets upstairs in Room 304 on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. All are welcome. Please join us!



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



Thank you to all who have collected egg cartons for me. Please continue to collect them. You may drop them off in the office or set them next to the church mailboxes next to the Sanctuary. They are very much appreciated.

Beth Bailey

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), AI/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)

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Outreach Meeting 6pm Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	2 Election Day	3 UWF Executive Meeting 4:30 pm (library) Trustees 6pm (conf. room)	4	5 Working Together Circle 1pm (library)	6 Basement rented 11 am
7	8 Susanna Wesley Circle 1pm (library) Shift Meeting 5pm	9 Lay Leader Mtg 10am	10 Young at Heart Senior Program 1pm Worship Meeting 6 pm	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 Staff/Parish 3 pm (conf. room)	16	17	18	19	20 Tri-Kappa Flower Sale 9 - 11 am (canopy)
21 Graduation Sunday Youth Group 12pm	22 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	23 Young at Heart Senior Bingo 1pm (FH)	24	25 Messy Church @ LYFT	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day/ Office Closed	30	31			