

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian June 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...



Mark's Remarks

Sunday, May 28 is Pentecost. It is a great celebration for Christians. Below is an article by Ryan Griffith that explains why we should celebrate. Enjoy.

Three Reasons to Celebrate

How, then, is Pentecost important for us?

1. Pentecost fulfills Jesus's promise to never forsake his own.

As painful as the parting at the ascension might have been, Jesus assured the disciples that it was to their advantage that he would go away, "For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. . . . When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:7, 13-14)

The fulfillment of the promise of Jesus was the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and, as Peter proclaimed, on all of God's people in this new era (Acts 2:38). The promises of the new covenant are ours through the indwelling Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33ff; Ezekiel 36:26ff). Jesus did not end his work on earth with the ascension — he continues it now through his Spirit-indwelt church. We, therefore, can take fresh courage in Jesus's words, "Behold, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

2. Pentecost launches the global proclamation of the gospel.

Jesus's death at Passover and his mighty resurrection three days later signaled the "firstfruit" of God's victory over sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:20-24). Jesus had accomplished everything necessary for the gospel to run and triumph (Hebrews 2:14-15; cf. Revelation 20:1-3) and the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost signals that the greater harvest has begun.

The three thousand souls added to the church on Pentecost hailed from all corners of the Roman world. They, in turn, would carry the gospel to their families and communities. The narrative arc of Acts follows the Spirit-indwelt disciples as they carry the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). You heard about Easter because of Pentecost. The fields are white with harvest and, as part of the church of the risen Christ, we too can "go, therefore, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:18).

3. Pentecost signals the coming of fuller restoration and a greater celebration.

At Pentecost, Peter proclaims that the prophecy of Joel 2:28-31 has come to pass. Intriguingly, this prophecy of the eschatological gift of the Spirit comes immediately after another striking promise from God in Joel 2:25-27:

I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

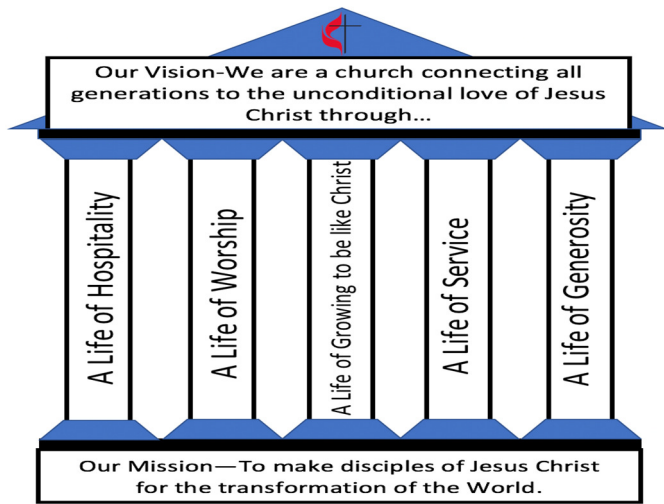
While Jesus's reign is secure and eternal, it has yet to come to its fullest expression on the earth. While death has been decisively defeated, it has yet to be put to a final end (1 Corinthians 15:24-26). Paul reminds us that creation longs for its final restoration and that even we ourselves, who "have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23).

Pentecost is a pointer that history is inexorably moving towards the restoration of all things. The bridegroom has come; his bride is making herself ready. We await the greatest celebration of all.



June Sermon and Scripture Schedule

June 4 ~	Scripture: Nehemiah 1:1-3	Sermon Title: 'What a Mess'
June 11 ~	Scripture: Nehemiah 2:1-6	Sermon Title: 'Beginning the Journey'
June 18 ~	Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-16	Sermon Title: 'Counting the Cost'
June 25 ~	Scripture: Nehemiah 6:5-9	Sermon Title: 'Overcoming Distractions'



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

Co-chairs Trudy Corning and Linda Hayden

Important! A Change to 8:00 Summer Worship Location

During the month of **JUNE**, join us for 8AM worship at **LIBERTY PARK**.

JULY 2 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3 our 8AM worship service will be moved to **Olde Towne Square** located on the west side of the church.

Bring a lawn chair and join us for outdoor worship at 8:00.
In inclement weather, the service will be moved inside to our sanctuary.

We will also continue to worship in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30 am.
Invite a friend to summer worship; we look forward to seeing you!

Looking ahead: Our second annual Homecoming Sunday will take place September 10, 2023. There will be one service at 9:30 AM followed by an all-church cook out. Mark your calendar now!!



Sermons for June

We'll focus on the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament We'll answer the question, when life becomes messy, how do I rebuild? Using Nehemiah's story of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, we can learn strategies for rebuilding when life falls apart.



Live Your Faith Today Dinner/Worship Service

LYFT 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!

LYFT gets transformed into Messy Church on the fourth Thursday of each month. Messy Church is a way to stress intergenerational interaction in the midst of worship. It is a very informal, relaxed service focusing on multiple activities where all ages can interact and do fun things together.

Our next Messy Church will be Thursday, July 27 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.

**There will be no LYFT on June 22 due to Vacation Bible School



From the Finance Committee



Having wonderful church members is a high blessing. When you have people who are committed to the mandate the Lord has given you, you should be really grateful for them.

No greater gratitude can be expressed than that which the Finance committee wants to express for a recent series of events. The oldest air conditioner unit recently needed to be replaced at a cost of \$8,000.00 plus. The backflow system regulator also needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$2,000.00. The church budget was able to cover these unexpected needs through the Capital Projects fund; a fund supported by our generous church family.

We also want to recognize additional cost savings due to donated labor and materials that covered the repair of the concrete outside the east church doors. Please, if you have the opportunity, express your gratitude to Big Jim's Concrete Construction for the labor and material donations. Also, there needed to be repairs above the east doors canopy. Kathy Taylor was able to secure a donor to do the labor. Three trustees donated the funding for the cost of materials.

The worship liaison informed the committee that the Mother's Day geraniums were donated by Amy Mainer and family.

Wow!!! Having a kind and generous community of people inside and outside the church is a huge blessing. Without this love, a church won't be able to grow, prosper, and help more people to understand the love of God. So, when a church member or a community member goes out of their way to help the congregation, it is our appreciation that should be conveyed as one feels moved to do so.



News from the Trustees

Dennis Olson, Chairman



Several repairs and replacements have taken place in the recent weeks:

- We had some uneven concrete that created a tripping hazard at the east entrance. Big Jim's Concrete Construction fixed the problem at no charge to the church.
- There was a leak on the east entrance canopy. Trustee Kathy Taylor reached out to a friend/neighbor, Dave Wittenhagen, who owns a tree service. He brought his bucket truck and fixed the problem at a minimal cost of materials only.
- The air conditioner unit that cools the office and other areas had to be replaced.
- The backflow for the sprinkler system was also replaced.



Meet the Green Team! A Recycling Program

The Environmental Education Team for the Lake County Solid Waste Management District will give a presentation in our Fellowship Hall on **Monday, June 12, at 1:00 PM**. This presentation is sponsored by the Susanna Wesley Circle of our UWF. This program is free and open to the community.

After creating all that is on the earth, God intended for man to care for it. Genesis 2:15 "*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it.*" At this presentation we will learn of the many programs available here in Lake County to help us protect and preserve our environment.

We will learn about: The FREE Environmental Education programs for schools and families, the Environmobile, the composting program, and the new Environmental Education Center. We will learn about the programs for recycling specific items (tires, batteries, latex paint, etc.) and more. After the presentation by Angel Goodson and Racine Kovach, there will a time for questions and answers. Are we doing our recycling correctly in our church? Let's find out together.



Drivers Needed! Congregational Care



“Have Car Will Travel” is a ministry that was started years ago by a beloved member of our church family, Ben Rineheart. Ben had a caring servant’s heart and served our church in many ways, including being a member of the first Congregational Care committee. Ben felt retirement offered new opportunities to serve others. His idea was to have church members (who had a car and were usually available on weekdays) provide rides for members unable to drive themselves to local (Lowell, Crown Point, Schererville, etc.) medical appointment.

A person who is unable to drive can contact the church office for the list of volunteer drivers. When circumstances arise that cause them to be without a friend or family member available to take them to a doctor appointment, the person can start contacting the drivers on the list and make arrangements for a ride. Calls should be made several days to weeks prior to the appointment. The drivers are active church members who travel and have busy schedules of their own. It might take several calls to find a driver available on the requested day and time. Or, if the volunteer list is low, it is possible a ride may not be found and an appointment will need to be rescheduled. Do not wait until the last moment to contact the drivers.

“Have Car Will Travel” has continued without Ben’s leadership. However, the number of volunteer drivers fluctuates and the driver list is currently very short. At the same time, many of our church family have had to give up driving either temporarily or permanently. So, **more drivers are needed for this ministry.** Has retirement given you time to help others? Do you **Have a Car? Will you Travel** to take a church member to a doctor? Please call the office to have your name added to the driver list. You may also call or text Bev Kussy at 219-789-7715.



The Return of the KIDZ KARNIVAL!

From the Outreach Committee

After a several year hiatus, we will once again offer the free KIDZ KARNIVAL to our community!
Mark your calendar now!

Kidz Karnival

Friday, July 21 from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Olde Towne Square on the west side of our church

**This FREE community event will include food, games, horseback rides, bounce houses.
There will be something for all ages!**

As in the past, this event will require MANY helping hands.
Watch for details coming soon about how you can help with this event!!



Vacation Bible School

June 19 – 23 6:00 – 8:00 PM



Planning for Vacation Bible School is in full swing! It will be a 'Stellar' week shining Jesus' light to the children of our church and community. How can you help?

PRAY! Pray for the children who will be coming to VBS this year. Pray for the adults and youth who will be working with VBS. Pray that God prepares everyone to hear His message for us.

VOLUNTEER! We have positions that need to be filled and can use people of all ages! We are especially needing crew leaders. If interested, please call the office.

DONATE! We have cards out with items that we need to have donated for VBS. Look for the display in the Narthex!

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT REGISTRATION! Get your friends' and family's children registered online at vbspro.events/p/7lee85. There are fliers on the table in the Narthex for you to share friends and family.

Thank you for supporting VBS!



Children's News

From Amy Manier, Education Chair

We celebrated Children's Sunday on April 30th. It was a wonderful worship service. The youth and children served as greeters, liturgist, and ushers. They also participated in the music, a skit, poetry, and scripture reading. I am so proud of all of them. It is exciting to witness the kids serve our church and God. The Blessing of the Children was beautiful. And the 'icing on the cake' was the dessert bar following the service. The desserts were delicious and the fellowship was a joy. Thank you to all you made this celebration a success!



Youth News

Youth group met on Sunday, May 21 for an 'End of the School Year' cookout. Jim A. shared a message with the kiddos about staying in touch with friends and God over the summer. Pastor Mark grilled hot dogs in the park next to the church, followed by a competitive game of wiffle ball! See below for our upcoming youth events for the summer.

All kids going into 6th grade through grade 12 are welcome to come and bring friends along.

Sunday, June 11 at 1:00pm 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
Back to School Bash at Lemon Lake Park – 6322 W 133rd Ave., Crown Point





YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN JUNE

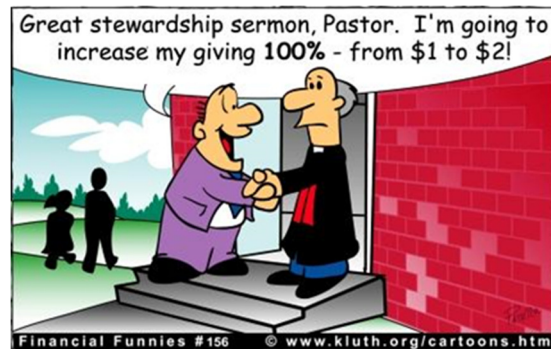
Young at Heart Sr. **Bingo will meet on Tuesday, June 27 at 1 pm** in the church basement. We'll have desert together and then play BINGO (without charge). Prizes will be provided. All who are available at this time are welcome. Bring a friend and be ready to have some fun and fellowship together.

Our program will be on Wednesday, June 14 at 1 pm. Our program this month will be **Erin's Farm**, which is a rescue farm for all sorts of animals in Hobart. She will bring some of the smaller exotic animals that they have acquired. This will be a great program to bring along a child. Your grandchildren and the other children in your life are welcome to come and see the animals. We'll take up an offering for Erin's Farm. Invite a friend and come for a fun informative time together.



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 to all who have supported me and prayed for my family during my step-mother Fran Wardell's illness and passing. All of the cards, prayers, e-mails, and phone calls have really meant a lot to all of us.
Kim McGinley

Thank you for the very generous donation to Lake Prairie Elementary School of various clothing items (socks, underwear, shirts, pants, etc.) that will be used by the school nurse for clothing changes for students in need.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Kyle R. Mitsch, President, Board of School Trustees



Five Ways to Make Today a Better Day:

1. Look for the good.
2. Appreciate the little things.
3. Be a helper.
4. Tell someone they matter.
5. Give more than you take.



