

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell Tele-Christian August 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...



We're having another Homecoming Sunday! If you were part of many churches around the country, this would not be a surprise. Homecoming Sundays are annual events in many churches. The history of homecomings in churches dates back to colonial times. It is an American phenomenon and seems to have started in the South. It is also particularly popular with African American denominations. Many churches have been holding annual Homecoming Services for over a hundred years. First Church just started last year, so it will take quite a while to equal some of the numbers.

The point of a Homecoming is simply to gather as many of the church family as possible and celebrate together. Generally, the Homecoming celebrates the shared history of the church, the families that have drifted away from the church, invoking God's blessing upon the future of the church and, of course, celebrate a meal together.

On September 10, we'll celebrate our second Homecoming Service. We are combining the 8 am and 10:30 am services on this day to one 9:30 am service. We'll have lots of music planned, a guest from our history, and we will focus the service on appreciating our volunteers. Immediately following the service we'll gather at Olde Towne Square Park next to the church for grilled burgers and hotdogs. **We're asking all to bring a carry-in dish of a salad, side or dessert. We're asking all to bring your place settings and a lawn chair.** We'll load up our plates and continue the fellowship with our meal.

We need your help to make this event a success. Think of all those who used to attend First Church. Reach out to invite them. Even if they live in another state, you never know if they will want to make an effort to come back and join us. Thank you for being willing to invite friends and family back for Homecoming.



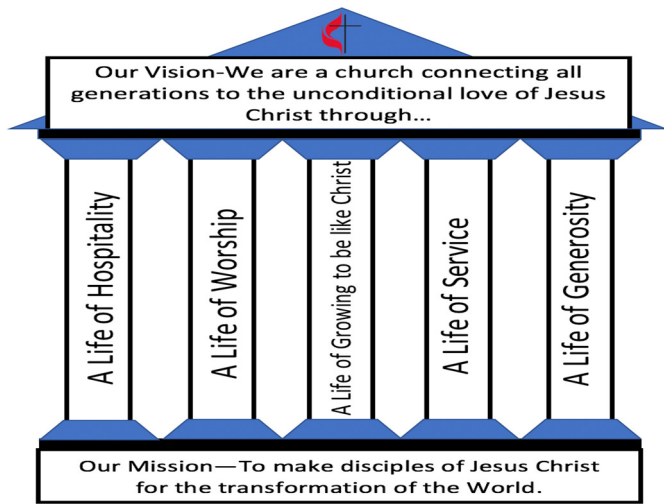
Sermons for August

In August, we will follow the lectionary. The lectionary is Bible readings chosen for each Sunday. There is an Old Testament reading, an Epistle reading, a Gospel lesson, and a Psalm chosen for each Sunday. This allows members to have a broad exposure to the Bible. The readings are divided into three year cycles.



August Sermon and Scripture Schedule

August 6 ~	Scripture: James 4:14	Sermon Title: 'Getting the Most Out of Your Life'
August 13 ~	Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33	Sermon Title: 'Getting Out of the Boat'
August 20 ~	Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28	Sermon Title: 'The Bread of the Children'
August 27 ~	Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20	Sermon Title: 'Building the Church'



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...

Reminder: The location of our 8 AM park service THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3 will be at Olde Towne Square located on the west side of our church. Continue to bring a lawn chair. Park in the church lot and walk through or around the church. The few parking spots available on Library Drive can be used for those needing handicapped parking. In inclement weather, the service will be moved into the sanctuary. We continue to worship in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30 am. Invite a friend to summer worship. We look forward to seeing you and meeting your friends.



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, August 24 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.

***The LYFT team is taking a little summer break. **There will be NO LYFT on Thursday, August 10.**



It's been five years since we've done a pictorial church directory. It's time for a new one. Mark your calendars for October 19, 20 and 21. We'd like the entire church to have a picture taken during this time. Many more details are coming.

From the Finance Committee

This summer you may have a trip planned to explore some of America's most beautiful sites. You begin to explore the possibilities along the way. One of the important steps before going is planning the trip. It starts with asking the travelers whether they are on board, **what** things matter to them, **how much time** is in our time frame, and **how much money** is needed. So, there is a **mission** (learn about America). There are the **specific steps** and **stops** along the way (how we fulfill the mission). Then **we plan resources** for the mission (money needed to have a successful outcome). Incidentally, if no one is on board with the trip (mission), then the amount of money doesn't matter.

Soon churches will be thinking about their trip for 2024. Yes, it seems early, but a good church does good planning. That means there is a mission (reason for going forward). Then comes the invitation to the travelers to help us with the steps and stops along the way (goals and objectives). Then there is the plan for funding. Please note that this is the order. The mission and goals determine the financial need, not the other way around.

Praying for your time to plan your 2024 church journey.



FREE CONCERT

FRIDAY, August 11, 2023
6:00PM-8:00PM
OLD TOWNE SQUARE
LOWELL, INDIANA

Featuring the Lemmon Brothers Band

Classic Rock & popular music of the 60's, 70's, 80's

Bring a chair, blanket, food, beverage

Sponsored by Lowell First United Methodist Church



2nd annual Chuckwagon Dinner

Save the date!

Saturday, September 23

Serving home grown sloppy joe and sweet corn

Entertainment High Country String Band

Proceeds to support Outreach



FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the church will soon be offering members of the congregation the opportunity to purchase a memorial brick to place in the Memorial Garden on the west side of the church. The bricks can be engraved with the name of a deceased loved one or special person of your choosing. Watch for more information in next month's Tele Christian and during the morning announcements beginning in mid-August.



Care Packages for Military

Do you know of anyone in the military who is being deployed? Friend? Family? Neighbor? This does not have to be someone connected to our church. The local Patriot Guard group has prepared care packages that they will send to those being deployed. Phyllis and Don DeFrance are members of the Patriot Guard. Please contact them with the name and address of any recipient for a care package. (219-696-7774 or 219-781-7988)



Have Car, Will Travel

Congregational Care

We currently have 9 volunteer drivers for our “Have Car, Will Travel” ministry. This ministry gives those in our church family, who are no longer able or willing to drive, the possibility of finding a ride to medical appointments from one of these volunteer drivers. The person in need of a ride is responsible for calling the volunteers and arranging their own ride. Calls should be made weeks to days prior to the appointment date, as all the volunteers have busy schedules and it may take several calls to find an available driver. We cannot guarantee a ride will always be found.

If you are a person who might need rides to medical appointments, stop by the office to pick up the list of drivers. You may also call the office and ask Kim to mail the driver list to you. If you are a person who could serve as a volunteer, please call the office so we can add you to the driver list.

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” - Charles Dickens



Environmental Stewardship: Part 1

Thanks to the Susanna Wesley Circle, an informative recycling program was presented by Angela Goodson of the Lake Country Solid Waste Management District in our church on June 12. Recycling is a way for us to be good stewards of God’s Earth. Recycling protects our planet’s resources for future generations: It protects God’s creation.

Angela explained that all curbside recycling from our area is taken to the same sorting business. Homewood Disposal Service in Illinois is where the materials are sorted by type, bundled, and sent off to various companies to be made into everything from new paper to new carpet. So, whether you are using our large church dumpster from Indiana Waste, or your own recycle container in Lowell from Republic or any other waste hauler, the rules are standard for what can and what cannot be recycled.

You can visit Homewood Disposal at www.mydisposal.com and click on ‘Resources’ to find a guide on what is and what is not accepted for recycling. Print out a copy for your home. (If you do not have the internet or a printer, stop by the church office for a copy.) Look for the guide posted near our blue church recycle containers and in the kitchen. It is important that we all abide by the guide so our recycling will continue to make a difference for our planet. Whenever you are uncertain if an item can be recycled, Angela stated very firmly that we are to “throw it out!”

What to recycle has changed over the years and it can be confusing. That confusion leads to poor recycling habits. About 1/3 of what enters the recycling stream is not recyclable, it becomes contaminated by unclean or incorrect items. The contamination of ‘good’ recyclables puts the entire recycling process at risk. It is costly, wasting time, energy and manpower. Thus, the current slogan for recycling is “*When in doubt, throw it out!*”

- RECYCLE TIPS:
- *Gently rinse or wipe your containers. Labels do not have to be removed.
 - *Leave your bottle caps on empty water or other plastic bottles.
 - *Do **not** put recyclables into plastic bags. Place items loose in the bin.

Stay Tuned for Part 2 in the next Tele Christian.



COME ONE, COME ALL, RING BELLS IN THE FALL!



Godsbells, our hand bell choir, will be ringing to the glory of our Lord beginning with the Homecoming Celebration on September 10 (one service at 9:30). We will play for worship the second Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service October through May. We meet for rehearsal every Thursday at 4:30 in the sanctuary balcony. Rehearsals will start on August 31. We are a supportive fellowship and lift up one another in prayer each week. We are in need of permanent ringers and dedicated substitutes. Give it a try! For more information contact Patrice Martin @ 219-689-4518.



STRONGER TOGETHER

We are Stronger Together as the body of Christ and as the North District of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The 2nd Annual Stronger Together event will be on Saturday, August 12th, 2023 at River Park Square in Plymouth from 12 pm – 3 pm EDT. There will be praise teams, speakers, a comedian, food trucks, a face painter, and a balloon artist – something for everyone!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket, a picnic lunch if you'd like, your family, your friends, your small group, your ENTIRE church!



Thank you to everyone for a successful and well attended Kidz Karnival! We had approximately 500 attendees who enjoyed games, face painting, horse rides, bounce houses, seeing the inside of a fire truck and police car!! Everyone also enjoyed hot dogs, freeze pops, and popcorn! It is true many hands make light work and fun was had by all including the volunteers! We prayed for good weather and we were blessed with it! We appreciate being able to use Olde Towne Square park for events including church in the park and the upcoming Music in the park and Homecoming Sunday.



WE - the Lowell United Methodist Church "Team" worked with enthusiasm and joy to facilitate a "Kidz Karnival" that touched the lives of nearly 500 community people (approximately 210 plus children). People expressed gratitude over and over again. Team members had smiles. conversations were cheerful. **THANK YOU** to our Outreach team for a well planned event! Time now to get ready for August 11th!!! and to that note we share this:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

Don Bales



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.

Did you see the Kidz Karnival? There were hundreds of people around, having a great time. Everything was so well planned, it went like clockwork. The Outreach Committee was meeting weekly to get everything planned. So many of you donated items for use at the carnival. I was surprised at how many volunteers were here. Before the carnival started all the volunteers were gathered together. We were going to take a picture of them all. It had to be done in two pictures because there was so many of them. This church never fails to impress an old mouse.

The church yard has looked beautiful all summer. Dan and Laura Eller do the bulk of the work outside. Dave Bauman and Dennis Olson have been helping out with the mowing. Thanks to all of you for making a beautiful sight to those driving past.

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



Young At Heart Senior Activities

Young at Heart Sr. **bingo will meet on Tuesday, August 22 at 1 pm in the church basement.** We'll have dessert 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 Young at Heart Sr. program on the second Wednesday of the month is taking the rest of the summer off. We'll meet again in the fall.



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

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"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 8 a.m. (Olde Towne Square) 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), **Monday/Tuesday** - A/A 12 p.m. (303) **Wednesday** - A/A - 8 p.m. (Fellowship Hall), A1/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 7 p.m. (Sanctuary) **Saturday** - A/A 11 a.m. (303)

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Leaps and Bounds Preschool Open House 4:30 pm (FH)	2 UWF Exec. Meeting 4:30 pm (library) Education Mtg. 7pm (300)	3 **Chancel Choir practice starts 7pm (Sanct.)	4 Working Together Circle 1pm (library)	5
6	7	8	9	10 **NO LYFT SERVICE THIS WEEK***	11 Music in the Park 6-8 pm (Olde Towne Square)	12 Stronger Together District Rally
13	14	15	16	17	18 Cong. Care 1pm (library)	19
20	21	22 Young at Heart Bingo 1pm (FH)	23 Finance Meeting 5:30 pm	24 Messy Church at LYFT	25	26
27 Youth Group to Lemon Lake	28 Administrative Council 6:00 pm (FH)	29	30	31 **Godsbells practice starts 4:30 (balcony)		