

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian September 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...



What do we need to do to live our faith? What should be different between a Christian and one who is lost? The New Testament has many suggestions on what we should be working on. Colossians 3 gives a list of "Rules for Holy Living." Listen to these verses. *"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."* Col. 3:5-10

Lists such as these can be daunting. It's easy to pick out those things that we definitely do not partake, and then slide over those areas that are a problem for us. It is also easy to not take these lists personally. It is much easier to use such lists as a weapon against others who are obviously failing in certain areas. Paul never says, "Make sure all around you are following these lists exactly!" No! What Paul is saying is continually evaluate your life and see how you are doing.

These kind of "Thou shall not" lists are difficult. It is hard for us to admit that we are dabbling in sin. I get angry, but at what point is it sinful? I have desire for things, but is it greed? Thou shall not laws can become oppressive to our spiritual life if it is all we focus on. We typically either go too far in beating ourselves up for our shortcomings or we don't go far enough, not seeing our sin in our life. That's why I like Paul. He normally adds some positive with the negative. A little sugar helps the medicine go down. Paul continues in Colossians 5: *"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."* Colossians 5:12-14.

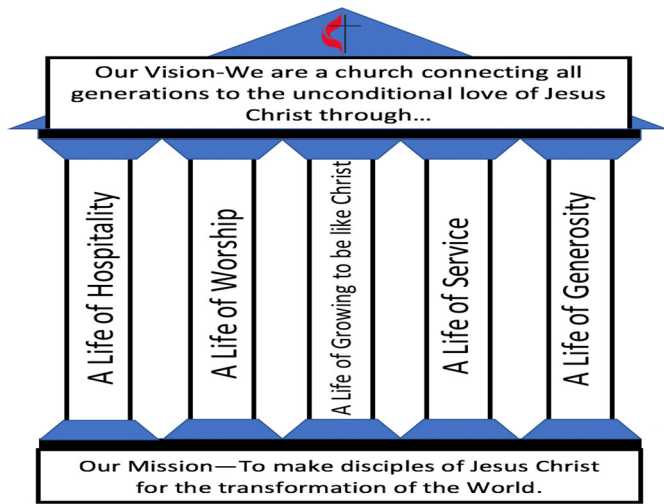
I can add some kindness to my life. I can forgive that woman who was rude to me. I can have patience with that slow checkout clerk at the store. It's much easier to add positive traits to your life and let them overcome the negative traits than to battle against the negative alone. Instead of saying, "I need to stop getting angry so easily." It is better to say, "Since I get angry so easily, I'm going to try to be kinder and more loving and forgive others more easily." The work is still there, but we can do it in a more positive vein. Read through the lists above. Where do you need to add some positive traits to overcome some of your negative ones?

Pastor Mark



September Sermon and Scripture Schedule

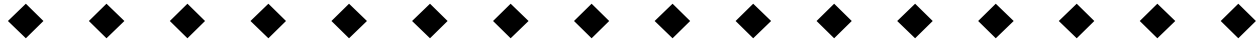
September 3 ~	Scripture: Exodus 3:1-10	Sermon Title: 'Called to Work'
September 10 ~	Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20	Sermon Title: 'Two or Three Gathered'
September 17 ~	Guest Pastor Mary van Wijk	
September 24 ~	Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16	Sermon Title: 'Pay for the Work'



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

Linda Hayden & Trudy Corning, Co-Chairs

Important Reminders!

Sunday, September 3 (Labor Day weekend) will be the **LAST Sunday for worship in the park** at 8:00 am. The Chancel Choir will sing.

Homecoming Sunday is September 10. There will be **ONE worship service at 9:30.** Martha's Coffee House will be open from 9-9:30. Following the service we will have an all-church cookout and carry-in at the park on the west side of the church. Please bring a lawn chair, your place setting, and a side dish or dessert to share.

Sunday, September 17 we will return to regular worship times at 8:00am and 10:30am in the church sanctuary.



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, October 26 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.



Sermons for September

In September we will have a variety of sermon topics. On September 3 we are celebrating Labor Day. The sermon is about God's call in our life to work. September 10 is our Homecoming Sunday. We'll have one service at 9:30. The sermon is about two or three gathering in Christ's name. On September 17 we have a special treat. Rev. Mary van Wijk will be preaching. On September 24 we will be talking about rewards for our work for God. I hope you can be here for all of these Sundays.



Our second annual Homecoming service is set for September 10. We will combine our 8 and 10:30 worship into one service at 9:30. There is special music planned by our choirs, special favorite hymns, a visit from an historical character from the past, and more.

Following worship we'll gather in Olde Towne Square next to the church for a cook out and carry-in. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided as well as drinks. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Please bring your place setting. Before the service you may put your dish and place settings in the kitchen. After the service we will take everything out to the park. We'll have some chairs set up, but bring your lawn chairs. We will enjoy good food and conversation together. It's going to be a fun day!



*The family of Paula and Don Tilton
invite their church family and friends
to celebrate their 90th birthdays!
We will celebrate with birthday cake
following the 10:30 worship service
on Sunday, September 17.
Please join us!*



**2nd annual
Chuckwagon Dinner**
Saturday September 23, 2023
5pm-7pm

First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall
Dine in or carry out \$12 adults; \$5 children (age 10 & under)
The High Country String Band will provide musical entertainment
Proceeds to benefit outreach programs including, but not limited to:
Kidz Karnival, Music in the Park, Winter Fest, and the Trivia Dinner



FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the church are 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 a memorial to a loved one, family member or friend. The cost of the bricks is \$35.00 and will cover the engraving and any other expenses. This is not a fundraiser and any extra monies collected will be placed in the non-designated memorial funds here at the church. **The order form is attached to the Tele-Christian e-mail**, and can be printed from your computer. Forms are also available in the narthex or the church office. When you fill out the form, there is no need to center your text, the engraving company will take care of that. Realize also that any spaces in your text are considered as part of the 20 characters per line. Once the form is completed, return it, with your check made out to First United Methodist Church, to the church office or to Kirk McQuiston. We will continue to take orders through the month of September.



Congregational Care Provides Opportunities to Demonstrate God’s Love

Our Nurses are In!

Stop by the church office the first Sunday of each month and have your blood pressure checked! On September 3, the nurse will be checking blood pressures starting at 10 am prior to the 10:30 am worship service. Starting the first Sunday in October our nurses will be checking BP after the 8am worship service from 9am to 9:30 am, and again from 10am to 10:30 am.

Wrap others in love!

Prayer blankets are available to be taken to persons in need of feeling ‘wrapped in God’s love’. You can find the blankets in the library. They are now stored in clear plastic containers. All church members are welcome to participate in this ministry. If you know of someone experiencing a health or other crisis who has not yet received a prayer blanket, you may deliver a blanket on behalf of our church. A recipient list is located in the library with the blankets. Thank you to those who already faithfully deliver blankets for this ministry.

And as always, newly knitted, crocheted or fleece tie blankets (lap robe size) are accepted for this ministry. Donations can be placed in the red bin outside the church office.

“Take One – and take heart. Give One – and give hope.”

Our Care Notes display, located in the narthex across from the office, has been restocked and organized. These booklets offer strength, help and healing for those who are hurting. Booklets cover topics such as grief and loss, caregiving, mental wellness, spirit care, and healthcare. These are for you when you are facing a difficult time AND these are for you to give to someone else who is facing a difficulty.

Don’t throw those cards away!

Do you receive greeting cards from organizations seeking a donation? If you do not want the cards, please drop them off in the small blue basket in the church library. Congregational Care will use them for our card ministries or share them with a local mission for use on journal covers. Thank you!

Addresses, Please!

School is back in session and college students are settling in to the fall semester. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew who is attending college this fall, please submit their name and mailing address to the church office. They will receive a box full of goodies during finals week.



Christian Movies on DVD Available

Darion Kidwell was an active member of our congregation for several years. During his time with us, Darion started a Friday ‘Movie Night’, supplying many of the movies from his own collection. Many of us enjoyed those casual evenings of fellowship, popcorn, and discussion. When Darion moved to Florida to be with family, he left his movie collection with us. This summer we received the sad news that Darion had passed away from complications of COVID. His DVDs are now a memorial to Darion’s Christian spirit and may be borrowed from our church library. Please use the sign out sheets on the clipboard with the DVDs. After viewing, please return the DVDs to the “Return” crate.



Make a Joyful Noise!

Godsbells, our handbell choir, will be starting rehearsals on Thursday, August 31 in the balcony at 4:30 pm. We are in need of ringers and reliable substitutes. We offer our prepared music the second Sunday of every month at the 10:30 service. The handbell choir is a supportive fellowship that will lift members' prayer concerns weekly. You will discover what a blessing it is to ring to God's glory. Come join us!!

Patrice Martin, Director



Where Do You Put Your Trust?

We all believe in something. We put our faith in what we trust will sustain us and help us move ahead. For some of us, that may be a relationship or a job. For others, it could be an education, or financial portfolio. But the disciple John, in his Gospel, invites us to put our belief in something much more secure. As he states, "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

In a six-session video Bible Study, bestselling author and pastor, Kyle Idleman, reveals that John didn't write his Gospel just to tell us about a profound teacher or a powerful miracle worker. Rather, his purpose was to tell us about the very Son of God who came to this earth so that we "may have life, and have it to the fullest" (John 10:10). John challenges us to trust in Christ - and to demonstrate our faith in Him through the way we live and love others.

Come join Al Martin, facilitator, and the WINGS Class as we seek discernment through this enlightening study. It is a relaxed, fun fellowship supported by prayer. Weekly, a discussion will be held inspired by the video. We meet in the center room on the third floor (balcony level) of the church at 9:15 beginning September 17th. All are welcome. Don't miss this spiritual adventure!!

Twisting the Truth

The F.R.I.E.N.D.S.* Sunday study group will begin a new study on Sunday, September 17 at 9:15 a.m. in Room 304. The series is titled "Twisting the Truth" by Andy Stanley. Here is a description:

"Common but deadly deceptions impact you every day. They can twist your thinking in ways you'd never expect and leave you with a life you never imagined. Your ability to recognize them can spell the difference between happiness and the loss of all you hold dear. Do you see them? In "Twisting the Truth", author Andy Stanley exposes some common ways God's truth gets twisted. Each one has the potential to destroy your relationships, cloud your decisions, and distort your perception of him. This study will help us discover the ways the truth gets twisted in our lives and culture and, more importantly, how we can recognize and overcome them."

The doors are open for all who seek to grow their knowledge and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

***F**ellowship **R**elationship **I**nvestment **E**ducation **N**eighbors **D**evotion **S**ervice



Labor Day Breakfast

Once again our church will provide donut holes, coffee, lemonade and water to our community during the Labor Day parade. If you could help with set up, please meet at 9:00 AM on September 4. The parade begins at 10:00. You are welcome to stop by and sit at the table and help serve throughout the parade. This is a wonderful outreach we have for the community and we do need your help make it happen.



Disaster Relief - Maui

Fire swept across Maui and caused much destruction and death. Our denomination has a disaster response arm called UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). They come into an area after a disaster and meet the needs of those affected. They stay following the disaster until all is cleaned up and built back. The great thing about UMCOR is that 100 % of your contribution goes directly to helping those affected by the disaster. No administrative costs are taken as they are with other charities.

If you would like to contribute to the Maui disaster relief, or any other disaster response around the world (Canadian wildfires, California flooding, Ukraine war, etc.), make your check out to First United Methodist Church and note the disaster you want to help with on the memo line. Our church will send your gift to UMCOR and it will be used where you want to help.

Environmental Stewardship Part 2

Plastic bags are handy for so many uses, so most of us keep many of them. And plastic bags end up everywhere!! We see them stuck in trees and littering the roadsides and farm fields. Plastic bags should **never** be put in curbside recycling at our homes or at our church. The bags tangle in the sorting machinery, causing the system to be shut down while workers cut them out of the machinery by hand. So what can we do with our abundance of plastic bags?

Did you know? They can be recycled by a process called plastic film recycling. Along with plastic carry out bags you can recycle plastic film packaging items like: the air pillows that come in some Amazon orders; bubble wrap; produce bags; bread bags; dry cleaning bags; and product overwraps (that's the plastic that bundles the case of water bottles or the 12 rolls of toilet paper).

How to recycle: Put all your empty, clean and dry plastic bags and film packaging into a single bag and take it to a local store drop-off. **We have a drop-off right here in town!!** Go to the east entry of our Strack's store, step inside, and you will find a collection box on your left...for bags & packaging film ONLY!! How easy and convenient!!

What not to recycle: **No** to candy wrappers, chip bags, six pack rings, prewashed salad bags, frozen food bags. A key to sorting your plastic films: If it's stretchy, it can be recycled. If it's crinkly or tears like paper, it cannot be recycled.

Recycling is a way for us to be good stewards of God's Earth. Recycling protects our planet's resources for future generations. Recycling protects God's creation. Let's all do our part!

Special recycling announcement: A Lake County Hazardous Waste Collection will take place on Saturday, September 9 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lowell Middle School – North Parking Lot, 19250 Cline Ave. This is for residential household hazardous waste (not for businesses, schools, or organizations.) Latex paint is not accepted. Proof of Lake County residency is required.

**Shredding will be available at this collection with a limit of 4 paper grocery bags per car.



From the Finance Committee

In the August TC issue, we shared with our church family the incredible success of the Kidz Karnival – nearly five hundred participants! Outreach is to be commended for bringing the life of the church to our community. And we now want to share another exciting event. Pastor Mark has been able to secure a \$1,400.00 grant to be applied to the Kidz Karnival 2024! Thank you, Pastor Mark, and thank you to the Crown Point community Foundation for the support of this exciting outreach ministry.

Activity is picking back up in the church as we draw closer to the end of summer vacations and unique family travels. As your engagement in the church increases we are in hope that all will seek to continue to meet their church pledges. Many new and fresh ministries are in need of your support to complete God's works.



The Path of Generosity

Buying a car is one example of the change in prices over the years. Food, houses, education and vacations have all gone up. One other thing has gone up—ministry! If it costs more for you, it costs more for your church family. Candles, crayons, preachers, utilities, insurance, and copy paper have risen over time—some of them substantially. The scripture has a plan for managing our giving in situations like this. It is called proportional giving. It is called tithing. That means whatever you receive, you give a percentage of that to God's causes. Using a tithe as an example, giving 10% of your income costs you no more now than it did in 1970. The inflated dollars may be higher (as is your paycheck), but it feels like the same amount of your income given.

This is why tithing, and proportional giving, is good stewardship. It keeps us on the path of generosity without needing a calculator. In good and bad times, we are generous according to what we have, not what we used to have, or what we wish we had. We invite you to make such a decision today. Choose a percentage. Work toward a tithe. Give thanks you are able to give. Then, be sure to rejoice in the work of your congregation.



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 had the opportunity to go to the 4-H fair. A lot of our children and youth participated and did well. It was fun seeing so many church members in the crowds walking around. We are so proud of all our 4-Hers. Congratulations on all of your achievements.

We had another successful Music in the Park event. The Lemmon Brothers are a great band. We had over a hundred people in the park for the event. Thanks to Carol Goodrich and the Outreach Committee for getting it all set up.

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, September 26 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.



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.



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



"Our pastor says all men are brothers. Does that mean all men want to pull my underwear up over my head?"



After fifty years as church organist, you had to admire Gladys' effort to embrace the new worship format.

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)

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	2
3 Last Summer Service at Park	4 Labor Day/ Office Closed	5	6 UWF Exec. Mtg. 4:30 pm (library) Trustees 6 pm (conf. rm.)	7	8	9 Tri-Kappa Mum Sale 9-11 am
10 Homecoming Sunday One Service at 9:30 am (Cookout/Pot-Luck Following)	11 Susanna Wesley Circle 1 pm (library) Tri-Kappa 6pm (FH)	12 Worship 6 pm	13 Education 7pm (300)	14	15	16
17	18 Staff/Parish 3pm (conf. rm.)	19	20 Finance 5:30	21	22	23 Chuck Wagon Dinner 5-7pm (FH)
24 Gideon Sunday	25 Administrative Council 6pm (FH)	26 Senior Bingo 1pm (FH)	27	28 Messy Church at LYFT	29	30