

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian October 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...



"For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "I am the bread of life." John 6:33, 35.

Why is it significant that Jesus is the bread of heaven? Does it really affect us today? Crowds of people came to Jesus after he fed the 5,000. They wanted more food from him. They wanted to witness more miracles. Jesus called them on this desire. He pointed out to them that it would be better to believe in the one God sent among their midst.

They asked for a sign pointing out that their ancestors ate manna in the wilderness. They were insinuating that Moses gave them that sign, bread from heaven. Jesus points out to them that God is the one who gave their ancestors the bread from heaven. He then states the scripture above: *The bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*

Jesus is the fulfillment of the manna. Manna miraculously appeared to the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness. It was bread that gave life, but then only temporarily. The person would hunger again and need to eat more manna. Jesus is the bread that gives life once and for all eternity. We don't need to continue to experience Jesus' work on the cross. Once and for always are we sustained by this bread from heaven.

Each time we take Communion together, we remember what Jesus did for us, once and for always. This Sunday, October 1, is World Communion Sunday. We partake of the elements with Christians all around the world. We remember that Jesus gave his body to be broken on the cross and through the pain of death as payment for our sin.

As you approach the time for Communion this Sunday, spend some time reflecting on the Bread of Heaven. What does it mean for you that Jesus willingly died on the cross? It should fill you with awe. Jesus is truly the Bread of Heaven.

Pastor Mark



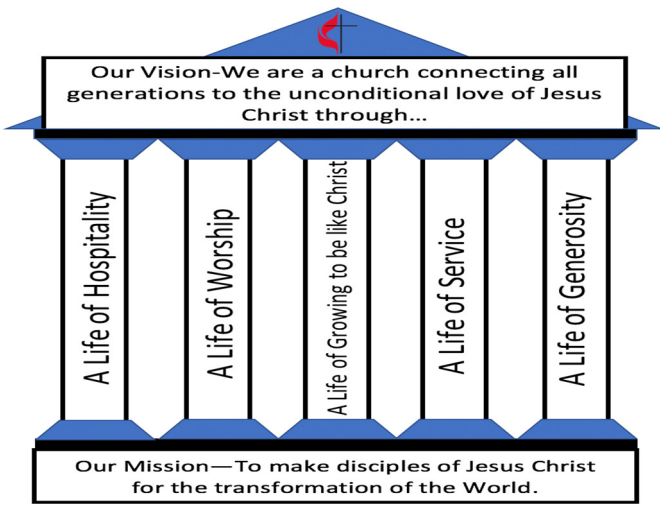
Sermons for October

In October, we will be talking about the topic, "Discipleship." We are called to learn from and imitate Jesus. Plan on learning about discipleship during worship in October.



October Sermon and Scripture Schedule

October 1 ~ Scripture: John 6:53-56	Sermon Title: 'World Communion'
October 8 ~ Scripture: Matthew 4:18-22	Sermon Title: 'Discipleship: Follow Me'
October 15 ~ Scripture: Luke 10:21-22	Sermon Title: 'Discipleship: Learning from Jesus'
October 22 ~ Scripture: John 13:3-12	Sermon Title: 'Discipleship: Serving Like Jesus'
October 29 ~ Scripture: II Timothy 2:1-2	Sermon Title: 'Discipleship: Making Disciples'



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

Patrice Martin, Worship Lay Leader

What joy-filled worship we had for Homecoming! The music added another level of celebration. And then to have Mary van Wijk's sermon the next week bring back many memories as we traveled her journey and witnessed the influence of our church on her life's vocation. The fall began with a burst of glory in our sanctuary!

As Sunday School classes are meeting and we are all back from summer vacations, my hope is that our worship is not confined to Sunday morning, but will permeate our whole week.



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.



Charge Conference

The annual meeting of the church is Charge Conference. We accomplish many things as a church family at Charge Conference. It is set for Sunday, October 22 at the Church of the Four Seasons at 5:30 pm. The Administrative Council members are expected to attend but all in the church are welcome to attend. The District Superintendent will run the meeting with several churches in the district in attendance.



New and Exciting Changes to Children's Sunday School!!

Amy Manier, Education Chair

Sunday school for children age 4 through grade 5 is now being offered during the 10:30 worship service, not at 9:15. We have a fun, interactive, new curriculum called *Simply Loved*. It aligns with our past Vacation Bible School characters through Bible Buddy videos and leads us through the Bible showing the many ways God and Jesus love us.

Please invite the families and kids in your life to come to worship at 10:30 and encourage the children to join us in the basement for Sunday school following the children's sermon. The kids are picking a new name for the class too, so stay tuned for that announcement in the next Tele-Christian!



Following the Town of Lowell Monster March,
join us for a Pumpkin Party!



Who: All Children Through Grade 5



When: Saturday, October 14, 2023
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Where: Lowell First United Methodist Church
520 E. Commercial Ave., Lowell, IN

Parents are asked to stay. Lunch will be available for the whole family.



Youth Group News: ***A change to our meeting schedule!!***

Attention grades 6 –12 youth and parents!! Starting this fall, our Youth Group will meet **twice per month**. In general, these dates will be the **2nd Sunday** and **4th Thursday** of each month. We meet from **5:30-7:30 pm**.

On the 2nd Sunday we will meet in the Youth Room (room 303) on the 3rd floor of the church. Our Sunday meeting dates will be: **October 8, November 12 and December 10**. *Save these dates!!!*

On the 4th Thursday we will meet in the basement (Fellowship Hall) during LFYT. Our Thursday meeting dates will be: **September 28, October 26 and November 30** (a slight variation due to Thanksgiving). *Save these dates!!*

Mark your calendars now! While the meeting days are changing, the **Food, Music and Activities** will continue as always!! Invite your friends and get ready for a great year of Youth Group!



Congregational Care: Taking Care of Our Church Family

Keeping track of your blood pressure? **The Nurse Is In!**

Stop by the church office the **first Sunday** of the month after 8am worship or before 10:30am worship and a nurse will be glad to check your blood pressure!

Care Packages for our college students.

Once again, we will be sending boxes filled with goodies to our college students to support them during final exam week. The finals boxes sent from our church include snacks, notes of encouragement and other items. Do you have children, grandchildren or others that would appreciate being prayed for and receiving a box during college finals? If so, please submit their name and address to the church office by October 31! Any questions contact the church office or Trudy Corning 219-613-1787.

Funeral luncheons

One of the most important and appreciated ministries of Congregational Care is providing a meal and a time to be together for a church family following their loss of a loved one. Each luncheon requires a great deal of effort by many people: Tables & chairs must be physically set up. The meal must be planned in detail including contacting Strack's and going shopping for ingredients & supplies. Beverages must be prepared. Phone calls must be made to recruit volunteers to serve, to clean up, and to provide donations of desserts or other food dishes. All of this often must be done within a short time frame. THANK YOU to all those who graciously assist with this special ministry. Would you like to be part of this ministry? Please let the office know.



Finance Moment / Stewardship

Sometimes we lose things in the hustle and bustle of life. In many instances it is no big deal. However, we dare not lose our connection to the Word of God, or to the God of the Word. Stewardship is the act of taking care of our hustle such that the wisdom of God is always near. When we live as if our abilities, time, and possessions are apart from God we are soon headed for disaster. Letting God touch our talents, moments, and money is to find purpose in this life and the joy that comes with it. Stewardship is never having the wisdom of God far from our everyday living in this world, then applying it liberally. We prayerfully hope you never lose the Word of God in your life.

****Coming soon...Please watch your mailbox for Stewardship letter and Pledge card!****



From the Missions Committee

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry will take place Oct. 1 – 22. A video of past shoebox recipients will be playing on the new screen in the narthex before and after services on Sunday, Oct. 1. Shoeboxes will be available in the narthex for those wishing to participate in this international project. Filled Shoeboxes are due back in the narthex by Oct. 22. The bulletin board in the Narthex above the water fountain will have reminders of the dates. Thank you for your support of the mission that reaches children both nationally and globally.





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.

We had our second annual Chuck Wagon Dinner on September 23. What a great meal! Trudy Corning, Linda Hayden, and Amy Manier had everything organized so that it all ran like clockwork. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out. Also thank you to the High Country String Band for the musical entertainment.

I heard a rumor that Ed Miller has finished a course on Lay Speaking as part of the Lay Servant Academy through our District. Ed gave up five Sunday afternoons to attend classes in Hebron. Ed has also volunteered to visit our nursing home residents. You're never too old to serve the Lord and learn new things. Congratulations to Ed!

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



Senior Activities

Young at Heart Sr. bingo will meet on Tuesday, October 24 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.

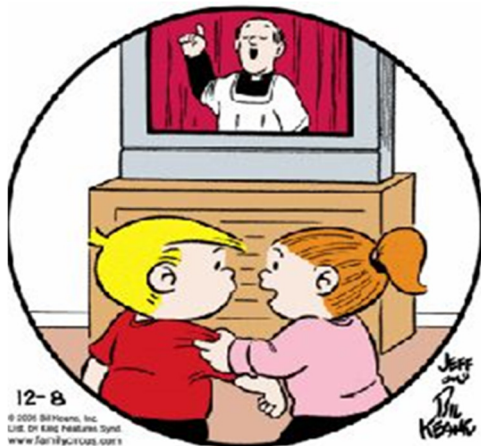


It's been five years since we've done a pictorial church directory. It's time for a new one. Mark your calendars for October 19, 20 and 21. We'd like all church families to have a picture taken during this time. If you have not signed up to get your picture taken yet please go to: ucdir.com. The church code is **in1883** and the password is **photos**. If you need help in scheduling please call the church office.



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



"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."



WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday - Worship ~ 8 & 10:30 a.m. (in Sanctuary), **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 practice 4:30 pm (balcony), *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)

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 UWF Exec. 4:30 (library) Trustees 6 pm (conf. rm)	5	6 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (library)	7
8	9	10	11 Education Meeting 7 pm (300)	12	13 Congregational Care Meeting 1 pm (library)	14 Children's Pumpkin Party 12 pm
15	16	17	18 Finance Meeting 5 pm (FH)	19 Pictures Taken for Directory	20 Pictures Taken for Directory	21 Pictures Taken for Directory
22	23 Ad-Council 6 pm (FH)	24 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	25	26 Messy Church at LYFT	27	28
29	30	31				