

The First United Methodist Church of Lowell

Tele-Christian November 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...



Thanksgiving is on its way. We have an opportunity to give thanks for what we have. We also have an opportunity to share our blessings with others. The following is a story that shows how we can give forward the blessings we have. God bless!

“Once there was a family of very modest means. They lived in a small country house. On Thanksgiving night they all sat down for dinner, and there was a knock at the door. The father went to the door and opened it.

There stood an old man in old torn clothes, with ripped pants and missing buttons. He was carrying a basket full of vegetables. He asked the family if they wanted to buy some vegetables from him. They said sure and invited him to spend Thanksgiving with them, but he kindly declined, as he had many more vegetables to sell...

Over time, the family and the old man became friends. The man brought vegetables to the family every week. They soon found out that he was almost blind and had cataracts on his eyes. But he was so friendly that they learned to look forward to his visits and started to enjoy his company.

One day as he was delivering the vegetables, he said, "I had the greatest blessing yesterday! I found a basket of clothes outside my house that someone had left for me." The family, (knowing that he needed clothes, left the basket of clothes outside his house), said, "Really, How wonderful!" The old blind man said, "The most wonderful part is that, I found a family that really needed the clothes."

Ironic isn't it. A poor man who is almost blind, sees the blessing of giving to those less fortunate... Paying it forward... And yet, in a world of plenty, nearly one billion people are hungry. Twenty-five thousand people die every day due to malnutrition. Every six seconds a child dies from starvation.

Let us, on this Thanksgiving, praise God's name proudly, each in our own unique ways. But let us never lose sight of our common responsibilities toward one another and toward the rest of humanity. Let us work together for healing, for justice, and for peace. Have a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!"

Pastor Mark



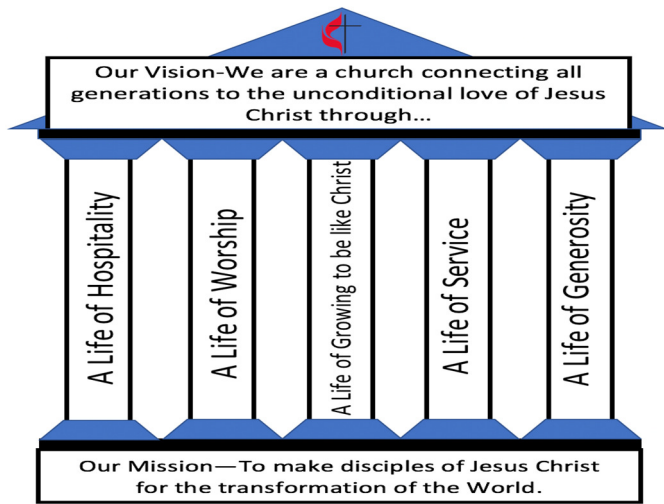
Sermons for November

In November, we have various special Sundays. On November 5, we are remembering our saints -- those who have died in the past year. The sermon will build on that theme of our beloved dead. On November 12, we'll observe Veteran's Day. The sermon will focus on service. On November 19 we will celebrate Thanksgiving. The sermon will focus on Thanksgiving. Finally, on November 26 we are celebrating Christ the King Sunday. The sermon will be about that theme.



November Sermon and Scripture Schedule

November 5 ~	Scripture: 1 John 3:1-3	Sermon Title: 'Being Like Jesus'
November 12 ~	Scripture: John 15:9-14	Sermon Title: 'Serving with Distinction'
November 19 ~	Scripture: II Corinthians 9:10-13	Sermon Title: 'Blessings, Giving and Thanks'
November 26 ~	Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40	Sermon Title: 'The Least is King'



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 and Trudy Coming, Co-Chairs

Upcoming Worship Services to Remember, Reflect & Prepare

All Saints Day, November 5: A time to remember, reflect & honor those loved ones who have passed away in the last 12 months.

Veteran's Day, November 12: A time to remember, reflect & honor those who have and are currently serving our country.

Thanksgiving, November 19: A time to remember, reflect & give thanks for the abundant blessings in our life.

Christ the King, November 26: A time to remember who we belong to and give all honor, thanks and praise to Christ our King!

Hanging of the Greens, December 1: Before the start of the advent season. Meet at 9:00 am in the narthex to decorate our church for the holiday season.

Advent begins December 3: A time to remember, reflect & prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.



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. Do you know what 'Messy Church' is? We really don't get dirty or messy, it is just another way to say that we are doing church a little differently than normal. We start out as usual with dinner. After dinner Pastor Mark divides us into 4 groups. The size of the groups depends on how many people are at LYFT that night, but it is usually around 6 per group. There is no communion or speaker on 'Messy Church' night. Try it you might like it!

The four stations that we have at 'Messy Church' are:

1. Dessert station
2. Craft or Mission station
3. Discussion station (with Pastor Mark)
4. Game station



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

On **November 19** we will have a membership class for anyone interested in joining the church. We'll meet at 11:30 after worship in the library. We'll have a pizza lunch and then go through some of the history, beliefs and structure of the church. You can feel free to ask all of the questions you might have. We will be finished by 1:30. If you are already a member and would still like to learn about your denomination, you are also welcome to attend.



WHERE HE LEADS US

The new year in the church begins with the first Sunday of Advent. In the new year our church will have a theme for the year. We are going to focus on what God is calling us to do as a church. We already have some changes planned to move us in a healthier direction. Whatever further changes and calling God places on us, our response will hopefully be: Where He leads us, we will follow. This theme is based on the hymn "Where He Leads Me" by Ernest W. Blandly. The chorus is:

*Where He leads me I will follow. Where He leads me I will follow.
Where He leads me I will follow; I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.*

It is based on the scripture "If anyone would come after me, he must... take up his cross and follow me." (Mark 8:34). The future is going to be an adventure for us.



Winterfest Is Coming to FUMC!



Saturday, December 2 Lowell's downtown will be alive with holiday activities. The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual *Winterfest* and the Parks Department will be sponsoring the *Parade of Lights*. As a member of the Chamber and the only church located downtown, we have the opportunity to participate in the festivities. We will open our church doors to our community!

Plans are being made to add several activities inside and outside our building to the Winterfest agenda. We plan to offer shopping at the Cookie Walk and Marketplace in the Fellowship Hall. Our sanctuary will be filled with music as we host a sing-along of traditional Christmas hymns. Unique and treasured nativities will be available for viewing inside, and we hope offer a live nativity outside.

All are welcome and encouraged to take part! Please consider sharing your personal nativity inside the church for viewing. Do you have a craft or specialty item to be included at the market? Many hands will be needed for our church to be able to offer these activities to our community. If you would like more information on how you can take part, please feel free to contact Trudy Corning or the church office!

Many more details and times to follow in the near future; listen for church announcements and watch for emails.



The UWF Cookie Walk is happening Saturday, December 2 as part of the *Winterfest* activities with cookies for sale. \$5 a pound your choice. Hot Chocolate is available for \$1 with all the fixings.

Come and share holiday treats from 2 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will go to UFW missions locally, statewide, nationally, and worldwide.

Rachelle Ruge-Bernard, UWF President



Missions News: Christmas Clothesline



It's time for the "Christmas Clothesline"! This is our annual local Christmas mission that provides needed clothing items for children in our school district. We focus on elementary children, but include any older or younger siblings, so all the children in a selected family receive gifts.

We have sent letters to the three elementary schools asking them to submit 15 students. A tag will be created for each child and the tags will be hung on a clothesline in the narthex. The tags will be available beginning Sunday, November 19th. You may select a tag from the 45 hanging on the clothesline and purchase gifts for that child. The tag will list needed clothing items and the child's size, as well as a few "wished for" items. So there is consistency among all gifts we have set a limit of \$60 per student.

The Dec. deadline for bringing all gifts to the church will be announced. Gifts are not wrapped, but are placed inside paper or plastic bags allowing the parent to view them. Enclosing gift receipts can be helpful to the parent if there is a need to exchange an item for a child's preferred color, etc.

Thank you all for continuing to make this wonderful mission project a success each year.

Susan Wells, Chairperson

Finance Moment

Recently your Finance Committee met to assess a first look at the 2024 budget. All committee budgets had been delivered and entered into the formula of a "profit and loss budget overview", a very huge undertaking. The committee will meet again on November 20th which is four weeks after our tithing Sunday. We hope all pledge cards will have been submitted in order to provide the committee with information that will help determine the 2024 church budget.

We know our goal and mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We assess our assets (time, talent, treasure) and place them in the best place for doing that. Financially, we have to be defensive and not do anything that would be devastating, but also go on offense and use our money to advance the mission.

The key is to discern a projected budget the best we can, participate with our assets, pray faithfully, and put the tithing in the best place for victory.

Thank you in advance for your faithful giving to the ministry of our Lord.



It is Time for College Boxes!
Trudy Corning, Congregational Care



What is a finals box or care package? It is a box of goodies including snacks, supplies and inspirational notes from our church family that is mailed to our college students far and near to provide support and encouragement during final exam week. And GREAT NEWS ...YOU can be a part of this ministry!

YOU can donate goodies, snacks and supplies for the finals boxes. YOU can write an inspirational note to the college students for the finals boxes. YOU can pray for the college students, the finals boxes and this ministry.

We are currently planning to send out 7 college finals boxes for the fall semester. Our recipients include:

Hailey Adcock, Evansville IN	Caleb Bernard, Cedar Lake IN	Keeley Bernard, Tuskegee AL
Adam Fucela, Terra Haute IN	Brooke Hayden, Stillwater OK	Hannah Madura, Bloomington IN
Chesney Wilson, St Mary of the Woods, IN		

Please begin praying and writing notes for our college students. Look for more information in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 5. Requested donations and notes need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 19. The boxes will be filled and prepared for mailing the week of November 19. More details will follow for those interested in packing the boxes.

Any questions, or if you have a college student who would like to receive a finals box, contact Trudy Corning or the church office.



Veteran's Appreciation Lunch
By Phyllis DeFrance, Congregational Care Military Ministry



On Sunday, November 12, we will be hosting a luncheon for the veterans in our church family. It will take place in our Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. We want to show our appreciation to our members who have served our country. Spouses and immediate family are invited to attend with your veteran, as well as members who have lost a veteran. A signup sheet is available in the narthex. Please sign up before Nov. 6 so we know how many will be attending. Don will be taking pictures in front of the American flag before and after the luncheon. If you have any questions, please call or text Phyllis at 219-781-7988.



Memorial Brick Update
Kirk McQuiston Trustees

The memorial bricks were ordered on October 9. The processing and shipping time is approximately five weeks. When delivered we will make a determination based on the weather as to when they will be installed. If not this fall, then we will hold them until next spring. Thanks to everyone for your orders and for your patience.



WINGS to Study *It's a Wonderful Life*

WINGS Sunday School class will be engaging in a very special Bible Study from November 5 to December 3. For 5 weeks, we will reflect on the movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*, one of the most popular and heartwarming movies ever made. Each week there will be video clips from the movie, insightful and inspirational discussion questions, excellent Scripture references, and character sketches provided by the author, Alan Vermilye.

Themes include:

1. When our plans get interrupted;
2. Self-sacrifice - valuing others above yourself;
3. How discouragement and anger can lead to horrible decisions and tragic consequences;
4. God's powerful interventions in response to our prayers;
5. The true nature of miracles.



It's A Wonderful Life is a masterpiece - a powerful tale of one good man's redemption, and a reminder that every human life has value. It's a story of good versus evil, greed versus selflessness, and the importance of faith, family, and friends. Christmas is a time to remember that true wealth - spiritual wealth - comes from a right relationship with God and selfless love toward others.

We invite EVERYONE in the congregation to join us for this remarkable study starting November 5th. We meet in Room 303 at 9:15.

Al Martin - WINGS class facilitator



Woman's Bible Study (save the dates!)

Have you ever asked yourself questions like Who are we?
Where do we belong?
How do we live included in Christ?

The church will be offering a Bible study for women called 'Included in Christ' by Heather Holleman. It will start on Monday, January 8, from 3-4:30 pm. It will be an 8-week study diving into the book of Ephesians and will be facilitated by Laura Eller and Kim McGinley. Look for more information in next month's Tele-Christian.



A Classic Christmas Tale

By Patrice Martin, LHS Theater Director

Travel back in time to 1841, and meet the curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge, with his stingy, odious "Bah Humbug" attitude. Our own Brad Miller, playing Jacob Marley, will attempt to teach him some lessons of kindness and generosity from beyond the grave. Matthew Mishlove, as Tiny Tim, brings the positive note of blessings to our stage and Hannah Mishlove adds such grace to the Ensemble. Michelle Mishlove has generously offered her musical expertise. You will want to witness the miraculous change in Scrooge, after his revealing encounters with the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Lowell High School Theater will be presenting Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, by John Jakes on November 2, 3, and 4 at 7:00 p.m. and a Sunday matinee on November 5 at 2:00. Tickets for Students and Seniors are \$7 and Adults \$9. Fifty cast and crew members have been working daily to bring this holiday offering to the community of Lowell. This is a glorious way to begin your season and you won't want to miss it!!



Children's News: PUMPKIN FUN

The pumpkin party held on October 14 was a great success. This year we collaborated with the Town of Lowell Parks Department. Because the day was rainy, we invited them to use the Fellowship Hall for their Costume Contest festivities. The church basement was full of costumed kids and adults, parents, grandparents, and families.

We had games...bozo buckets, hula hoops, tic tac toe...for the kids to play. We had coloring sheets, word searches, and crayons at the tables. There were preschool toys to entertain the little ones. It was a wonderful sight and the hall was filled with joyous noise!

All were invited back to join us for a free lunch following the Monster March. We had approximately 107 attendees, of those 57 were children. In addition we had 14 volunteers, for a total of 127 in attendance. We had cooked approximately 130 hot dogs! God has a way of making all things work! After lunch we had relay games and an entertaining Bible story.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who willingly helped at this church event and to the members of the congregation who graciously donated items for lunch. We could not have done it without you!



Youth Group News

Amy Manier

We kicked off Youth Group for the fall with new times and new activities. Our first meeting was at LYFT Messy Church on September 28. We joined in the activities, which included make your own dessert and a Books of the Bible word scramble. It was lots of fun meeting new people and fellowshiping together.

Our next activity was on Sunday, October 8. We had a bonfire with hotdogs and s'mores, hayride, pumpkin painting, live music, and karaoke. It was so exciting to have the youth group from Hope Church join us for all this fun. There were 16 kids and 9 adults that enjoyed this festive fall evening

In November our Youth group meetings will be at 5:30 pm on Sunday, Nov. 12 and at LYFT on Thursday, Nov. 30.





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.

The church was full of people getting their pictures taken for the directory recently. I was amazed at those who came to help. Nancy Lain took two shifts as hostess, Don Bales and Beth Bales each took a shift. Don & Paula Tilton were here as well greeting people. Kim Westerfield came to LYFT on Thursday and when she heard someone had car trouble and couldn't make their shift, she volunteered to go upstairs and do it. Thanks Kim.

We had our Children's Pumpkin Party. Over 120 people attended. Amy Manier did her usual fantastic job organizing it. Kathy Taylor was in charge of games. Patrice Martin dressed in biblical costume and told the kids a Bible ghost story. And there were several helping to get the lunch ready. The children left plenty of crumbs for me.

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



Pictorial Directory

The pictures are all taken for our coming directory. If you missed out, it is not too late. You can still submit a photograph. (Can not be a professional photo by a studio). They will cost the church \$15 to insert. You are welcome to include the cost with your photo. If you can not afford the cost we still want you in the directory and we will cover the cost. Pictures may be submitted until Sunday, November 5. Be sure to be a part of the new directory.



Senior Activities



Young at Heart Sr. bingo will meet on Tuesday, November 28 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.



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



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)

November 2023

<h1 style="margin: 0;">November 2023</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 UWF Exec. Meeting 4:30 pm (lib) Trustees 6pm (conf. rm)	2	3 Working Together Circle 1:30 pm (lib)	4 Mommy's Haven Silent Auction Pick-Up 9-11
5 All Saints Sunday	6 Shift 5pm (304) Tri-Kappa 6:30 pm (FH)	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Birthday Party 12 pm (FH)
12 Youth Group 5:30 pm	13 Susanna Wes- ley Circle 1pm (library) Staff/Parish Meeting 3 pm (conf. rm.)	14	15 Worship Meeting 6pm	16	17	18 Memorial Service 3 pm (FH) <small>(for person outside of church)</small>
19 Membership Class 11:30 am	20 Finance Meeting 5:30 pm (FH)	21	22	23 **NO LYFT Happy Thanksgiving! 	24 Office Closed	25
26	27 Ad-Council 6pm (FH)	28 Senior Bingo 1 pm (FH)	29	30 Messy Church @ LYFT Youth Group 5:30 pm (FH)		